



WELCOME PACK



MRS GWENNAN HARRISON-JONES, EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

MISS RACHEL MATTHEWS & MR IAN HUDSON, CO-HEADS OF SCHOOL

RETURN THE REGISTRATION FORM, DOCUMENTS
AND ALL REPLY SLIPS TO CAMS HILL SCHOOL
BY MONDAY 22 MAY 2023

WELCOME TO CAMS HILL SCHOOL

We are very pleased to be able to offer your child a place to start with us in September 2023.

Our website, www.camshill.com, contains lots of information that you will find extremely useful. Your communication with us, and vice versa, is so important, especially during this transition phase, and we encourage and welcome you to be in touch with questions you may have for us to answer and provide you with reassurance. Our key priority is to ensure that your child makes the transition from primary to secondary school with minimum anxiety thus enabling them to settle in and make excellent progress right from the start.

Cams Hill School is a very special place to learn underpinned by the principles identified in four key words: **inspire, nurture, achieve** and **excel**.

AT CAMS HILL SCHOOL WE AIM TO ...

... **INSPIRE** all our pupils through challenging, engaging and enjoyable learning experiences that maximise progress, achievement, attainment and enjoyment.

... **NURTURE** and care for pupils in an environment that recognises, supports, advises and guides each and every individual. Personalised care is vital in ensuring that all pupils feel valued and are therefore able to achieve their potential.

We strive to ensure that each and every pupil is given opportunities to ...

... **ACHIEVE** to the highest possible standards. We believe that a strong, academic, educational foundation provides our pupils with the skills and attributes to progress to life *beyond* Cams Hill School with confidence and resilience.

... **EXCEL** above and beyond expectations. We are proud to challenge, stretch and encourage pupils to understand that there are no limits. We encourage them to aim high and be confident – to make mistakes, overcome obstacles and 'bounce back' in times of adversity.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Cams Hill School community and thank you in anticipation of your support over the forthcoming years.



FOLLOW US:

WWW.CAMSHILL.COM

 FACEBOOK/
CAMSHILLSCHOOL

MEET THE YEAR 7 TEAM!

The move to secondary school is an exciting and important step in every young person's life – it's a huge opportunity. Many Year 6 pupils are feeling absolutely ready for this new challenge and can't wait to get started. Others are feeling a little wobbly about leaving primary school where they have felt happy and secure. Whether your child is raring to go or nervous about going forward, the change is going to happen and we are here to support each pupil at every stage of their journey.

The tutors in Year 7 are extremely important people. They meet with pupils every day and they are the first person the pupil should approach for help with any difficulties or questions. It is the tutor's job to keep an overview of how each child in their tutor group is settling into Cams Hill School and to support them as they find their feet. They are also the person whom parents/carers should contact for day-to-day enquiries from the start of term in September. **Before** September, should you need to contact the Year 7 Team, please do so via the transition23@camshill.com email address or on **01329 231641**.



MISS SOPHIE HAYNES
HEAD OF YEAR 7



MRS JANE BRAISHER
ASSISTANT HEAD OF YEAR 7



MISS KIRSTY NEIL
ASSISTANT HEAD OF YEAR 7



BUDDIES

A group of Year 9 pupils will be carefully chosen to be 'buddies' for the Year 7 pupils. Their job is to help our new pupils settle in – they aim to help Year 7 *love* their first year at Cams Hill School and feel totally comfortable. The buddies will help Year 7 pupils to find their way around the school and to understand our routines and systems. Buddies are assigned to each tutor group and become familiar faces among the older pupils around the school, helping new pupils to feel welcome. They also help with homework, reading, assist with friendship issues, advise pupils on how to sort out minor problems, make teachers seem less scary, find lost PE kits... the list is endless!



4 MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY

SCHOOL LINKS

The Year 7 Team have already started the process by getting in touch with Year 6 teachers to find out more about our new pupils as individuals. Year 6 teachers pass on assessment information and – perhaps more importantly—tell us about pupils’ talents, passions, achievements and worries.

We use all of the information given to us by primary school teachers to create tutor groups that are completely mixed, with a good gender balance, a full range of ability and a mix of pupils from different primary schools. If primary school teachers tell us about serious issues between pupils, we try to put these pupils into different tutor groups. However, we do not take into account ‘best friends’ and do not guarantee that pupils will be placed in a group with their closest friends. Pupils will have the chance to make lots of new friends as well as meet up with other friends at break and lunch time.

