

21 July 2021

Dear Parents

WELCOME TO GILLINGHAM SCHOOL

It was a pleasure to welcome your child to our recent induction day and we very much look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 intake from September, remembering from our own childhood the experiences associated with starting at a new secondary school. We understand that many of the children will be both nervous and excited about joining their new school in September: I would like to reassure you that our absolute priority is for your child to quickly settle in and to immediately feel safe, secure and happy at our school. We hope that our induction day has served to settle the nerves a little in readiness for September. The term for Year 7 pupils begins on **FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2021** and your child should arrive at the astro pitch by 0855. At the start of the day, they will meet their tutor who will explain their first day at school: formal lessons will start by mid-morning.

Whilst with us, your child will benefit from high quality teaching across the range of subjects in excellent facilities. At Gillingham your child will also benefit from an outstanding programme of extra-curricular activities and exceptional educational facilities. Work and study are the core patterns of school life at Gillingham but these are enriched by a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include drama productions, educational visits, sports fixtures, concerts, ski trips, field studies, outdoor pursuits, exchanges with France and Germany, visits to museums, sports events, theatres, exhibitions and so on. We are fortunate to live, teach and learn in a pleasant, rural community but we are committed to preparing our children for modern day life and employment.

We are blessed with high quality teaching staff supported by a wide range of extremely professional and committed non-teaching colleagues all of whom will work very hard to provide the best possible educational experience for your child. Our curriculum will be delivered in an innovative and exciting way, we will always be ambitious for your child and will want to work alongside you as we continue with your child's education throughout each academic year. At Gillingham, we have three core values and we will share these with your child on a regular basis:

- We are ambitious, take pride in our school and our learning is never disrupted
- We treat everyone with kindness and dignity
- We have the right to feel safe and happy

Throughout their induction day, our new Year 7 intake demonstrated their ambition and pride at being a student at their new school. At all times, they were kind to each other and there was a lovely happy atmosphere amongst all the teaching groups. They have got off to a terrific start and we look forward to working in partnership with you in terms of provide the best possible experience for your child.

Covid testing at the start of term

The government has recently advised that all students should take two lateral flow tests on their return in the autumn term. These two tests should be 3 to 5 days apart.

We are offering on site testing and students who have parental consent to be tested will receive a Covid test on Friday 3rd September and on Thursday 9th September. To give permission for your child to be tested you need to complete the parental consent section in the personal details for your children within the EDULINK APP. An invitation will be sent through to you in August to sign up to EDULINK if you do not already have an account. Please ensure that you have sent in the completed Admissions Form if you have not already done so by Friday 30th July.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Nicholson', with a small dot at the end.

Mr P Nicholson
Headteacher