



**WHICKHAM  
SCHOOL**



# **Welcome to our new Y7 parents / carers**



# Timings of the school day

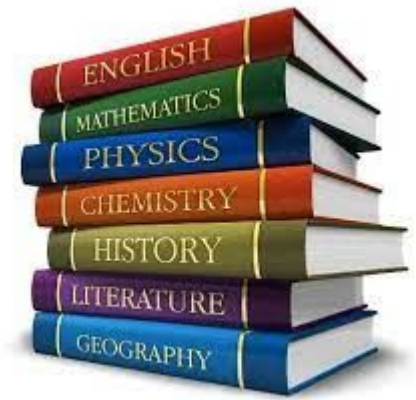
Timing	Activity
8.35	Warning Bell
8.40	Tutorial
9.00	Movement
9.05	Period 1
10.05	Movement
10.10	Period 2
11.10	Break
11.25	Period 3
12.25	Lunch
13.05	Movement
13.10	Period 4
14.10	Movement
14.15	Period 5
15.15	End of the school day

Please note that students will finish at 14.10 on alternate Tuesdays.

Students are expected to be in school by 8:35am



# The curriculum



- Pupils will be taught in their tutor groups for the following subjects each week:

- Art
- Computing
- Drama
- English
- French or German
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Science
- Tutorial

- Pupils will be taught in smaller groups for the following subjects:
  - PE (single gender groups)
  - Design and Food Technology
- Pupils will be taught in ability based groups for:
  - Mathematics



# Getting around the school site

- Always cited as a big worry but is rarely a big problem.
- Pupils have a limited number of rooms across two weeks to find out where to go - it is usually the same room for each subject
- Pupils are issued with a site map, and their tutor will check they know where to go each day
- Staff will also be available at the end of break & lunch to help pupils get to their lesson.

	Reg	1	2	3	4	5
1Mon	Tutorial 52	Maths B2	Science C11	Geography G3	French 49	History G5
1Tue	Tutorial 52	Drama 19	Art D2	PE	English 33	Maths B2
1Wed	Tutorial 52	French 49	Art D2	Science C11	RS G12	Maths B2
1Thu	Tutorial 52	English 33	PE	Science C11	DT A3	DT A3
1Fri	Tutorial 52	French 49	Maths B2	Music G14	History G5	Science C11



# Tutor Time

- Arrive by 8.35am, stand behind desks ready for tutor time for 8.40am start
- Check equipment (pencil case, reading book, school bag)
- Check uniform
- Assemblies (one day per week)
- Tutor activities (citizenship, literacy, and numeracy)



1. Lessons start as soon as the bell rings. Staff to greet students at the door of the classroom.



2. Students enter the classroom and place books and equipment on desks. Students stand silently behind desks until the teacher tells them to be seated. Uniform must be correct and checked.



3. Students must sit in the seat indicated on the teacher seating plan



4. When the teacher addresses the class no student should be talking. The teacher should not accept any students talking when they are talking.



5. The teacher must use the lesson rewards and sanctions process as agreed in the Behaviour Policy.



6. Students must stand behind desks at the end of the lesson in silence before being dismissed.



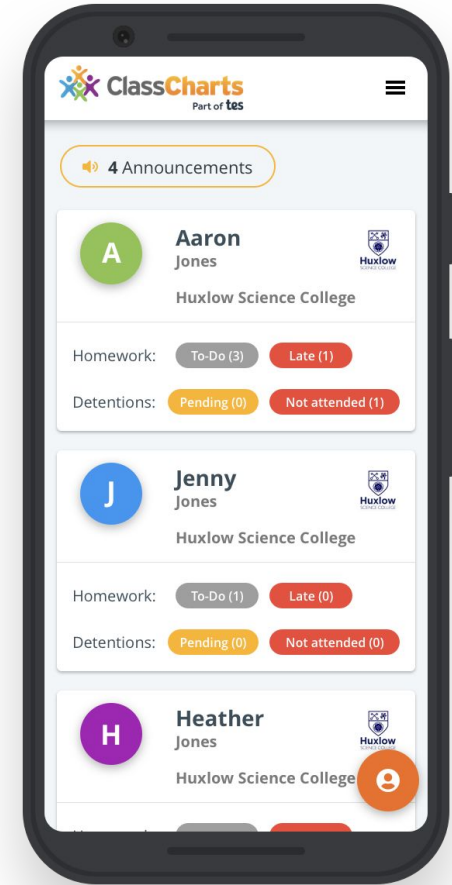
7. Students are dismissed after the bell has sounded. Teachers must ensure dismissal is orderly and they are present in corridors during lesson changeover



