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Welcome Back!

Year 7
Miss De Souza



A Warm Welcome to Year 7

Welcome, Year 7 students and parents, to a fantastic new school year! I hope you've had a restful and enjoyable summer break and that you are as excited as I am for the journey ahead.

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and it's completely normal to feel a mix of excitement and nerves. My aim, and the aim of the entire Year 7 team, is to ensure that every student feels supported, safe, and ready to thrive. We are here to help you navigate new subjects, make new friends, and become a confident part of our Winchmore school community.

We have an action packed and engaging year planned, full of exciting learning opportunities and extracurricular activities. I encourage all students to get involved—whether it's joining a sports team, a club, auditioning for the school production of 'Mary Poppins' or a school trip. These are the moments where some of the best memories are made.

Parents, your partnership is invaluable. We believe in open communication, and I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact us; we are here to support both you and your child. Form tutors are your first point of contact.

Year 8 Students, Parents and Carers

I am delighted to now be officially the Head of Year 8. It is a real privilege and an honour to be taking on this role and to be working closely with such a fantastic year group.



Year 8
Mr Joyce

First and foremost, welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer. As Year 8 begins, this is an exciting time for you to build on the progress you made last year, continue to grow in confidence, and explore the many opportunities our school has to offer.

My priority as your Head of Year is to ensure that every student feels supported, challenged, and inspired to achieve their very best—both academically and personally. Year 8 is a key stage in your journey, and I am committed to helping you make the most of it. I want you all to be kind to each other and show respect at all times.

To parents and carers: thank you for the role you play in supporting your child's education. I look forward to working with you closely throughout the year so that, together, we can guide your children towards success and wellbeing.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know each of our Year 8 students and celebrating their achievements in the year ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Here's to a positive and successful year for all of Year 8! Thank you,



winchmore_secondary_school



@thisiswinchmore



@winchmoreschool

12.09.25



Year 9
Mrs Marshall

Welcome back Year 9 to a brand-new academic year!

I hope you all had a restful, enjoyable summer and are returning refreshed and ready for the exciting challenges ahead.

Year 9 marks an important stage in your Winchmore school journey — a year where you begin to make more independent choices, deepen your learning, and continue growing into the young adults

you're becoming. It's a time to build on the strong foundations you've laid in years 7 and 8, to embrace new opportunities, and to continue striving for personal and academic excellence.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible taking part in all that school life has to offer — both inside and outside the classroom. Whether it's through lessons, extracurricular clubs, school trips or other activities within the school community; this is your time to step forward, take ownership, and make this year your best yet.

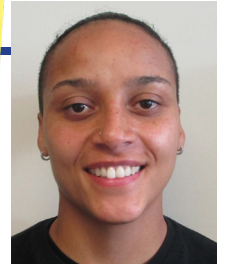
As your Head of Year, I'm here to support you every step of the way. Let's work together along with your parents and carers to make Year 9 a positive, productive, and memorable year for everyone.

Congratulations on a fantastic start in your first week back!

Welcome back year 10!

It's great to have you all back. Year 10 will bring you a fresh start, and I am genuinely excited about the journey you are about to embark on. This is an important year for you, where you will be learning and focusing on the subjects you have chosen for your GCSEs.

Year 10
Miss Baptiste



I am very excited about what you will all achieve this year. Your option choices are the first step in shaping your future, and I can't wait to see you develop your skills and knowledge in the areas you are passionate about.

This year will be challenging. There will be moments that test you, but please know that the hard work you put in now will directly lead to the results you want. The effort you invest in your studies, revision, and assignments will pay off.

Remember, we're all here to support you. Let's make this a productive and successful year.

Year 11
Mr Bulbul



Welcome back year 11!

I hope you had a restful summer and that you've come back full of energy and motivation to start your final year taking your real GCSE exams.

We have some challenging months ahead of us and the key to success is consistency, ensure that you create a revision timetable from the beginning of the year and liaising with your classroom teachers for revision hints and tips for each subject area to stay on top of the work.

If you need any help or advice or you feel overwhelmed ensure that you talk to your form tutor, Mr Newman or myself.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Please be considerate

Please be mindful whilst driving and parking near the school gates especially on Highfield Road and Firs Lane.

Be considerate and safe and treat others (neighbours, parents, staff and students) with courtesy and kindness.

Thank you.



World Car Free Day!

Monday 22nd September

World Car Free Day is an annual day to encourage drivers to leave their car at home and raise awareness of the impact of vehicles on the environment.

By taking part, you will be part of a global movement to encourage active and safe travel on the journey to school. You'll be joining children across London in celebrating the benefits of active, sustainable and independent travel.

We encourage those who need to drive to Park and Stride – where parents park their cars a distance from school and walk the last part of their journey.



