



Year 8 Parent Information Evening

Thursday 17th September



Welcome

Mr C Taylor
Vice Principal

82% Achieved Grade 4+ in English & Maths

57% Achieved Grade 5+ in English & Maths

30% GCSE Grades were Grades 9-7

Long Term Kindness for
Life: Work or Study.

Present
Punctual
Meeting Deadlines
Working Hard
Communicating
Being Part of a Team
Growing Resilience



Year 8 Pastoral Team

- Heads of Year: Miss H Ellis and Mr E Field
- Assistant HOY: Miss H Harris
- SLT Y8 Link: Mr A Daniel
- Safeguarding Lead – Miss O Tolley
- Student Support Officer – Mrs C Candappa
- Behaviour Manager – Mrs N Brown

Year 8 Tutor Team

- **8R** – Mrs E Halkett (Mon Tues Wed) Mrs P Harris (Wed Thurs Fri)
- **8H** – Mr O Bevan
- **8Q** – Mrs S Harris
- **8G** – Mrs K Metzner, (Mr R Beeson - Weds)
- **8P** – Ms S Woodward (Mr A Wright – Weds)
- **8K** – Mrs E Jackson (Mr R Beeson - Mon Thurs)
- **8X** – Mr T Cohen
- **8Y** – Miss J Johnson
- **8M** – Miss L Graciano
- **8L** – Miss K Dunn

The year ahead - key dates



19th – 30th Oct – Half Term

Thurs 12th Nov – Charity Fair

Thurs 26th Nov – Progress Meeting (In School)

21st Dec- 1st Jan – End of Autumn Term Break

Mon 4th Jan – INSET Day

Thurs 21st Jan- Diversity Day

Fri 22nd Jan – AOF 1 + 2 Report sent home

Weds 27th – Fri 29th Jan – School Production

15th – 19th Feb – Half Term

Fri 19th Mar – INSET Day

26th Mar – 9th Apr – End of Spring Term Break

17th - 21st May – Year 8 Progress Review week

31st May – 4th June – Half Term

Friday 11th June - AOF 3 + Progress Review Report sent home

14th – 18th June – Year 8 International Trips

Fri 25th June- INSET Day

Weds 7th July- INSET Day

Friday 9th July – Year 8 Relationships Day

Friday 16th July – AOF 4+5 Report sent home

Friday 23rd July – End of Year

Year 8 Registration Time

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Set up for the week ahead	Personal Development Programme	Silent reading	Assembly	Relationships

Equipment checks

Personal Development Programme

Key themes for this year include:

- Personal progression: Reflect → Reset → Restructure → Result
- Social activism – British values and what makes a community
- Digital identity and how we positively contribute online
- Choices and future pathways
- Respect and tolerance

Home Learning

- 30 mins per subject slot (Maths- once, 60 mins)
- Home Learning Club- Mon, Tues & Thurs 3.10pm-4.00pm in C15
- Timetable on school website in Student section
- Do it the night it is set!

How can you support?

- Continue to take an interest in your child's work.
- Check EduLink regularly for praise/ comments/ home learning notices.
- Support with home learning and revision for assessments.
- Encourage your child to understand that ultimately the responsibility for success lies with them.
- Talk to your child about why society, home and school need rules.
- Encourage your child to make the most of opportunities.



Literacy

Specialist subject vocabulary and more complex subject texts

At school:

- Levels tested each term
- Accelerated Reader programme
- Dedicated LRC lessons
- DEAR time
- Interventions

At home:

- Please encourage and support their reading

Opportunities

- Extra curricular activities
- Trips
- Assemblies & Tutor time
- House events
- LRC
- Wellbeing Ambassadors
- Form/School Council reps
- Mentors
- Student Leadership

Attendance Matters

- Identify the challenges early & work together to support the student to increase their engagement.
- As last year fixed penalty notices:
 - Fines will be considered for 10 unauthorised sessions of absence and will be **£80** per parent/carer per notice (if paid within 21 days), or **£160** per parent/carer per notice (if paid within 28 days).
 - Fines per parent/carer will be capped to **2 fines within any 3-year period** after which other actions such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.



