



Westcliff High School for Boys

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL



Year 7 Curriculum and Parent Information Guide

Welcome to Year 7

Welcome to Year 7 at WHSB. The transition from primary school to secondary education is an exciting milestone and marks the beginning of a stimulating and rewarding academic journey.

As a high-performing grammar school, we aim to foster intellectual curiosity, resilience, independence and a love of learning. Across all subjects, pupils will be encouraged to think critically, challenge themselves and engage fully with the many opportunities available both inside and outside the classroom.

Parents play a vital role in supporting success. We encourage you to:

- Check planners and homework regularly
- Encourage reading and independent study
- Discuss what has been learned in lessons
- Support participation in clubs, competitions and enrichment activities
- Promote excellent organisation and preparation for school

Helping Your Son Succeed at WHSB

The most successful pupils typically:

- Read regularly and widely
- Complete homework on time
- Review classwork frequently
- Participate in clubs, societies and competitions
- Seek help when they need it
- Take pride in their organisation and presentation



English

What will pupils study?

The Year 7 English curriculum is centred around the theme of Heroes and Villains, designed to develop both enthusiasm for literature and core analytical skills. Pupils will study a range of texts and learn how writers create characters, themes and ideas.

Key Topics

Autumn Term: Odyssey (Homer)

- Study of Seamus Heaney's translation of Beowulf
- Introduction to literary analysis
- Developing arguments and using contextual knowledge
- Reading and discussion of literature aloud in class
- Developing creative writing skills
- Understanding effective story structure through Freytag's model
- Drawing inspiration from texts including Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings



Spring Term: Julius Caesar

- Introduction to Shakespeare
- Understanding verse and prose
- Exploring Elizabethan context
- Developing analytical and essay-writing skills
- Learning persuasive techniques through Aristotle's Rhetorical Triangle
- Including newspaper articles, letters and travel writing

Summer Term: An Inspector Calls

- Exploring themes of class, generation and social responsibility
- Introduction to ideas surrounding socialism and capitalism
- Further development of analysis and evaluation skills
- Creative opportunities to write additional scenes and alternative endings

Assessment

Pupils complete one assessment each half term, alternating between English Literature and English Language. Assessments focus on:

- Literary analysis and essay writing
- Narrative writing
- Persuasive writing
- Application of literary knowledge and understanding

Homework

Two homework sessions are allocated each week. These tasks reinforce classroom learning and support the development of independent study habits. One will be a revision task set on Microsoft Teams, however a list can be found in pupils' exercise booklets.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Creative Writing Club
- Young Writers Competition
- Young Poets Competition
- Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition
- Educational visits and trips

How Parents Can Help

- Encourage regular reading
- Discuss books and ideas with your son
- Monitor homework completion
- Promote wider reading beyond the curriculum



Mathematics

What will pupils study?

Year 7 Mathematics develops fluency, problem solving and reasoning across a broad range of topics.

Topics Include

- Number Skills
- Equations and Formulae
- Algebraic Equations
- Perimeter, Area and Volume
- Sequences and Graphs
- Fractions
- Angles and Shape
- Ratio
- Decimals
- Data Investigation
- Probability

Assessment

Pupils complete:

- Baseline Assessment (September)
- Synoptic Assessments (January)
 - One calculator paper
 - One non-calculator paper
- End of Year Examinations
 - One calculator paper
 - One non-calculator paper
- Key Skills tests every two weeks through the Mental Maths Maestro programme

Homework

Two homework sessions each week:

- One task on Dr Frost Maths
- One teacher-set task, which may include written work or revision

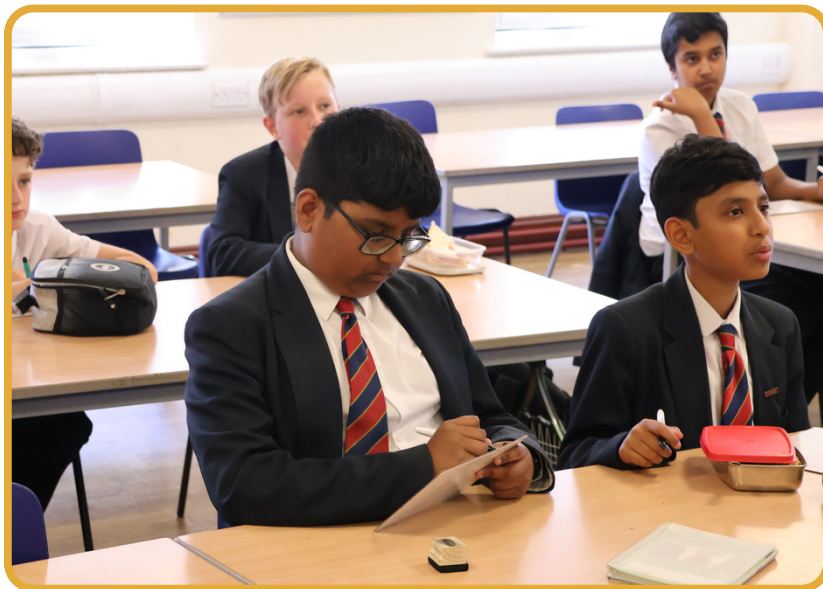
The Dr Frost Maths homework requires a minimum pass mark of 70%.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Junior Mathematical Challenge
- Gauss Group Mathematics Society
- Pi Day Activities
- Countdown Club
- Maths Help Club

How Parents Can Help

- Ensure your son has a Casio FX-83GT CW or FX-85GT CW calculator
- Encourage mathematical thinking in everyday situations
- Ask your son to explain his methods and reasoning
- Build confidence and celebrate perseverance when tackling challenging problems



Science

What will pupils study?