# ClassCharts

We expect all parents/carers to use ClassCharts to:

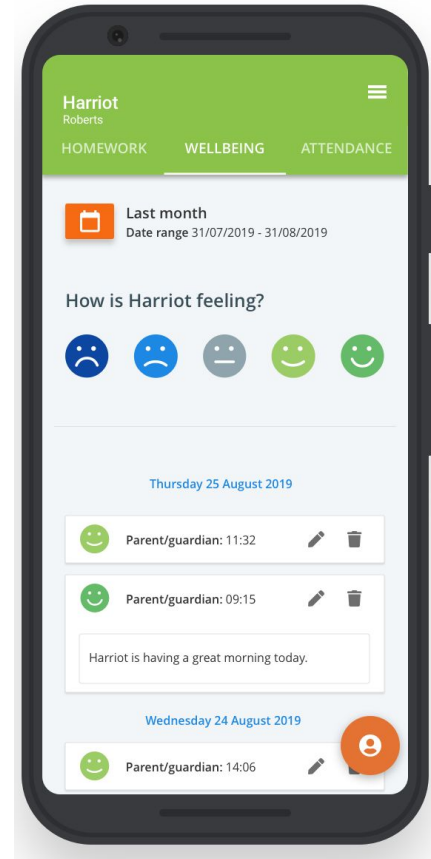
- View timetable, homework, detentions and after school support. Checking your child's homework is vital to assist them with their learning
- Announcements from class teachers - key reminders for pupils & parents
- Daily and weekly lesson feedback to parents (replaces annual written reports).





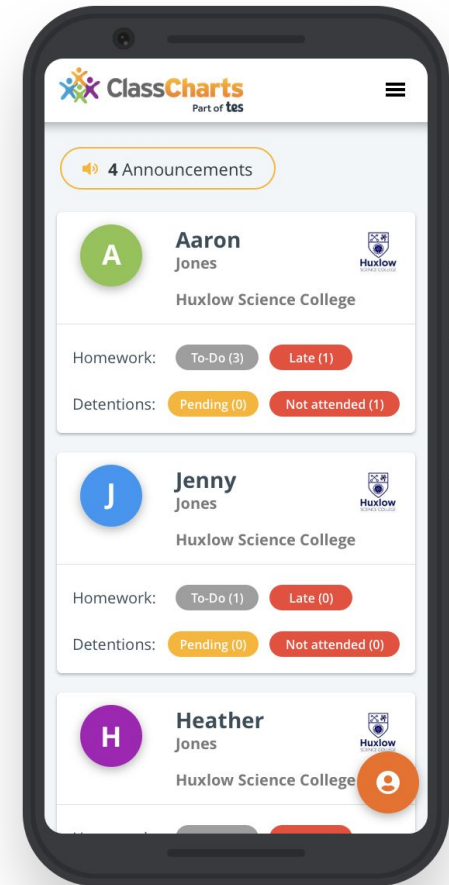
# ClassCharts - Wellbeing

- Parents and pupils can use this app to tell us how your child is feeling. This can be used for positive and negative issues
- This will be monitored by Pastoral staff and your child's tutor. The Achievement Team monitor academic issues and the Pastoral Team monitor wellbeing concerns



# ClassCharts

- There are instructions to show you how we use ClassCharts on our website:
  - Go to Whickham school website > Welcome Year 6



