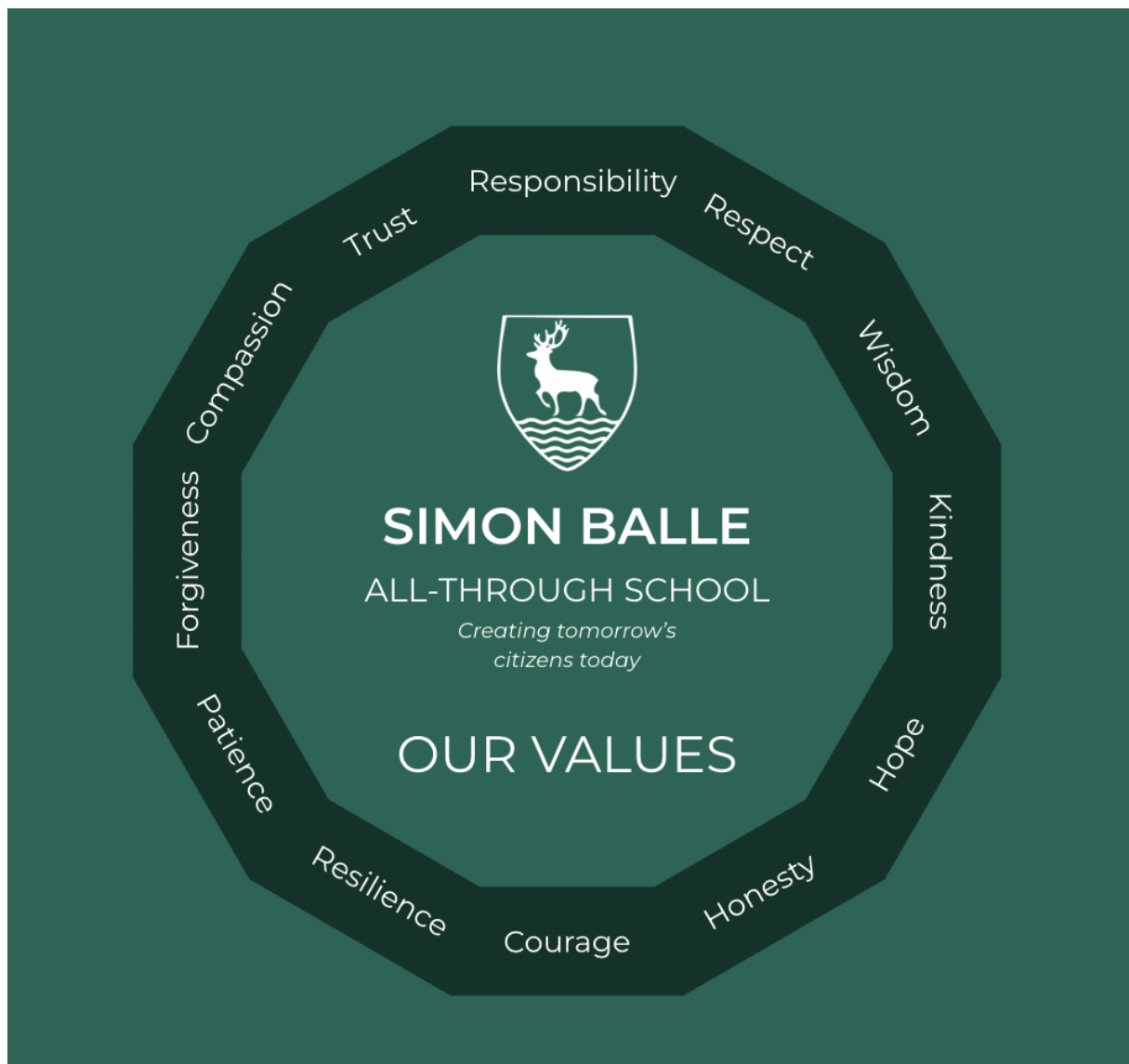




Year 7 Information Pack



Strong schools, supportive homes: together we care,
together they thrive

Contents

Welcome from the Transition Team	2
Important Dates for Your Diary	2
School Uniform	4
Communication with Parents/Carers and Families	5
Transition Arrangements	6
Principles for Allocating Year 7 Form Groups	7
Enrichment and 'Gradu8' Club	8
Year 7 Residential Trip	10
Financial Information	10
Student Supplies	11
Chromebooks	12
Lockers	16
Procedures	16
Free School Meals (FSM)	17
Pupil Premium (PP)	17
Welcome to Music at Simon Balle All-through School.	18
Simon Balle All-through School Parents Staff Association (PSA)	18
Travel to Simon Balle All-through School	20
Working Together: A Helpful Check-list	21