Year 7 Science introduces pupils to Biology, Chemistry and Physics through six major topics.

Topics Include

- Cells: The Building Blocks of Life
- Eating, Drinking and Breathing
- Mixing, Dissolving and Separating
- Elements, Compounds and Reactions
- Forces and Their Effects
- Energy Transfers and Sound

Practical investigations are an important part of the course and help pupils develop scientific thinking, observation and evaluation skills.

Assessment

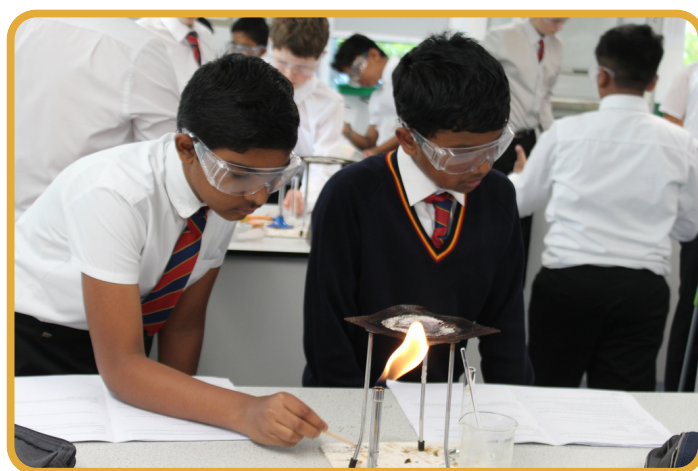
Assessment takes several forms:

- Baseline Assessment
- Tests
- End of Year Examination
- Practical Lab Reports
- Research Tasks
- Comprehension Activities

Homework

Pupils have two homework sessions each week, including:

- Assessed homework tasks
- Practical follow-up activities
- Revision exercises
- Independent research tasks



Enrichment Opportunities

- Science Help Club
- British Science Week
- Step into NHS Competition
- Opportunities to mentor younger pupils through Science Help Club

How Parents Can Help

- Discuss scientific ideas learned in lessons
- Encourage curiosity about the world around them
- Support regular revision and review of classwork
- Monitor organisation and homework completion
- Encourage use of resources such as BBC Bitesize and textbook questions

Modern Foreign Languages

What will pupils study?

All Year 7 pupils study two modern foreign languages.

Language Combinations

- X Band: French and Spanish
- Y Band: French and German
- Z Band: German and Spanish

Pupils use Pearson Edexcel resources and online platforms including ActiveHub and Quizlet. Learning focuses on:

- Vocabulary acquisition
- Grammar
- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Translation skills

Assessment

Assessment includes:

- Baseline Assessment
- Vocabulary Tests
- Grammar Tests
- End of Module Assessments
 - Speaking
 - Writing
 - Translation
- End of Year Examinations
 - Listening
 - Reading
 - Translation



Homework

Homework may include:

- Vocabulary learning
- Grammar practice
- Listening activities
- Reading activities
- Corrections and improvements to previous work

Enrichment Opportunities

- Anthea Bell Prize
- Have Your Say Competition
- The Spelling Bee
- Stephen Spender Prize
- Mother Tongue Other Tongue
- Cultural projects
- Latin Club
- Language mentoring led by older pupils

How Parents Can Help

- Encourage regular practice at home
- Test vocabulary and grammar
- Support positive attitudes towards language learning
- Encourage pupils to seek help when needed
- Celebrate effort and progress

Physical Education

What Will Pupils Experience?

Physical Education and Games play a central role in school life and contribute significantly to pupils' physical wellbeing, teamwork, resilience and leadership skills. Pupils participate in a range of activities throughout the year and have opportunities to represent the school in competitive sport.

Kit Requirements

PE Kit

- Vest/T-Shirt
- Shorts
- White socks
- Non-marking trainers
- Optional WHSB t-shirt (indoor use during autumn and winter)

Games Kit

- Rugby shirt
- Shorts
- Rugby socks
- Rugby boots
- Gumshield for rugby
- Shin pads for football

Extra-Curricular Sport

Training opportunities are available:

- Before school
- At lunchtime
- After school

Pupils may be selected to represent the school in fixtures during the week and on Saturdays, including county and national competitions.

Communication and Fixtures

- Fixture information is made available through EVOLVESports
- The sports calendar is available through the school website
- Pupils are expected to communicate sporting commitments to parents
- Commitment to teams and fixtures is highly valued

How Parents Can Help

- Ensure the correct kit is available and clearly named
- Encourage commitment to training and fixtures
- Support punctuality and organisation
- Discuss sporting commitments and fixture arrangements regularly



Please follow Westcliff High School for Boys on Facebook and LinkedIn where you can find out about the latest developments, events and vacancies at the School.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Tel: 01702 475443 Email: office@whsb.essex.sch.uk Web: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk

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