

Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

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Headteacher: Mr C Billings

Monday 11 September 2023

Dear families

Message from Ms Maxwell - Head of Year 7

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome your child(ren) as part of our new Year 7 last week. The first day is always very special as the first day is such an important milestone in their lives. Despite the unexpected heat and some understandable nerves, there was lots of excited chatter as they eagerly awaited the start of their secondary school journey.

This year will be momentous for the school as well as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary and get ready for our new school building.

The first day started with a prayer assembly led by Mr Billings and Ms Maxwell. After this, the students headed off to their form rooms with their Form Tutor. There, they took part in a variety of 'getting to know you' activities. After that, they received their timetables and student handbooks. They also learned about our routines and had a tour of the building so that they could familiarise themselves with the layout of the site. After the lunch break, they went to their first two lessons and then after second break they went back to lessons for the rest of the day. They should have come home with a spare copy of their timetable to be kept at home, ideally on their book box, which was suggested in our Transition booklet. One should be stuck in their student handbook and the other one in their blazer pockets for easy reference during the day.

This week

Year 7 Photographs – Tomorrow Tuesday 12 September

We would like to remind you that tomorrow morning the School Photography Company will be in school to take form group and individual photographs of the children. Once the relevant information has been sent to us to approve you will be able to order the photographs online via the card that your child will bring home tomorrow. It contains unique QR codes so please make sure that you get this from your child when they come home tomorrow evening but please be aware that it takes a while for the group photographs to appear for viewing as they have to be sent back to us for approval of names first, so please be patient as the photograph company are understandably busy at this time of year.

Year 7 Welcome Mass and Information Evening – Thursday 14 September

We are delighted that Father Simon will be leading us in a celebration Mass on Thursday 14 September at 4.30pm to welcome Year 7 into our school community. Following this there will be a short information presentation to provide parents with key information for the upcoming year. If you are planning on attending the Mass and Information Evening, please complete the link below by 3pm on Wednesday to help us with planning capacity. https://forms.office.com/e/y7JSJSMCUr



Canteen

The children have been given their PINS for the canteen. We would ask that you check ParentPay regularly to ensure that your child always has credit for their food. It can cause anxiety and even embarrassment for the students if they do not have sufficient funds. Rest assured, we will never let a child go hungry and would put measures in place should this be needed. Please encourage your child to speak to one of the Pastoral staff straight away if there is any issue with their lunch arrangements. If your child is in receipt of free school meals then you do not need to put money on as the daily allowance will be available automatically each day. However, you can choose to add extra to that should you wish.

Contact details and key information

Please note that now your child has officially joined us we will no longer check the Transition email account. For day to day matters, please contact your child's Form Tutor and for anything else, please contact Ms Maxwell and Miss Greenway. All our contact details are in the 'Starting Secondary School' booklet that was given to you on the Transition Day. An electronic copy is available on our school website. This booklet also contains a lot of key information so please do keep this to hand.

Upcoming Events

Please make a note of the following key dates for this term:

Thursday 21 September – School Open Evening from 6pm to 8pm

If you have any children in Year 5 or Year 6 who would like to come and look around, please visit us on this evening. We are hoping that many of our new Year 7 students will act as guides. They will bring a consent letter home for you to sign if they wish to volunteer.

Monday 25 September - Homework start date & Knowledge Organisers

We recognise that it can be a very tiring few weeks adjusting to secondary school routines so homework will not be set initially. However, we do expect students to be reading every evening. In advance of homework being set, tomorrow the students will bring home the first of their three Knowledge Organisers. These are important study aids containing all the key information for every subject area. One is issued each term covering the key areas of study for the upcoming term. Please ensure that your child keeps each one somewhere safe – they are used for homework and are also key revision documents for the end of year exams in the summer. A useful guide on how to use these is available on our website.

Thursday 24 October – SEND coffee morning

By invitation only. Relevant parents will be from Mrs Salter our SENDCO in due course

Thursday 23 November - Year 7 Parents' Evening from 4.30pm to 6.30pm

This is an annual event only so please make careful note of the date and time and make every effort to attend.

Wednesday 20 December

Carol Service. All are welcome to attend this special service

<u>Teacher Training days</u> – Please make a careful note of the two INSET days that we have this term. School is closed to students on these days only. All our term dates are available on our school website so please check these carefully.

- Friday 29 September INSET day
- Friday 17 November INSET day



We look forward to meeting you soon at one of our events. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by email or telephone. All the contact details for Year 7 staff are available on our website www.bishopullathorne.co.uk and are also in the Starting Secondary School booklet that was issued in July at the Transition Evening.

Yours sincerely

Ms Maxwell

Key Stage Leader Year 7

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