



## Transition to Fitzharrys School

### Top tips for parents for a successful September and beyond

We are delighted that you and your child are now part of our school community. We know that the move to secondary school is an exciting time, but that you will have many questions. We want you to feel happy and confident about your child's future at Fitzharrys. We hope this brief guide will help to address some frequently asked questions.



*'Cast and crew of Legally Blonde the Musical – a Fitzharrys whole school production – April 2022*

### How can I help my child to manage during the first few days and weeks?

Students will spend time during induction and in September getting to know the school environment, routine, and rules. To help your child prepare, you could:

- Help them to establish a regular routine. The energy and enthusiasm involved in a switch to a new school can be tiring as well as exciting.
- Encourage your child to pack their school bag the night before with all the right books and equipment (including any homework).
- Suggest that they colour code their timetable if that makes it easier to understand. We have a two-week timetable, which means being even more organised.
- Ensure they get a good night's sleep and a good breakfast to start the day.
- Encourage your child to talk to their tutor or teacher if they have any concerns.
- Supply your child with a water bottle, a snack for break time, and a packed lunch. Lunchtime at Fitzharrys is at 1.10pm, so they will need to refuel periodically during the day.

**Please note** – we operate a cashless canteen. Year 7 students will be issued canteen cards early in Term 1 which can be credited with funds via the Accounts tab in ParentMail. However, canteen cards will not be available immediately at the start of term, so a packed lunch will be needed for the first few days.

## How will my child be supported at school?

- Your child will be in a *Form* group which is like a school family group who will support each other from Year 7 through to Year 11.
- Each form has a *Tutor*, a teacher who takes a special interest in your child's welfare, happiness, and progress.
- Each year group has a *Student Well-Being Manager (SWM)*, who is a bit like a tutor and a bit like a parent, who will help deal with any worries or issues your child may have during the school day. The SWM for Year 7 is Mr Clarke.
- The *Head of Year (HoY)* is responsible for guiding your child to happiness and success at Fitzharrys by looking after their welfare, attitude and behaviour. The Head of Year 7 is Miss Emeny.

In the case of any issues, your first point of contact is your child's tutor. You can send them an email or telephone the school. We aim to respond within 24 hours. Serious issues should be directed to the Head of Year.

## How will my child mix with other students?

As well as there being lots of early opportunities to get to know fellow Year 7 students and establish new friendships, we operate a Buddy system at Fitzharrys.

- Over the first few days, Year 8 buddies will help Year 7 students to find their way to lessons and offer friendly advice.
- We can provide bus buddies for students who are unsure about using school buses for the first time.
- Year 8 Buddies are also on duty at break and lunchtime in the dining area and picnic area.

## How will my child learn and thrive?

The move from primary school to secondary offers a different type of timetable, with a wide range of different teachers, subjects and learning spaces over the course of a week. Alongside the regular timetable, during their time at Fitzharrys your child will have opportunities to be involved in whole days of wider learning, exploring specific ideas, themes, and events.

This blend of wider opportunities and lesson-based curriculum will help your child develop the skills, character, resilience, and knowledge they need to thrive.

## How can I help with homework and independent study?

Young people lead busy lives with lots of competition for their time. To help your child you could:

- Check their planner and ePraise profile (a software application that holds information on your child's homework, timetable, house points and more) so that you are aware of tasks and deadlines.
- Encourage them to get into a routine of doing homework on the night it is set and not at the last minute.
- Provide a quiet and comfortable place to do the homework.
- Check any completed homework to ensure it reflects the best that they can do.
- Remind them that mobile phones have an off switch, and that social networks and school homework don't necessarily mix.

## What should I do if my child is unwell?

- Children should attend school unless they are clearly too unwell to attend, have a temperature or have experienced sickness and diarrhoea in the last 24 hours. Children attending school are expected to take part in all activities unless they have a letter from a parent.
- In the event of sickness, please call our absence line on **(01235) 538243** on each day of illness.
- In the case of a prolonged absence, email or telephone your child's tutor and leave a message for them.

## What happens if my child becomes unwell at school?

- If a child is taken ill in school, they should alert a teacher who will send them to the medical room. If they remain unwell, the Head of Year will give permission for them to go home, and parents will be contacted.
- Students should not contact parents directly or leave the premises without the consent of the Head of Year. Please ensure parent/carer contact details are kept up to date for this reason. In case of accidental injury, you will be notified as soon as possible.

## What if my child needs to miss school for other reasons?

- Please keep us informed of anything that requires your child to miss school or may affect their behaviour, for example a family bereavement, breakdown, accident etc. so we can ensure they receive all the additional support they may need.
- The details can remain confidential but we will alert staff so they are made aware of any special considerations or can make alternative arrangements for schoolwork.

## How can my child make the most of every opportunity at Fitzharrys?

We are committed to working in partnership to get the best from and for your child.  
Your child should:

- Come in each day with a positive approach, willing and keen to take part in lessons.
- Take responsibility for their behaviour in class and around the school.
- Reflect on the things they do well and set themselves goals to improve in other areas.
- Be ready to take risks and try out new things.
- Get involved and get stuck in!

If your child needs any help with anything at all, they should ask another student, their tutor, a teacher - in fact, anyone! Everyone at Fitzharrys School will help you if you need it; we're a very friendly bunch!



### Fitzharrys School

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