



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to provide further information regarding our upcoming transition events, and also to advise you of your child's form group and house allocation. Firstly, we hope that your child will be able to attend the Taster Days on 2,3 & 4 July as it is a marvellous opportunity for them to meet staff and fellow students, as well as to learn a great deal about Hinchingbrooke. **If for any reason your child cannot attend any of the days, please telephone KS3 Pastoral office and inform us.**

Tutor Group Allocation:

Allocating students to Tutor groups is a complex process. House allocation is no longer determined by siblings, although this can be accommodated upon request in advance. Although good working groups have been taken into account wherever possible, the over-riding criterion was academic balance across the year group. I am confident that the Year group has been created with 12 equally balanced forms, which is most important in ensuring that Year 7 make the best possible start to their secondary journey.

Please be aware that these tutor groups will be for form time and not the curriculum groups students will be in for lessons. We have collated this information based upon discussions with Year 6 teachers. The forms have been created with an equal balance of gender, attitude to learning, and special educational needs. We have of course had to consider how children from different schools would mix together. Therefore, at this stage in transition we cannot accommodate any further requests and the forms will remain unchanged.

Taster Days arrangements:

Upon arrival, students will be greeted in the bus bays by sixth form students and then escorted to the playground in front of the Pepys Building. Alternatively, they can make their own way directly to the playground where they will be met by their form tutor. If arriving by bike (no scooters please), students need to use the cycle sheds behind the bus bay wall. Students need to wear their primary school uniform for **Tuesday** and **Thursday** and bring a pencil case, some colouring pens or pencils and a water bottle. They can bring a packed lunch or money to purchase a meal from the Food Court; £2.90 is enough for a meal deal. **If you can give your child coins instead of notes it would be much appreciated.** If your child is in receipt of free school meals, they will receive their entitlement as normal on these days.

On **Wednesday 3 July** students will need to wear their PE kit and trainers to school, if possible a house-coloured t-shirt to reflect their Hinchingbrooke form group (Cromwell – green, Montagu – yellow, Pepys – blue, Vesey – red, Wylton – purple). If a student has long hair, they will need a hair bobble to tie their hair back. **NO** jewellery to be worn on this day please. **If the weather is hot and sunny, please ensure they have a hat and suncream on too. Students will need to be sent in with a packed lunch on this day, but please note a picnic packed lunch will be provided for any students eligible for FSM.**

Students will complete CAT4 and NGRT reading tests on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, **for which they are required to bring a set of wired headphones.** Cognitive ability testing (CAT) assesses a student's ability to reason with and manipulate different types of material. This is through a series of Verbal, Non-Verbal, Quantitative and Spatial Ability tasks. The resulting data can then be used to identify a student's strengths, weaknesses and learning preferences. This provides accurate and reliable information that is essential for personalised learning. The more we know about a student, the better position we will be in to offer a learning environment and ways of teaching and learning that allow all students to maximise their potential.

The CAT4 takes approximately 45 minutes each day to complete, and it will be completed online, which is both easier for the students but also allows a quicker response time. There is no need for pupils to prepare for the CAT4, as there is no revision that can be done. The best preparation is for them to ensure they have had a good breakfast and come

to school in a positive frame of mind. This will allow them to perform at their best and therefore fully demonstrate their potential. This takes place in one of the school ICT suites and students will be told where they need to go by their Form Tutor on the day.

Transport for Taster Days:

Tuesday 2 July, Wednesday 3 July and Thursday 4 July - students will travel to and from school via the regular method of transport that they will use in September; school hours are 8:40 am until 3:15 pm. If you are dropping students off, please be aware that **parents and carers are not allowed onto the main school site**. Below is a list of the school buses, stops and times, which are for school run buses only. Bus passes are not needed; the operators have been informed of this arrangement.

Route HB03

- 07:45 Buckden Green
- 07:55 Southoe, Village
- 08:02 Buckden, Perry Road
- 08:05 2 Buckden Road, Model Farm Cottage
- 08:08 Graham Cinnamon Restaurant
- 08:10 Ellington Thorp, 1 Thorpe Lodge Cottage
- 08:13 Ellington, Bus Shelter
- 08:30 Hinchingsbrooke School

Route HB04

- 08:05 Buckden Marina
- 08:07 Buckden, Lower Mill Road
- 08:12 Buckden, Opp 6 Glebe Lane
- 08:35 Hinchingsbrooke School

Route HB05

- 07:55 Offord D'arcy Manor Farm
- 07:58 Offord D'arcy, Graveley
- 08:01 Offord Primary

- 08:03 Offord Cluny, The Swan
- 08:30 Hinchingsbrooke

Route HB06

- 07:25 Eason, Telephone Kiosk
- 07:40 Old Weston, Black Swan
- 07:45 Brington, Hill Close
- 07:46 Brington Primary
- 07:52 Catworth, Bus Shelter
- 08:01 Stow Longa, Kimbolton Road
- 08:03 Stow Longa, Green
- 08:09 Spaldwick Stow Rd/ Near Church Lane
- 08:35 Hinchingsbrooke School

Route HB08

- 08:00 Buckden, Silver Street
- 08:03 Buckden, Mill Road/Park Road
- 08:07 Buckden, Lion
- 08:11 Buckden A1 Bus Stop
- 08:35 Hinchingsbrooke School

Please be aware that if your child is travelling to school by a school-run bus in September, you will need to have applied for a bus pass online via Education Transport, Cambridgeshire County Council, who will send this out over the summer direct to your home address.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/school-transport/>

Information evening for Parents and Carers:

The **Information Evening** on **Wednesday 3 July** starts from 5.00 pm at the Performing Arts Centre and finishes at approximately 7.00 pm. The evening comprises of:

For parents/guardians of form groups: 7C1, 7C2, 7C3, 7M1, 7M2, 7M3	5.00 - 5.30 pm Department Displays 5.30 – 5.50 pm Talk in the PAC
For parents/guardians of form groups: 7P1, 7P2, 7V1, 7V2, 7W1 and 7W2	6.00 - 6.30 pm Department Displays 6.30 – 6.50 pm Talk in the PAC



Price and Buckland, the school's uniform provider, will have a representative attending the evening to answer any questions, but there will not be an opportunity to try on items. However, there are online size guides and video demonstrations on their website.

Members of staff from the SEND team will also be in attendance to meet with parents and carers who have concerns about their child's individual educational needs. Students are welcome to attend if parents and carers so wish, although they will receive all the information they need during the day.

I hope this answers any questions you might have, but if not please feel free to contact the KS3 Pastoral office.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Milner', written in a cursive style.

Mr Dan Milner
Head of Year 7 and Transition Manager

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