



Nether Stowe School

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20th June 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Vertical Tutor Groups

It has been a pleasure to have been into the majority of primary schools, and met with the students joining us over the last month. We hope that the experience of the upcoming transition days will provide a small taste of the exciting opportunities awaiting your child when they join us in September. If there are questions, which have arisen from the visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As a reminder, our transition days are taking place **Tuesday 28th June and Wednesday 29th June** with an arrival time of 9:00am and a collection time of 2:45pm, with a packed lunch. As well as this, we are hosting an 'Intake Evening' on **Tuesday 28th June**, where parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet with the key staff associated to them, as well as receive the key messages needed for September. The 'Intake Evening' will be split into 2 sittings. If you are in the colleges 'Beacon and Chase', your time slot will be to arrive for 6:00pm. If you are in the colleges 'Trent and Wall' your arrival time will be for 7:00pm. All college and tutor information is over the page.

Please stick to your allocated time slot due to capacity in our hall and information pertinent to your child's college.

Your child will be placed into our Vertical Tutor Group system from September. At the heart of our decision to operate this system, has been the desire for every child to be part of the Nether Stowe community, raising the sense of identity, pride and aspiration, which this evokes; as well as promoting a sense of healthy competition within school.

The vertical tutoring system means that each tutor group contains 3 – 5 students from every year group. Your child's tutor group will be part of a College system, with one College Head and Pastoral Head per College, overseeing and supporting the work of the Form Tutors.

Please be reassured that this system is solely for the purposes of registration / assembly, inter College activities; your child will be taught within the horizontal (year group) system for all subjects.

Research into the vertical tutoring system, as well as our previous experience of it, has shown some of the advantages and benefits to be:

- A smoother transition for new Year 7 students, who will automatically feel part of the school community.
- A significant reduction in bullying: by breaking down some of the barriers, which may exist between year groups; younger students will be part of a group with their older peers, who will then be familiar to them as they move around school. Students within the same College will be easily identifiable through their College tie.
- Improved behaviour around the school, including at social times: as students are part of a more cohesive, community setting, which they are keen to promote at all times during the school day.
- Improved student leadership: providing students with the opportunities to become true role models and peer mentors within their Tutor Group and College. Students, with training and guidance, are best equipped to support each other whether that is from an academic or social / emotional.
- A developed programme of high-profile rewards and celebration related to participation in College activities

Overleaf you will find details of your child's College for next year, including the name of the key staff: College Head, Pastoral Head and Form Tutor. Your child will require a College tie for September and details of the tie colour can also be found overleaf. Further information about your child's College can be found on the school website "Year 7 September 2022 Information". An end of term newsletter from the Headteacher will also be placed there towards the end of the month, which will contain information about arrangements, including start times, for September.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a good summer break and we look forward to working positively with you and your child over the next part of their academic and personal journey.

Yours sincerely,
Miss D J Sullivan
Senior Assistant Head

Miss B Merrick
Transition Co-ordinator

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