ENHANCED TRANSITION

Some pupils need a little more help in making the move from primary school to secondary school. For these pupils, we run a programme of enhanced transition led by Mrs Braisher. The form this takes is personalised to the pupil and their needs.

This might be linked to:

- Special Educational Needs
- Pupil wellbeing, including anxiety about change
- Home and family circumstances
- Concerns at primary school
- Pupils who are the only person from their primary school coming to Cams Hill School in September

There are a number of ways we aim to support pupils who need that little extra help and we will do all we can to ensure that the bespoke provision we make suits the needs of the individual. Please contact us if you would like to discuss enhanced transition.

LINKS WITH HOME

We are keen to ensure that parents/carers have the opportunity to speak to us about their children and to raise issues that might affect how pupils settle in at Cams Hill School.

If there is anything you would like to talk to us about – big or small – please get in touch. This might be because you feel that your child is particularly anxious about starting at Cams Hill, has specific medical or dietary requirements, or because of a concern between pupils that your child’s primary school teachers might not necessarily know about (e.g. a serious friendship issue with a pupil who attends a different primary school). Before September you can get in touch with us via transition23@camshill.com.

TUTOR TIME

Tutors are responsible for helping the pupils in their tutor group settle into Cams Hill School and become valued members of the school community. They will make sure that pupils know the school rules and how to handle themselves well in school, whether that be through organising themselves, dealing with friendships, working with different teachers – all of the little issues that arise on starting secondary school.

If you need to get in touch with the school once term starts, your child’s form tutor should be your first point of contact for issues or concerns you would like to raise. They may deal with the issue themselves or they may pass you on to the right person. The tutor will also keep you informed and seek support from you over any day-to-day issues causing concern in school.

During tutor time, pupils will have a weekly programme of activities such as assemblies. Pupils will also participate in our programme of caring for the school environment, taking it in turns to help ensure that the school site is tidy. Our ‘Buddies’ will attend tutor time most days so that they really get to know the members of the tutor group and can assist the pupils and the tutor with routines and procedures.



ACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

One of the first things that pupils always ask us about is the 'detention system': sanctions in secondary school are different from those in primary school and therefore exercise a certain fascination.

We operate a good behaviour policy of actions and consequences that includes both rewards for the behaviour and attitude we value and impositions, where necessary, for behaviour that does not meet our expectations. These impositions include, but are not limited to lunchtime and after school detentions. If your child is issued with a detention, you will be notified. This information will give you brief details of the incident and the date, and timings of the detention. School and Department detentions are either 20 minutes or 45 minutes and the Senior Leadership Team Detention (or any build-up of detentions) are 60 minutes. 20 minute same day impositions happen at either breaktime, lunchtime or after school. The school does not require parents'/carers permission to issue impositions.

THE CURRICULUM AT CAMSHILL SCHOOL

BROAD AND BALANCED

We aim to give all of our pupils a wide-ranging and exciting timetable that includes many different subjects and skills, some of which they will never have studied before. Many pupils will be familiar with Literacy and Numeracy lessons every day at primary school and will be surprised – perhaps, at first, even a little overwhelmed – by the range of different subjects they will study in a week. This is one of the most exciting things about coming to secondary school.

Pupils will study:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- A Modern Foreign Language
- History
- Geography
- Religious Studies
- Music
- Art
- Drama
- Physical Education
- Computing/Business and ICT
- Design and Technology, which includes:
 - Product Design
 - Food and Nutrition
 - Graphics
 - Textiles

On top of the core curriculum at Cams Hill School pupils are expected to attend 10-hours of co-curricular provision (after school activities e.g clubs, PE fixtures etc) per term.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

At Cams Hill School there is a strong tradition of language learning and all pupils in Year 7 study a language.

Pupils will follow either French or Spanish.



LOOKING AHEAD TO GCSE

While this is unlikely to be a priority just yet, it is worth looking ahead to GCSE choices. Pupils currently make 'Guided Choices' in Year 9 for the subjects they will study at Key Stage 4/GCSE. We aim to support pupils to follow their passions while guiding them to make the choices of courses that will open the most doors to them for further and higher education. We also take into account guidance from the Government when designing the KS4 curriculum, which is refreshed every year to make the most of new opportunities for pupils. Currently, pupils at KS4 study a 'core' set of GCSEs, which includes English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Triple or Combined Science and Religious Studies. The 'core' also includes compulsory PE lessons. Pupils currently have three 'Guided Choices', which include a choice of History, Geography or Language for all pupils and two other choices. This is, of course, subject to change over the next three years but will give you an idea of the way the whole curriculum works as your child embarks on the first of their five years of education at Cams Hill School.

