



Students Section

Dear Student,

This week we'd like to introduce you to our Year 7 Team.



Mr Hamblin: 7T3
sam.hamblin@swale.at

My name is Mr Hamblin and I am the Head of Computing and also teach Science. To relax I enjoy playing football and spending time with my family exploring new places.

I also run a code club which will include various projects throughout the year. I look forward to getting to know you all.



Mr Ball: 7T2
cullum.ball@swale.at

Hi year 7 - my name is Mr Ball and I teach science. This is my second year at PCS, and my first year having a year 7 mentor group.

I'm very excited about welcoming you all in and guiding you through your time here at PCS. See you in September!



Mr Cavallaro: 7T3
Contact details will be shared in September

Hi Y7, my name is Mr. Cavallaro and I teach Modern Foreign Languages. I mainly teach Spanish and I am fluent in Italian and French too.

Previously I have studied social psychology and worked in care and recruitment. My hobbies are travelling, foreign culture, yoga and volleyball. I am looking forward to meeting you all in September and welcoming at PCS.

I'm very excited about being part of your journey in secondary education.



Ms Osborne: 7T4
martha.osborne@swale.at

Hi Year 7, I am Ms Osborne. I teach English to all of our year groups (KS3-KS4) here at PCS. Sometimes I can be seen teaching other subjects such as Humanities, Literacy, Religious Studies and PSHE.

I also run the Anime, board game and film club here at PCS, if this is something that interests you do come along and say "Hi"!

This is my third time being a Year 7

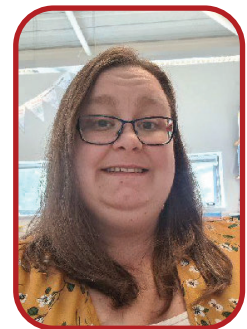
mentor here at PCS and I can't wait! I love helping and supporting students in gaining confidence and pride in their work.



Mr Ogborne: 7T5
steve.ogborne@swale.at

I am Mr. Ogborne. I am a Computer Science teacher & I have been teaching for 13 years. I have also taught Electronic Products and Engineering in my previous teaching Jobs. I have been working at PCS for 4 years.

I have not always been a teacher and spent many years working in the Electronics industry before teaching. Outside of work I have many hobbies but the main ones are building & drones as well as cycling.



Miss Dowling: 7T6
charlotte.dowling@swale.at

Hi Year 7, I am Miss Dowling and this is my 8th year at PCS and my 8th year as a Year 7 mentor. I am a Maths teacher but I am also the Assistant SENDCo. You'll see me popping into your lessons all year and I'm really looking forward to seeing you all shine!



Mr Myson: 7T7
peter.myson@swale.at

Dear 7T7, it was a pleasure to meet you all before the summer holidays. It was great to hear all of your interests and hobbies. I'm really looking forward to being your mentor during your time at PCS.

We have so many opportunities ahead of us and I'll be there with you every step of the way. I hope you all have a great summer break; stay safe and enjoy yourselves and I look forward to welcoming you back in at the start of September energised and ready to make the most of your time at PCS.



Mr Kidd: 7T8
adam.kidd@swale.at

Hello Year 7, I am Mr Kidd. This is my third year teaching at PCS: I did part of my teacher training here and loved the school so much I applied for a job when a position became available. I hope you will all love being at this school too!

I am an English teacher now, but before deciding to switch to teaching I worked in music, having

studied Fine Art, and later the Music Industry, at university.

I also run the Pokemon Club after school, so come join us if you're a fan or interested in Pokemon

Transition

Dear PCS student,
I am really excited about coming to PCS and it was good to meet my tutor, but I forgot to ask the following question. I wondered if you could answer it for me?

What kinds of rewards do you have at PCS?

Year 6, Peacehaven

Dear Year 6 student,

Thank you for your question. You'll be pleased to know that we have lots of rewards at PCS. Here's just a few examples:

1. Teachers give achievement points for doing excellent classwork and homework, for demonstrating any of the PCS core values, for being organised and for having excellent attendance. Achievement points will build up and we have an achievement point shop where you can spend your points. This week loads of Year 7s bought footballs!

2. There's also a 'Student of the Week' award. This is awarded every week in the Year 7 assembly or our personal development session. An award will be given to a student in each mentor group who has done something above and beyond what is expected or consistently demonstrating one or more of our core values; respect, resilience, rigour, representation and reliability.

