



BYDALES SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Coast Road
Marske-by-the-Sea
Redcar, TS11 6AR
Tel: 01642 474000
Fax: 01642 495488
E-Mail: enquiries@bydales-tc.org.uk
Web: www.bydales.org
Principal: Andrew Wappat

Parent/Carer of «Forename» «Surname»
«Street»
«District»
«Town»
«Post_Code»

31 July 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

Information Update for Parents of Year 6 students moving into Year 7, Bydales School

Student Name: «Forename» «Surname». VMG Tutor Group: «VMG», «Tutor»

I thought I would write to you over the summer to enclose a number of documents that were issued to parents and students in the last few days of term. If you were able to attend the Transition Evening for Year 6 parents on Wednesday 9 July you will have heard me describe some of the changes I am implementing at a pace to ensure we drive up achievement and standards at the school quickly and efficiently. Given the rate of change, I have tried hard to keep parents up-to-date by using our new Twitter feed @OutwoodBydales and Facebook: Outwood Academy Bydales. Letters are now showing on the website in a new section www.bydales-tc.org.uk

Enclosed documents are as follows:

- **Newsletter** with information needed for a smooth start on the first day back
- **Term Dates** for the academic year 2014-2015
- **Enrichment Booklet** for your child to consider over the summer
- **Leaflet** giving log-on details for ordering spare items of uniform
- **Information FAQ letter** sent home with Year 6 students following the Transition Evening

Thank you to parents and carers who completed the 'Question Form' attached to the information FAQ letter I sent home with Year 6 students following the Transition Evening. I am in the process of writing to you individually. I have incorporated answers to your generic questions in the attached newsletter, but have added a few answers below. Thank you to parents who have asked questions via Facebook. Please note this will not be monitored regularly, and that it is better to send direct Facebook messages rather than comment on posts.

Additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1) First Day Arrangements

All students should arrive on the school grounds before 8.20 am on Tuesday 2 September to avoid a one hour late detention after school. Year 6 students will be shown into the main hall for a short assembly before confirming their new tutor, VMG country and tutor room, as shown at the top of this letter. They will then be shown to their tutor room by 'buddies' from their new tutor groups, and receive timetables, planners and go through expectations and day-to-day arrangements. Students should bring their PE kit in case they have a PE lesson on the first day back. Year 8-11 students should go straight to their new tutor room in time for Period 1 at 8.25 am, which will be a tutor period.



2) Uniform Arrangements - Update

Uniform can be collected on Wednesday 27 August between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. For parents who cannot make this date and time, there will be limited access to the school, arranged in advance, on Monday 1 September between 8.00 am and 2.00 pm to collect uniform. Please contact dbrown@bydales-tc.org.uk to book a time slot. Additional or spare items of official uniform can be ordered online using the enclosed leaflet information. Uniform, including trousers and shirts must bear the school logo.

3) Locker arrangements

Students who wish to have a locker should bring a small padlock with two keys, one of which should be labelled and left at Reception. Students will be allocated a locker number during Period 1, which is designated as tutor VMG time for the first day back. I will be consulting Student Voice in the future about whether we continue to use lockers, or use the space they occupy to build additional ICT facilities and 1:1 tuition rooms. Students may only visit lockers before and after school, or during break or lunchtime.

4) Printer/Photocopying arrangements

Students use fingertip recognition to access printers for printing school work. There is no charge for this, but students are given a budget to manage and should therefore be careful not to waste their allocation.

5) Mobile phones

Students are expected to have mobile phones switched off and out of sight. If a mobile phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated and placed in the safe in Reception. It can then only be collected by a parent or suitable adult.

6) Dictionaries

Whilst Collins' dictionaries, referred to in my previous letter in the list of required equipment, are preferable, of course Oxford or Cambridge versions are acceptable instead.

7) School bags and shoes

All students are expected to carry a suitable school bag that is large enough to hold A4 books etc. School shoes should be plain, black, and capable of being polished. Boots, canvas pumps, decorated shoes etc are therefore not acceptable.

8) ParentPay

Students pay for their lunches using fingertip recognition and a ParentPay account. The arrangements are administered by Carillion. A letter will be issued to parents during the first week of the autumn term giving parents an individual username and password. To add credit to accounts parents should log on to www.parentpay.com and add credit card/debit card details. Parents can then access ParentPay at any time to add more funds to their child's account. Alternatively, students can add money to their accounts at the machines around school, during break or lunchtimes, or before school starts.

9) Health Issues

Parents who want to inform the school of any child health issues should contact Katharine Barlow, Assistant Headteacher (Deep Support) via kbarlow@bydales-tc.org.uk Please note she will be on holiday for part of the summer break. Parents who specifically requested to discuss health matters, via the Question Form, will receive a phone call in the next couple of weeks.

10) Enrichment activities

These take place after school from 2.30 - 3.30 pm. A leaflet is enclosed giving a list of the opportunities being offered, depending on take-up by students. Please complete the leaflet to indicate interest and return to school via your child on the first day back.

I do hope this additional letter and enclosed documents help with answering any remaining questions or queries regarding your child's start at Bydales in September. I wish you and your family all the best for the remainder of the summer.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wappat
Principal