



Whitstone School

Year 7 Welcome Pack 2023




Ofsted

Good
Provider

‘A happy community school.’

‘Everyone is equal here.’



Welcome From Mr. Swallow, Headteacher

Dear Future Year 7 Student,

I would like to welcome you to Whitstone School. We are proud that you have chosen to join our highly successful school and hope that you will add your own input to help us move to even greater excellence in the future. Over the next five years, you will be encouraged and inspired by our brilliant staff, will have countless opportunities to go on trips around the world and will make friends who last a lifetime. With hard work and dedication, you will make amazing memories, become happy young adults and learn about who you are and what you want to be. These next five years promise to be some of the most exciting of your life.

Whitstone School is an excellent place to learn and develop, with more and more students selecting our school when they reach Year 7. We now have more students than places at our school and this is due to the positive learning journey we offer to all our young people. The incredible opportunities Whitstone School will give you are also partly down to you to take. It is up to you to make sure you attend school each day, work hard in lessons and be polite, kind and respectful at all times. We are proud of our students and I am sure, will be proud of you too. It is really important that you start Year 7 with the right approach and, whilst we will support you every step of the way, we will also challenge you to be the best you possibly can be.

At Whitstone School, we know that the move to secondary school can make you feel both excited and nervous. We have lots of different ways of helping you make the move from your primary school a really successful one however, if there is ever anything you are unsure about, please speak to us.

I look forward to meeting you soon and working with you and your parents so that you experience a successful, happy and inspiring five years at Whitstone School.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Swallow
Headteacher

‘Leaders have high expectations of pupils’ behaviour. Lessons are calm and orderly.’

Some Key People



Mr Swallow
Headteacher



Mrs Turner
Deputy
Headteacher



Ms Gribbin
Assistant
Headteacher /
DSL



Mrs Hunt
Assistant
Headteacher



Miss Bennett
DDSL



Miss Rennie
Assistant
Headteacher/
SENCO

‘Leaders work effectively with pupils and families to understand difficulties. This ensures vulnerable pupils are supported well.’



Miss Schofield
Office Manager/
Clerk to Trustees



Mr Elsegood
Data Manager/
Senior Assistant
Headteacher



Mrs Boughen-Hunt
Business Manager

Whitstone School House System

House Leaders



Mrs Latham
Kite House
Leader (red)



Miss Miell
Kestrel House
Leader (green)



Mr Cleave
Peregrine House
Leader (yellow)



Mr Grant
Buzzard House
Leader (blue)

Deputy House Leaders



Mrs Millward
Kite House (red)



Miss Powell
Kestrel House
(green)



Mrs Evans
Peregrine House
(yellow)



Mrs Langley
Buzzard House
(blue)

What Our Students Wanted To Tell You



When I came to Whitstone School there was the worry at the start I'm sure everyone feels but at Whitstone School your first day stops that. Everything from the timetable to just walking around the school is simple and with plenty of opportunities to get help if you need it Whitstone School is a great place to be. I personally enjoy coming to school every morning. (Harry)



My transition was slightly different because I was the only one from my primary school, but as soon as the day started I realised I had nothing to be worried about I made amazing friends, I met all my fantastic teachers and Whitstone School as a whole is an amazing school. I realised this was one of the most fun and exciting parts of my life. I enjoy coming in and I wouldn't change my school for the world. (Violet)