Welcome from the Transition Team

The Year 7 Transition Team warmly welcomes you to the Simon Balle All-through School secondary community. This is an exciting time for all Year 6 students although it is often, quite naturally, one that can indeed include questions and doubts for students as well as parents/carers. Yet those who already know our school will be aware of our ethos and culture and that you can trust us to do all we can to support and guide students in their time with us. Those who are new to our community will soon hopefully see and understand our values and vision, along with what we do day-to-day to fulfil these, and why this makes our school an outstanding place for young people to thrive and flourish. This has been evident in our current Year 7 cohort who have settled seamlessly into life with us and have been a key part of our community since day one. We know that is in no small part due to our comprehensive transition programme which your child will benefit from in due course.

New beginnings for students

Part of the sense of excitement felt by our prospective Year 7s is the very idea that secondary school is different to primary school and provides an opportunity to flourish as mature young people. Your children enter a caring, compassionate community that presents new experiences and avenues for growth so they have the support and challenge to reach their potential in every way. We set high expectations, regardless of starting attainment levels, which all students are encouraged to meet. Day-to-day, students will move around the school to go to a range of subjects with expert teachers and the chance to further develop a love of learning. Students' experiences are complemented with extra-curricular activities, a purposefully-designed enrichment curriculum and outstanding learning opportunities. These not only build on academic performance but also on the character development and the core values of the individual. This process begins in earnest now and we will do all we can to support you in making these changes now to accelerate their assimilation to life with us as well as build their confidence and enthusiasm about the start of their new journey.

New beginnings for parents and carers

As you can see, we value our relationship with you as parents and carers. We work with you closely and communicate regularly as we know the impact this close collaboration will have on students' progress as learners and young people. However, these methods will be a new way of working for most parents/carers. We use an online system called Arbor for keeping parents/carers updated with attendance, communications, progress data and reports, homework and behaviour, and developing an understanding of this system is vital in engaging with your child's school experience. We will also seek to equip and inform you so you can help to reinforce our work with your child in school. This is equally true of the pastoral side of life at Simon Balle as it is only by working side-by-side together, in a

relationship based on trust and aspiration to produce tomorrow's citizens today, that we can do our best by our students. Therefore, we expect full parental/carer engagement so we can work together to ensure your children thrive in every way whilst in our care.

So, we hope you, and especially your son/daughter, enjoy secondary life at Simon Balle. It is a vibrant, happy school in which students want to excel. Year 7 students feel safe, supported and secure in the knowledge that if they work to their potential, they can become 'tomorrow's citizens today'. We look forward to working with you.

The Year 7 Transition Team

Important Dates for Your Diary

Date	Focus	Information	Action
Tuesday 30th June, 6pm.	Welcome to Year 7 transition.	Key staff will deliver presentation information in the secondary school hall that will include details of what it means to be a SBAS student, both pastorally and academically.	Mandatory attendance for all parents/carers (no students).
Thursday 9th July, 8.30am to 3.15pm.	Hertfordshire students' transition day.	Students to wear primary school uniform and bring a pencil case with equipment. Parents/carers must also ensure that they have purchased the Transition Day lunch from the school shop on Parent Portal.	All students must attend.
Thursday 9th July, 3.00-5.30pm. Larch Centre Hall	Stevensons Sizing Event	Several sizing sets of all uniform will be available. Parents/carers and students are able to try on/size up uniform in person and mark off preferred sizes on an order sheet. Parents/carers then order uniform online from home, within the free delivery window. Parents/carers have full records of sales (i.e. sizes) on their online account	To be attended by parents/carers and students.
Wednesday, 26th August to Friday, 28th August, 9.00am to 2.00pm.	Summer school.	This offer is unique to Simon Balle in its scale and is a vital part of the transition offer. It is designed to not only successfully cultivate a sense of belonging and connection to the school, staff and the rest of the new cohort but also establish a critical understanding of our values and culture. We have seen firsthand over the last several years how important a role the Summer School plays which is why we are aiming yet again for 100% engagement.	It is expected that all students will attend.