Key Theme: Navigating Friendships

Year 8 is often a year of "friendship fires"

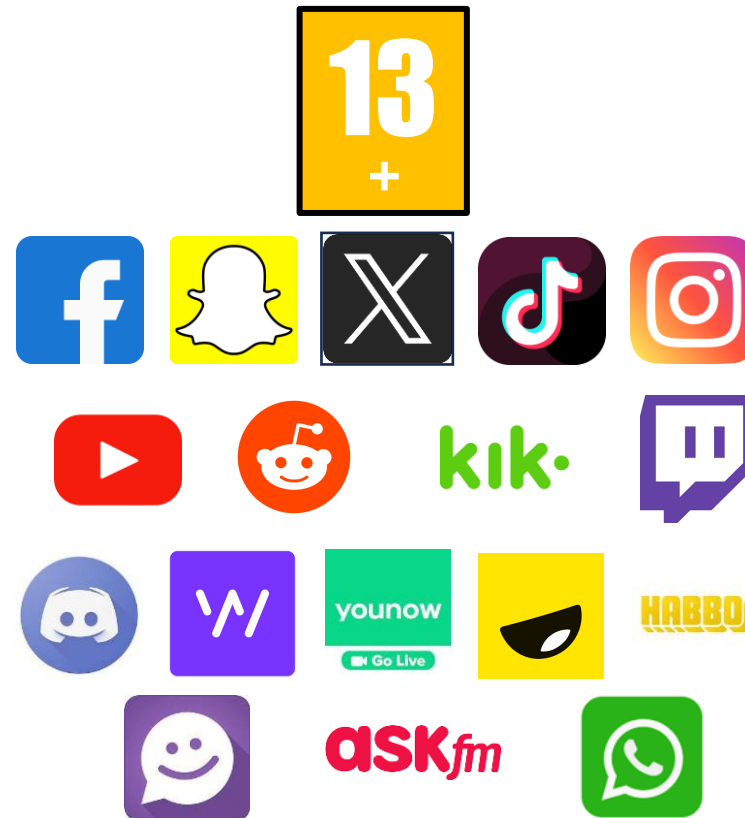
As young people develop greater independence, confidence and self-awareness, friendship groups naturally evolve. Pupils begin to explore who they are, what they value, and where they fit in socially. This can lead to new friendships forming and others fading.

What we want our pupils to understand:

- It is natural for friendships to change.
- Not every friendship is meant to last forever.
- Disagreements and challenges are part of growing up.
- While friendships may begin or end naturally, the way we treat one another is always a choice.
- Kindness, honesty and respect should guide every interaction

"You may not stay friends with everyone, but you can always choose to be kind."

Do you know your Social Media?



Social Media and Keeping Safe

When a child lies about their birth year (e.g., adds five extra years), the platform's systems treat them as older every year that passes. After five years, the platform may classify them as an adult — even though they are still only 13–14 in real life.

Imagine a child is actually **13**, born in **2013**. They fraudulently enter **2008** as their birth year.

The platform now thinks they are:

- **15** today
- **16** next year
- **17** the year after
- **18** in five years

Even though in reality they are still only **13–14**.

The system doesn't re-check unless:

1. AI age estimation flags a mismatch
2. The user tries to access restricted features
3. The platform is legally required to verify age
4. A parent or school reports the account

Social Media and Keeping Safe

The maximum number of members allowed in a standard **WhatsApp group chat** is 1,024 people.

WhatsApp Communities: Allows you to link multiple groups together under one umbrella structure supporting thousands of members (up to 2,000 depending on the specific setup).

This means:

- Children can end up in **huge, unmoderated spaces**
- Unknown contacts can join through **shared links**
- Content spreads **fast** and is hard to control
- Peer pressure to stay in the chat increases

Social Media and Keeping Safe - Parental Tips



Ask your child to show you:

Their WhatsApp contact list.

The groups they're in

Any group where they don't recognise everyone

If they can't identify members, that's a red flag.

Set clear rules about group chats:

1. No joining groups with people you don't know
2. No accepting links shared by peers
3. No staying in groups over a certain size (e.g., 30-50)
4. Leave any group where adults or unknown accounts appear
5. Turn off "Add to Groups" permissions
6. WhatsApp allows users to restrict who can add them to groups.
7. Set it to either - My Contacts or My Contacts Except... (to block specific peers) This prevents random group invitations

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PART OF WMAT:

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