Transition Times

28 June 2024 (2nd Edition)

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Head of Learning for Year 7. I am so pleased that you and your family have chosen to be part of our school community. The new Year 7 Form Tutors, Pastoral Team and I will be working closely together to ensure a smooth transition for all students from Year 6 into Year 7 and I am very much looking forward to warmly welcoming you all properly in July, at our transition evening.

As Head of Learning, my job is to help students to settle into secondary school and to ensure they get the most out of their time at The Highcrest Academy.

We believe that it will be a very fulfilling and exciting time for them, and I will, of course, be encouraging them to work hard in lessons to reach their full potential.

Over the coming term I was able to meet with students prior to them arriving at the school as I embarked upon visits to their primary schools. This was an opportunity for the students to share any concerns or ask me any questions that they may have had at this point in the transition process.

At The Highcrest Academy we place emphasis on aspiration and achievement. Year 7s have to learn to take more responsibility for themselves with their homework and behaviour than they might be used to. Excellent learning is underpinned by excellent behaviour. We expect our students to show respect when interacting with other members of our school community and to uphold the reputation of the school in the local area. Getting into good habits, and being accountable for their actions, is something our students will be working hard to develop, and we very much appreciate support from parents with this at home.

I look forward to welcoming our new students for their induction day on Tuesday 2 July and hopefully, through this newsletter and the next few editions of this publication, you will get a taste of the school and the many opportunities that our students can access.

All the very best

Miss Welsh
Head of Learning - Year 7

Tips on Preparing your Child for Transition

We understand that moving to secondary school may give you as parents/carers mixed feelings; excitement as your child has reached this milestone, but some anxiety for the change they will experience too. Here are a few examples of ways you can help to prepare your child for this new start.

- **Practice the walk to school?**

We are encouraged to go out for walks and exercise, perhaps you could add the walk to Highcrest to your daily exercise and time how long the walk takes? You can use the opportunity to discuss road safety skills; there is likely to be more traffic about once school commences. Find a map and research/plan the route to school.

- **Will your child need to catch a bus at some point?**

With your child, look up bus timetables. Find your nearest appropriate bus stop. Familiarise yourselves with the route the bus will take. Make contingency plans for scenarios such as; missing the bus, cancelled bus. Has your child got emergency contact numbers in their phone? Is there an alternative bus route for emergencies?

- **Has your child got the right equipment?**

School has an equipment list, it will be sent out to everyone. Purchase items in plenty of time. Does the pencil case fit the school bag? Are all items named?