Wednesday 2nd September 8.30am	School starts for Year 7 students.	Year 7 students will be welcomed to Simon Balle.	
Thursday 3rd September	All students in school	Year 7 individual photographs will be taken for use within school.	
Tuesday 8th September	All students in school	Year 7 group photographs will be taken. Any students without permission for photographs will be responsible for removing themselves from this photograph.	
Thursday 24th September 6-7pm	Year 7 information evening.	Further details to follow.	

School Uniform

We want students to be proud of their school and to understand that wearing the uniform correctly is about more than appearance - it reflects pride, unity, and a shared sense of purpose.

Our uniform is simple but smart, and it represents more than just clothing. It signifies that we are all part of something bigger - the Simon Balle community. Wearing the uniform well shows respect for ourselves, for each other, and for the values we stand for. It promotes a sense of belonging and equality, encouraging students to approach their learning with the right mindset and a strong sense of character. When we wear our uniform with pride, we show that we are ready to learn, ready to support one another, and ready to represent our school in the best possible way.

All details regarding uniform can be found on our [website](#).

Please note, certain items can be bought locally and cheaply as they are easily obtainable. Specialist uniform needs to be purchased from [Stevensons](#), the company which most Hertfordshire secondary schools use.

Address: 133-135 Victoria Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3XS, Tel: 01727 853262.

We are aware of new government legislation relating to school uniform. We have updated our Uniform Policy to comply with this legislation, however the legislation allows a grace period for suppliers to allow for variations to pre-existing contracts. This means that the new uniform policy will not come into effect until September 2027.

Communication with Parents/Carers and Families

We all share the same aims for each and every child: that they are happy at Simon Balle, make the most of the many opportunities on offer and also achieve their very best academically. In order for us all to support your child, we need to ensure that we talk, we listen and we inform. This goes both ways in the school-home partnership. We have set up some very easy ways for this to happen:

- We send a fortnightly newsletter to you digitally with the calendar and information on it.
- Our website is kept up to date for you. This not only has general information on it but also has the curriculum maps which tell you what your child is studying in every one of their subjects.
- We send digital reports of your child's progress.
- We run regular parents'/carers' meetings and workshops.
- We telephone you.
- You can email us - we expect you to keep us informed. At the Information Evening we will give you the principles around how to do this.

Children whose parents/carers take a great interest in their school life and work, and that means even chatting with them regularly about school, achieve higher exam results than those who do not. So, read the newsletters, look at the website, attend the meetings at the school, ask questions and keep in touch with us please!

Website

Our website provides you with important information about our curriculum and life at the school. Transition information can be found on the Secondary Admission page under the admissions menu heading. Information regarding the curriculum and assessment are located under the Curriculum menu, and policies such as Behaviour for Learning can be found under the Policies and Accounts menu.

Social media

Our social media channels are used to promote and celebrate what is taking place during the school year. Updates will occur in a timely fashion, but will not necessarily be instantaneous. Only students with the necessary photo permissions will be featured in these posts. We are happy for parents/carers and the wider community to engage with our posts, but please use phone or email for discussing issues with us.

Arbor

At Simon Balle we use an online web-based system to collect and store details about your child's attendance, academic progress, homework and behaviour.

Arbor is our Management Information System (MIS) and contains attendance and personal information (contact details, medical information etc) and is used for academic monitoring and progress reports, homework assignments and behaviour.

The system can be accessed via both an internet browser or an app. Parents and carers can log on and view their child's attendance, progress and behaviour records as well as monitor their homework and update personal information. All that is required is access to the internet and the primary email address you have given us. A student app is also available for students to track their homework and behaviour points. We will send you more information on the service later in the year.

Transition Arrangements

Tuesday 30th June (6pm) – Welcome to Year 7 Transition Evening

At Simon Balle we value the whole child for who they are and what they can bring to enrich the fabric of our school community as an individual in their own right. We work hard to support the students' personal development so they can become happy, successful people who will live well together as part of a community. This evening will allow us to outline the range of ways we seek to do this, providing guidance on what can be done at home by parents and carers.

As well as this we will be outlining our academic expectations and give guidance on what we can do together, as parents/carers and teachers, to support and challenge students to make a positive start to Year 7 and continue this through to Year 8 and beyond. This is because we know that for many parents/carers the biggest concern about the transition from Primary to Secondary is linked to the social aspect, however, studies have shown that when an equal focus is given to the academic aspect of transition then students fare better not only in the short term but for the remainder of their school life too.

We expect all parents/carers to attend this meeting to ensure we make as strong a start as possible to our home-school partnership.

