

Winterhill School Y6 Transitions

2023-24

**Y6 Transitions Information Pack –
September 2023**

WINTERHILL SCHOOL – SCHOOL DAY

The school day

You are asked to ensure that your son/daughter arrives at school in time for morning registration at 8.45am, (but no earlier than 08:30) and that they are aware of the arrangements for their journey home at 3pm. **On their first day, they will need to make their way to the Main Hall upstairs. There will be a large number of prefects and KS3 Ambassadors around school who will ensure that all Year 7 students get to the right place.**

Our tutor groups are set up considering various factors including student ability and which primary school your child attended. The students will have the opportunity to get to know their peers from lots of different schools and will be supported in many of their lessons to start with by older students. They will have peer mentors attached to their forms who will be around at change of lessons to ensure the Year 7's learn to navigate their way around school.

All Year 7 students will be released from school at 2.55pm to make their way home (5 minutes before the main school) for the first week in school. From this time, they are released back into your care. We ask that you do not use the school car park for the drop off or collection of your child at the start or end of the day, due to health and safety reasons. If you are asked to collect your child from school, or are dropping them off during the day, following an appointment for example, you are welcome to use the car park.

We now run a split lunch system in school with Years 7 and 8 having their lunch break between 11:55 and 12.30pm, and Years 9, 10 and 11 between 1.10 and 1.45pm. Your son/daughter will have their lunch between 11:55 and 12.30. All of our lessons last 75 minutes

Timings of the School day		
for Years 7 and 8 (To include Year 6 students during transition weeks)		
	Start time	Finish time
Form	08:45	09:10
Period 1	9:10	10:25
Break	10:25	10:40
Period 2	10:40	11:55
Lunch	11:55	12:30
Period 3	12:30	1:45
Period 4	1:45	3pm*
Enrichment activities	3pm	4pm

*Your son/daughter will finish at 2:55 for the first week.

We offer a wide range of enrichment activities to our students, such as sports clubs, art and drama etc. so please encourage your son/daughter to engage in these after school clubs

WINTERHILL SCHOOL – SCHOOL LATES / ABSENCE

Lateness to school/Absence Procedure

Students will be classed as late if they are not in registration. We use our registration period as part of our PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education) curriculum time and therefore they miss out on a valuable learning opportunity if they are not present. This is an important part of the school day; ensuring students are ready to learn and know important information for the day ahead. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their son/daughter is not only attending school regularly, but that they are also punctual.

There is a link between good attendance and academic achievement and therefore we will work closely with parents to enable this to be achieved.

Illness and Medical Absence

If your son/daughter is ill you must inform the school on (01709) 740232 and follow the instruction on reporting student absence. This should be done each day that they are absent, or are running late. Please keep us informed of any lengthy absence planned or otherwise, this will enable us to send work home if this is appropriate or prepare for their return in the case of any modifications that may have to be made to enable their safe return. Please provide the attendance team with a note in advance of any medical appointments. Your son/daughter will **not be** signed out of school without prior agreement with yourself.

Notifying absence

We operate a 'text' system in school for all of our students, if on any school day your son/daughter has not been marked present in their registration, period 1, or at the start of period 2 you will receive an automatic text to your mobile phone informing you that they are not present.

Term time leave

Following a change to legislation in 2013, Head teachers are no longer allowed to grant leave of absence for students during term time (this includes holidays), unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you decide to take your child on holiday during term time, you will need to inform our attendance team and you could be issued with a penalty notice.

Emergency contact details

Please help us to keep your son/daughter safe by informing us of any changes to your contact details. Please provide us with alternative contact details, such as grandparents or relatives to ensure we can contact someone in an emergency.



WINTERHILL SCHOOL – TRAVEL PROCEDURES

Bus travel

Students who currently live on route between Winterhill and **Thorpe Hesley/Chapelton/Fir Vale/Wincobank** will be able to catch the Winterhill bus run by Cawthornes, which operates in a morning and afternoon. This service will be free during September for any new starters who live in that area, however from October a subsidised levy will be attached to this of 80p per journey/£1.60 return. tickets can be bought in advance by using the following link <http://www.cawthornestravel.com/school-bus> . A Zoom Under 16 Travel Pass can now be used on the Winterhill bus (further details below).

