

Wilmslow High School

Headteacher: Mrs G Bremner BA MA MBA

Holly Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1LZ

Tel: 01625 526191 • Fax: 01625 536858 • Email: reception@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk



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Dear Parent / Carer,

How do we help your child successfully transfer from primary school to secondary school?

What has happened so far?

You should receive this letter after your daughter or son has spent what we hope will have been two enjoyable and encouraging days of activities designed to prepare them for a successful transition to Wilmslow High School from September 2014. These two days are the latest stage in a programme that will have stretched back to at least our Open Evening and Day in October 2013, and which has included visits by our Student Services Team to the primary school attended by your daughter /son.

What will happen on Tuesday 8th July?

Later this term, on Tuesday 8th July, you will have the opportunity to come into school for an Induction Evening at which, among other things, you will be able to meet the form tutor who will be responsible for the daily pastoral care and progress monitoring of your daughter /son. By the beginning of July we will have contacted you directly either by email or post with further details of this event.

How have we developed the Year 7 residential to further improve the transition experience?

If you already have a child at Wilmslow High School you will know that for a number of years we have run an educational visit at the end of Year 7 with the explicit objective of enabling staff and students to bond in the residential setting of the Colomendy Centre in North Wales. Following growing parental, student and staff feedback that this objective might be better achieved if the residential took place earlier in Year 7, the Heads of House have worked hard to put together a three day programme for your daughter or son from Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd October 2014.

Each House will take its students, tutors and supporting staff to one of the following venues for an extensive and varied programme of activities:

- Wimarleigh Hall (PGL), Lancashire
- Conover Hall (JCA Adventure), Shrewsbury
- Boreatton Park (PGL), Shrewsbury
- Castle head (FSC), Grange-over-Sands

The total cost of this residential, which includes travel, full board, accommodation as well as the activities, is £180 (£10 less than this years' Year 7 visit). We appreciate that this sum might be challenging for some family circumstances, especially when combined with other costs involved in preparing for secondary school and a new school year, consequently there are a number of ways in which we can help.

Firstly, for all those students who are eligible for pupil premium funding or are in similarly constrained financial circumstances we can make a contribution towards the individual cost. Please indicate on the reply slip below if you believe this might apply to you.

Secondly, we can offer a staged payment plan:

- Payment One : **£40** to be made on Tuesday 8th July 2014 (Induction evening)
- Payment Two: **£70** to be made by Wednesday 10th September 2014

- Payment Three: **£70** to be made by Friday 10th October 2014

I hope that these methods of payment enable families to be able to spread the burden of the cost over several months and therefore find paying for the residential more manageable. Of course, those who wish to do so can enclose a cheque for the entire amount of £180 on 8th July 2014. All students will be issued with a payment card detailing the above key dates. This should be given to Mrs Yarwood in Student Services each time a payment is submitted. **Each payment should be handed into Mrs Yarwood in Student Services, in a sealed envelope with your child's name and tutor group clearly written on the envelope.** Cheques should be made payable to **Wilmslow High School**.

Additionally, Mrs Yarwood will also be available to take payment (full or part) in the form of either cash or cheque on the Year 7 Induction Evening on Tuesday 8th July (5.30pm-8.15pm).

What events are planned for the autumn term to help you support your child in their transition to secondary school?

At the Induction Evening on Tuesday 8th July you will receive a comprehensive pack of information in which there will be details of the various events we organise during the autumn term which are designed to help you support your child during their transition to secondary school. These events include a welcome evening, teaching and learning workshops from the English and mathematics teams and a settling in evening at which form tutors can give feedback on the progress made during the first half-term. In addition, during this time there will also be an opportunity to attend a briefing about the Year 7 residential.

Could I please ask that you sign and return the reply slip below on the 8th July Year 7 Induction evening indicating whether you give consent for your child to attend the residential.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school if you have any queries relating to the residential.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S Mackintosh
Director of Student Services

Name of Student _____ (**CAPITALS**) **Tutor Group** _____

I do / do not give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the Year 7 residential visit from Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd October 2014

Please could a member of the Student Services Team contact me to discuss the possibility of some form of financial support. (please tick if required)

I enclose payment of £ _____ cheque /cash.

*Please delete where applicable

Signed _____