

YEAR 7 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What happens if my child is off sick; how do they know if there is classwork or homework that they need to catch up on before the next subject lesson?

If your child is off sick please phone or email the main school number and leave a message stating their name, year and tutor group. Upon their return we place the responsibility on the student to find out about missed lessons. This can be done by talking to fellow students from their classes (their tutor can help with some of this during tutor time), visiting the subject area during break or lunch to see the member of staff or sending an email to the teacher. As a parent you can supply a note which they can show to staff detailing the absence and that work set will be caught up on within a reasonable time. If an absence is for more than a few days please contact the tutor to discuss how catching up can be organised.

2. Is it possible to e-mail any of my child's teachers direct rather than through teacher@theweald.org.uk?

Staff e-mail addresses are available on the school website. There is a link to individual staff e-mails on the 'Contact Us' page.

3. Does my child need to cover all his/her books with sticky back plastic or is it down to what individual teachers prefer?

Students are only required to cover books if a subject teacher requests this. Covering all books does, however, protect them and is a good idea. Exercise books are a vital part of developing a student's understanding and should be kept free from graffiti. If a book is lost, a new book can be obtained from the teacher but may involve copying out important lost work.

4. If my child doesn't seem to be eating at either snack time or lunchtime and doesn't offer much in the way of an explanation or says the queues are too long, who is the best person to talk to about this?

Cashless catering enables you to see what your child is purchasing and when. There are three different food venues and the queuing system rarely results in a student having to wait more than 10 minutes. If you have concerns, in the first instance contact your child's tutor.

5. After school clubs - it was very hard to find out what clubs were running in the first weeks. Would it be possible to have a central list of clubs? How does my child find out what's on when?

In the early weeks as clubs get up and running announcements are made to relevant students through tutor time and assemblies. Once the pattern has settled down a summative document will be posted on the website under 'Curriculum'. The vast majority of clubs run Tuesday to Thursday when late buses are available.

6. Also if they miss the first few weeks of a club can they go along later?

This is usually not a problem for most clubs, however, if there is a concern it is best that the student talks to the member of staff who runs the club.

7. If there's a problem with my child's bus or the late bus, who can I talk to?

County Transport coordinates and allocates bus places and you would need to contact them if the issue is linked to this provision. If the concern is to do with behaviour or an incident on the bus, please contact the Head of House.

8. When can my child use the LRC and borrow books as they don't seem to know and if they go at snack/lunch time it seems to be stopping them from having enough time to eat properly?

The LRC is open every day before school from 8am. It opens Tuesday to Thursday after school until 4.30pm and is also open every break and lunch; however, students are not allowed to eat in there.

9. It seems very hard for my child to make use of their locker as they never seem to be in the right place to be able to retrieve items from their locker at the point that they need it?

Students who require a locker are allocated one from the set nearest to their tutor base. They need to plan their day and make sure they have the necessary equipment for each lesson block. Students are allowed to visit their lockers at the start of break if they need to collect PE kit etc. and during tutor time before the afternoon session.

10. Is there anywhere for them to put their big winter overcoats, once they arrive in school (locker)?

Winter coats can be put in lockers or are carried around school by the student. Some tutors, if asked, will allow students to leave coats in their room but this is not possible in all tutor bases due to the size of the classroom, lack of suitable storage or nature of the subject.

11. I haven't been receiving e-bulletin or text messages. Who do I contact to check that my contact details are correct?

We do an annual data sheet check in September. However, if you are concerned your details are incorrect at anytime please e-mail centraladmin@theweald.org.uk.

12. Why does my child's homework sometimes not get marked?

Not all work is set with a view to it being marked by the teacher - sometimes it is research/preparation for the next lesson or it might be a task that the class will

peer or self-assess. If, however, you have any concerns regarding homework, please contact the teacher and/or their subject leader.

13. How do I know what streaming groups my child is in for various subjects (after the initial tests that they did)?

Students are in mixed ability groups for all subjects except English, Maths and Science which depending on the cohort have linear sets or bands. Within these subjects there are common assessment times during the year that allow students to move groups based on performance. Your child's subject teacher would be able to inform you of the set or band that they are in.