3. Attendance is also very important and students are awarded 5

achievement points every week if they have 100% attendance. You can also receive 5 bonus achievement points for perfect punctuality.

4. Also, Mrs McCaughan and Mrs Fernee organise reward trips for Year 7 students. They normally organise trips to the cinema and Thorpe Park. Only students who have a good behaviour record and excellent attendance are invited.

5. Finally, you'll have regular celebration assemblies and they are an opportunity to share positive news about the Year group. Teachers do 'shout outs' about their classes, clubs, teams & individuals. Lots of students get mentioned and many get certificates for being involved in school events.

I hope this answers your question and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Regards,
C Year 7

Recommended Reading



"So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall."

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,
Roald Dahl

Summer is here so time to get your reading sorted! Check out the link to our KS3 recommended reading list below:

Key Stage 3 Recommended Reading List 2024



Learning Assistants

As well as having your teacher for each lesson, you will often see some of us in your classrooms. We are Learning Assistants and that is exactly what we do - we help you with your learning by giving you extra support.

Some of us will also be in your mentor groups, so you will get to know us very well, and we are looking forward to getting to know you too.



Ms Hollings



Ms Sydorova



Ms Latter



Ms Romero



Ms Baker



Ms Goodey



Ms Jenkins



Mr Phillips

Even if you already receive FSM at your Primary school we are asking parents to reapply at the above link to ensure that your child's FSM is immediately available when they start year 7.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

Children in Year 3 and above may get free school meals if their parents or carers get any of these benefits:

- **Universal Credit - GOV.UK** (with an annual household income below £7,400 after tax, not including other benefits).
- **Income Support - GOV.UK**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) - GOV.UK**
- **Income-based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) - GOV.UK**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 - GOV.UK**
- **The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit - GOV.UK**
- **Child Tax Credit - GOV.UK** (with an annual household income less than £16,190).
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit). Anyone who gets Working Tax Credit itself, won't get free school meals.

Please check your eligibility, and direct any queries to the above links.

Thank you.

Parent Corner

Important information regarding Free School Meals

Access to free school meals has significantly expanded in recent years. We want to ensure that every child who is entitled to Free School meals (FSM) receives them.

We would like to encourage all parents/carers who think they might be eligible to apply via the following link:

[Free school meals | East Sussex County Council](#)



Taster Days

It was wonderful to meet your child during the taster days.

Hopefully they all had an enjoyable time and have started to get a feel of what secondary school is like.

However, we do know that a big concern for students is not being in the same group as their best friend.

If your child is worrying about this, reassure them that they will have loads of opportunities to see their primary school friends at break and lunchtime.

Additionally, students won't always be with the same group of students; they will be in different groups for their practical, maths, English and humanities lessons.

Hopefully this will give them the chance to mix with even more students and make positive connections.

We are also aware that it's not just students who might struggle with the change from primary to secondary school.

Research shows that the transition can potentially be as difficult for parents as it is for their children.

The move brings lots of change, such as different teachers for each subject, bigger buildings, new travel arrangements, unfamiliar

environments and mixing with new pupils.

Studies suggest that when students are supported well, it increases attendance, academic progress, school engagement, confidence and self-esteem, and decreases symptoms of anxiety.

This is good news as you can help with this, and all of the staff at PCS will be keen to help make this transition as smooth as possible.

So What Can You Do?

1) New experiences, coupled with your feelings about leaving your child in a new place, can be stressful.

It is normal and acceptable to feel anxious as a parent/carer, but it is important not to pass these feelings on to your child.

Support your child and encourage them to keep in touch with their group of friends.

2) Talk about up and coming change with your child and approach transitions in a positive and exciting way.

Help your child express their feelings, worries and emotions about the change and acknowledge their feelings.

Encourage them to contact their mentor to let them know what their worries are.

3) Watch the video from Young Minds on YouTube and discuss its content.

It reassures children that they're not alone when it comes to their worries about secondary school, that there are ways to cope with change and there are people to talk to when things get difficult.

The video can be found at:



Find Your Feet Schools Resource

This is the last edition of our 'countdown to PCS', we hope that you have found the newsletters useful.



Please keep checking the website for any updates or important information.

Also, don't forget to email your mentor if you or your child has any further worries or questions; contact details can be found earlier in this newsletter.

We wish all our families a happy and healthy summer break.

Year 7 Team