CLUBS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a huge range of activities and clubs on offer at Cams Hill School – there really is something for everyone. The programme is updated termly so pupils will have to wait and see what the timetable of clubs will be in September, but here are just a few of the clubs and activities currently on offer:

- Year 7 Choir
- Chess Club
- Coding Club
- Dance Club
- Volleyball
- Maths Homework Club
- Retro Games Club
- Badminton Club
- Concert Band
- Football Training
- KS3 Gym
- Art Enrichment



MUSIC AT CAMS HILL SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL MUSIC LESSONS

Cams Hill School has a vibrant musical life and pupils are supported to develop into confident performers and composers through excellent music learning experiences. Our dynamic Music Department teaches instrumental music, singing and music theory lessons and runs a huge range of ensemble groups, from the Show Choir to the Concert Band, as well as offering pupils the opportunity to shine in our popular musical events, for example the Christmas Concert and the Jazz Café.



Music lessons have also been proven to help develop higher order thinking skills that are essential across the curriculum and listening skills that are essential in life.

We encourage any pupil who is interested in beginning or continuing to learn a musical instrument or singing to take up the opportunity of lessons at Cams Hill School. Instrumental and singing lessons are 30-minutes long and take place in school time on a strict rotation so that pupils do not miss the same lesson on too many occasions. Pupils can expect to share the lesson with up to three pupils, although the majority of the time lessons are delivered to individuals or pairs. Pupils who are attending instrumental and/or singing lessons are expected to take part in after-school or lunch-time extra curricular activities where further instruction is given.

The cost of instrumental/singing lessons will follow at the start of the school year. **Please complete the attached form indicating which instrumental/singing lessons your child would want to take up in order to support our planning provision for the coming year.**

Instruments your child may be able to study at Cams Hill School (TBC):

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Drum Kit
- Guitar
- Euphonium/Tuba
- Trumpet
- Tenor Horn
- Cornet
- Piano
- Electric Keyboard
- Clarinet
- Flute
- Saxophone
- Voice (singing)
- Music Theory



FOOD AT GAMS HILL SCHOOL

CATERING

Our kitchen is run by the Chef Manager and his dedicated team; we produce a wide variety of delicious and nutritious food daily from our catering facility.

The food on our menu is freshly prepared on site and available from our multiple food stations offering a wide variety of snacks, Grab and Go food and main meals.

Featuring:

- Grab and Go Bar & Kiosk- Providing snacks and drinks.
- Chefs Pod (Live Cookery)- Exploring a wide variety of dishes including Stir-fry, Kebabs, Jambalaya and more....
- Wrap & Roll Sandwich Station and new Wrap & Roll Hot - Selection of breads and fillings available, made fresh to order.
- Main Counter- A variety of nutritionally balanced meals which include a selection of main options and a vegan/vegetarian choice. (Please see below for meal examples)
- Big Breakfast counter opening during morning break including our live cookery pancake bar, breakfast muffins and crumpets.
- 6 tills- which provides shorter queues and waiting time.

* We use environmentally friendly compostable disposables for our takeaway food.

MAIN MENU

We run a 3-week menu cycle on the Main Counter with a selection of hot meals served daily.

SAMPLE MEAL DEALS

- Beef Meatball Pasta served with Garlic Bread & Salad
- Piri Piri Chicken, Spicy Wedges & Sweetcorn
- Roast Beef served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Broccoli, Carrots and Gravy
- Quorn Korma with Rice & Poppadum (Vegan)
- All-Day Breakfast

(Above options all come with a selection of Potato/carbohydrate and Vegetable choices.)

The Main meal deal includes a main course and a dessert or can of water. Price tbc for Sept 2023

Alternatively, Light Lunch meal deal is also available (Sandwich, Salad or a Panini/Water/Cake)



CASHLESS CATERING

Cams Hill School operates a cashless catering system. Each child has an account that can be topped up online and can pay for items without using cash, this means shorter queues and quicker service, as well as giving parents/carers the facility to check their child's account and track their purchases of food. On our website, www.camshill.com, you will find details of how to pay online.

This system uses biometrics and a 'digital fingerprint signature'. This is not the same as a visual image of a fingerprint - whilst pupils' fingerprints are scanned, they are then converted into a mathematical algorithm and the image of the fingerprint is deleted. This means that the scanner at the till points can recognise your child's fingerprint but there is no way this information can be used for any other type of identification purposes. The information that is stored by the system is only in the form of numbers and it cannot be converted back into an image of a fingerprint. In this way, your child's fingerprint is kept totally secure and cannot be used by other agencies. The information will be deleted when your child leaves Cams Hill School.