CAREERS & LIBRARY SERVICES

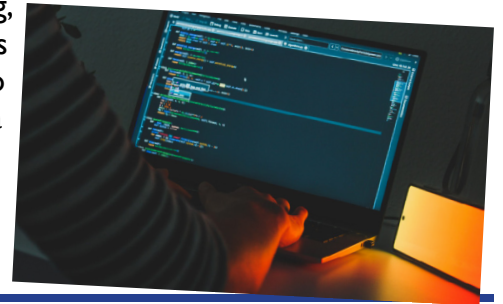


Software Engineer

Role: Designs, develops, tests, and maintains software applications and systems. They write code, debug issues, and collaborate with teams to create innovative solutions.

Expected Salary: £35,000 - £70,000+ per year.

Qualifications: A Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering, or a related field is common. Many also



enter the field through boot camps, apprenticeships, or by building a strong portfolio.

Entry Requirements: Strong problem-solving, analytical, and programming skills. A portfolio of projects is often required.

Open Days

We advise parents and carers to be aware of and monitor all career online events which students wish to access.

Access Creative College

<https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/>

Saturday 18th October – 11am–2pm

Saturday 29th November – 11am–2pm

London Screen Academy

<https://www.lsa.ac.uk/events/october-open-event>

Tuesday 7 October - 18:00

Online workshops

HSBC opportunities, taking place in October for students in year groups 7-9 (First Step) and 10-13 (Next Step). Events take place outside of school hours, making them easily accessible for all students.

FIRST STEP - Student year groups 7-9

England & Wales,

Wednesday 1st October at 4.30 pm

(virtual session hosted on Zoom)

[“Pitch for a Purpose:](#)

[Plan the Ultimate Charity Event with HSBC”](#)

A 45-minute briefing with the HSBC team
Complete the career challenge at their own pace
Certification awarded on completion
[Register now!](#) (students)

NEXT STEP - Student year groups 10-13

England & Wales

Thursday 2nd October at 5pm

(virtual session hosted on Zoom)

[“HSBC and The Nature Trust UK](#)

[- Nature Projects That Make a Difference”](#)

A 45-minute virtual briefing with the HSBC team
Complete the career challenge at their own pace
Certification awarded on completion
[Register now!](#) (students)



TARIFF SEPTEMBER 2025

Innovate IFG

DRINKS	PRICE	BREAKFAST	PRICE
Water 500ml	£1.15	Breakfast Roll	£1.55
Fruit Slush	£1.45	Mini Breakfast Baguette	£1.55
Capri Sun	£1.30	3 Piece Breakfast Pot	£2.20
Dalston Cans	£1.45	4 Piece Breakfast Pot	£2.40
Radnor 200ml Carton	£1.15	Toast with Butter or Jam	£0.35
Milk / Flavoured Carton	£1.15	Waffle with Topping	£1.70
HOMEBAKES		Pastries & Croissants	£1.70
Muffins	£1.35	Cereals + Milk (8oz)	£1.05
Small Cakes	£1.05	Porridge for Staff	£1.00
Cookies	£1.35	Porridge for Students	Free
Brownie	£1.35	Porridge Toppings	£0.50
HOT GRAB & GO		COLD GRAB & GO	
Bagel	£2.60	Chill Deal Roll	£1.15
Panini - Half/Whole	£1.55/£2.75	Deli Sub Roll/Sandwich	£2.30
Toastie - Whole	£2.30	Wrap	£2.75
Korean Crispy Chicken	£2.65	Naturally - Premium Salad	£3.00
Tandoori Chicken Naan	£3.00	Basic Baguette/Premium Baguette	£2.45/£2.75
Wrap/Twister	£2.75	Half Baguette	£1.55
Chicken Wings	£2.35	Cold Pasta Pot 16oz	£2.50
Shawarma	£2.75	Vegetable Bag	£0.75
Pizza Slice (Break Time)	£1.60	Protein Pots	£1.05
Falafel Kebab	£2.75	Salad Pots	£2.00
Hot Bowls	£2.65	Yoghurt/Jelly/Fruit Pots	£1.00
Hot Pasta Pot - Med/Lrg	£2.25/£2.50	Whole Fruit	£0.55
Jacket Potato - 1 Topping	£2.15		
ALL POWER BITES			
Range of 8oz Nutritious Rice & Noodle Dishes	£1.35		

A Gentle Reminder...

Please also ensure your ParentPay account has sufficient funds. You can top up your account at any time via the ParentPay website or app. If you wish to set a daily spend cap on your child's account please email the school office.

Free School Meals

For students who are eligible for free school meals, please be aware of the following:

- The daily allowance is £2.75.
- This allowance does not include a drink.
- The allowance is for one meal per day and can be used at either break time or lunchtime. Please note: It is not a cumulative allowance and is reset each day.

