



Ysgol Uwchradd **Whitmore** High School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a hugely positive start to the term with all year groups back in class. It would be a stretch to say things are back to normal, but the pupils have coped admirably with the changes. I would like to quickly mention the staff who have been superb in creating a positive and safe environment for the students to enjoy.

It was lovely seeing the Year 7s arrive in school for the first time. I have been delighted to see such a buzz around school this week, with the classrooms full of happy chatter and excellent work going on already. On Wednesday I visited every class across the whole school; I was very impressed to see first-hand how quickly they were all settling into the new term and new routines.

Due to their being no transition this year, I have no doubt you have a number of questions. This letter aims to answer as many as possible. If you require further advice, please contact the school reception or the Head of Year 7, Mr Hutton. (huttonm6@hwbmail.net)

Communication We will be using the school website and Parent Pay as the main way of communicating with parents. A letter is being sent in the post with the details of how to create an account for both SIMS and Parent Pay.

PE Kit We have decided to have students arrive in PE kit on the days they have games and change after the session. This reduces congestion in the changing rooms. It also ensures students are able to change back into their uniform which will become more important as the weather deteriorates.

Lunchtime Students have been given their lunch fob and you are now able to add money to their account using Parent Pay. If you have any difficulty adding money please contact reception and they will help you.

Setting We will be setting the pupils into classes in three weeks. Staff will be doing a number of baseline tests to ensure pupils are placed in a set which offers the right level of challenge and support. This process would normally have taken place at the beginning of the term however due to Covid, we do not have sufficient data from the primary schools to set effectively.

Clubs We believe clubs and activities are a vital aspect of school life. This year, for the first-time, clubs will be included in the normal school day. Your child has been given the opportunity to join one of eight clubs which they will go to fortnightly. In addition, there will be a wide range of after school clubs including drama, football, rugby and music. There will also be a Prep Room, which will allow pupils to do their homework at school.

I would like to thank you for your messages of support and positive attitudes in ensuring a successful start to the new term. We are delighted that the year group have made such a strong start and look forward to getting to know you better as we look with anticipation to the term ahead.

Kind Regards

Innes Robinson

Head of School