



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7EF Principal: J E Crowe B.A. (Hons)
Telephone: 0191 529 3712 Facsimile 0191 529 5569 E-mail: office@whitburncofeacademy.org

'Excellence for All'

10th June 2024

Year 6 Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted your child has been given a place at Whitburn Church of England Academy for September 2024. To help aid a smooth transition I am providing some information about the transition events taking place over the next few weeks and some key information to help you and your child prepare for this exciting chapter in their lives.

This letter will provide information on:

- Induction Days
- Year 6 Parents/ Carers' Information Evening
- Tutor Groups
- Reminder about Summer School
- Free School Meals
- Uniform

If you have any queries relating to transition please contact me via the main Academy Office.

I am sure your child will be happy and successful here and staff are looking forward to meeting them in person at the Academy.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Ferguson
Pastoral Lead for Year 7

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



Maths &
Computing

National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Whitburn Church of England Academy is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (Company Number 07465520)
Registered Office: Whitburn Church of England Academy, Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7EF

Year 6 Induction Days – Information for Students

In order to support the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 we will be welcoming Year 6 students to the Academy on **Thursday 11th and Friday 12th July**. Students should wear their usual Primary School uniform.

Prefects will be at the academy gates to show students into the **Lecture Theatre** and your child should **arrive** between **8:45am and 8:55am**.

Lunch will be at approximately 12:00pm in our Dining Hall, 'Food for Thought' and this will be provided free of charge. Students can select a choice of lunch from a range of hot meals, sandwiches and salads. Your child will need to bring a non-fizzy drink or a filled water bottle.

On the Induction Days, students will:

- Meet key staff such as the Form Tutor and Inclusion Support Assistant, Miss Spawls
- Meet the Prefects who will support the induction process into Year 7
- Enjoy several sample lessons, which will include PE so **your child must remember to bring trainers on both days**

On Thursday 11th July, your child should bring in the letter they have written to introduce themselves to their new form tutor. This letter should mention interests, hobbies, skills and what they are looking forward to when they join us at Whitburn.

Your child will **leave school at 3:20pm** but can wait in the Lecture Theatre until **3:30pm** for one of the scholars' buses, which go to South Shields, Cleadon and East Boldon. There are also regular public bus services to other local areas.

Parents/carers who wish to transport their child to and from the Academy on the induction days **must not drive onto the academy site to drop them off or pick them up**. Please note the approach road (Rackly Way) to the Academy is very congested at this time of day, we encourage parents/carers to use the Whitburn Bents carpark (near Latimer's) to drop off and collect children.

There is also pedestrian access through the Nicholas Avenue gate; this may be a more convenient point to drop off or collect your child. Please show consideration to residents and refrain from parking on the pavement or blocking drives.

Year 6 Parent/Carers' Information Evening

The transfer to secondary education is an important milestone in children's lives and to prepare for this, we would like to invite you to a **parent/carers' evening** between **4:15 pm and 5:30 pm** on **Monday 15th July**. Please enter via the **Septimus entrance**. Prefects will be on hand to direct you. However, we ask that you do not enter the site until after 4.00pm, as many of our students will be leaving the site until this point due to after school clubs. *Please note that there is no parking available on site except for Blue Badge holders by prior arrangement.* Please be considerate of local residents when parking off-site and **we encourage you to walk to the academy where possible**.

On this evening, you will be able to:

- Attend a brief talk about our Academy, our expectations and Academy life. This will take place at **4:15pm prompt** in the **Septimus Hall**.

- Be given information about **ParentPay** which your child will receive on Induction Day.
- Briefly be introduced to your child's Tutor
- Share any new information concerning your child with us and ask any queries arising from Induction Day to key staff who will be available from **4:00pm** till **5:30pm** in the **Sports Hall**. This includes; the Inclusion Support Assistant for Year 7 (Miss Spawls), the SENCo (Mrs Avary), the KS3 Progress Lead, our Medical Officer (Mrs Duddin) and senior staff. **Please note that we already have a wealth of information gathered from your child's primary school so there is no expectation to meet with staff unless you feel it is necessary.**

Tutor Groups

When students come to the Academy they will be placed into one of eight tutor groups.