Water is freely available to all students from the drinking fountains around school.



5 DAILY MEAL DEALS

Bringing You Great Value Every Day!

CHOOSE ONE FROM

CHOOSE ONE FROM

1 MAIN MEAL
Choose from our daily changing main meals

2 12OZ PASTA POT
Daily changing sauces

3 JACKET POTATO
with 2 toppings

4 SUB ROLL
Made fresh on site daily

DESSERT OF THE DAY
OR
PIECE OF FRUIT

ALL MEAL DEALS
£ 2.75

OR

5 CHILL DEAL
CHOOSE 4
1 Filled Roll, 1 Snack Pot 4oz,
1 Small Home Bake, 1 Drink





Extra Curricular Activities

Here is the diary of the Extra Curricular Activities for next week. Lunchtime and after school activities are free of charge. There is no need to sign up to the activity, your child can just go along and join the fun!

Students should exit through the Laburnum Grove Gate if they attend an after school activity.

Monday
15th September

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library
Careers Drop In Session

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Library - After school - 3pm to 4pm
Coding Club Room 3 - 3pm to 4pm - Miss Askin
Year 10 GCSE Drama rehearsal DRI - 3 to 4pm - Mrs Kazim
Netball Club - Years 7-13 Champions Count - 3 to 4:15pm - Miss Winter
Boys Football - Years 11-13 Field - 3 to 4.15pm - Mr Patrick
Badminton - Years 7-11 Sports Hall - 3 to 4.15pm - Mr Birchell

TRIPS

Year 11 Geography field trip departs for Norfolk

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library
Careers Drop In Session

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Library - After school - 3pm to 4pm
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze and Silver) Support - Careers Office 3pm to 4pm
Mary Poppins Dance 3:15pm to 4:30pm
Mary Poppins Rehearsal ALL cast and Ensemble 3:10 to 4:45pm - HALL
Fitness Club - Years 9-11 3 to 4pm - Fitness Suite - Mr Miller
School Run - Years 9-11 3 to 4pm - Field - Mr Patrick
Table Tennis - Years 7-11 3 to 4.15pm - Gym - Mr Atu
Girls Football - Years 7-8 & 9-10 3 to 4.15pm - Field - Miss Baptiste

Tuesday
16th September

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library - After school - 3pm to 4pm

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Library - After school - 3pm to 4pm
Boys Football - Years 10 Field - 3 to 4.15pm - Aourarh

TRIPS

Year 11 Geography field trip returns

Wednesday
17th September

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library - silent reading only
Careers Drop In Session - including college application support
Year 9 Drama Booster session - 1.30pm in DR2 - Mrs Goddard

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Library - After school - 3pm to 4pm
Mary Poppins Dance 3.15pm to 4.30pm - DA1
Mary Poppins Main Cast only rehearsal - 3.10 to 4.15pm - HALL
Fitness Club - Years 9-11 3 to 4pm - Fitness Suite - Mr Miller
Basketball - Years 10-13 3.15 to 4.30pm - Sports Hall - Mr Pohl
Football - Year 8 3 to 4.15pm - Field - Mr Atu
Football - Year 7 3 to 4.15pm - Field - Mr Birchell
Guitar Club and KS3 Band in M1 - 3.15-4.15pm - Mr White



TRIPS

Dance trip to Hercules



LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES:

Library

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Targeted Yr 11 GCSE PE Boost class 3pm
Winchmore Tabletop Society Room 88 3pm to 4:30pm - Miss Davies, Mr Pohl, Mr Menda, Miss Zamora and Mr Melling
Dance Club Year 7-9 - 3.15 to 4.15pm in DA1 - Miss Smith

TRIPS

KS4 Media to Elstree Sky Up studios

WINCHMORE'S **WOW!** WORD OF THE WEEK

Synergy

Week beginning: 15th September



Word Class Noun

Meaning The interaction or cooperation of two or more organisations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

- Examples**
- The success of the school play was a result of the synergy between the actors, the stage crew, and the lighting team.
 - When the marketing and design teams worked together, their ideas created a powerful synergy that led to a successful advertising campaign.
 - In biology, the synergy of different enzymes working together allows the body to digest food efficiently.

Challenge Reflect on a time you experienced synergy in your own life, whether it was in a group project, on a sports team, or even with a family member. You need to explain how the combined effort made the final outcome better than if you had worked alone.

Winchmore School: Performing Arts Faculty

*Year 9
Drama Booster Lessons*

Thursdays @ 1.30pm

In DR2

With Mrs Goddard

Boost your Drama Skills!

Listen, Lead, and Learn Together

*Master the Art of Movement, Voice, and
Presence*

Drama Department