



Smithdon High School
Mrs A Gibbins
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1 September 2022

Dear parents

I hope you have had a lovely summer break and been able to make the most of the beautiful weather we have enjoyed this summer! Welcome to those of you who are new Smithdon parents this year.

I write to you in my new role as Headteacher of Smithdon High School, so it seems right that I begin with some other exciting staffing updates for you, beginning with the Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Robinson has been appointed permanently as Deputy Headteacher and we welcome Mr M Johnson as our new Assistant Headteacher for overall pastoral and Year 11, joining Mr Chapman as curriculum and quality assurance Assistant Headteacher and Ms Bazeley-Smith as SENDCo and Senior Designated Safeguarding Leader. I am also pleased to announce Ms Moat and Mr Ward onto the Senior Leadership Team, as Senior Teachers responsible for Years 7 & 8 and Years 9 & 10, respectively.

In other areas of the school, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Collins, who replaces Mrs Bowyer as Pastoral Manager for Years 7 & 8, Miss Collard to the MFL Department and Ms Bartosova to the Science Department, as well as Miss Stafford, Mrs McQuade, Mrs White and Mrs Clarke to our support teams.

Home-School Agreement and “The Smithdon Seven”

My vision is to ensure that teaching and learning happens without interruption; that everyone is polite and friendly, and that everyone feels safe and supported - students, staff, parents and visitors to the school. We have many strengths at Smithdon and, as such, a huge number of things will remain the same as we move forward; however there are a few changes we are introducing. The first, you will find attached electronically, is a new Home-School Agreement, reflecting the recent change to our motto - Work Hard, Be Kind and Smile - as well as our new cultural ethos based around “The Smithdon Seven” (which are included in the document). The “Smithdon Seven” and the Home-School Agreement are being introduced to the students next week and will be continually referred to in our day-to-day activities, including issuing rewards and consequences. A printed copy is being posted to you and we ask that these are signed and returned (via your child to their tutor) by Tuesday 13 September 2022.

Uniform

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the uniform expectations for students from the uniform policy, but in particular that:

- Trousers should be grey, full length, tailored trousers – no jeans, chinos, cords, skinny trousers, leggings or jeggings - and must be loose at the ankle. Please note, as per my letter in July: ***if the trousers worn by a student are considered unsuitable or inappropriate and a suitable alternative cannot be sourced from elsewhere, parents/carers will be directed to buy the trousers we have available through our website. The school reserves the right to make the final decision on the suitability and/or appropriateness of the school trousers worn by Smithdon students.***
- Socks should be plain black and come up over the ankle (not trainer socks)
- Shoes should be black school shoes. These can be of leather or canvas material but do not include: trainers or shoes with sports logo, high heels, platforms, sling backs or backless shoes. Shoes need to be safe to wear in a variety of school environments.

Just a reminder that we welcome any donations of outgrown uniform, in order to offer a second-hand uniform collection for parents to access as needed.



Mobile Devices

There is no change to our policy regarding mobile phones, where we recommend these are not brought into school but acknowledge this is not always practical, and therefore expect that these remain switched off and "on site, out of sight". However, please note that this extends to all mobile devices including smart watches, which are not permitted on site.

New Term:

Students return next week as follows:

Monday 5 September - Year 7 only

Tuesday 6 September - Year 7 and Year 11 only

Wednesday 7 September - all year groups return to school

A number of parent events and key dates for the diary are coming up in the next few weeks, including:

- Yr10 Step Up to Success Parents' meeting - Wednesday 14 September
- Yr11 Tutor Evening and Revision/Applications Information Evening - Thursday 15 September
- Year 6 Open Evening - Thursday 22 September (when we hope many of your children will support us in promoting Smithdon to the next cohort)
- Co-curricular Evening - Thursday 6 October (to see what extracurricular activities we can offer your child)

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events and, as the term continues, the tutor evenings for all year groups between now and Christmas, as well as other in-school events.

Here's to a great year ahead!

Yours sincerely

A. Gibbins,

Mrs A Gibbins
Headteacher