



Church of England School
Executive Head and CEO: Dr Hilary Macaulay

29th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 Information

I am delighted to report that the Year 7 students have settled in well and are making excellent progress as they transition into secondary school life. I know a few concerns have been aired by some parents which I will address and respond to in this letter to alleviate any concerns.

1. Parents have reported that the Year 7 students are finding that their school bags are very heavy. I will speak to the Year Group as a whole to offer advice on this but would ask you to ensure that your child only brings in the books and equipment they require for the day and actively use their locker. The advice that I will be giving to the students is as follows;
 - Students should leave their exercise books in their locker and only take them home if they have home learning that needs to be completed in them. They do not need to carry all of their books to and from school on a daily basis
 - The laptops assigned to students came complete with a bag and charger. Students should not bring the charger into school. The laptop should be charged at home which will provide ample battery throughout the day. The compulsory school rucksack was specifically chosen as it has a laptop compartment, the laptops can be carried safely without the need for an additional bag
 - Students should leave PE kit at school and only take it home when it requires washing
 - If students have Food Tech and are required to bring in ingredients, these can be put in the Food Room as soon as they get to school in the morning before registration
 - If students are bringing in a water bottle, please ensure this is an appropriate size and weight, students can bring in an empty plastic bottle and fill/top up in school rather than transporting a full bottle on the way in
 - If students are bringing in a wide range of equipment, this can be reduced as all students are given access to glue, scissors etc if required
 - Additionally, we have noticed that many students are bringing in very large, heavy, packed lunch boxes which is contributing to the weight of their bag. Again, we would recommend a smaller box/bag or a paper bag that can be recycled after the students have finished lunch or folded to be reused.
2. At Bishop Ramsey we have three staggered break and lunches. Due to timetabling, this year the Year 7 share their break and lunch with Year 9. We are aware that there have been some issues in the playground area where the students play, much of this is because of the difference in physicality of the students when they are playing together. We are aware of this and from next week will not permit Year 7 and 9 to share the space.

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3. We became aware in the first week that students were spending a greater time queuing for lunch than usual. At the start of the year, we often find that additional numbers choose to buy lunch, this always tails off. The increased numbers put additional pressure on the canteen staff and contributed to the wait time. The company have now drafted in additional members to serve and prepare, and we are monitoring the service very carefully to ensure that it is faster and allows students enough time to eat and also to relax with friends.

I do hope this alleviates the concerns that you have. Please be reassured that any issues we become aware of we will do our utmost to remedy.

Yours sincerely,

Ms C Priestley
Year 7 Director