



THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

28th August 2020

Year 7 – Arrangements for the start of term

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you have had a restful summer break. Final preparations are now underway for the new term and myself and my colleagues look forward to getting back to the classroom and welcoming your child to Thomas Mills.

To help you and your child prepare for the first day of term, I'd like to reiterate the following points:

- The first day of school for Year 7 will be Wednesday 2nd September.
- Pupils should arrive by 8:55 at the latest and should enter the school through the crush hall entrance, accessible from the carpark at the front of school. Staff will be present to greet and direct pupils. Parents dropping off pupils are politely asked not to linger in order to maintain safe social distancing.
- Year 7 pupils need to bring a bag and pencil case. It would be helpful to have a bottle of water.
- Pupils can choose to bring a packed lunch or purchase a school dinner. If your son / daughter wishes to have a school dinner, please pre-load their online School Gateway account in advance. Instructions to set-up School Gateway were sent at the start of the summer break. Cash can be paid onto the account on a self-service machine outside the canteen. Please direct any questions regarding this system to Linda Mitchell in our Finance Office.
- Pupils should plan for a breaktime snack as lunch will be later than many were used to at primary school.
- PE kit will **not** be required on the first day.
- Your child will spend Wednesday morning with their form tutor getting to know their new tutor group. We will also:
 - Take school photographs
 - Collect biometric data (fingerprints) to allow cashless payment in the canteen
 - Activate school ICT accounts and pupil email
 - Issue a log book, timetable, school calendar and a card with the number for reporting absence - please look out for these.
- Form tutors will record their email address in your child's logbook. After Wednesday, please direct queries to the form tutor in the first instance.

Mr Hurst will also be writing to parents today. Should you have further unanswered questions before Wednesday, please don't hesitate to direct them to my email address. I look forward to working with you and your child.

Yours sincerely

Mr R. Symes

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