PE AND SPORT AT CAMS HILL SCHOOL

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

PE at Cams Hill has a fantastic reputation with pupils competing regularly at local, regional and national level. Our dedicated and talented PE department run lessons, clubs and teams in almost any sport you can think of...

- Football
- Rugby
- Netball
- Handball
- Basketball
- Athletics
- Cricket
- Rounders
- Softball
- Tennis
- Cross-country
- Fitness
- Volleyball
- **... and Sports Day!**



CYCLING TO SCHOOL

Pupils' bicycles must be maintained in a safe and roadworthy condition – this is the responsibility of the parent/carer and the pupil. Periodically, bicycles will be checked for safety and parents/carers will be notified about defective bicycles.

We have lockable bike shelters at school and we make every effort to provide security for bicycles. However, bicycles are not covered under the school's insurance and we advise parents/carers to take out appropriate insurance cover. Pupils must also bring a suitable bicycle lock and take responsibility for locking their bicycle up securely each day in one of the bicycle shelters.

Pupils must wear a correctly fitted cycle helmet and must have a working white front light and a working red rear light when visibility is poor in the winter, in addition to the reflectors that are supplied with a bicycle.

In addition, we recommend that pupils also wear reflective clothing when riding their bicycle in lower visibility, particularly in the winter months.

SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT CHECK

Parents/carers must confirm that they have checked that each part of their child's bicycle is in good working order.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front tyre | <input type="checkbox"/> Rear brake | <input type="checkbox"/> Reflective clothing (e.g. material on back pack or jacket) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rear tyre | <input type="checkbox"/> Saddle | <input type="checkbox"/> Front and rear lamp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front brake | <input type="checkbox"/> Chain | <input type="checkbox"/> Reflector (on bicycle) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Gears | <input type="checkbox"/> Good quality cycle lock |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupils must also own: | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Cycle helmet | |



CAMS HILL SCHOOL UNIFORM

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Pupils at Cams Hill School wear their uniform with pride and the school expects pupils to be smartly presented. Our royal blue blazers with the school logo are recognisable in the local area and pupils represent the school while in uniform, showing the courtesy and respect to members of the public while out and about that we – and you – would expect and are proud of in our pupils.

Our school uniform is designed to be smart, practical and easily obtainable. The supplier for uniform is:

- **Skoolkit** (149 West Street, Fareham)

Uniform (except school blazer) may be purchased from alternative suppliers e.g. supermarkets or clothing shops, but **MUST** comply with the clear uniform guidance.

You can also purchase **nearly-new uniform items** from the school by contacting Main Reception and making an appointment to view.

CORRECT UNIFORM

Please refer to the website for full details

- School blazer with badge from Skoolkit – sleeves not rolled up
- School tie – four stripes visible below the knot
- White shirt, long or short sleeved, no button down collars or open necks – top button done up, tucked in at the waist
- Any T-shirt or vest worn under shirt is white and therefore invisible
- Dark Grey pleated knee length skirt
- Dark Grey trousers regular straight fit. Length to touch shoes when standing
- Plain **black (not white)** short socks (trainer socks are not permitted)
- Plain **black** tights over 40 denier
- Plain black, low-heeled shoes (max. 5cm) in sensible 'school-shoe' styles – not boot style, trainer style or fashion style.

POLISHED, SENSIBLE AND SMART SCHOOL SHOES FIT THE UNIFORM GUIDELINES.



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TRAINER-STYLE SHOES WITH CUP SOLES ARE NOT SCHOOL UNIFORM AT CAMS HILL.

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR SCHOOL

BASICS:

Pupils should always bring pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, Maths equipment etc. in their bags so they are ready for lessons.

- A lab coat for Science (white or navy) - for protection of uniform
- Apron or large, old, plain shirt for use as a cover-up in Art lessons

In addition to their everyday uniform and PE kit, pupils will also need the following **compulsory** clothing/equipment:

- PE equipment:
 - Studded boots – compulsory for rugby and football
 - Trainers with non-marking soles and shoe laces for indoor sports
 - Shin pads – essential for football and hockey
 - Gum shield (personally moulded to fit each individual child's mouth securely) – essential for rugby and hockey
- Clean, soft shoes that have not been worn outside for Drama lessons (e.g. plimsolls, clean indoor trainers)
- For Dance lessons, pupils must wear specific dance shoes or participate in bare feet.



RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND DRESS

Cams Hill is an inclusive school. The school recognises and respects the right and requirement for pupils to follow religious beliefs and practice with regard to clothing and appearance, for example, for males to wear a turban or skull cap and for females to be modestly dressed and to have the head covered with the wearing of a headscarf but not to wear a garment that covers the face.



MAKE-UP

Year 7 and 8 pupils are not allowed to wear any make-up.



DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND ICT AT CAMS HILL

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ICT AND THE INTERNET

Pupils are expected to treat others with respect at all times and to avoid doing anything that might damage the good reputation of the school, including over the Internet.

Pupils are welcome to use computers in the school ICT suites for any school or learning related activities as long as a member of staff is present. There are computers in the Library that pupils may use for homework or for printing out work.

Pupils must keep their password to the school network a secret. They should report it straight away to a member of staff if they believe that someone else is logging on pretending to be them because pupils will be held responsible for everything done on any computer logged in under their name.

Pupils may not change the ways the computers are set up and must respect the school's equipment, reporting any problems with the equipment straight away.

The Internet is provided in school for pupils to use in support of their learning. Pupils are responsible for their own good behaviour on the Internet, just as they are in a classroom, playground or corridor. They are allowed to use the Internet as part of their learning as directed by their teachers but should not use chat rooms except as part of a learning forum and must not purposely visit sites that attempt to bypass the school filtering and security systems. Pupils are not allowed to use computers to play games during lessons – this will result in the loss of access to the Internet in school for two weeks.

Using the Internet is an excellent way of researching a topic and finding information. However, pupils must be careful not to plagiarise someone else's work from the Internet by copying and pasting without identifying where the work has come from. They must not pretend that something they have found on the Internet is their own work.

The school uses Senso.Cloud software to monitor appropriate use of the Internet on school computers.



MOBILE PHONES AND DEVICES

We recognise that many parents/carers wish their child to carry a mobile phone for safety and convenience. However, Cams Hill School **does not allow mobile phones or other devices to be used during the school day**. Research proves that they can disrupt learning and lead to increased incidence of bullying.

If a pupil brings a mobile device into school, it is their responsibility to keep it **switched off, safe and out of sight**. If a pupil is seen or heard using their mobile device during the day, it will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. We will assume that any mobile device brought into school by a pupil is the property of that pupil and therefore the confiscation of the device is the sanction for the improper use of that device. **The confiscated device will be kept in the school safe for three days.**

Parents/carers will be informed that the device has been confiscated. The school has a basic mobile phone that can be lent to pupils if theirs has been confiscated and parents/carers are concerned about their safety and contactability on the way home from school. This will only be issued, by agreement, on a case by case basis.

SCHOOL EMAIL

All pupils are given a school email account. This facility is 'safe' and frequently checked. It is intended to help pupils to do school work and keep track of their homework, or to get in touch with school staff in an appropriate way.

WORKING POSITIVELY TOGETHER

A successful school needs a great relationship between school, pupils and parents/carers where everyone plays their part in a positive way.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

READY. RESPECTFUL. SAFE

Our pupils are polite, respectful, confident and friendly – they make us proud every day. Our expectations of positive behaviour are very high. We expect all pupils to:

1. **Act with courtesy and show respect towards others at all times**
2. **Show a positive attitude towards learning and work**
3. **Be proud of their work and do their best**
4. **Take pride in their appearance and wear their uniform correctly**
5. **Actively look after the environment of the school**
6. **Tell the truth and take responsibility for their own actions**
7. **Challenge themselves to excel**
8. **Be patient; Be thoughtful; Be kind**

When pupils know that they are coming to Cams Hill School, one of the first questions they always ask us is about detentions – they want to know what will happen if they step out of line. It is one of the things that is very different from most primary schools. While we do issue detentions for a range of misdemeanours, we don't want pupils to worry about these in advance.



Our best advice in any situation is to follow the **8 golden rules above**. If any pupil finds that they have managed to get themselves into trouble, particularly if this is through misunderstanding or struggling with some aspect of life in a much larger, more complicated school environment, making sure that they are honest, taking responsibility and speaking respectfully is always the best way to handle things in order to try to put things right.

Problems primarily arise if pupils try to avoid taking responsibility for their own behaviour – for example, if they have been talking in class and are told off for this, there should be no further issue if they respond with a quick 'sorry' and stop talking, whereas if they start arguing or trying to blame others, they can make the situation worse.

