



4th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students to Warlingham today. Although the weather was less than kind as they arrived this morning, the way they have embraced their first day has been fantastic.

Throughout the day, Year 7 have taken part in a range of activities, including our enrichment fair and a treasure hunt, as well as sessions introducing them to the school day, their timetables, and how to move safely and efficiently around the site. They have also received guidance on routines and expectations to help them settle in quickly. Our tutors, Heads and Deputy Heads of Year, and many other staff members have been on hand to offer direction and reassurance, supporting those who felt a little nervous, as is perfectly natural on the first day of such an exciting journey. I have been genuinely proud of how well they have responded.

Wisepay

Often one of the highlights for many students when they make the transition from primary to secondary school is the chance to buy food and drinks from the wide range on offer from the canteen. All parents and carers were sent an email with their WisePay login details before the end of the summer term, which is the only system that can be used to make canteen payments, as we are a cashless school.

Today, a number of students brought cash with them. On this occasion, our canteen team did their best to accommodate, but please note that from tomorrow, students will only be able to purchase items if there are sufficient funds on their WisePay account. Unfortunately, card payments cannot be accepted.

Twelve15 (our catering provider) does not offer credit facilities, therefore if your child's Wisepay account does not have sufficient funds, your child will not be able to purchase food/drink.

To avoid any disruption, please ensure your child's WisePay account is kept topped up regularly.

Smartphones

I would also like to thank parents and carers for your support with the move to being a smartphone-free school from the start of this academic year. From what we have seen today, we are confident that this change will help us maintain an environment that is calm, safe, and above all, fully focused on learning throughout the school day.

For clarity as communicated previously students in Year 7 are not permitted to bring a smartphone to school. 'Brick' phones are permitted and should be turned off and remain in bags, out of sight until students leave the school gate at the end of the day.

Single point of entry and exit

A quick reminder, students should only enter and exit the school via the single pedestrian entrance next to Hamsey Green Primary School. They should not use the vehicular gate at the front of the school.

Tomorrow, we look forward to welcoming back all other year groups. With the whole school community on site, the roads around school will become noticeably busier. If you are collecting your child at the end of the day, please avoid parking on Tithepit Shaw Lane, as this causes significant congestion. Despite staff supervision at the entrance and exit points, inconsiderate parking can create unnecessary risks and danger. As well as parking away from the school gates, if you are collecting your child on foot, please also make arrangements to do this away from the school gate to avoid further congestion at this point, particularly with over 1400 students on site tomorrow.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We are excited about the year ahead and all that our students will experience and achieve. On a personal level it has been a genuine pleasure to meet such polite and enthusiastic new members of our school community.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Foster

Headteacher