



I'd like to welcome you to Winterhill School, and I hope that your child is looking forward to joining us in September. I understand that the last few months have been a challenge for us all, and moving from primary school to secondary school is a big step, but I am extremely glad that you will be taking this journey with us as part of the Winterhill family. I understand that for many of you the end to your primary education was not the one you had hoped for. However, there will be many exciting opportunities to enjoy at Winterhill over the next five years, and I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we have been working extremely hard to create a successful transition.

Of course, when we are able to have visitors in school, we will be in contact with details of events where you can meet myself, your child's group tutor and other key staff who will all be supporting your child's education at Winterhill.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Y7, and although things will be slightly different, our ethos remains the same, 'everyone succeeds' when we uphold and follow the values of 'The Winterhill Way'.

*S. Rhodes - Headteacher*

## DESIGNATED RETURN DAY INFORMATION

In order to minimise opportunities for mixing, as per government guidance, students will have their own entrance and exit points within their year group 'bubbles'. These will be visibly signposted with lots of staff available to support and direct students.

Year Group	Designated School Entrance	Return Day Start Time
Year 7	School gates at the bottom of Little Common Lane	8:45am, Thursday 3rd Sept*

\*After their first day of return, **all students are to continue to use the same entrance every day, they will also leave by the same points at the end of the school day.**

## MOVEMENT AROUND SCHOOL

A number of measures have been put in place to ensure that movement is kept to a minimum including:

1. In certain areas of the school, a **clearly signposted one-way system is in place**, for example, on stairwells to minimise contact.
2. A **stay 'left system'** is also in place to allow students to move through the school quickly when on corridors.
3. Students have designated entry and exit points at the start and end of the school day.

## BREAK AND LUNCHTIMES ARRANGEMENTS

All students will have a **designated break and lunch slot** during the school day.

Students will be given a designated area which they **must** remain in during their break and lunch time.

Students are welcome to bring their own food, or alternatively purchase their lunch in school. As we are a cashless school, lunch money must be added to your child's Parent Pay account online. [<https://www.parentpay.com/>] If this is not an option, students can load their cards using the money machines available.

## CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Students will study the full range of subjects when they arrive at Winterhill. Of course, we understand that many students will have been out of school for a considerable time as well as the KS2 SATs being cancelled. However, we will be working with students in all subjects to engage and thrive in lessons, in line with the KS3 National Curriculum Programme of Study.

Once students have had a suitable transition period, we will be working with them to better understand their learning needs through nationally recognised assessments, thus allowing us to bridge any gaps in learning to ensure students make good progress.

If you would like to contact me, please email **Julie Parkin**  
jparkin@winterhill.org.uk - Headteachers' PA.

Thank you for your continued support S Rhodes - Headteacher

## TRANSPORT TO / FROM SCHOOL

Government guidance states that students should **walk to school, where possible**. However, if your child is arriving by public transport, they should conform to the government guidelines of wearing a face covering. If you are dropping your child off at school, please ensure drop off time is kept to a minimum. **Students will not be allowed into the building before the start of the day**, so please ensure that students are not arriving too early.

When students arrive at school, they must go straight to their designated entrance, where members of staff will direct them to their form room. There will also be staff within the school building to support them in navigating the site.

## First Day: Timetable and Tutor Group

As you will be aware, the Behaviour for Learning Leader for Y7 is Miss. Parkin. On the first day, students will also meet their group tutor and be given information on their transition activities.

**Students will receive their timetables on the first morning they arrive to school.** They will need to keep this safe. Many students find it useful to take a picture of it on their phone.

Students will be following the new four period day, which will be explained to them in detail via their group tutor on the first day. The structure of the day is made up of four 75 minutes lessons, as well as a daily time with their group tutor. The school day starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3pm.

## HYGIENE AND DISTANCING MEASURES

Hygiene and distancing guidance has been placed around school via signs and on the main TV screens, as well as in every classroom. Students are expected to follow this hygiene guidance throughout the day.

Hand sanitiser will be at all student entry points, and all students must sanitise their hands on entry in to the school building. They will also be located in dining areas and other key areas around school.

All classrooms have been provided with sanitiser, wipes, tissues and bins etc. to ensure high hygiene standards and students will be expected to follow the catch it, bin it, kill it guidelines.

All student will be encouraged to maintain appropriate distancing on entry and exit from the school building as well as throughout the school day.

As we are unable to use the water fountains at present, students will need to bring adequate water from home.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

All students are expected to wear **full school uniform**. Black shoes must be worn. Training shoes are not acceptable.

Students should also bring their own equipment to minimise sharing. **Students will not need their PE kit during the first week of school.**

Further information can be found on the school website regarding school uniform expectations. [<https://www.winterhill.org.uk/uniform>]

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE (what to do if your child displays SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19)

As per the government's guidance, the usual rules regarding attendance will be in place, as of September.

However, parents must keep students off school if they, or anyone in their household, display any symptoms of COVID-19, following the Government's [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).

You must also inform school of their absence by calling the school absence line on **01709 740232, Extension 156 or 174**. The telephone system allows callers to leave a message 24 hours a day, or by email: [admin@winterhill.org.uk](mailto:admin@winterhill.org.uk) F.A.O. a member of the Attendance Team.

If a student displays symptoms in school, parents will be informed and will be expected to collect their child (parents will be informed of the designated pick-up point).

The school has a clear procedure which ensures that any student displaying symptoms is quarantined within the school building, following Government guidance.

## STUDENT WELLBEING

We know that some of our students may need time to adapt to these changes. To support them, we have worked very hard to ensure all systems and procedures are easy to follow, with clear signage around school. Students will have everything explained to them, with daily support from their Group Tutor alongside their Behaviour for Learning Leader.

If they have any specific concerns or worries, they should speak to their group tutor or Behaviour for Learning Leader, in the first instance. All information on the support package we offer to our students can be found on our website: <https://www.winterhill.org.uk/safeguarding>. We also share a range of support materials from local well-being and mental health charities via our school Facebook page.

## PROCEDURES FOR VISITORS TO SITE

We would ask that any visits to the school site are kept to an absolute minimum.

Meetings will be by **appointment only**, in the first instance.

Where appointments have been scheduled, entry is through the main school reception.



# Newsletter

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