# Homework

KS3 Subject	Frequency	Average time per HW
English & Maths	Once per week	45 minutes
Science & MFL	Once per week	30 minutes
History, Geography, Art & Technology	Once per fortnight	45 minutes
Music, IT, RS & Drama	Once per fortnight	20-30 minutes



# Homework

- We know pupils worry about how they will manage this, and we will always seek to support students who make their best endeavours to complete homework
- We do not set year 7 homework detentions in the first half term but we will be in touch if there are issues with completion
- We have a staffed homework hub before school, at lunchtimes and after school each day



# Homework

- Pupils will be expected to complete homework each week. There will be a settling in period in HT1 where less homework will be set
- There is a significant evidence base to suggest that pupils who complete regular, high quality homework, make up to 5 months additional progress per year



# Uniform



# Incorrect footwear





# Correct footwear





# Lockers



- We recommend that all pupils “rent” a locker during their time at Whickham School.
- Pupils need to carry around a number of books and equipment, lockers are excellent for storing these during the school day.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring phones/watches into exam rooms in years 10-13 and this provides somewhere they can store items during exams.
- There is a one off fee of £5 which is refunded when pupils return their locker & key in good condition
- Information will be sent out in September



# Academic transition

- Secondary schools receive your child's KS2 National Curriculum test results (Reading, Maths, GVPS scaled scores)
- These give us a good initial indication of achievement at the end of primary. Where scores are below 100 (and in particular in the 80-90 range) we will look to provide additional support to ensure pupils can access the secondary curriculum (e.g. numeracy or literacy skills)
- We also complete a low stakes CAT test (cognitive abilities test) early in September to give us more information about each child.

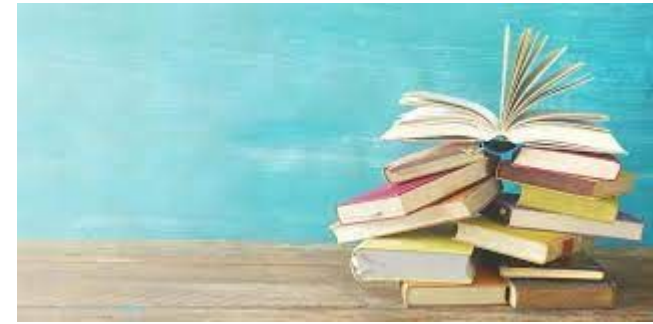


# Cognitive Ability Test

- Used by a large number of secondary schools
- Students sit a series of simple reasoning tests on computer
- Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability).
- Your child's tutor will discuss the results on the meet the tutor evening



# Reading



- We also regularly assess the reading age for each child to ensure teachers take this into account.
- We use a programme many children will be familiar with from primary school called 'Accelerated Reader'. Pupils will have a reading lesson based in the library each fortnight.
- Where there is a significant difference between your child's chronological age and their reading age, we would look to explore this further and offer support.



# Year 7 - Key information



## Check list:

- Purchase school uniform
- Purchase starter pack
- Purchase PE kit
- Ensure your child reads their English book and completes the English task
- Complete Maths task and Pastoral booklet
- Appropriate school bag
- Set up ParentPay and ClassCharts

## Key dates:

- Tuesday 5th September: Year 7 first day at Whickham School
- 10th Oct 2023 (TBC): Y7 Meet the Tutors
- 21st May 2024 (TBC): Y7 Parents/Carers Evening



# Bus information

- There will be scholars service changes from September 2023 with a new 4.15pm service going to Sunnyside, Burnopfield, Sherburn Towers, High Field, High Spen, Derwent St and Blackhall Mill.  
This is so pupils can stay at school to attend clubs.
- Please check the school website for information on scholars services  
Go to Year 6 > Bus services on the school website



# Drop off / pick up

- Please avoid parking outside the school on the double yellow lines
- Parents are not allowed to enter the school site to collect pupils and gates will be locked for cars at the end of the school day
- We encourage all parents to drop off/collect pupils away from the school
- We have covered bicycle parking facilities





# Any questions



If there are any questions of a personal nature please complete the contact sheet and a member of the pastoral team will be in touch.





# Before you leave

Please make sure you have  
signed the attendance list