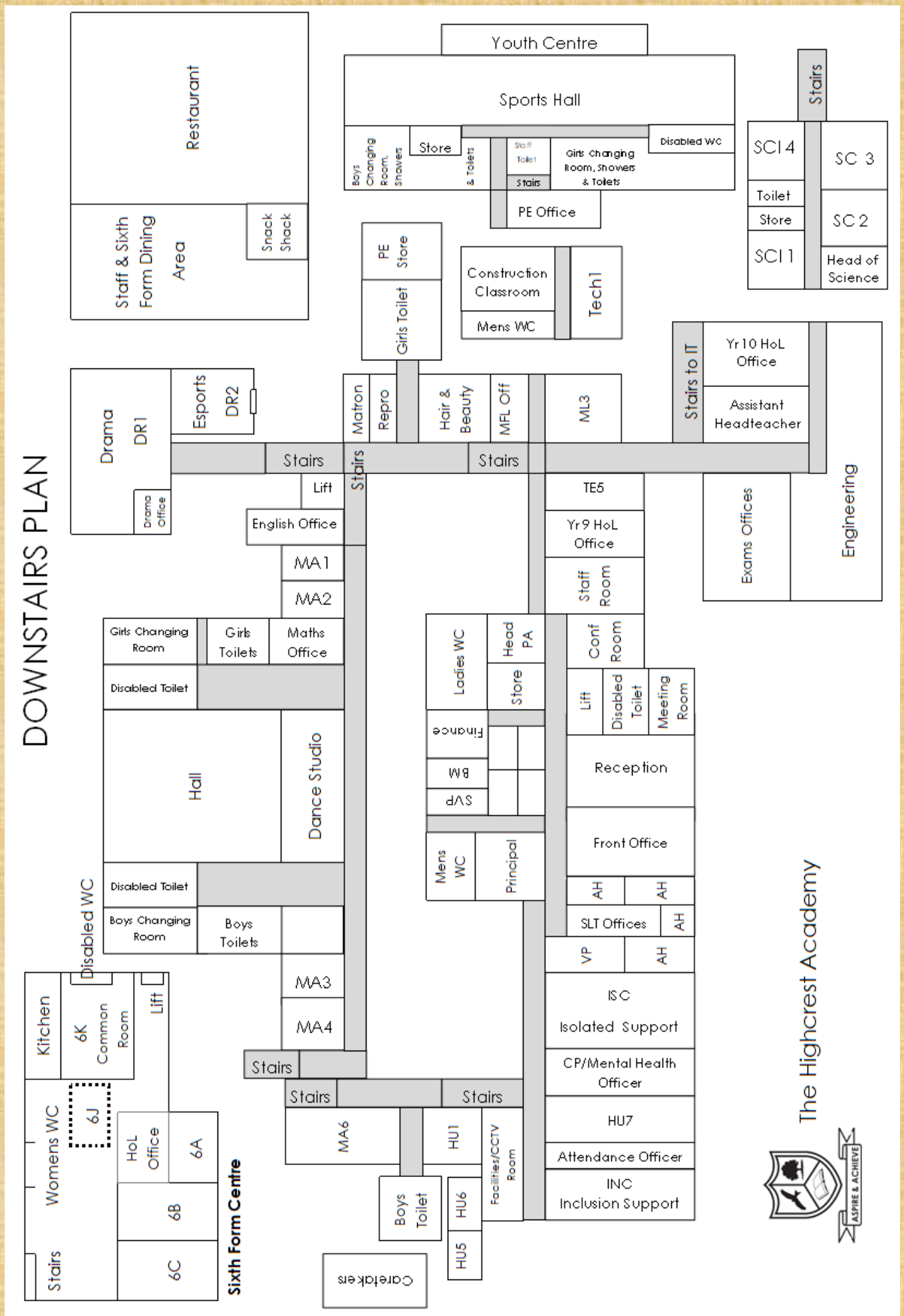
- **Does it take your child a long time to get ready?**

Set practise days for getting ready for school. Encourage your child to set an alarm and practice getting up at the required time to arrive at school on time. Ask them to time themselves to see how long it takes. Don't forget to include eating breakfast and packing the school bag into the practice.

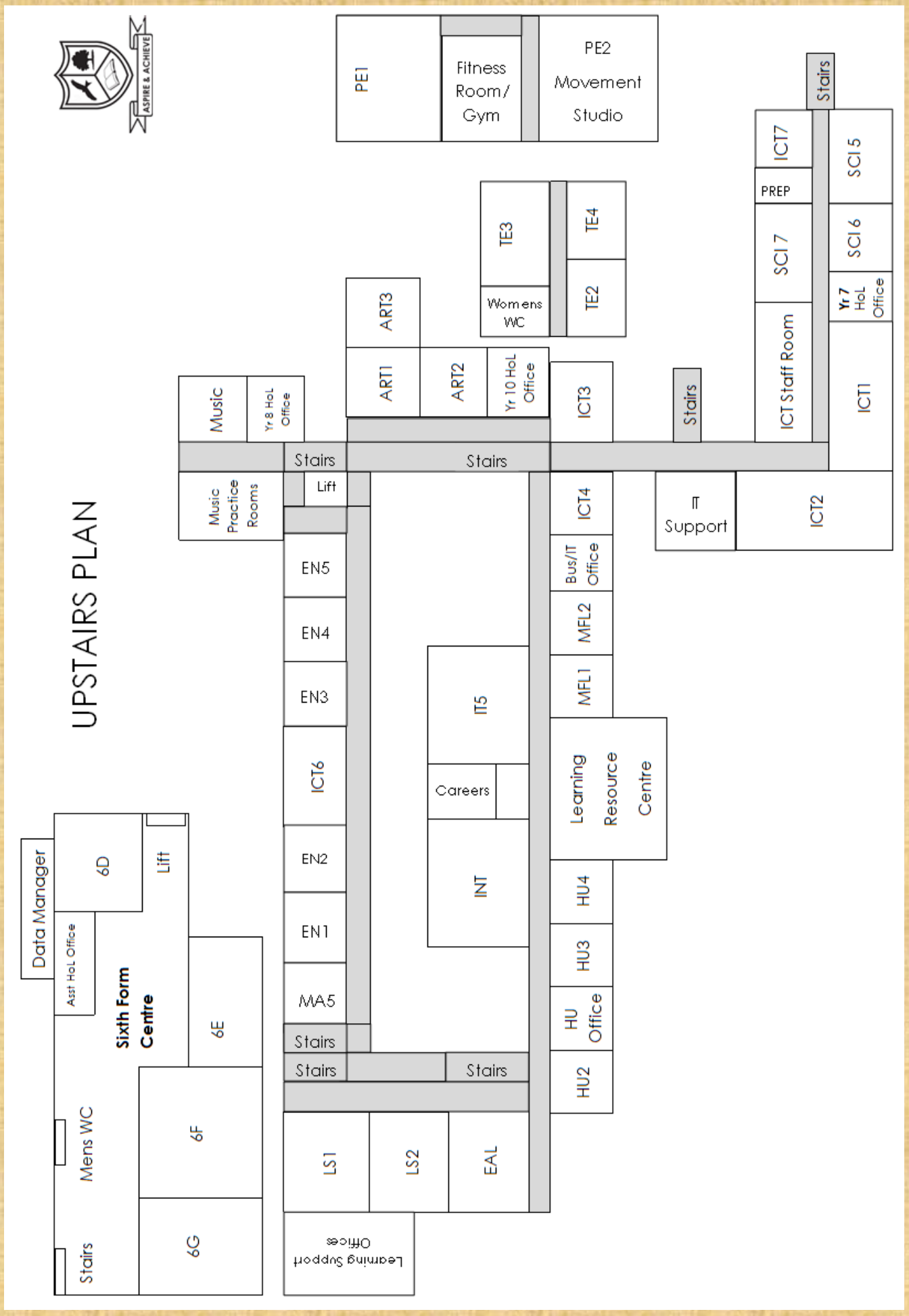
- **Does your child know anyone else at The Highcrest Academy?**