Teachers are ready to listen to pupils and are prepared to be patient as new Year 7 pupils adapt to life at Cams Hill. We expect our pupils to do their best to behave with maturity and rise to the occasion. Everyone who is already part of the Cams Hill School community will help them to do this.

SUPPORT FROM HOME

Support from home is vital and we know that when parents and carers support the school in its demands of honesty, courtesy, kindness, hard work and respect, pupils try so much harder to meet those high standards – and flourish so much more in school because of the efforts they make.

There are ways you can support your child in school: ensuring good attendance and punctuality; supporting self-organisation, completing homework and meeting deadlines; informing the school of any concerns or problems that might affect your child's life at school; attending parent-teacher consultation events and, finally, being prepared to discuss concerns openly and positively with school staff when necessary.

KEEPING TRACK

Pupils earn house points for all their hard work in lessons and positive behaviour around the school. These credits allow pupils, parents and teachers to keep track of how well they are doing. House points count towards rewards and recognition – pupils may earn awards, be invited to afternoon tea with the Year 7 Team or even to **#hotchocFriday** with the Headteacher. There is serious competition between tutor groups to earn the most credits as a team!

We use an app to record and reward pupils' behaviour, attitude to learning, effort and contributions to the school community. When your child joins the school, you will be sent a letter with a personalised log in code for the app and we ask all parents/carers and pupils to sign up. If you sign up for the app, which is suitable for Android or Apple devices, you will be able to see in real time when your child is given a house point. It will also allow you to see any negative points that your child incurs in class or around the school so that you can get a very clear picture of both positives and negatives and be kept fully up to date with events from daily school life.





HOMEWORK

Homework is also set through the app, which means that you and your child will be able to see online what homework has been set and when that work is due to be handed in to their teachers. Teachers post details of the work to be completed together with copies of resources such as worksheets, power points from lessons and weblinks to information or explanations, helping to avoid those 'I don't know what I've got to do!' conversations. Teachers also give an estimate of how long the homework is expected to take – if you find that your child is regularly taking much longer than the specified time or is rattling through the work very quickly, please get in touch to let the teacher know about this.

Learning to organise themselves to complete homework on time and hand it in to the right person on the right day is one of the early challenges of secondary school for many pupils. As a rule of thumb, pupils should receive one or two pieces of homework per day and should not be given homework to be completed overnight for the next day; this means that they should be able to plan ahead around family life and hobbies. Some homework pieces will take longer than others and not all subjects set homework weekly. Because we set homework that is intended to enhance and extend the learning from lessons, rather than setting homework for homework's sake, there will not always be a perfectly regular load of homework and some weeks may be busier than others. Pupils will rapidly learn to cope and if they are struggling, their tutors will be ready to help them to organise themselves.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK AT GAMS HILL SCHOOL

Assessment is an important tool in supporting pupils' learning. Teachers constantly assess pupils' learning and their access of the curriculum through a variety of formal and informal methods. Teachers modify and adapt their teaching as a result of what they assess about pupils' current knowledge and skills.

At Cams Hill School, we have an evidence informed approach to different forms of marking and feedback and their impact on pupils' progress. The findings of research in this area suggest that high quality verbal feedback has just as much impact as written feedback when helping pupils to move forward: we use what we see in pupils' work to plan for the next steps in their learning, both within and across lessons.

In some subjects, feedback may be predominantly verbal and 'live', given on the work pupils are doing in lesson at the time they are doing it. Sometimes, teachers may collect and review work completed in order to identify any misconceptions, as well as the knowledge and skills which have been demonstrated. Time can then be used to plan future learning experiences, rather than producing written comments on pupils' work. Other strategies that teachers may use include, but are not limited to: low-stakes tests; multiple choice questions; discussions with individuals on ways to improve their work; feedback to the whole class on work completed; setting group tasks that address areas of difficulty or stretch and challenge those who have completed the core learning; listening to pupils reading aloud or presenting their work verbally; using planned questions to assess pupils' understanding in class; using codes or symbols to link to personalised targets – as well as, of course, marking assessment work and providing written feedback on carefully selected key pieces. Where pupils have completed notes, practice tasks or skills – building activities in their exercise books, it is likely that these will not receive written feedback from their teacher. This does not mean that their teacher does not look at or does not value their work. Awarding of points is also used to recognise effort and achievement.



Parents need to be aware that there may be limited written feedback from teachers in some exercise books but be reassured that pupils are given useful feedback in other ways.

