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Our Ref: SBE

Monday 9th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7 Students

Year 7 Welcome and Key Information

I hope this letter finds you well. As we embark on an exciting new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to both you and your child as they begin their journey with us in Year 7.

Transitioning from primary to secondary school is an important milestone, and we understand it can bring a mix of emotions for both students and families. Our dedicated team of staff are here to support your child as they settle into this new chapter. They have made a fantastic start! Many of our staff have commented on them being a delightful year group who have been calm, mature and enthusiastic during their first week.

Please see below for some important information and key dates.

Year 7 Photos

We are pleased to inform you that Year 7 school photos will be taken in school on Thursday 12th September. If your child is still waiting for their blazer on this date, please don't worry, we will have spare blazers available for use during the photos – we know you will want a perfect first high school picture!

Uniform Expectations

I would like to remind you of our uniform policy, which requires all students to be in full uniform at all times. Uniform promotes a sense of belonging and pride and we are very proud of our school community!

We have high expectations of our students and we know that you have high expectations too. Please note that as of Monday 16th September students who are not dressed in correct uniform, including correct school shoes (please refer to picture of a reminder of acceptable footwear), will spend the day working with their form tutor. This allows a further week to address any ongoing issues. This will not apply in the short term for those with a blazer delayed by the supplier as we are aware of this. Please do provide a note for your child to carry as they may be challenged by other staff.



Free school meals

Starting from Monday 16th September, students who wish to have lunch from the canteen will need to pay for their meals unless they are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).

The parents/carers of FSM children will receive a text message from our finance department by Friday 13th September. This will confirm that £2.59 will be credited to your child's account each day at lunchtime. Please note that this amount won't show on the re-val machine, but will be available when your child goes to the canteen counter. The daily FSM amount **does not roll over** and will be wiped off if not used. If your child adds additional money to their account, the FSM amount will be used first, and any remaining balance for their lunch will come from their own funds.

For non-FSM students parents/guardians will receive a message explaining that they will need to either provide a packed lunch or ensure funds are added to their child's ParentPay account. If you believe your child qualifies for FSM the easiest way to apply is online [Free school meals | Sandwell Council](#).

Breaktime Purchases

FSM funds do not cover breaktime snacks, so students/parents must ensure there is additional money on the account for this or ensure students bring a snack and/or drink if required. Please note that the drinks sold in the canteen can be expensive, so we recommend that students bring a reusable water bottle, which can be refilled at stations around the school. A full price list of food and drinks is available on our website.

Parent Pay Setup

The finance team will send out relevant ParentPay information this week. Please keep this information safe, as it will remain the same throughout their time at Oldbury Academy. ParentPay allows you to track your child's spending at both break and lunchtime. The letter you receive will include login details to create your account. If you've used ParentPay at a previous school, you can contact ParentPay directly to transfer balances. Additionally, parents with more than one child at Oldbury Academy can link accounts for easier management. When adding money via ParentPay, please note that it does not transfer instantly. We recommend using a card payment, as this processes quicker. ParentPay will also be used to pay for school trips, which are often first-come, first-served. Please don't hesitate to contact the finance team with any questions.

Apps Needed in School

We would like to remind you that important information and resources for students can be accessed through our school website. To view instructions on how to access Edulink-One, please visit: [Edulink-One Instructions – Oldbury Academy](#)

Additionally, to help you and your child stay on top of assignments, you can access Show My Homework through: [Show My Homework – Oldbury Academy](#)

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school office

Communication and Support

Throughout the year, your child will have many opportunities to explore new subjects, engage in extracurricular activities, and build lasting friendships. We believe that open communication between home and school is key to your child's success, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. The easiest way to reach us is year7team@oldburyacademy.org.uk.

We will be sharing regular updates via text messages, the school website, and newsletters. We also invite you to attend the Year 7 settling in evening on Tuesday 24th September, where you can meet your child's form tutors and discuss how they have settled in. This is an informal and optional event where their form tutors and year team staff will be available to speak to from 4pm-5pm. There is no need to make an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working together to ensure your child has a positive and rewarding experience in Year 7.

Yours sincerely

Miss S Beardmore
Head of Year 7