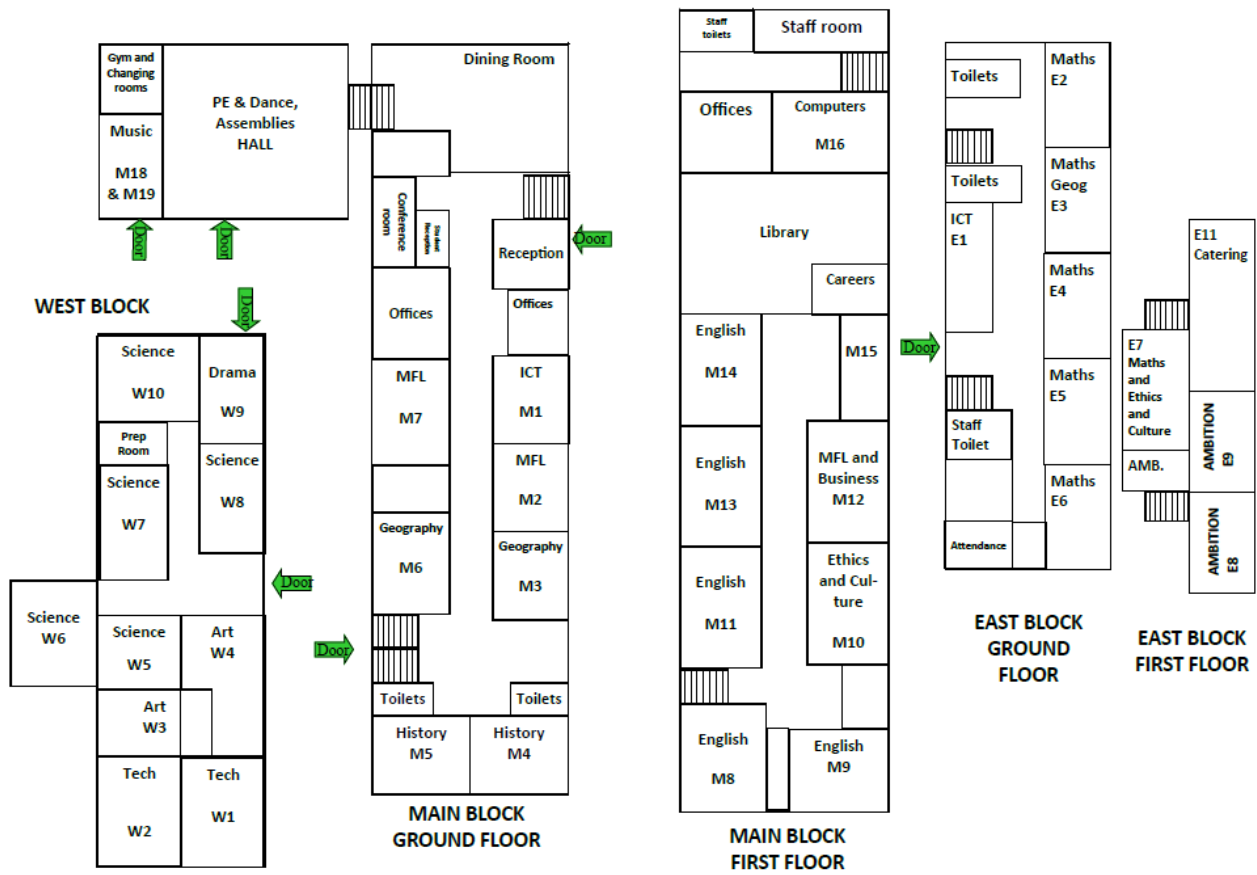


When I first arrived in Year 7 at Whitstone School, I was excited for new places, new teachers and new experiences. I had come from quite a small school that wasn't largely populated and found this new place very interesting and intriguing, but also weird.

I was nervous for the work, the timetables, whether I would get it right and which rooms were which. Teachers and friends helped me to settle in and become a happy student at this school. I am happy to be going to Whitstone School and am very glad I came here. (Emily)

'Pupils have a good understanding of right and wrong. They are confident and respectful when talking to one another.'

Finding Your Way Around



Whitstone School Uniform Policy



Girls Uniform

Blazer with House badge
Plain white shirt or blouse
House tie
Optional V-neck pullover
Choice of two school skirts
Choice of two school trousers
Smart school shoes (no trainers)

Boys Uniform

Blazer with House badge
Plain white shirt
House tie
Optional V-neck pullover
Choice of two school trousers
Smart school shoes (no trainers)

PE Kit

Navy blue shorts/ blue sports leggings / skort or tracksuit bottoms
Plain white polo shirt (House badge optional)
White cotton socks
Clean supportive trainers
Optional Whitstone School hoodie with House badge

(Blue shirts are for year 11 students).

Scan the QR code for a direct link to the Notice Me Logos website



Timetable, Aspire Groups And Teaching Groups

Small Aspire Groups

Whitstone School has small Aspire groups of just Year 7 students. This has the benefit of feeling like a family with your peers and experience school milestones together. Your Aspire Lead is the best person to talk to for help and for your parents to contact. Each Aspire Group consists of students in the same House.