Perhaps you could arrange for the children to call each other? They can discuss any concerns they may have together. Perhaps you could arrange for them to travel together on the first day or meet near school and walk in together.

Highcrest School Map (downstairs)



Highcrest School Map (upstairs)



At Highcrest we believe in what we call “learning memories”. Learning memories are things that happen during your time at school that you will remember for many years to come. Some of these learning memories come from the fantastic lessons you will be a part of during your time with us and some come from the wide range of extracurricular activities and trips that we run almost on a weekly basis!

No matter what your interest, whether it be Drama, English, History, PE or Engineering, there will be something for you! All departments in the school offer trips at different points in the year, some linking directly with what you are studying such as the Geography trip to Wendover Woods, Drama trips to London theatres, MFL trips to France and Spain, or the Humanities trip to Rome and Naples.

As well as trips linked with subjects, we also like to have lots of fun at Highcrest and trips we run each year that are open to all (some are based on criteria such as attendance) including going to Thorpe Park or bowling at the Eden Centre.

FOREST SCHOOL

Last week was a busy one in Forest School. Our students have been tidying up the garden and planting fruits ready for the summer, including strawberries. We had 1000 litres of soil delivered to fill the beds up and with the help of the forest school, the students managed to move all the soil into the veg boxes. These materials were purchased with a grant given to us by Green Futures of Aylesbury and is going to support us with our 'Grow to Cook' scheme where the students will grow and then cook the food from the allotment. Well done Forest School, you are amazing!

Miss A Watson, Forest School Practitioner

Welcome to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

The library is a warm, lively, and welcoming space for all students. Our room houses both a large range of fiction and non-fiction books, as well as access to desktop computers and iPads, and tables for those who want to study or just be in the library.

Students can use the LRC from 8am before school, break and lunchtime and after school until 4pm. (3.30pm on Fridays)

Our stock of over 7,000 books is regularly updated and we welcome recommendations from both students and staff. Our range of factual texts is currently being revamped, making sure that it is up to date and relevant for our school community. We aim to stock the widest possible variety of authors and new books for our students to experience. Our range of graphic novels and manga continues to grow and remains very popular with students.

The Highcrest LRC currently has its own online library, giving access to an exciting range of ebooks for students. Each student is given a username and password to log onto the library, and they can borrow one book for up to two weeks. They can access the ePlatform and choose from over 1400 free books available to download onto a desktop, laptop, tablet, a Kindle Fire or even their phones. Click here to access the ePlatform.

We also recommend that students join their local Public Library as membership gives them access to a great range of printed and online resources beyond what can be offered at Highcrest.

The LRC also subscribes to the Bucks Schools Library Service which gives us access to specialist expertise and additional resources. The librarian is in constant contact with other librarians and book lovers, and are aware of popular trends in the reading community.