Thursday 9th July – Students only induction

This is Hertfordshire's Transition Day. It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to get a taste of life at Simon Balle as well as begin to develop relationships with new peers and teachers. For us, this chance to welcome the new cohort and get a greater sense of each individual student is one of the highlights of the year.

Summer School - 26th – 28th August, 9am - 2pm each day

Over several years we have built our Summer School into something that is an incredibly important aspect of our transition process, one that is a talking point of joining SimonBalle, and the buy-in from parents/carers and students alike has been wonderful. We know that the young children who participate feel the benefit in every way of this research-based offer, which in turn supports a positive start to secondary life. This is why **we are aiming for 100% engagement** and ask parents/carers to prioritise availability for these.

Principles for Allocating Year 7 Form Groups

Safeguarding comes first

Any safeguarding consideration takes precedence over all other factors in form allocation. Students are placed with their safety and pastoral support as the highest priority. Changes to groupings after allocation are therefore typically only considered where there are significant safeguarding concerns.

We use professional information, not preference

We draw on detailed transition information from feeder primary schools and staff professional judgement and expertise. This can include guidance about group dynamics, unproductive working relationships, or combinations that may make learning and settling harder.

Groups are deliberately balanced

Form groups are not created at random. We use multiple data points (around eight key sets) to ensure each group has a balanced mix and the right support in place. This commonly includes sex, attainment, feeder school, SEND, attendance and other relevant pastoral/learning information.

We consider productive working relationships

Where possible, we place students with at least one peer they are familiar with and known to work well alongside, to support confidence and a smooth start.

Friendships are not the deciding factor

We understand friendship matters, but form groups are never based on friendships. In some cases, placing close friendship groups together can unintentionally affect focus, behaviour or wider group dynamics. Our aim is a positive learning environment for everyone.

Transition and belonging matter

Alongside academic balance, we plan groups so students can settle quickly, feel known, and access support early - especially during the first term when routines and relationships are forming.

Friendships will still flourish across the year group

Students mix widely beyond Form time and they have regular opportunities to build and maintain friendships across the wider year group through lessons, social times, clubs and enrichment.

We reflect carefully, but do not make frequent changes

We will always listen to concerns and take them seriously. However, because form allocations are designed to balance many needs across the whole cohort, changes are rare and usually only made when there is a clear safeguarding reason to do so.

Enrichment and 'Gradu8' Club

At Simon Balle we believe that an inspiring enrichment programme is an intrinsic part of the school experience. This aspect of school life is key not only to developing character, aspiration and enthusiasm but also is essential in a student's overall growth. Therefore, we have created two strands of enrichment for Year 7 students: extracurricular clubs and the 'Gradu8' Club.

Extracurricular clubs

We believe that education goes beyond the classroom. A rich and varied extracurricular life is essential to developing a sense of belonging, character, wellbeing, and discovering hidden talents and interests that help shape who we are.

Engaging in extracurricular activities is not just encouraged – it is the norm. All students are expected to take part in at least two extracurricular clubs, not including the Gradu8 programme because we know it makes a huge difference to how they settle and in turn thrive in secondary. Activities outside the curriculum give students the chance to explore passions, try new things, build confidence, and connect with others. There is clear evidence that extracurricular involvement supports wellbeing, personal development and academic engagement.

A wide range of clubs are available to Year 7 students throughout the week, either during lunch and these include:

- Sport and fitness.
- Music ensembles and instrumental and vocal lessons.
- Creative and visual arts.
- Humanities and STEM.
- Library and reading groups.
- Study support.
- Interest and hobby-based clubs, such as chess or eco club.

The Music department also runs its own exciting extracurricular programme, and more details will be shared in due course about how your child can take part.

Most clubs are free and require no sign-up. A few may involve a small charge each half term to cover the cost of materials – for example, art or business clubs.

To help students get involved, we will provide:

- A full list of clubs with times and locations on the school website.
- A Year 7 clubs fair early in the autumn term.
- An overview emailed to parents/carers.

We are committed to helping every student find their place, develop their interests and thrive beyond the classroom. Enrichment is not an extra – it is an essential part of flourishing at SBAS.

'Gradu8' Club

At Simon Balle, we believe that success begins with culture – one that inspires curiosity, ambition and a love of learning. That's why we have created Gradu8 – a morning

enrichment programme designed to spark intellectual engagement, build personal character, and help every student aim higher.