The most important thing is that pupils and teachers know what the pupils are doing well and what they need to do to improve; crucially, teachers need to plan the teaching of next steps for pupils to ensure that they are able to make good progress. Information from teachers' assessments of pupils' learning is shared with parents in a variety of ways; please see the information on Reporting to Parents/Carers for more information.

REPORTING TO PARENTS/CARERS

We know that parents/carers are always keen to know how pupils are settling in at school and hope for regular checks of their child's progress. During the year there will be a number of progress checks and opportunities for you to meet with your child's tutor and teachers:

- **Attitude to Learning** – During the Autumn Term, pupils will receive a review that reports on the attitude to learning they have shown so far to give an early indication of how they have settled in.
- **Year 7 'Settling In' and Learning Support Parents' Evening** – Parents/carers are invited to an early Parents' Evening just for Year 7 in the Autumn Term. This is a chance to meet your child's tutor and discuss how they are settling in at school plus any early successes or concerns.
- **Year 7 Parents' Evening** – The main Parents' Evening will be an opportunity to meet with all your child's teachers and discuss with them how your child is getting on. Each appointment will be for five minutes; if you feel that you need a longer conversation with a particular teacher, you will be able to make a follow-up appointment for a more in-depth conversation at another time. The school uses an online booking system for Parents' Evenings .
- **Year 7 Assessment Reports** – two assessment reports across the year will be sent to you containing information on the progress and attitude to learning of your child.

TRAJECTORIES

At KS3, we use a system of 'trajectories' to track pupils' progress in each subject, mapping out progression from KS2 through to GCSE. This supports teachers in planning for individual pupils and in setting precise targets for improvement of individual skills.

These trajectories are numbered 1-5, with 5 being the highest. This trajectory gives an indication of the grade your child is likely to reach at GCSE if they continue at their current rate of progress and effort.

T5 generally leads to grades 7-9

T2 generally leads to grades 3-4

T4 generally leads to grades 6

T1 generally leads to grades 1-3

T3 generally leads to grades 5

WT1 working towards T1

ATTITUDE TO LEARNING	
O	Outstanding – pupil consistently goes above and beyond to complete all work, is fully engaged, is keen to improve and acts upon all feedback given.
G	Good – pupil completes all work to a good standard, is consistently engaged and acts upon all feedback given.
S	Satisfactory – pupil completes work to an acceptable standard, does not disrupt lessons and will act on feedback.
I	Inconsistent – pupil completes some work, but leaves other tasks unfinished, is sometimes engaged, but also spends time off-task and does not respond effectively to feedback.
U	Unsatisfactory – pupil does not arrive to lessons on time or properly equipped, will not complete work set or act on feedback.
ABS	Absent – pupil has been absent from school/lessons – unable to comment at this time.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

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We are keen to keep in touch with you! Letters are sent home via email using an automated system and we can also contact you easily by text or telephone call. In the unlikely event of an emergency where we have to close the school, you will be notified by text and email.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL THAT WE HAVE YOUR UP-TO-DATE CONTACT DETAILS.

We ask you to give us as many contact phone numbers as possible for use in an emergency: we like to have your home phone, your mobile number and your work number plus the number for an additional trusted person (e.g. a grandparent or other relative) whom we can contact if we are unable to reach you for any reason. We also need your correct **home address** and **email address**. Don't forget to let us know straight away if you change any of your details for any reason.

If you need to update your contact details, please email the changes to **office@camshill.com**, giving the names and tutor groups of each of your children.

CONTACTING US

If you need to get in touch, you can contact us via the **office@camshill.com** email address, which will then be forwarded to the relevant member of staff. You can use this system to get in touch with teachers, tutors and the Year Teams.

DON'T HAVE EMAIL?

If you do not have access to email, your child can collect a paper copy of any letter sent home.

PROBLEMS WITH EMAIL?

If you realise that you are not receiving school emails, this may be because your Internet service provider considers emails from us to be spam and filters these out. This is because we send out emails in bulk. As a first step, check other folders in your email account such as 'Junk Mail', 'Bulk Mail', 'Filtered Mail' and 'Spam'. You should double-check these folders regularly. You should also add our school email address and Groupcall email address to your contacts to ensure your Internet Service Provider recognises the email address. These email addresses are **office@camshill.com** and **8505416@grouppcallalert.com**.

You should receive our Weekly Message every Friday afternoon by email. If you do not receive this, please contact the school by email to **office@camshill.com**.