Other areas

'First' buses can also be caught from various other areas to travel to and from school. (Timetables will need to be checked nearer the date). Bus passes (Zoom Under 16 Travel passes) are available and can be applied for online from Travel South Yorkshire before your child starts at Winterhill.

Your child will need to be in school for 8.45am, on a daily basis, so it is important that they look at the bus timetables to ensure that they know which buses they need to catch in order to get them to school for this time.

Zoom Under 16 Travel Pass

You can apply for an 11-16 Zoom Under 16 Travel Pass through the following website link

<https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-gb/ticketsandpasses/zoom-under16-travel-pass>

Section from the website about the Zoom Under 16 Travel Pass.

Get from A to B for 80p with a Zoom 16-18 Travel Pass

You may be eligible to apply for a Zoom 16-18 Travel Pass to save on travel in South Yorkshire for work, school, college or a day out with mates. To apply you must live in South Yorkshire and be aged between 16 and 18.

With the pass you can travel in South Yorkshire for a single fare of 80p per journey on buses or trams. Plus, you'll get half fare on local trains! The pass also gives you access to cheaper 1, 7 and 28 day tickets for young people, which could save you money!

Valid on



Price 80p

Operator(s) All operators

Duration

The Zoom Under 16 Travel Pass will be valid up to the 31st July of the school year in which you turn 16 (or up to the day before your 16th birthday if that falls in August).

Available from

You can apply online with a MyTSY account. You will need to set up a MyTSY account in your child's name. You can then apply online on behalf of your child.

WINTERHILL SCHOOL – SCHOOL LUNCHES

Arrangement for lunches/buying food

Students are not allowed to leave the site during the school day and therefore will not be allowed out of school at break or lunchtimes. This includes going to the shops near school.

We have 3 areas in school where students can buy food for lunch. In addition, there are at least **2 areas open for buying food before school and at break times**. We now operate a Biometric account for your child to access their school meal account. This means your child will use their fingerprint when purchasing school meals. Enclosed is a parental consent form and additional information regarding this service. In order for your child to participate in this system we require you to complete the attached form and return it to school before July.

How does my son/daughter pay money into their account?

There are a number of ways that money can be paid in to their food account. Where possible, money paid in before school or at breakfast club will be in their account by break for the purchase of snacks.

- Put **money** (coins and notes but not 1p,2p,5p or £2 coins) directly on to the account using any of the **3 cash machines** located around school (these also have fingerprint recognition on them). These machines are also set up to take £5, £10 and £20 notes.
- Join **Parent Pay**. Unfortunately, as the students aren't officially on roll until September this is not an option during transition weeks.

Students will not be provided a meal if there are not sufficient funds in their account. However, we will obviously not allow students who have forgotten their money to go without food. **If students find that they haven't got money on their account for lunch they must go directly to their BfL (Behaviour for Learning) team, and arrangements will be made for them to access a lunch.**

On their first day, it is advised that students bring at least £2.50 (or approximately £12 for the week) to enable them to purchase lunch, they will be taught how to put money into their account on the first day. The price of school meals may change before your child starts with us so the sum of £2.50 is just a guideline.

Free school meals

Students in receipt of free school meal allowance will have an allowance placed on their card for the days they attend during July and into the new school year. This is **currently set at £2.40** (current March 2022) **per day**. This allowance cannot be used at break time and after lunch, any money from the allowance that hasn't been used will be removed from the account.

It is only an allowance and students will be expected to pay for any extra food they have chosen that costs more than their allowance (credit will already need to be in their account for this purpose).

Additional money can be placed in their account to purchase food at breakfast or break, though we do offer a free breakfast service for any students who are in receipt of free school meals, or who are eligible for Pupil Premium. We acknowledge the importance of a good breakfast to start the day, so we try to provide this through our Pupil Premium Funding allocation to those students who are eligible.

WINTERHILL SCHOOL – UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

School Uniform and Appearance

The expectation of school uniform for all Winterhill students is as follows: -

Skirt	Plain black material of a reasonable length
Trousers	Plain black tailored trousers (not leggings or tight-fitting trousers/jeans or tracksuit bottoms)
Shirt	Plain white school shirt
Tie	School design – a clip on tie must be worn by all students
Jumper	School design - 'V' neck with school badge (compulsory to wear this or school cardigan)
Cardigan	Black with school badge – school supplier only (compulsory to wear this or school jumper) A school jumper/cardigan is compulsory and other jumpers/cardigans can't be worn instead of the school jumper.
Socks/Tights	Plain black socks/tights
Footwear	Plain black outdoor shoes are required – Please note training shoes of any style, shape or colour are not acceptable.
Outdoor coat	Leather jackets, denim jackets and sports tops are not acceptable. Outdoor coats should not be worn in the school building. Blazers are not part of the school uniform and are not allowed to be worn.

