

Year 7 Parent Notes

Year 7 had an assembly on Monday which discussed their start of school and making the most of every lesson. By Monday students had taken part in around 40 hours of lessons. That is potentially 40 hours of knowledge, learning, skills and understanding students didn't have in August. Every minute of every lesson is important and students should always be looking what they can do next to make progress. A little bit of progress every lesson will lead to big results by the end of this year. We want students to work hard throughout the year and in doing so build their resilience.

Mrs Bennett came to speak at the end of assembly to notify students that there are still spaces available on the 2018 Ski Trip to Italy which is taking place in the February half term. During the day the trip has ski lessons in the resort of Pila and also activities in the evening including a pizza night and bowling. If your son/daughter is interested please contact Mrs Bennett for further details: lbennett@oxtedschool.co.uk

Over the next fortnight, in tutor time, students have been given the task of setting themselves a SMART target to achieve this term. SMART stands for:

- Specific
- Measureable
- Agreed upon
- Realistic
- Time-based

Students should set themselves a target which they can achieve. For example, it could be to join an enrichment club by half term or to improve a piece of homework in English from Grade 5 to Grade 6 before Christmas. Students will review these targets later in the year and will set new ones to achieve for the spring and summer terms.

In tutor this week, Year 7 have been casting votes for tutor representatives. Tutor representatives will represent their tutor at their house council and one representative from each house will sit on the school council. The school council is a great way for students to help get involved with improving the school.

Starting next week random basic equipment checks will be taking place within tutor times to ensure students are prepared for their lessons. If students are missing any basic equipment they can purchase it at the Maths Office for 10p per item during break times. The basic equipment all students need to have every day is defined as:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Ruler

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everybody who attended the Year 7 Parents Information Evening on Tuesday. The atmosphere was really positive and we are thrilled that the vast majority of the students have settled in so well at Oxted School. The video of the interviewed students showed we must be doing something right as nearly all said school is "fun"!

We are aware that during this evening a lot of important information was shared in a very short amount of time so the presentation can be found on the school website for you to look through again at your leisure, the link for this is below:

http://www.oxtedschool.org/uploads/lettershome/2_2114_year-7-pie-2017_1.pdf

Whether or not you were able to attend the evening it would be very worthwhile reading over the information so that you are aware of what is coming up for your son/daughter in the not too distant future. The main theme of the evening was the way that the teachers and tutors are working with you to form the foundation for your son/daughter to succeed during their time at Oxted and that the lines of communication should be utilised to support the progress of your son/daughter. The tutor is the first point of contact and is most likely the only member of staff your son/daughter will see every day so if you do have any questions or concerns please contact them. The email addresses of all the staff members can be found on the FROG Parent Portal.

One question which was asked at the end of the evening was why homework had not been marked as completed on FROG. To clarify, staff set homework on FROG but are not required to mark homework on FROG as most will be taken in and marked by hand. This means you won't receive a mark for completed homework on FROG. We also understand that tasks are being left open beyond their due date which causes confusion to whether homework has been handed in. We will remind staff to close the homework tasks once the deadline had passed.

Since the Information Evening on Tuesday night we have also looked into the new Frog mobile app. It links in to your parent FROG account and the benefits of using the mobile app are:

- you can receive notifications whenever homework is set
- you can keep track of all your children's homework in one place
- you can see timetables for each of your children
- calendar view showing what work has to be handed-in and when

All students and parents can now download the 'MyFrog' mobile app – simply search for 'MyFrog' in the appropriate app store.

The app is designed to give staff, students and parents a supportive insight in to school life. Students will be able to view their timetables via the app to help them organise their time effectively and the app can also provide push notifications to help remind students what assignments they have and when they are due.

When you first start the app it will ask you for the school's URL. You need to type in "frog.oxtedschool.co.uk" and then use your normal FROG login.

A reminder that you can access the Parent Portal of FROG at the following link:

<http://www.oxtedschool.org/154/frog-parent-portal>

If you are having issues then please click on the FROG troubleshooting link for support.

We pride ourselves on the huge range of enrichment activities that are available at Oxted for the students to participate in. From chess club to badminton, or being part of the debating society to being part of this year's school production of 'Anything Goes', there should be something available that would interest every Year 7 student. If your child has not started doing something enrichment could you please encourage them to, even if it is to try something new that they have never done as it would be hugely beneficial to them.

There are a wide range of new skills that can be developed by belonging to a team or club such as time-management, building self-esteem right through to building solid relationship skills with potentially new friends.

To find out when these clubs are on your son/daughter can just ask their tutor.

- **General Enrichment**
http://www.oxtedschool.org/uploads/asset_file/General_Enrichment_Clubs_Autumn_Term.pdf
- **Creative Arts Enrichment**
http://www.oxtedschool.org/uploads/asset_file/Creative_Arts_Clubs_Autumn_Term.pdf
- **PE Enrichment**
http://www.oxtedschool.org/uploads/asset_file/PE_Enrichment_Clubs_-_Autumn_Term.pdf
- **Science Enrichment**
http://www.oxtedschool.org/uploads/asset_file/Science_Enrichment_Autumn_Term.pdf

A reminder that next Friday is the school's traditional sponsored walk. We are looking to raise as much money as possible to further support the students at Oxted School.

Students should all have a sponsorship form in the colour of their House. Spares can be found on the school website. Please sponsor your children who will be walking the surrounding countryside of Oxted within their House.

It is a fantastic opportunity for the Year 7 students to feel they belong to their house. Students will be required to take a packed lunch and plenty of drink, please avoid students taking fizzy drinks. Students should also have sun cream and a hat, in case of hot weather. A packed lunch will be collected on the morning of the sponsored walk for those students who receive Free School Meals.

Finally, photograph proofs have been distributed to students this week. If you wish to purchase the photographs, the proof envelope should be returned, along with their payment, to Reception no later than Thursday 28 September. Please note: any orders received after this time cannot be accepted.

Have a good week.

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