

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I'm pleased to say that Year 7 have settled in extremely well over the past few weeks. We have until now allowed Year 7 students to have an early lunch in order to help them settle in. As of next week Year 7 students will be having lunch at the same time as the rest of the school. Therefore, students should line up on the playground and will be called in by year group. The year groups rotate each week to ensure that all year groups have an equal opportunity to go in first.

Can I please remind you to send your child to school with a refillable water bottle which they can use at school. There is a water fountain in the technology area which can be accessed before school and during break and lunch.

In addition, since the start of term we have allowed Year 7 students to the front of the bus queues so that they can learn the procedures for getting onto the buses. Pupils will now be required to line up with the rest of the school by the bus signs on the technology block if they are using a school bus to get home. School buses are normally very reliable. However sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances they may not turn up or may be full. Please ensure that your child has an alternative public bus route home.

We work very closely with West Midlands Travel and as a school we have clear expectations of behaviour on school buses. Whilst misbehaviour is not common place we will sanction students for any form of misbehaviour on any bus whether this be a school service or not. Please talk to your child about this. When they travel in the school uniform they are representing all the John Willmott School community and should behave appropriately at all times.

If your child reports any difficulties on the buses to you please do let us know so that we can deal swiftly with any issues.

We have not asked Year 7 pupils to sit detentions the last few weeks in order to help them settle in. If your child receives a detention from Monday 30 September then they will be expected to attend them. These will take place after school. You should receive a text informing you of your child's detention which will be served the following day.

Please bear in mind that for a student to receive a detention they will have already received 2 warnings in a lesson. 3 warnings will automatically incur an after school detention.

We appreciate that many students travel a distance on the school or public bus services. If students are on the school buses and the buses are late then this late will not count towards a late detention. Similarly, if students are on a public bus that is due in in time to be in lessons and the bus is delayed because of traffic, again we will not include this late for the purpose of detentions. Students must ensure that they allow enough time for their journeys particularly if they have to change buses as they will need to build in waiting time. 2 lates in a week will lead to an hour's detention after school, something which we would all wish to avoid.

Could I also please ask that if you are delivering your child by car that you do so in good time. If a student arrives late by whatever means they will receive a late mark and 2 of these in a week will lead to a detention.

The poor weather seems to have arrived early this year with recent downpours. There is very limited outside undercover space at John Willmott. In poor weather such as snow and rain students are not allowed on the playground or field. Year 7 are moved into the maths block to keep them warm and dry. They will though need appropriate outdoor clothing for arriving to and from school. Please ensure that your child has a suitable coat, shoes and hats and gloves for the weather. Many students arrived very wet this week without a coat and we do not have the facilities to dry their clothes. They can request a locker if they want to keep this stored safely during the day.

Thank you for your ongoing support, we have had a wonderful start to the year and are looking forward to our residential next week 2-4 October 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Hunter', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Hunter
Head of Year 7 and Pastoral Care