Please note that the school accepts some variations to school uniform that are required by religious and cultural norms (eg plain black headscarves/hijab). All uniform should be clearly marked with the student's name.

Jewellery	No jewellery is to be worn with the exception of one plain pair of studs for students with pierced ears and a single ring (finger). NB – we discourage the wearing of jewellery for reasons of safety – studs, if worn, must be removed for PE. ALL JEWELLERY MUST BE REMOVED FOR P.E. We strongly advise that students don't wear jewellery of sentimental value in school, because if it is damaged or lost, we will not be held responsible for it's replacement.
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Nose studs, lip and tongue rings and studs, and naval piercing jewellery are banned and students will be expected to remove them, if worn at school. It will not be acceptable to have them taped up.

Equipment **Students need to bring on a daily basis**

- A bag large enough to carry books, equipment, PE kit
- Student Learning Record (this will be provided)
- Pens, pencils, ruler and an eraser in a pencil case
- Pencil crayons, sharpener and felt tips (optional)
- Basic scientific calculator (this will be needed for September onwards essentially)
- PE kit on specified days on their timetable

School uniform can be purchased in Rotherham Town Centre from

Pinders	College St, Town Centre, Rotherham S60 1QB	01709 720043
Jonny D	33 Howard St, Town Centre, Rotherham S65 1JQ	01709 370032

Suitable plain black school shoes can be purchased from

Wynsor House	Woodhouse Green, Thurcroft, Rotherham	01709 540876
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PE KIT– expected from September 2023

- Compulsory Items:**
- Encore Hoodie sweatshirt (black, purple & white)
 - Encore round neck T-Shirt (black, purple & white)
 - Encore shorts (black, purple & white)
 - Black football socks
- Optional Items:**
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms (Pinders sell these with the Winterhill logo on)
 - Black Sports leggings (these cannot be fashion leggings from Primark, etc).

Additional requirements

- (Girls) Training shoes (any brand/colour); Football boots (essential only if in Girls Football team);
- (Boys) Football boots, Training shoes (any brand/colour); Gum shield

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Hair

Hair must also be tied back so a spare bobble should be included as part of the PE kit for safety reasons, if your son/daughter's hair requires this.



WINTERHILL SCHOOL – SCHOOL TIMETABLE

During years 7, 8 and 9 our students study the full range of subjects. Within this timetable they will be studying subjects from across the National Curriculum. Some of these will be as tutor groups, some in mixed ability and some in ability groupings. They will have PE at least once during the week, but they do not need to bring their PE kit on the first day in school. If they have PE on their first day the PE department will arrange an alternative activity that they will not need to change into PE kit for.

Generally, in Year 7 they will study the following subjects in mixed ability groups:

Registration/Period 1

Science

MFL

All Year 7 students will study Spanish

ICT/Computer Science

History

Religious Studies

Geography

They will study the following in mixed ability, mixed tutor groups:

Music

Art

Drama

Technology

They will initially study the following subjects in mixed ability groups, but during Y7 these will be reorganised into ability groups:

English

Maths

PE

These groupings may change during the year, if we feel that it would benefit your son/daughter academically to do so. As they progress through school, students may be grouped according to ability in more of their subjects.

Knowledge Organisers

To enable Parents to follow what their sons/daughters are doing, we produce a 'Knowledge Organiser' for each half term that contains ways that you can support your son/Daughter in their individual lessons, and some guidance on homework that they may need to complete. Actual individual pieces of homework will be set alongside the Knowledge Organiser and there will be an expectation for these to be completed on a weekly/fortnightly basis. The Knowledge Organiser enables you to support them through their Key Stage 3 studies. These booklets will also be posted on our website for students and parents to access so that they can be reprinted from there if the students misplace their first copy.