Gradu8 takes place every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8.00 to 8.30am. Attendance is expected for all students, because it is more than just a club – it is a shared commitment to aspiration, growth and achievement. By starting the day with purpose and focus, students are supported in developing habits that contribute to long-term success, both academically and beyond.

Gradu8 is not one-size-fits-all. It is a tailored programme shaped around students' interests and needs. Tutors and Heads of Year work closely with each child to shape a personal enrichment plan that builds motivation, resilience, curiosity and confidence.

Activities on offer include (but are not limited to):

- ReadingPlus Programme;
- Future Minds Club;
- mini EPQs.

Gradu8 helps students see learning as a powerful tool – not just for school, but for life. It helps lay the foundations of a culture where every learner sees themselves as capable, equipped, and ready to thrive.

Year 7 Residential Trip

Each spring term we ask all Year 7 students to join us on our annual residential trip with a focus upon team building, culture and personal growth. The cost is around £450, with a payment plan available. Further details will be shared with parents/carers in due course.

Financial Information

Simon Balle is a completely cashless school and we are not able to accept cash or cheques at all. We therefore use an online cashless platform called Parent Portal to facilitate all payments to the school. Login details and instructions for Parent Portal will be sent out in June, ahead of the Year 7 transition day.

There are several other items we ask for contributions towards before the start of term and these purchases can be made through the Parent Portal as soon as you receive your

login details. Students will receive the items in their form time or relevant classes during the first week of term.

The items we request you purchase through Parent Portal before the start of term are as follows:

- Book covers - £6 for 15 A4 covers (to ensure student books are kept in good condition)
- KS3 DT Technology materials - £8
- KS3 Art/textiles materials - £12
- KS3 Food Technology - £5
- Locker hire - £25 (hire of locker for 3 years, includes £10 refundable deposit)
- Summer School - £15

On the first day of term, all students, for whom we have received Lunch Account Finger Number consent, will have their fingerprint scanned. This will then link to their dinner money account on Parent Portal and can be used to pay for all food and drink at the till in the school's canteen. Students who have not provided consent will be given a unique PIN to use at the canteen.

You should have completed the Lunch Account Finger Number form when you completed the Admissions+/Applicaa registration form. This will give consent for your child to use their fingerprint to pay for school meals.

If you do not have access to a computer on which to make payments, you can come to the school to make use of ours.

If you anticipate any financial difficulties, please contact the Finance Office (at finance@thelaureleducationtrust.co.uk or on 01992 410400) as soon as possible to see what financial assistance is available.

Student Supplies

It is really important that students come to school fully equipped each day. It is an important indicator in their engagement with their studies as well as helping to ensure they are able to begin each lesson fully prepared.

We expect all students to have the following equipment when they start school in September:

- A school bag which must be a backpack with an outside water bottle holder.
- Book covers (see Financial Information section of this document). These can be purchased directly from the school,
- A pencil case containing:
 - Four black/blue Staedtler 309 handwriting pens
 - Two green pens
 - Pencils (coloured and normal)
 - A4 whiteboard with three whiteboard pens
 - Eraser
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Scissors
 - Highlighter pens
 - A full length ruler
 - A glue stick
 - A scientific calculator - this must be Casio FX-83GTCW Scientific Calculator. Here are some retailers that stock these:
 - [Amazon](#)
 - [Argos](#)
 - A maths compass
 - An apron and container for Food Technology
 - An A4 document wallet

All students must come with their own equipment, clearly labelled, as we will not be sharing or giving out equipment in school.

At home we expect all students to have either a measuring cup or kitchen scales to weigh out ingredients for food lessons.

Chromebooks

Since becoming a 'One Person, One Device' school, we have been at the forefront of technology, adapting our everyday behaviours and transforming our pedagogical approach. Technology advances quickly and we are always adapting, showing the flexibility that is needed when working within this field.

Chromebooks are embedded as a tool to provide outstanding teaching and learning; utilising digital technology as a resource to enhance teacher delivery and student progress.

A Chromebook is the best selling device in education. As the curriculum has evolved, so has our way of working with technology. The benefits of Chromebooks are:

- Fully compatible with the Google Software we are constantly using within our Google Workspace platform.
- Ready to use within eight seconds so no learning is lost.
- Lightweight and robust.
- Low maintenance. Chromebooks download and can install security and software updates automatically.
- Secure. Built-in security means devices are safe from viruses and malware.
- Chromebooks have a battery life of 8-11 hours and so only need charging overnight even when used constantly.
- Students use technology tools on our Google Workspace to communicate, collaborate, create and publish their work.
- Real time feedback and marking is possible.
- Subject specific apps or online textbooks are easier to access.
- They prepare students for 21st century integration of digital tools.
- They work seamlessly with Google Apps for Education and other cloud based applications which all of our students and teachers already use extensively.