Teaching Groups

The classes you are in will change depending on the subject. We think it is important to give you time to settle into Year 7 before we make any changes to your groups.

Times of the school day

8:40-8:45am: Preparation For Excellence

8.45-9.45am: Period 1

9.45-10.45am: Period 2

10.45-11.05am: Breaktime

11.05-12.05pm: Period 3

12.05-1.05pm: Period 4

1.05-1.40pm: Lunchtime

1.40-2.00pm: Aspire time/Assembly

2.00-3.00pm: Period 5

3.00-4.00pm: Period 6 (Enrichment to be completed in at least one day each week)

Late buses are available Tuesday – Friday for any students wishing to stay for an afterschool club.



For an example of Enrichment activities scan the code:



Year 7: Topics covered in your first year

Art	<p>We start by learning all about the theory of colour and you will explore this through the development of an African painting. You will also learn about the formal elements of Art, how to use tone to create 3D forms.</p> <p>This will all create a firm foundation for your further studies in Art and Design.</p>
Dance	<p>To begin with you will be introduced to the four basic principles of the dance ingredients to support any creative process within choreography. This unit supports you for subsequent units of work throughout the next two terms. In your second unit, you will be introduced to a variety of social dance styles that occurred throughout the decades of 50s 60s and 70s. Then finally, you will be introduced to a new dance style of Musical Theatre. Creating a dance piece demonstrating key moves, stylistic features and key influences from the musical of High School Musical 2. Dance at Whitstone is very popular, especially in the clubs that we run after school that are free to sign up, learn more and provides you with an exciting opportunity to perform in our annual dance showcase.</p>
Drama	<p>Drama starts with an introduction to the skills needed for performance. We then move onto developing a character, working with masks, radio plays and script work.</p>
English	<p>In English we will begin by looking at the key idea of choices: how the best writers make fantastic choices of words and images, and how we can make spellbinding choices in our own writing too! We will go on to study a novel (an exciting long story), poetry, Shakespeare and how to be persuasive with our words.</p> <p>Above all, we'll work hard to become the best communicators we can be: speakers, thinkers, writers, readers and dreamers.</p>
Ethics and Culture	<p>Year 7 in September will start by looking at themselves and their identity - what makes us us!</p>
Technology	<p>In Year 7, you will have study in a termly rotation Product Design / Graphics and Catering.</p> <p>Product design and graphical design is all about designing and making things; you'll get to use a lot of the equipment that we have in the workshop to make your own jigsaw puzzles, clocks and even shelves!</p> <p>In catering we take on the Great British Bake Off with a unit of work all about afternoon tea - this means lots of yummy cakes to bake and take home! We also learn about sustainable eating and how what we eat affects the environment and what we can do to help.</p>
Geography	<p>We look forward to welcoming you to Geography. In year 7 we start with maps - so you won't get lost finding your way to the classroom!</p> <p>As geographers we will investigate and ask geographical questions about the processes that shaped our planet, such as volcanic eruptions. We will also be curious about people and places. Exploring how we interact with our world, learning about resources and plastic pollution in our oceans.</p>
History	<p>In History, we spend our time investigating to learn as much as we can about life in the past. We begin in Year 7 with the Romans, learning about how they lived their lives and how they changed Britain.</p> <p>We then explore the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and how different groups of people moved and settled in our country.</p> <p>We then focus on who wanted to be King in 1066 before focusing on life in medieval England, including law and order, medicine, the Black Death and the revolting peasants!</p>