WINTERHILL SCHOOL – ENRICHMENT/HOME LEARNING

Homework

Homework will be set on a regular basis by all teachers, and will be outlined on a number of electronic packages including **'GOOGLE CLASSROOM'** and **'HEGARTYMATHS'**. We can provide log on details for yourself, so you can monitor what homework/extended learning tasks your child is expected to be doing at home. These platforms provide information for you, and them, to enable them to complete their work successfully.

Online access

We now include an online learning platform **'GOOGLE Chrome'** and utilise the **'my child at school'** app to enable students to access learning resources. Staff are able to set work on here, that students can then complete within the system. This only requires students to be able to log in to Google Chrome and the work can be completed within there.

If students haven't got Wi-Fi access at home there are opportunities during the school day, and after school, for students to access their homework from these platforms, in our Library.

Enrichment Activities

In most cases, these will run from **3pm until 4pm** after the main school day. We actively encourage students to become involved in these activities, and hope that you too will support them in these ventures. These activities are, in the main, free of charge. Students would be informed if there is likely to be any cost to joining a club, or whether the club is likely to run beyond 4pm. Each term, the range of Enrichment Activities available are published on the school website. (if your son/daughter is representing the school in competitions or matches, it is likely that this will run past 4pm and the students will be transported to and from external events by the school. A voluntary minimal donation towards the cost of transport may be asked for on these occasions.

Outside Agencies/Activity Providers

Outside agencies do, at times, run a range of other activities at Winterhill. These are often chargeable but 'Pupil Premium' funding can sometimes be applied for by qualifying parents, for these activities.

Student Voice

We actively encourage students to express their opinions about all aspects of school life. We do this through registration, and discussion, Year Councils, Safer Schools Committee, Year Voice to name but a few. We want to ensure that Winterhill is a community that they feel they belong to and can be proud of, so please encourage your sons/daughters to express their ideas.



WINTERHILL SCHOOL – COMMUNICATION

At various points during their life at Winterhill we will organise Parent Voice/Information Evenings for you to attend. Please support us in supporting your child and if you have ideas that could help our community to grow please do not hesitate to pass those opinions on to us. During Year 7, there will be a number of these opportunities for you to attend including a Parent Forum event, a Group Tutor Parents evening and a Y7 Full Parents Evening amongst others.

We promise that we will continue to support you as parents in providing you with information to keep your child safe and to ensure their progression. Please look at our website as it provides many helpful tips for supporting your child, both academically and personally, and provides information regarding cyber safety and major school events. Our website and social media pages are constantly being updated with our latest achievements, events, curriculum updates, holiday dates, policies, remote learning and much more. Our website and social media pages are excellent platforms for information sharing and we encourage you to find out more for yourselves at:

<https://www.winterhill.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/whcschool/>

<https://twitter.com/winterhillsch>

https://www.instagram.com/winterhill_school/?hl=en

You can tell us how we are doing as a school by completing a survey online through OFSTED Parent View. You can do this for all the schools that your children attend by registering on the website

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views> .

We value the opinions we gather through this survey, and you are able to complete this as parents once per academic year for each school your child/ren attend. If you would like to talk to us directly, please do not hesitate to contact us either via email on admin@winterhill.org.uk, or by phoning (01709) 740232. If you need to talk to a specific member of staff this may not be possible when you ring in, as they may be teaching or engaged in meetings, but we will try to get back to you at the first available opportunity.



WINTERHILL SCHOOL – TRANSITION INFORMATION

You will receive further information during the next couple of months regarding the arrangements for the transition period. Our Primary Liaison and Transition team are already in consultation with your child's current school to obtain information about your son/daughter's learning needs, so that we will be able to support them thoroughly through the transition period and finally their move to Winterhill.

Contacting school

We acknowledge that students and parents may be anxious about the move from primary to secondary school and we are happy to answer any questions you may have about this. If you have any additional information about your child that you would like to share, such as a SEND concern, safeguarding issues or parental contact concerns, please do not hesitate to email us on transitions@winterhill.org.uk and we will ask the relevant staff member to contact you as soon as possible.

Key dates

Week commencing 3rd July - Y6/7 meet the tutor event (definite date to be confirmed) This event will give yourself and your child the opportunity to meet their form tutor.

Monday 24th – Friday 28th July - Summer School. This is a week full of activities for our new Y7 students to get to know each other and the school. Places are limited and are on a first come first served basis, if you are interested in your child taking part, please email your interest in the first instance to summerschool@winterhill.org.uk and we will respond with further details.