The FAQs below will explain how the Chromebook scheme works at Simon Balle and what you need to do.

My child is coming from Year 6 in the Larch and already has a school Chromebook, do they need to buy another one?

No. Year 6 students from the Larch have already bought the required equipment in terms of Chromebooks for Year 7. Parents/carers of Larch graduates can ignore the rest of this section.

What do I need to buy?

The Chromebook package includes:

- An Acer 311 Chromebook.
- A Google Chrome operating licence.
- A three year accidental damage repair and warranty service with same-day, on-site loan devices.

There are no additional fees or charges for the lifetime of the scheme and the entire package can be purchased as either a one-off up front cost or paid for in instalments via direct debit over one, two or three years. Full ownership of the device is transferred to you, with no additional charges, once the final payment is made.

The repair service has a £0 excess (exclusions apply to deliberate vandalism/malicious damage of Chromebooks and fair usage) and there is no charge for the use of loan devices (subject to them being returned in good condition).

How much does it cost?

Due to our ability to procure at scale, our access to education pricing from suppliers and the ability to sell to parents/carers excluding VAT, we are able to offer a Chromebook package to all students in Years 6 to 11 at highly discounted rates and pass 100% of these savings on to parents/carers.

The cost of the Chromebook package for 2026/27 is as follows:

One-off purchase - £374.48

Monthly instalments over one year - £31.63

Monthly instalments over two years - £16.03

Monthly instalments over three years - £10.81

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium and you require financial support, please contact Mrs Green at greena@simonballe.herts.sch.uk and your enquiry will be dealt with sensitively and discreetly.

How do I buy a Chromebook?

The Chromebook package can be purchased through our partner [Freedom Tech's online portal](#). Enter an email address and choose a password to create your FreedomTech account and you will then be able to log in to the online shop.

The portal is open now and will close on the 10th July. Chromebooks will be delivered to students on their first day at school in September.

It is very important that you place your order during the summer portal. If you miss this portal, you will not be able to place another order until September and your child will not receive their device until after the term has started.

Can I buy a different Chromebook/device?

No. Student Chromebooks must be purchased through the school's scheme so that they can be enrolled on the school's network to ensure students' safety through filtering and monitoring.

I can buy this device cheaper myself; do I have to use the school's scheme?

Yes, you have to purchase through the school's scheme. Although you can purchase the device alone for less than the cost of the package, the package includes many essential features and benefits that you either can't purchase individually or would cost much more if you were to purchase outside of the scheme. For example,

- Chromebook - £169
- Chrome licence - £38.38
- Extended warranty - £45.58
- Unlimited, zero excess accidental damage cover with no exclusions - Can't be purchased
- Insurance with £50 excess and exclusions - £90
- Same-day replacement device - Can't be purchased
- Management of Google Workspace - Can't be purchased

We have been running a one device scheme for over 10 years and over this time have refined the package to be as comprehensive and cost effective as possible. It is not possible to purchase an equivalent package elsewhere for cheaper.

Do I need to buy a case?

The repair scheme does not require that devices are kept in cases but you may wish to purchase one to protect your device and keep it in good condition. A variety of different cases are available from a variety of retailers.

Lockers

Lockers are available around the school and are a useful way to support students as they transition to the organisational demands of a secondary school. The cost to hire a locker for the entire period for Years 7-9, (with a refundable deposit of £10) is £25. Lockers are allocated once students start the school but need to be ordered in advance. You can order a locker for your child by paying the deposit and hire charge on Parent Portal, details of how to do this can be found in the Financial Information section of this document.

Procedures

Lateness

If your child arrives late to school, for safeguarding and health and safety reasons, they **MUST** sign in at the 'Students iPad' at the Main Secondary Reception, in the Elm Sports Centre, giving the reason for their lateness. This includes any lateness, medical, traffic, etc.