All Year 7 and 8 students have a library lesson every two weeks during which students are given opportunities to explore literature and gain new digital literacy skills. They are encouraged to discover texts that interest them and grow in their reading.

From September we will be starting themed sessions at lunchtime. There will be a chess day, a board games day, a calm day where we do quiet activities such as drawing, origami, puzzles and craft, and a words day with either a quiz or word games and puzzles. There are also competitions all the time in the library for students to earn house points.

The LRC is currently staffed by a full-time Library Manager, who is able to offer support and guidance to students, both in their reading journey and finding resources to support their studies. There is also a fantastic team of Student Librarians from across the year groups who help to run the library and who are able to help their peers find books, do homework or just chat.

We look forward to seeing you!

BEING ONLINE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ALL OUR LIVES

AT HIGHCREST, WE MEAN BUSINESS WHEN IT COMES TO E-SAFETY

APPLICATIONS	DEVICES	E-MAIL
MESSAGING	NEWS	ONLINE GAMING
ONLINE SHOPPING	PRIVACY	RESEARCH
SECURITY	SOCIAL MEDIA	WEBSITES

The Highcrest Academy is passionately committed to ensuring all parents and students are equipped with the best advice and knowledge when it comes to good ICT security, staying safe online, responsible device use and appropriate use of social media.

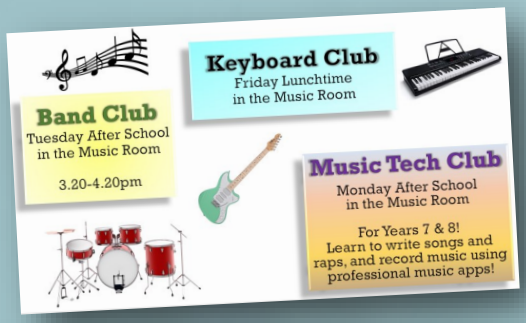
Setting a good example and maintaining a good online reputation is critical in this day and age for a better and brighter future whatever your future prospects are.

VISIT OUR E-SAFETY PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE WHERE YOU CAN ACCESS A WEALTH OF RESOURCES IN RELATION TO STAYING SAFE ONLINE AND MORE

https://www.highcrestacademy.org.uk/Parents/E-Safety/

On the online world, be kind!

