



14th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family well at the start of this academic year.

I am writing to you today to update you on how Year 7 have settled into their new surroundings and to provide you with an outline of our plans for the year ahead.

It has been a particularly difficult transition for year 7s as not only have they had a change in the day to day procedures of school life, they have also had to adjust to unfamiliar surroundings, new members of staff and lots of new students. It has been very pleasing to see so many students in Year 7 adjusting to our new procedures relating to Covid-19, especially at break and lunch in their designated bubble space. I am also pleased to see how Year 7 have settled into their lessons, and many are very keen to start off the year by working hard and have embraced our Attitudes to Learning system.

Key Contacts

In the first instance, please contact your child's mentor, who will be able to resolve your query or direct it to the relevant member of staff. Mentors can be contacted via the school telephone number or by email; mentor email addresses are available on the Year 7 section of the school website:

<https://garibaldischool.co.uk/page.php?d=year7&p=year7>

Changes to Study Period

This year, we have changed our approach to Study Period. All year groups have Study Period at the start of their school day from Monday to Thursday. There is no Study Period on a Friday. Study Period also runs on a two-week timetable.

This change to the way that we deliver Study Period allows us to target skills and cover a wide range of topics that are relevant to Year 7. Activities will include The Accelerated Reading Programme which has been proven to significantly aid student progress and Year 7 will also work on Personal Development which has been designed to provide the necessary knowledge to guide them through their first year at The Garibaldi School. It also helps us to cement the high expectations that we have for students and the high expectations that students should have themselves.

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Curriculum and provision changes

Since Year 7 have started, staff have worked hard to check students' knowledge, understanding and skills in order to plan amazing lessons and ensure amazing progress. The students have already taken some short assessments to ensure that we are able to place them in the correct teaching groups to maximise progress and achievement.

All students at The Garibaldi School have been issued conduct cards which will help to monitor behaviour out of lesson time around the school. The present focus with Year 7 students is to monitor and celebrate instances of good conduct. I would encourage you to speak to your children and give high praise for these instances.

Over the coming months, where necessary, the school will be ready to provide students with further support, in the form of intervention, guidance, and teaching group changes to ensure that students achieve their full potential.

During remote learning, The Garibaldi School ran a Hall of Fame for each year group. This was well received by students, staff and parents, and we intend to carry this on throughout this year. In the coming weeks, the Year 7 mentor team will be promoting the Hall of Fame with Year 7 to generate a real sense of pride if they are inducted into it. Staff in all subjects will be asked for their nominations and the results will be published on the school website and the student success will be celebrated. The parents of the students selected will be contacted prior to any details being published.

I will write to you again during Half Term 2 to provide you with a further update. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries.

Kind regards

S Dench-Smith

Mr S Dench-Smith
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