Leaving site before the end of the day

If your child needs to leave before the end of the school day they must come down to the Main Secondary Reception, in the Elm Sports Centre, at the appropriate time and **they must sign out** using the 'Students iPad' and show evidence as to the reason for leaving early, e.g. medical appointment card or letter from parents/carers confirming the time of the appointment. For safeguarding reasons, parents/carers **MUST** come to the Elm Sports Centre reception to sign and confirm they are taking their child out of school before the end of the day. These records are invaluable in the event of an incident such as a fire. However, parents/carers are encouraged to make these appointments out of school hours.

Absences

If your child is absent from school for any reason it is very important you contact us on the first day of the absence. There are several ways this can be done:

- You can telephone us on 01992 410400 and leave a message on the Absence Answerphone giving your child's name, form and reason for absence You can send

an e-mail to admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk giving your child's name, form, reason for absence and a contact daytime telephone number.

- You can report an absence through the Arbor app.

In each instance please do not just say 'unwell', please give full details.

You may also get a telephone call from the Absence Co-ordinator as we carry out spot checks and call a number of parents/carers each day. If we do not hear from you concerning your child's absence, it will initially be registered as unauthorised.

Forgotten items

If your child has left something at home and they need to have it in school, please bring the named item to the Elm Sports Centre reception from where the student can collect it. We are unable to take items directly to the student and they will stay in reception until students collect it.

Free School Meals (FSM)

If your child is eligible for free school meals it means they can enjoy delicious, healthy meals. Many children at our school are already eating free school meals, and your child may be able to have them too.

School meals will give your child a real appetite for learning and help them to achieve their full potential. There is nothing healthier for your child and your family's budget than free school meals. As professional cooks prepare the meals for your child, it saves you having to worry about the effort and expense of making packed lunches every day.

From 1st June there is new eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. Successful applications for FSM will be deemed either Eligible-Targeted or Eligible-Expanded. Eligible-Targeted refers to households in receipt of Universal Credit with an annual household income of no more than £7400. These students will be eligible for Pupil Premium. Whereas, Eligible-Expanded concerns households in receipt of Universal Credit with an annual household income of above £7400. Pupils with this status will not be eligible for Pupil Premium.

Pupil Premium (PP)

The Pupil Premium is a government initiative paid directly to the school to promote academic achievement for those students deemed to be from a disadvantaged background. The Pupil Premium is provided for those students who:

- Are eligible for Targeted Free School Meals.
- Have a parent/carer in the armed services.
- Have been looked after continuously for at least six months (CLA).
- Were adopted from care, or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order.
- Left care under a Residence Order on or after 14th October 1991.

Neither the government nor any government agencies have dictated how the Pupil Premium money should be spent, but what is clear is that the money should be used to promote strategies which narrow the attainment gap between the highest and lowest achieving students.

Welcome to Music at Simon Balle All-through School.

Music is an intrinsic part of our school community and part of our ethos that brings our whole community together. As students in Year 6 become Year 7 at Simon Balle, we want to use music to bring together this new year group.

I hope that as every year, many students will want to have instrumental or singing lessons with our fabulous team at Simon Balle. Please visit our website and follow the links to get involved. The more students are involved the more they enjoy their music!

To sign up for music lessons and find out more about Simon Balle Music, please visit the [Music page of our website](#).

If you have any questions, do contact us at music@simonballe.herts.sch.uk.

I look forward to working with you!

Mark Taylor

Director of Music



Simon Balle All-through School Parents Staff Association (PSA)

The Parent Staff Association (PSA) warmly welcomes all families of Simon Balle All-through School (from Reception to Year 13) to join us. We are a charity, run by parents, carers and staff volunteers from the whole school.

Our aim is to support the school by raising money to provide facilities, equipment and some 'little extras' which will enhance the educational experience for your children.

We also aim to build memories and the school community by bringing together the school, families, students and the wider community. And have some fun of course!

Our goals and achievements

Some of our larger funding projects have included the refurbishment of the school hall, library, and lecture theatre. We have also supported the repair and modernisation of the on-site swimming pool - a feature that benefits not just the students, but the wider community too. We have contributed to the outdoor classroom, nature pond, Primary garden projects and the Primary school trim trail. These areas are used daily by all students and therefore every single child benefits from our work. We have also contributed towards school trips such as the secondary Big Bang science trip and the Year 4 London theatre trip. In 2021, we were one of the partners for the start-up of the School Farm!

How we work

We raise money through wonderful events such as our Quiz Nights, Ladies Pamper Nights, Fashion Evenings, Summer and Christmas Fairs, Raffles/Auctions, Preloved Uniform Sales, primary specific events such as Ceramic Painting Workshops, Tea Towel Portraits, summer ice cream sales, and events for the children. We regularly run a licensed bar at school music concerts and plays.

