

To Year 6

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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: New Year 7 Starters – September 2026

What a fantastic couple of transition days we had last week!

After two fantastic transition days, I think it's safe to say that our new Year 7's are ready for September 2026. Over the two days, the students threw themselves into every opportunity. They became Artists in Art, Engineers in Design Technology, demonstrated brilliant teamwork through the Sports Partnership activities and most importantly, started building friendships that will hopefully last well beyond Year 7.

Considering the temperatures that were somewhere between a lovely summer's day and why are we all melting, the students were brilliant none-the-less. They didn't let the heat slow them down, embraced every activity, got to know one another, chatted confidently with staff and gave everything a go. We even had the pleasure of singing Happy Birthday to one of our students on the final day, which was a lovely way to end the two days and a reminder of how quickly everyone had already started to feel part of the community.

As I walked around over the two days, one thing stood out above everything else: excitement. Whether students were talking about making new friends, joining clubs, or wondering where the best place to buy lunch was, there was a real buzz about starting secondary school. Every single student should be incredibly proud of themselves. Transition can be daunting, but they all demonstrated resilience, kindness, curiosity and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones which are all qualities that will serve them incredibly well over the next five years.

The students also met their form tutors, and I have had some fantastic feedback already. Tutors commented on how engaged the students were, how eager they were to get involved and how keen they were to be part of their new tutor team.

Your child/ward's form tutor will become one of the most important adults in their school life. They will spend around 20 minutes with your child/ward every day, getting to know them, celebrating successes, offering encouragement and helping them navigate everything that secondary school throws their way. They will be the main point of contact alongside myself, and during the first half term you will have the opportunity to come into school to meet them properly.



Thank you to everyone who attended our Information Evening before the transition days. I know many of you could quite happily have been sitting in the garden with an ice cream or positioned directly in front of the nearest fan, so I genuinely appreciate you taking the time to come along and listen to me. I hope it gave you a helpful insight into our expectations and the exciting opportunities ahead.

As I mentioned on the evening, I believe the more I know about our students, the better I can support them. Please don't ever feel that you must wait until something becomes a problem before getting in touch. Whether it's a quick introduction to tell me who you are, something you would like me to know, or a question you've been wondering about, please do get in touch! As I teach, I may not always be available for a phone call but will always welcome an email!

One of my favourite moments from the evening was seeing so many students borrowing books from our Library to read over the Summer. As someone who loves reading, it genuinely made me smile. Reading for pleasure has declined in recent years, whether that's because of phones, gaming, social media, busy lives or just so many distractions competing for attention. However, reading remains one of the best things young people can do. It builds confidence, vocabulary, imagination and supports learning across every subject. So, here's a little summer challenge...

If your child/ward manages to finish a book over the holidays, I would love them to write a short review when they return in September. We will display some of the best reviews in our school Library and, of course, there will be House Points available. Sometimes a little healthy competition works wonders!

Finally, I would simply like to say thank you to you parent/carers. It has been such a pleasure meeting so many of you over the last couple of weeks. The students have already made me incredibly excited about the years ahead. They are funny, polite, enthusiastic and full of potential, and I genuinely can't wait to watch them grow over the next five years.

The move to secondary school isn't just a transition for children, it is one for parent/carers too. There will be days when they come home full of stories, days when "How was school?" is answered with nothing more than "Fine," and days when you'll discover they've apparently survived an entire day without remembering they owned a water bottle. Through all of that, we will be here to support them and importantly you too!

I would also like to say how much I value the partnership between home and school. Quite simply, I can't do my job without your support. Your encouragement, communication and trust make an enormous difference, and by working together we can ensure every child/ward has the best possible experience over the next five years. We may not always get everything perfect, but one thing you can be assured of is that we all share the same goal: helping your child/ward to be happy, successful and the very best version of themselves.

For now, enjoy a well-earned Summer, make plenty of memories, have some adventures and take the opportunity to relax before September arrives. I am incredibly excited to welcome our newest Year 7 cohort in September, and I can't wait to see what they will achieve.

Have a wonderful Summer, and I will look forward to seeing students arrive on **Thursday 3 September 2026**.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Rowe', written in a cursive style.

Miss M Rowe
Head of Year 7 (2026-2027)