ICT	<p>In ICT we aim to make you really confident users of all types of technology so we cover lots of different topics. We make sure that you've got the skills that you will need to use throughout your lives and prepare you to use technology that hasn't even been invented yet! We learn about how computers work and we even make our own computer games.</p>
Maths	<p>During the first term we will look at the following areas of Mathematics: Sequences, understanding algebra, place value and fractions, decimal and percentage equivalence.</p> <p>With such a huge range of topics to experience you are certain to find an area of interest. Most importantly we are here to advise and support you at every stage of your learning and can not wait to meet you all.</p>
MFL	<p>Guten Tag! In year 7 we will be learning how to talk about ourselves and our families in German. We will learn how to describe our personalities, our family members and pets. We will learn how to express our likes and dislikes of school subjects and free time activities. We will also spend some time learning about German speaking countries and start to be able to compare British and German cultures.</p>
Music	<p>Welcome to Music! In year 7, you will have the opportunity to play instruments, learn how to write (compose) pieces of music and how to analyse music. You will also learn how to play the keyboard and how to read music. There are opportunities to join musical groups too - how about joining our Samba group or Choir? You may decide to take up an instrument....</p>
P.E.	<p>At Whitstone we believe 'a healthy body is a healthy mind'</p> <p>Year 7 PE is about developing your fitness, movement and social skills and having the opportunity to experience many different activities and sports throughout the year. Each week you will have a fitness related lesson and a skill related lesson. In the fitness lesson the emphasis is on raising the pulse rate and developing your cardiovascular fitness; from activities like capture the flag, to indoor fitness circuits - either way you will work up a sweat! We then learn about the effects of exercise on the body and the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle. In skills lessons you will learn how to perform the key skills needed to participate in more competitive situations in both individual and team sports. Activities include, football, rugby, netball, hockey, badminton, basketball, tennis, benchball, dodgeball, rounder's, team building, cricket and athletics.</p> <p>In addition to your PE lesson we have a wide range of after school extra-curricular activities and clubs that are completely free and we encourage everyone to come and a go!</p>
Science	<p>Welcome to Year 7 science. Some of you may have had science lessons before at primary school, but for others, this may be a new and exciting subject to learn.</p> <p>In year 7 you will study lots of theory but also carry out lots of experiments to help you find things out about the world around you. You will look at different subjects in biology (living things), chemistry (how things react together), and physics (how things can affect something else).</p> <p>The topics you will look at include: an introduction to science and how to work safely in the lab, particles, elements and compounds, cells, body systems, light, sound and forces.</p> <p>We are looking forward to welcoming you to your science lessons and hope you are looking forward to them too.</p>

Food At Whitstone School

The canteen at Whitstone is always praised by our students and staff. The menu has something for everyone, boasting a 5* hygiene rating and friendly staff. There is plenty of room to sit with your friends and time to talk during break and lunchtimes. Below is the menu for September 2023, this will be adapted seasonally.

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Pasta Carbonara	Pasta bolognaise	Roast with potatoes, vegetables & gravy	Meatballs in tomato sauce with pasta	Fish & chips with peas or beans
Tuna & salmon pea pasta	Sweet and sour chicken & rice	Cheesy pasta	Macaroni cheese with vegetables	Veggie pasta in a tomato and herb sauce
Chicken korma & rice	Chicken korma & rice	Chicken korma & rice	Veggie korma with butterbeans	Chicken korma & rice
Beefburger or veggie burger with beans	Veggie korma with chickpea rice	Meat or veggie sausage roll with beans or vegetables	Chicken pie with mashed potatoes & vegetables	Panini: ham & cheese bacon & cheese onion & cheese
Chocolate sponge & chocolate custard	Apple crumble & custard	Peaches & custard	Fruit jelly	Strawberry and apple crumble & custard

Break: Bacon rolls, hot dog rolls, pizza, toast, tea cakes, fresh fruit, yoghurts, biscuits, cakes

Available every day:

Jacket potato with butter or fillings

Wraps: Chilli chicken, Tuna mayonnaise, Ham & salad, Curried chicken, Cheese & tomato



I was worried at first about lunch and that I wouldn't have time to eat or wouldn't be able to get food but the system in the canteen at Whitstone School caters for everyone and makes getting lunch easy and fast. The food there is delicious and there is a wide variety, including vegetarian options, you can sit with whoever you like; whether you are buying lunch or bringing it from home. Overall, the canteen is very simple and makes lunchtime an enjoyable and stress-free experience. (Iris, Year 9)





3D tours of the school can be found online here:

<https://www.whitstoneschool.org/3d-interactive-map>

Latest Ofsted report:

<https://www.whitstoneschool.org/ofsted>

Have any further questions? Please don't hesitate to contact us by

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Email: info@whitstoneschool.org

