

St Crispin's School

Headteacher Ms Ginny Rhodes
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14th September 2018

SHA/sh

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your son/daughter as we start a new journey together this academic year. Working together as a partnership, staff, students and parents, is really important to me in ensuring that your children excel both academically and socially. At St Crispin's we are extremely passionate about providing a safe, stimulating and happy learning environment. I sincerely hope that your children have enjoyed their first few days here at St Crispin's.

The year 7 tutor team is one of the most fundamental components of the school partnership in ensuring that the students feel content and nurtured. Thus I would like to introduce you to the tutor team who can be contacted as follows:

7CBR	Mr C Basher	basher@crispins.co.uk
7DCO	Mr D Collis	collisd@crispins.co.uk
7ECO	Miss E Conniford	conniforde@crispins.co.uk
7EGI	Ms E Giles	gilese@crispins.co.uk
7HMA	Ms H Mahmood	mahmood@crispins.co.uk
7JDA	Mr J Davidson	davidsonj@crispins.co.uk
7RHA	Ms R Handman	handmanr@crispins.co.uk

If your son/daughter has any problems or queries their tutor should be their first port of call. The tutor team prides itself on ensuring that everyone is working to the best of their ability and that your son/daughter is fulfilling the high expectations that St Crispin's prides itself upon. All students have been told that we expect them to fulfil the 'Rights and Responsibilities' of being a student at St Crispin's. Fundamental to this is ensuring that they have impeccable uniform, correct equipment and supporting their teachers throughout their time with us by fully participating in lessons and ensuring that their behaviour is of the highest standard.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you encourage your son/daughter to attend all lessons on time, fully equipped and ready to work. If students are to achieve their best, it is important that they bring pens, pencils, exercise books, text books and any other equipment, as appropriate, to every lesson. Students are expected to have their planner with them at all times in order to record Personal Study tasks which are to be completed

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outside of lesson time. Parents are asked to read and sign planners on a weekly basis as this is an effective means of communication for both staff and parents.

Attached to this letter you will find the school's expectations regarding our dress code which we expect all students to adhere to. We have been extremely impressed by the standard of uniform so far and we will ensure that this continues throughout the year. If you have any queries the school uniform is clearly listed in the school planner. Hoodies, trainers, fashion trousers, fashion belts, make-up, false nails and excessive jewellery should not be worn in school. The uniform should be worn smartly with the ties (for boys) done up properly and shirts tucked in trousers/skirts. Please be aware that students' hair should reflect a professional working environment.

During the first week of term you should have received an email from INSIGHT giving login details to our parent portal website and details of how to access the INSIGHT App. There is only one login per family, an email would have been sent to the person who you gave as first contact on your student details. For students that have parents that live at separate addresses login details would have been sent to both parents. If you have not received this information, please firstly check your SPAM/Junk folder. If the email is still not showing in your account please email insight@crispins.co.uk with your child's full name and Tutor Group. INSIGHT is a tool which allows you to monitor attendance, achievement and behaviour points.

There are a few important dates that you will need to be aware of and we ask that you avoid making appointments at these times. **Tutors' Evening is on Thursday 20th September** and provides you with the opportunity to meet your son/daughter's tutor to discuss the first week. I will also be available if you wish to discuss anything. Please can you read and return the attached form to book an appointment.

Key Dates for Year 7:

Thursday 20th September – Year 7 Tutors' Evening

Friday 28th September – Year 7 Focus Day Drug awareness

Thursday 12th October – Year 7 Salisbury Cathedral/Slough Islamic Centre

w/b 15th October – Year 7 Teambuilding at Oakwood centre

Thursday 10th January – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 1st March – Year 7 Cheddar Gorge Trip

Friday 21st June – Sunday 23rd June – Year 7 Teambuilding weekend

Friday 28th June – Year 7 Warwick Castle Trip

I am especially looking forward to the adventurous teambuilding activities at Oakwood and hope that this will give students and staff some enjoyable challenges, even if I am not so keen on the high ropes myself!

Attendance is extremely important in ensuring that students do not miss out on their education. However, we are aware that sometimes absence is unavoidable, should your son/daughter be absent, please ring the school office on the first morning and each morning thereafter that your son/daughter is absent. Any anomalies in attendance will be flagged by the electronic registration system at which point we will do our best to contact you.



