

**Minutes of Year 7 Parent Information and Guidance Meeting (PIAG)
Thursday 22 September 2016**

Present:

Mr Heffernan (MMH)	Learning Manager for Year 7
Ms Greenaway (SSG)	Year 7 Pastoral Manager
Ms Gregory (VGH)	KS Mathematics Coordinator
Miss Cowley (LXC)	KS English Coordinator/Literacy across the curriculum
Mr Mayo (DJM)	Curriculum Leader for Science

• **Welcome**

MMH welcomed around 200 pupils and parents/carers to the Year 7 Parent Information and Guidance meeting.

MMH began by thanking all parents and pupils for their support over the past few weeks. It has been a busy but exciting time for all. Hardenhuish are grateful to the families and we are keen to maintain a positive relationship.

- **PIAG** - 'PIAG's are an opportunity to familiarise yourself with your child's education in order to support them during their time at Hardenhuish School'.
- **Exeats** - Pupils need to bring a letter explaining their request for absence to the Year 7 office. They will then be given an exeat slip to hand to Reception on their way out of school. Pupils must sign in and out at reception when leaving or returning from appointments.
- **After School Care Club** - This is available from 4pm-5.30pm Monday - Thursday during term time. There is a cost of £2.50 per session. The library is also available for use for free from 3pm-4pm with the exception of Friday.
- **Homework** - Pupils should expect an average of 30 minutes homework per subject per week (approx. 1 hour per evening).
- **Setting** - Most pupils are currently in mixed ability groups for all lessons. In the week commencing 10 October, all pupils will start to be placed into sets following analysis of a range of data / teacher observations. All pupils will receive a new timetable with their new teachers and classrooms to go to. Pupil Example set codes: 7Y/Ma1 = Set 1; 7Y/Ma2 = Set 2 (and so on). If you are interested in knowing what set your child is in, you can look on the front of their exercise book. The progress and attainment of every child is monitored (and appropriate changes made) throughout Year 7.

Assessment: background information - The government have now scrapped National Curriculum levels. The new GCSE courses started in September 2015. New GCSEs are graded 9-1 rather than A*-G. We want to prepare pupils the best we can for GCSEs (see slide 10 for more information regarding the new grading system).

MMH introduced Mr Mayo (DJM) Curriculum Leader for Science.

- **Science (DJM)**

Mr Mayo started his presentation (Science) which is available on the website. Pupils will shortly be set using KS2 data along with the data procured from the upcoming assessments within Science lessons. Approximately 30 minutes of homework will be set each week. The main focus for Year 7 will be about understanding the world, developing problem solving techniques and developing their key skills.

Parents/Carers could assist by sharing and discussing scientific discoveries as they arise with their son/daughter.

Additional learning: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science>.

MMH thanked Mr Mayo and introduced Ms Gregory, KS Mathematics Co-ordinator

- **Maths (VHG)**

Ms Gregory talked through her PowerPoint presentation (maths) which can be found on the website. VHG explained that pupils will be taught functional maths during Year 7 to build a foundation for Years 8 and 9. ICT is used on a regular basis within the four lessons taught each week; some pupils will have two different members of staff during the week but most will be taught by one main teacher.

Pupils will be assessed formally every term with a mental and written maths test: revision lists will be issued beforehand and can be used in class. Homework will be approximately 30 minutes each week.

AGAT enrichment events and competitions will be also be organised throughout the year and advertised to pupils and parents.

Additional learning: <http://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

Login: Hardenhuish Password: ruler

Parents/Carers can support their son/daughter by talking through what they have done in class and check understanding. VHG advised pupils to start their homework on the night it is set, if they do not understand what is needed they can check it again with their teacher.

MMH introduced Miss Cowley (LXC), KS English Coordinator/Literacy across the curriculum

- **English (LXC)**

Miss Cowley (LXC) ran through what is ahead within Year 7 English classes, which is explained in her PowerPoint (English) which can be found on the website. English follow a skills based curriculum, building skills year on year. This means sometimes pupil levels can fluctuate as some skills challenge them more than others.

Events during the year include visits from authors and the Year 7 Poetry Performance.

English Clubs: Creative Writing, Journalism and Film Club.

Homework will be based around reading, questions, spelling and grammar. It is helpful if pupils are provided with a thesaurus and dictionary. It is important that pupils read as much as possible at home (see English PowerPoint for link to recommending reading guide for Year 7 pupils).

- **Liddington**

MMH thanked Miss Cowley and began the Liddington Presentation (see website). This included key information regarding the Year 7 residential trip to Liddington and forthcoming dates. MMH is aiming for 100% attendance at Liddington and he ran through some of the exciting activities that will be available.

- **Any other business:**

Key dates- The correct dates can be found on the school website under information/other information/Year 7 letters/diary dates.

Next KS3 Parent Information and Guidance Meeting: Tuesday 11 October at 7pm. Agenda: Assessment focus