



Dear Parent/Carer,

Many thanks to those of you who joined the New Intake meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> or supported your child to come to one of the afternoon transition activities. The Induction Booklet, which the students used on July 6<sup>th</sup> is on the school website. Hopefully, all of your questions have now been answered but, if you do still have queries, please don't hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or company leader.

I am delighted to write to you to again with a further update ahead of the summer break. As ever, I really do appreciate you reading the information below carefully so you are as informed as possible in advance of September.

Joining team Durrington:

As you are aware, we have a real focus on developing the whole student at Durrington. Our recognition and rewards system, based on our core KAPP values (Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride) is hugely popular and to this end we have launched an Aspiration challenge for this summer. All students (including our new year 7) are encouraged to get involved. Please see the attached PDF for further details.

Start of term

Start of term will be on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> when we look forward to seeing our new students for their orientation morning. Students should arrive at the front of school from 10.40am ready for a formal start at 11am. They should come to the front entrance where staff will direct them to their company form rooms. Both the Boulevard and Rodmell Road gates will be open. The day will finish at 1 pm so there will be no break or canteen service. Students should bring a snack or drink if they need one. Students will need to attend in full uniform and bring their equipment. There is no need to bring PE kit. Please remember that skirts must be the Banner A-line skirt and shoes should be formal as per the uniform lists.

On Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, new year 7 students should arrive from 9.20am onwards. They should go directly to their form rooms for a formal start at 9.30am. Students will finish at 3.10pm. Canteen service will be available in the Pavilion, for year 7s only, at break and lunchtime. PE kit will only be required if they are timetabled for PE during lessons 5 or 6 on the Monday.

Communications and School Systems

You have already been sent an invite to join Parentmail (<https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk>). If you already have an account, either due to an older sibling or with primary school, you will not have been sent a link. On Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, your child will automatically be added to your existing account or the primary school will automatically update to Durrington High School. Please make sure you accept the invite before the start of term as this will support your child in accessing the school catering from Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Durrington High School uses Arbor as part of its management system. We use Arbor to enable you to access and update contact information, view your child's attendance and timetable, manage homework and for email communications. You will receive information on accessing Arbor shortly after this letter. Please follow the instructions detailed within the email to setup your account for the first time.

Once you are registered, to sign in to Arbor please follow the steps indicated below:

1. Go to <https://login.arbor.sc/>
2. We then suggest bookmarking this in your browser/adding a tile/shortcut on your phone or device's home screen.
3. Lastly, complete your personal login details on the left of the page.

Should you experience an issue logging into Arbor, accessing ParentMail or require additional support, please contact the DMAT IT Services team on [support@itservices.dmat.education](mailto:support@itservices.dmat.education) for further guidance.

### Getting ready for the new term

Each year, we get questions from parents and carers regarding what they can be doing, during the summer break, to help their children be ready for September. The two areas which help most are reading and numeracy.

Reading is an important skill, helping students get the most out of their learning but also enabling them to see the world from many perspectives, learning about events from history and imagining many possible futures. Especially at times like this, reading is a doorway, an escape and a chance to broaden horizons in an easy way. If you would like to see what we have available to our students at Durrington, do take a moment to look through our web catalogue where you can browse what we have on our shelves. The link is <https://uk.accessit.online/drr01/#!dashboard> Anyone can browse the catalogue there and it also has reading lists available. Mrs Baker, our LRA Manager, is always happy to help with any queries or advice needed when trying to find the right book for the right reader. We know that readers succeed and every student should have the same chance as the others to find the book that opens doorways for them.

I have also attached a Maths Transition Booklet, which is from the same source as the maths homework which year 7 will be doing from September should you want your child to be a little more 'secondary ready'.

Once again, we look forward to welcoming you to Team Durrington.

Regards,

Naomi Bridgeman-Sweeney (Transition Lead)