Mobile phones are allowed in school but I would like to familiarise you with our phones policy. Phones must not be used in lessons unless the teacher specifically requests their use as part of a learning activity. The school cannot take responsibility for phones and if this is a concern they should not be brought on to the school site. Should a student's phone be seen in lessons when they have not been directed to do so, the device will be confiscated and the student will be required to collect at the end of the day from the Heads of Year office. On the second occasion, the same procedure will apply with the exception that we will ask the parent/carer to collect at the end of the day or at their earliest convenience. Further failures to abide by these procedures will result in a Head of Year detention and then a requirement that your son/daughter must hand in their phone at the start of the day and collect at the end of the day from the Heads of Year office for one week. We appreciate your support in dealing with this matter and will keep you informed if these sanctions need to be implemented.

Also attached to this letter you will find an overview of the Year 7 curriculum. As I am sure you are aware, the curriculum is changing across all Key Stages so we have summarised those changes for you. We are very conscious that your son/daughter has had to endure copious exams in primary school and so this year we want them to focus on their love of learning and the subject.

Finally, I am incredibly proud of the way in which the year group presented themselves at the beginning of this term and ask for your continued support over the issue of school uniform and standards of behaviour. I look forward to working in partnership with you all. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything. I can be contacted on the following email address hattons@crispins.co.uk or please contact the school office. I look forward to meeting you all at the Tutors Evening on the **20th September**.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Hatton
Head of Year 7



Year 7 Tutors' Evening, Thursday 20th September 2018

On Thursday 20th September, we will be holding an evening when you, as a parent/carer, will have the opportunity to meet your son/daughter's form tutor.

In addition to the Year 7 tutors and myself, Miss Brumby (SENCO) will also be available for you to talk to.

Please complete the details on the attached form and return it as soon as possible to your son/daughter's tutor. Appointments will be given on a first come, first served basis. Each appointment will last for approximately five minutes and is meant for parents/carers only.

Your appointment time will be inserted by the form tutor and returned to your son/daughter. If you are unable to attend, please sign the form and return it to your son/daughter's form tutor to acknowledge receipt of this brochure. We look forward to meeting you.

The Role of the Form Tutor

We would like you to meet with your son/daughter's form tutor because he/she plays a very important role in each student's pastoral life in the school.

Form Tutors:

- Will remain with their tutor group from year 7 to year 11;
- Develop a strong relationship with each student in their tutor group;
- Meet their tutor group daily for registration and tutor time;
- Monitor the student planners every week;
- Are the first line of communication for parents if there is a problem or query;
- Are a link between students and subject teachers;
- Liaise with the Head of Year regarding the students in their tutor group;
- Coordinate the subject reports for their tutor group;
- Help to track student performance.



Year 7 Tutors' Evening, Thursday 20th September 2018 - REPLY SLIP

Name of student: _____ Tutor group: _____

Please tick appropriate box:

- I/We will be attending the Tutors' Evening on **Thursday, 20th September 2018**
- I/We are unable to attend the Tutors' Evening

Please indicate the time you would like your appointment:

- 6.30 – 6.55pm
- 7.00 – 7.25pm
- 7.30 – 7.55pm
- 8.00 – 8.25pm
- 8.30 – 8.55pm

We will try to meet your requested time.

Signature of Parent/Carer:

(Tutor to enter time)

OUR APPOINTMENT TIME IS:



SCHOOL UNIFORM

No eccentricities of fashion will be allowed, including hair style, unnatural hair colour and nail varnish.

School uniform is to be worn to and from school and on school visits. All uniform should be clearly labelled.

Blazers should be worn at all times, unless otherwise directed by staff.

Jewellery – One stud only may be worn in each ear lobe. Other jewellery is not permitted, with the exception of one charity band.

Makeup – As a privilege, girls in Years 10 & 11 may wear light, discreet make-up. No nail varnish or false nails are permitted.

Blazer – Bottle green with crest

Jumper – Plain grey, V-necked, long sleeved with crest

School tie – Green & silver striped for boys, tied and must touch the collar

Shirt – Plain white for boys, tucked in

Trousers – Plain mid grey or black of standard school uniform style (e.g. not narrow legged, leggings or jeans)

Blouse – Green and white striped open neck - for girls only

Skirt – Medium plain grey of suitable length and style (e.g. not close fitting)

Socks – Dark grey, black or white

Tights – Grey, black or flesh coloured (if socks are worn with tights they must be of the same colour)

Shoes – Black (no trainers, canvas shoes, or high heels)

A full list of uniform required for Physical Education is listed on the school website

Year 7 – Curriculum Information

St Crispin's follows a broad and balanced curriculum as laid out in the National Curriculum. In Year 7 students are assessed through 'steps' based on Reformed GCSE criteria, which are sub divided.