We meet approximately once every half term and use WhatsApp and email to communicate. We have launched "The Funding Pot" where all PSA members can discuss smaller funding applications.

How can you support us or get involved?

Being part of the team which organises and runs PSA events and activities has its own rewards. It is a way of thanking the school for the great work they do, you get to meet other parents and carers, make friends, feel involved in the school's events (just in case your child forgets to tell you!) and have some fun too.

We understand life is busy, many of our helpers work full time, however we would love some extra help from volunteers - to share as a group the planning, organising and running an event, shopping for it, tidying up and then counting all that lovely money afterwards!

We would appreciate you and your fresh ideas to raise funds, create memories for the children, and bring a different perspective to the group.

You do not have to be on the Committee or attend meetings, although we would most certainly welcome you if you could join us. You can give as much or as little time as you wish - from organising an event to baking a cake for an event.

Do you own your own business? Can you help support the PSA by donating your time or services?

Does your employer offer community grants, Match Funding or other support to local charities?

Our Annual General Meeting takes place early in October. This is a good time to meet some of us and find out more about what we do. It is also when we elect the PSA Committee, agree the focus of the forthcoming year's fundraising and discuss ideas for future events.

For further information please take a look at our website at www.simonballepsa.org.uk/ or download the PTA Events app (simonballepsa - organisation code). Do take a moment to register, this is where you are able to order items and where we offer event bookings.

Or "like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/simonballepsa/?fref=ts>

If you have any questions at all, please contact us via email on psa@simonballepsa.org.uk and if you can help with volunteering in any capacity, please do send us an email introducing yourself. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Welcome to you all!

Travel to Simon Balle All-through School

As part of our commitment to the environment we are very keen to promote sustainable travel to and from the school site. Mangrove Road is narrow and prone to becoming congested at peak times.

In order to keep our students safe, the car park gates are closed from 8.10am until 3.45pm. Students should not be dropped off or picked up from the school site at the start and end of the day. Instead they should walk to an alternative location such as the London Road car park (11 minute walk) where there is sufficient space to allow safe pick up and drop off.

Please do not drop students off in Mangrove Road or attempt to turn around in the entrance to the school: this puts our students in danger and prevents access to the school site.

Access to the car park between 8.10am and 3.45pm will be restricted to staff, visitors and those granted a special access pass. These are generally allocated to students with a blue badge, Primary parents/carers with a blue badge, or students with short term mobility issues.

Before 8.10am parents/carers may drive through the car park and drop students off, but we operate a no waiting policy at this time. Space in the car park is limited and is reserved for staff working on site.

Please note that there is no parking on site for Sixth Form students.

Working Together: A Helpful Check-list

We understand that the transition to secondary school can feel overwhelming, with lots of information to take in. To help streamline the key next steps - and to support you in giving your child the best chance of a happy and successful start - we have created this simple checklist. We're committed to working closely with you every step of the way.

What	By when
Ensure you have completed the Lunch Account Finger Number form on Admissions+/Applicaa registration form to give consent for your child to use their fingerprint to pay for school meals.	ASAP
Ensure you have signed your child up to attend the Summer School on Wednesday, 26th August to Friday, 28th August, 9.00am to 2.00pm.	May 22nd
Ensure you attend the Welcome to Year 7 Welcome to Year 7 Transition evening on Tuesday, 30th June, 6pm (parents/carers only).	June 30th
Sign up to Parent Portal when the login details are emailed in June.	June 30th
Prepare your child to attend the Hertfordshire Students' Transition Day on Thursday, 9th July, 8.30am to 3.15pm.	July 9th

<p>Purchase the Chromebook package through Freedom Tech's online portal. Enter an email address and choose a password to create your FreedomTech account and you will then be able to log in to the online shop.</p>	<p>July 10th</p>
<p>Purchase uniform. All details regarding uniform can be found on our website.</p>	<p>August 31st</p>
<p>Purchase these items through Parent Portal before the start of term:</p> <p>Book covers - £6 for 15 A4 covers (to ensure student books are kept in good condition)</p> <p>KS3 DT Technology materials - £8</p> <p>KS3 Art/textiles materials - £12</p> <p>KS3 Food Technology - £5</p> <p>Locker hire - £25 (hire of locker for 3 years, includes £10 refundable deposit)</p> <p>Summer School - £15</p>	<p>August 31st</p>