GIVING US YOUR DETAILS – REGISTRATION FORM

We have sent separately a registration form that you will need to fill in and send back to us as soon as possible. Please give us as much detail as possible on this form, including all of your up to date contact details. Please try not to leave any parts of the form blank. On the front of the form, there are spaces for you to fill out your child's legal surname (as shown on their birth certificate or changed by deed poll – **you have to send in a photocopy of these documents with the form**) plus a space for you to enter their preferred surname. We aim to send out all correspondence under the child's preferred surname – if you receive any correspondence under your child's legal surname but would like to change this to a different surname for day-to-day purposes, please contact us via **office@camshill.com**. Note: exam certificates will be issued under legal surnames only.

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A LITTLE EXTRA HELP...

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are in receipt of one or more of the following, your child might be eligible for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods.

Application for free school meals is all done online at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>. There is also a link to this page from our school website, www.camshill.com.

If you do not have access to the internet or are finding it difficult to apply, please call us and we will help you.

TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

Children entitled to Free School Meals or whose parent/carer is in receipt of the MAXIMUM level of Working Tax Credit, may receive **travel assistance** if the child is attending any of the 3 nearest qualifying schools for their primary home address, and the distance from home to school is between 2 miles and 6 miles. If entitlement to the maximum level of Working Tax Credit or free school meals ceases during the academic year, **free school transport** will continue to be provided until the end of the academic year.

All the information and the link to the online form can be found at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport>

THINK YOU MIGHT BE
ELIGIBLE BUT NEED
SOME HELP?

WE'LL HELP.

CALL US ON
01329 231641

OR EMAIL
OFFICE@
CAMSHILL.COM

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

CONTACT US:

Cams Hill School
Shearwater Avenue
Fareham
Hants
PO16 8AH

01329 231641
Reception is open 08.00-15:45
(Tuesdays 08.00-15.15)

www.camshill.com
office@camshill.com

TERM DATES 2023-2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Thursday 1 September
Monday 23 October - Friday 27 October – Half Term
Monday 30 October – Back to school
Friday 15 December – Last day of term
Monday 18 December - Monday 1 January – Holiday

SPRING TERM 2024

Tuesday 2 January – Back to school
Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February – Half Term
Monday 19 February – Back to school
Thursday 28 March – Last day of term
Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April – Holiday

When you email us, please identify who you would like the email to reach in the subject line (e.g. 'FAO Head of Year 7').

*Please note that if you are asking for an email response that is personalised for your child rather than for general information, we may need to contact you to confirm your identity before we reply to your specific query. Once you have given us your email address on your registration form, this will no longer be an issue.

SUMMER TERM 2024:

Monday 15 April – Back to school
Monday 6 May – Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May – Half Term
Monday 3 June – Back to school
Tuesday 23 July – Last day of term

*We will inform parents/carers of INSET Days as soon as they are confirmed.

You can download a copy of the school terms and holiday dates at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schoolholidays>

SUMMER ACTIVITIES WEEKS

24-28 JULY 2023

21-25 AUGUST 2023

09.30-15.30

£35 FOR A DAY

£150 FOR A WEEK

£275 FOR TWO WEEKS



We will be running our annual Summer Activities Weeks for children who will be starting Year 7 at Cams Hill School in **September 2023**.

Our Activities Weeks are a fantastic way for children to build their confidence before starting at Cams Hill. They will find their way around the school site, meet some of their teachers-to-be, get to know each other and make friends with pupils from other primary schools.

As with previous years, we anticipate that places will fill quickly so a swift reply is advised, using the request form that will be sent to you separately.

Children can be dropped off at school from **0830** each day, with activities starting from **0930** and concluding at **1530**. Please note that **0830 - 0930** and **1530 - 1600** will be supervised time during which children may arrive and depart but there will be no activities offered during this time.

Example Day (each day will be different and the programme is subject to change):

08.30-09.30* Arrival at Cams Hill School

09.30-10.30 Session 1 - Rounders

10.30-11.30 Session 2 - Art

11.30-11.45 Break

11.45-12.45 Session 3 - Cooking

12.45-13.45 Session 4 - Puzzle Solving

13.45-14.15 Lunch

14.15-15.30 Session 5 - Football

15.30-16.30* Departure

If this is something you would like your child to be involved in, please complete the request form by **Friday 9 June 2023**. When places are secured, specific information will be sent to you separately nearer the time. If you would like further information, please contact the school on **01329 231641** or email **transition23@camshill.com**