Tutor Groups							
P side				Q side			
W	H	I	T	B	U	R	N

When allocating students to tutor groups, we aim to have a mix of **ability, gender and feeder schools** within each class. We also take into account the recommendations from Year 6 staff and aim to keep students with at least one of their **peer group**, if it is in the best interests of their learning, as identified by their Year 6 teacher.

Students register with their tutor group every morning and have a fortnightly PSHE lesson together. 7W, 7H, 7I and 7T will form the P side of the timetable and 7B, 7U, 7R and 7N will form the Q side.

Your child will find out their tutor group and meet their fellow tutees on the **Induction Days**, which will take place on **Thursday 11th and Friday 12th July**. They will be able to let you know the name of their tutor when they return home.

Please remember that one of the benefits of starting secondary school is the opportunity to mix with and meet over 200 new peers who have the potential to become lifelong friends. Whilst I appreciate this can seem a daunting prospect for some students and their parents/carers, it also provides an opportunity for pupils to develop **social skills** and **emotional resilience**. All students, regardless of their tutor group, can easily arrange to meet together at break, lunchtimes and before or after the school day.

Please note it is highly unlikely any changes will be made to tutor groups after Induction Day.

Summer School – Reminder

Thank you to those who have signed up for the Year 6 Summer School. This will run from **Monday 22nd July to Thursday 25th July 2024**, from 9:30am to 3:00pm each day and it is expected that your child will attend **all four days**.

Your child will need to bring a water bottle and a packed lunch each day, as well as suitable clothing and footwear for sports activities. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a daily packed lunch.

Free School Meals – An Entitlement

One of our roles as an Academy is to assess eligibility for free school meals. We wish to ensure that **all** families with children who are entitled to free school meals benefit from that entitlement.

Is your child eligible?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

It is essential that the Academy has an up to date list of students who are eligible for free school meals so that appropriate monies are paid into our cashless catering system in a timely manner. All claims for free school meals will be treated in the strictest confidence and handled sensitively by the Academy.

It is important to note that students eligible for free school meals are automatically eligible for Pupil Premium funding in the subsequent year. This additional funding entitles students to further financial support; for example with school trips, uniform costs, music tuition and learning resources.

If you feel that that your child is eligible for free school meals, whether or not they have previously benefited from this entitlement, **you can check and apply online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>**. You will need your National Insurance number. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Academy and **we will be happy to check on your behalf**.

Please note that you MUST re-apply for Free School Meal entitlement before your child joins the Academy, even if they are already receiving them at Primary school.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy Business office if you have any queries concerning free school meal entitlement.

Academy Uniform

Students are expected to have their Whitburn Church of England Academy uniform ready for September. Our uniform policy is outlined on our website and is [linked here](#)

The basics of both school uniform and PE kits can be purchased from many High Street stores. However, the uniform suppliers who supply our **jumpers, pleated skirts, ties and PE kits** can be found from the suppliers listed below:

School Uniform

Elizabeth Embroidery – Richardson Road, Stockton -on-Tees

<https://elizabethsembroidery.co.uk/> 01642 674973

Badged items

Jumpers - Prices from £17.80-£23

Cardigans - Prices from £18.50 – £22.20

Academy tie - £6.00

Black Banner Charleston Pleated skirt - Prices from £15.95 - £19.95

Initial Images – Rekendyke Industrial Estate, South Shields <http://www.initialimages.co.uk/>
0191 455 8128

Badged items

Jumpers - Prices from £15.99-£18.99

Cardigans – Prices from £19.99 - £21.99

Academy ties – £5.99

Black Charleston Pleated Skirt – Prices £18.99

School Ties are also available from the School Business Office £5.50

Academy PE Kit

All **PE kit** is available from our current supplier shown below. Prices for the full *basic* kit are approx. £37.99

Bolam Sports – Rekendyke Industrial Estate, South Shields [Bolam Premier Sportswear North East | Custom Sportswear Provider 0191 454 8381](#) and online at <https://whitburncea.bolampremiersportswear.co.uk/> using password **Wc03Acad**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Main Academy Office. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to the Academy.