Clubs @ Highcrest



Extra-Curricular Clubs @ The Highcrest Academy 2023/2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School/Break	**Before School/Break**	**Before School/Break**	**Before School/Break**	**Before School/Break**
Breakfast Club @ Canteen: 7.30-8.15am	**Breakfast Club** @ Canteen: 7.30-8.15am	**Breakfast Club** @ Canteen: 7.30-8.15am	**Breakfast Club** @ Canteen: 7.30-8.15am	**Breakfast Club** @ Canteen: 7.30-8.15am
Extended Learning Catch Up @ EAL: 7.30-8.20am	**Extended Learning Catch Up** @ EAL: 7.30-8.20am	**Extended Learning Catch Up** @ EAL: 7.30-8.20am	**Extended Learning Catch Up** @ EAL: 7.30-8.20am	**Extended Learning Catch Up** @ EAL: 7.30-8.20am
Quiet Room SEN @ LS2: Break	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2: Break	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2: Break	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2: Break	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2: Break
Lunchtime	**Lunchtime**	**Lunchtime**	**Lunchtime**	**Lunchtime**
Prayers @ IT6: 1.10-1.30	**French (Yr8/9/10)** @ ML2	**Spanish Speaking Club** @ ML2	**Disney Film Club** @ HU1	**Prayers** @ Drama Studio: 1.10-1
Science Drop-in @ SC1	**Choir** @ Music Room	**Aspire (invite only)** @ Sports Hall	**Science Drop-in** @ SC1	**Keyboard Club** @ Music Room
Disney Film Club @ HU1	**Science Drop-in** @ SC1	**Learn a Language** @ LS1	**Prayers** @ IT6: 1.10-1.30	**Science Drop-in** @ SC1
Quiet Room SEN @ LS2	**Prayers** @ IT6: 1.10-1.30	**Disney Film Club** @ HU1	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2	**Disney Film Club** @ HU1
After School	**Disney Film Club** @ HU1	**Science Drop-in** @ SC1	**After School**	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2
Esports Club Yr 7/8 @ Esports: 3.10-4pm	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2	**Prayers** @ IT6: 1.10-1.30	**Esports Club Yr 9** @ Esports: 3.10-4pm	**After School**
Drama Club @ Drama Studio: 3.10-4.15pm	**After School**	**Quiet Room SEN** @ LS2	**Jewellery & Craft Club @** Tech 2: 3.10-4pm (Year 7 only)	**EAL Extended Learning and Revision Club** @ EAL: 3.10-4.00pm
Maths GCSE Higher Revision @ MA1: 3.10-4pm	**English Extended Learning & Revision Club** @ EN2: 3.10-4.00pm (All)	**After School**	**Hair & Beauty Club** @ Tech 5 (Years 9-11 only). Coursework catch up only. 3.10-4pm	**Story Time @ EAL:** 3.10-3.50pm
Sign Language Club @ HU1: 3.10-4pm	**Musical Theatre Dance Club** @ Drama Studio: 3.10-4.15pm	**Digital Art Club (Yrs 9-11)** @ Art2: 3.10-4pm	**Athletics (All)** @ Sports Hall: 3.10-4pm	**Extended Learning Club** @ LS2: 3.10-4pm
Hair & Beauty Club @ Hair & Beauty Room (Year 9-11 only). Practical only session. 3.10-4pm	**Digital Art Club (Yr 7/8)** @ Art2: 3.10-4pm	**Extended Learning Club** @ IT1: 3.10-4pm (All Years)	**From 3 June: Tennis (All)** @ Sports Hall: 3.10-4pm	
Rounders @ Sports Hall: 3.10-4pm (All Years)	**Jewellery & Craft Club @** Tech 2: 3.10-4pm (Years 8, 9, 10 & 11)	**Debate Club** @ EAL: 3.10-4pm (Years 8-11)	**EAL Extended Learning and Revision Club** @ EAL: 3.10-4.00pm	
EAL Extended Learning and Revision Club @ EAL: 3.10-4.00pm	**Gym (All)** @ Fitness Suite: 3.10-4pm	**Homework Club** @ IT5: 3.10-4pm (Year 11)	**Fashion Workshop** @ ART2: 3.10-4pm	
Extended Learning Club @ LS2: 3.10-4pm	**Cricket (All)** @ Sports Hall: 3.10-4.15pm	**Art Club** @ ART1: 3.10-4pm	**Art Club** @ ART1: 3.10-4pm	
	EAL Extended Learning and Revision Club @ EAL: 3.10-4.00pm	**EAL Extended Learning and Revision Club** @ EAL: 3.10-4.00pm	**Extended Learning Club** @ LS2: 3.10-4pm	
	Science Club @ SC: 3.10-4.20pm (Y7/8)	**Extended Learning Club** @ LS2: 3.10-4pm		
	Art Club @ ART1: 3.10-4pm			
	Extended Learning Club @ LS2:3.10-4pm			
	Electronics Club @ Engineering: 3.10-4.20pm (Years 7 & 8)			

Updated 2 May 2024

Our Motto

'Aspire & Achieve'

Our Vision

We work together, in a happy, caring and inclusive community, providing for students of all abilities, backgrounds and cultures, supporting their well-being and developing their characters, giving them every opportunity to aspire and achieve their unique academic and personal ambitions.

Our Virtues

We embody, role-model and teach our A-S-P-I-R-E virtues at every suitable opportunity, helping us to promote happiness and instill a culture of excellence that runs throughout every strand of our academy

Ambition	**S**ensitivity	**P**urpose	**I**ntegrity	**R**esilience	**E**loquence
To have a strong desire to achieve success	To have an appreciation of others' feelings	To work with determination and resolve	To be honest and have strong moral principles	To show strength of character with an ability to recover quickly	To be fluent and persuasive when speaking or writing

Our Core Aims

To help our students 'Aspire' to and 'Achieve' their ultimate ambitions, our aim is to provide ….

Quality of Education	Behaviour and Attitudes	Personal Development	Culture, Leadership & Management
An acutely personalised inclusive curriculum for students of all abilities that creates independent and autonomous learners who are physically, digitally and academically literate.	An environment in which students work in harmony, respecting each other's rights and supporting one another in times of need, forging positive relationships and celebrating successes together.	Cohesive systems that support self-discovery and the development of character that ensures our students become healthy, confident and responsible citizens that make a valuable contribution to society.	A diverse, safe and happy community, where staff love to work, students love to learn and all are given the opportunity to develop.

If you do these things … if you Aspire … then you can, and you will, Achieve