- During the course of the year we will send out three reports to parents/carers, one report per term. These reports will contain the current attainment and end of year targets for each subject. Scores are also given for attitude to learning, motivation and organisation, behaviour for learning and quality of classwork and homework.
- A student's lessons are organised over a fortnight with a different week A and week B timetable. There are five one hour lessons per day (25 per week).
- The table below shows the subjects students will study and the number of periods available for each subject.

Subject	Periods/Hours per fortnight
English#	6
Maths#	6
Science#	6
French or Spanish#	6
Computing	2
Design and Technology	4
Geography	4
History	4
Religious Studies	2
Art	2
Music	2
Drama	2
Physical Education	4

- All lessons are taught in mixed ability groups based on tutor groups, except for subjects marked with #. These subjects are set by ability.
- Identified students are offered the opportunity to have additional support with literacy and numeracy in The Bridge. These students may be withdrawn from English, Maths, French, History, Geography and Religious Studies to be given support mostly, in small groups and occasionally on a one-to-one basis. When a student is judged to be ready to do so, they are integrated back into mainstream lessons.
- During registration students will be holding conversations with their tutor regarding their attendance, wellbeing and behaviour. We have also included a PSHCE programme that will focus on several key areas such as work related learning, health (mental, sexual, stress, anxiety, drugs and alcohol), life skills (finance, study and organisation skills) and British values.
- All students study Religious Studies in Year 7, following the Berkshire Agreed Syllabus.

- In Modern Foreign Languages, students will study either French or Spanish. Both languages will be taught to develop students' understanding and confidence in "how to learn" a new language. Students will study either Spanish or French depending on which side of the year they are on. In Year 8 those students in the top sets of the year will also study German in addition to French or Spanish.
- From September 2017, St Crispin's School will open a specialist resource to provide support and structure for young people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. The Oaks is not a special school nor is it an isolated resource but rather acts as a conduit to facilitate students' access to mainstream education. The resource is for five students in each year group, and is designed to remove barriers from learning and to reduce sensory overload and anxiety.
- A wide variety of enrichment and extra-curricular activities is on offer to all students. Across the year, many educational visits are organised, including three trips days. Lunchtime and after school activities provide students with additional opportunities to develop their skills and understanding of the world around them.

Future Changes

- Although some way off for Year 7 students, it is important to make you aware of the recent changes to GCSE and Technical Awards. Year 7 will be taking their exams in Year 11 in 2023.
- If you have an older son or daughter, you will be familiar with the old grading for GCSEs (A* to G) and the threshold that students need to gain (5 A* to C including English and Maths) to progress to Sixth Form or colleges of further education.
- By 2020, **all** GCSEs will be reformed and will be significantly different from the previous courses. The new GCSEs will have:
 - a new grading of 9-1: 9 being the highest grade, 1 being the lowest.
 - fewer tiered subjects - previously students could take a foundation or higher exam paper. In most subjects there will now be only one tier.
 - fewer controlled assessments to be completed in the classroom - most courses will be graded on exams only.
 - no opportunity for early entry - students will take exams at the end of Year 11 only – there will be no modules to take in Year 10.
 - a different exam structure - the exams will be longer and each exam will test more content.
 - no opportunity for re-sitting exams before the end of Year 11.
- From 2016 the way of measuring a student's or school's achievement was changed. The percentage of students gaining 5 A* to C, including English and Maths will no longer be used and will instead be replaced by four new measures. These are the Ebacc, Attainment 8, Progress 8 and the percentage of students gaining a pass in English and Maths.
 - Ebacc – awarded to students who gain a pass in English, Maths, Sciences, a Language and a Humanities course.
 - Attainment 8 – measures attainment in three areas – English and Maths, three Ebacc subjects and three other courses.
 - Progress 8 – compares a student's Attainment 8 with what they were expected to achieve.
- Further details about these new measures can be found on the school website.