



## **Parents/Carers - Questions you may want to ask...**

### **Q. How do I find out about my child's progress?**

Students are assessed regularly in each subject. Three times each year staff identify Attitude to learning (ATL's) and Achievement of each student and this is emailed to you. There is also the opportunity for more detailed feedback during our Year 7 Mentor and Year Parent evening.

### **Q. What is the portal?**

The portal is an online parent program, which provides real-time information on your child's timetable, behaviour, rewards, progress, attendance and calendar events. You will be sent more information about how to access this.

### **Q. What is the role of the mentor?**

The role of the mentor is to check in every day with the students, ensuring they are ready to learn and support with day to day school life. They will be your first point of contact at the school if you have any questions or concerns about your child's wellbeing or progress.

### **Q. Are students taught in sets?**

Year 7 students are taught in sets for English, Maths, and Science. However, all other subjects are taught in teaching groups these are mixed ability classes.

### **Q. Are students allowed to have mobile phones in school?**

Students should leave mobile phones at home. However students can bring in mobile phones but they must be switched off during lessons and only used at break and lunch in our clearly marked phone zones in the school.

**Q. I need to contact my child during the school day, what should I do?**

Please call reception or student services, and we can pass this message on to your child quickly and discreetly without disrupting any learning time.

**Q. My child knows no one else going to Longhill.**

There are often many students who are in this position starting at Longhill. We ensure that during the first few weeks we use 'get to know each other' activities in lessons and mentor time. We also run a peer mentor group which is a group of trained peer mentors who meet every Monday morning to speak to students struggling to make friends.

**Q. My child is worried about getting lost.**

The school is a big place and it is very normal to get lost, however, we have lots of helpful staff and students who will help. For the first few days students meet in the school hall each morning and are escorted to and from their lessons to here. This means they quickly figure out routes without being lost. We also realise there may be occasions while students are settling in where students are late. They will not get in trouble for this.

**Q. What after school activities are there?**

Lots! A leaflet detailing all the activities that take place will be emailed in late September and placed onto our website.

**Q. What do students do at break and lunchtime?**

Students can play or sit and chat where they wish outdoors, on the patio or canteen. There are lunchtime supervisors throughout the site and will help and speak to students. A27 is open for students who wish to complete homework and our Library is open on selected days of the week. In the first few weeks In the first week we allow Year 7 the chance to go into lunch early; to get the hang of the canteen arrangements. There are also some extracurricular activities and clubs that go on during lunchtimes.

**Q. My child has SEN needs, will staff be made aware of these?**

All staff have access to student SEN information and are provided with training. We are an inclusive school and work is differentiated appropriately to make accessible to all students.

**Q. How do I find out what is going on at school?**

Despite having over 1000 students we are able to communicate efficiently. If an important message needs to be given to your child, please let Student Services know and they will

arrange for it to be delivered. We will email letters home detailing any up and coming trips and there are details on the school website.

**Q. How do students pay for food and drink**

We use a cashless system called Squid and students use a fingerprint scan to pay for food. Money can be added to an account by using a bank or credit card via the Squid website.

**Q. How can you get ready for September?**

Make sure your child knows how they are getting here and home. Make sure they are equipped with a bag, pencil case, 2 pens, 2 pencils, green pen, ruler, rubber, sharpener, calculator, protractor and compass and ensure your child has all the correct uniform- wear it well and with pride.

**Q. Where can we buy the uniform?**

Our uniform can be bought online at Sussex Uniform. Our uniform expectations and policy can be found on our website