

Year 7 Parents' Social and Information Evening 2018



The core values of DWS:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Honesty

Welcome



Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for taking the time to come into the School this evening. We aim to ensure the transition between primary and secondary school is as smooth as possible for every child. Our specialist facilities, larger number of pupils, staff and subjects mean that this next phase of education is exciting and full of opportunities but can also be daunting at first. Parents, as well as their children, can find it takes a while to adjust.

Our Year 6 induction day, parents' evening and information distributed in the summer aimed to help you prepare your child for a successful start at Darrick Wood. We hope the additional information in this booklet is also helpful.

In our experience, organisation and time management skills are vital to make the most of secondary school. Children can need help with this so we prioritise getting to know each individual pupil as quickly as we can.

By introducing you to other parents and to key staff this evening we aim to involve you in a well connected and cohesive school community which works together to help each child make the most of the education we provide. I hope you enjoy the evening.

Dr M J Airey

Head Teacher

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The Year 7 Pastoral Team

This is the Year 7 pastoral team who are working closely with your son or daughter's year group this year. The form tutor is always the first point of call if you have any concerns or wish to pass on some information

Mr Wright 7XB	Miss Stott 7XF	Ms Edean 7XL	Mr Anthony 7XS	Miss Tibbs 7XW
				
Mr Lebreuilly 7YC	Miss Hudson 7YD	Ms Heather & Mrs Philbrick 7YH	Miss Patel 7YM	Mrs Clark 7YP
				

Mr Addien Achievement Coordinator	Miss White Assistant Achievement Coordinator	Mr Cozens Assistant Head Teacher	Mr Heath Deputy Head Teacher
			

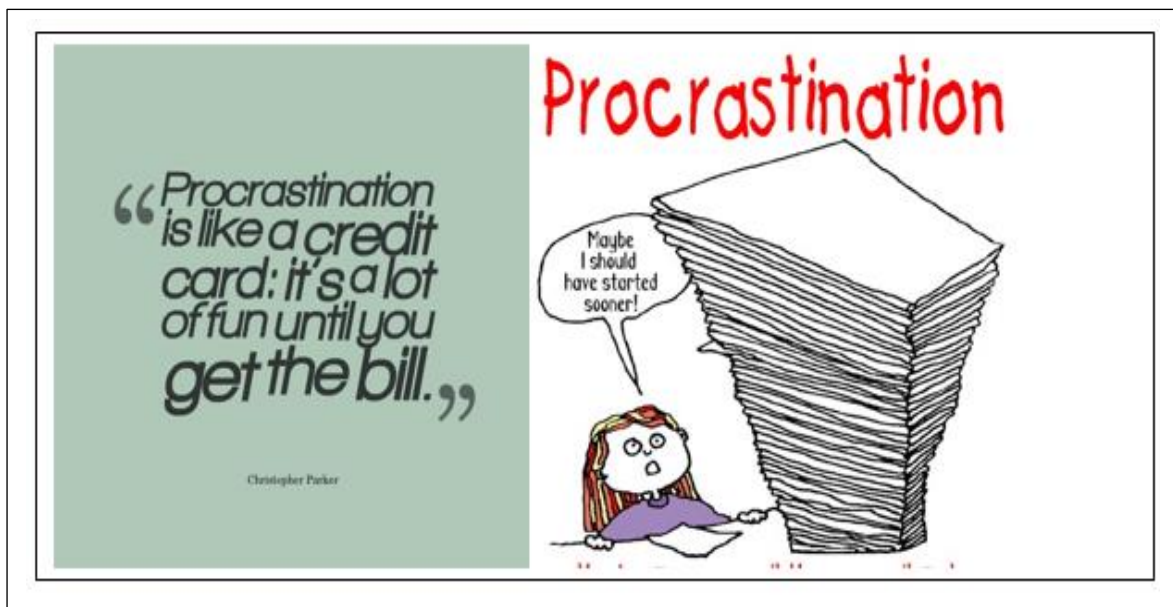
How to use the planner effectively

The planner is key to successful organisation as well as an important communication tool. Pupils must record their homework in the section of the planner on the date it is set. They need to write down what the homework is and when it is due in. They should tick off each homework once completed. On the day it is due in they can also use the 'Remember' box to remind themselves what they need to bring in. Form Tutors have explained to their tutees how to use their planners.

Parents and carers are expected to check the planner regularly and sign it weekly. You may write any notes in the planner which you may want to communicate to the Form Tutor or another teacher although you should also tell your son or daughter to show the note to the relevant teacher.

Homework

Please encourage your son or daughter to complete their homework as soon as possible and not to procrastinate and put off doing it until the last minute or when they are tired. Each homework should take around 20 minutes. Occasionally a longer piece of work may be set with a later deadline that may need to be completed in stages. In early October all Year 7 pupils will be taught how to use their school email accounts and teachers may well set homework using email. The advantage of this is that pupils will not have to write potentially complex instructions in their planners and the teacher may also be able to send relevant resources with the homework instructions. Pupils should still write in their planner on the relevant date that homework has been set and that they should refer to their email.



Children need the best possible home learning encouragement in order to successfully study at home. Ideally the television should be off to avoid distractions and computers, ipads and other tablets should be off unless being used as part of the homework. It is best if phones are not only switched off but also out of sight whilst homework is being completed. Perhaps if you have a child who is easily tempted then their phone should be placed in a different room from the one where they are completing their work.

Reading

Encourage your child to develop or continue a reading habit. This is more likely to happen if your child sees adults in the house reading rather than just on a computer or other electronic device.

Children are helped to reflect by reading and fiction can really help in this regard. The school library is well stocked with a range of books which children can borrow and all forms have received a library induction lesson. All pupils at Darrick Wood are expected to carry a reading book and be able to tell others what they have been reading about.

Growing independence

Some children need more help and support with homework than others but at secondary school it really is important to encourage a greater level independence. Children need praise and encouragement to flourish. This is a key strategy of teachers and one way of doing this is through the issuing of House Points. All parents and carers are encouraged to log into their child's Class Charts account to check their positive and negative House Points - hopefully none of the latter!

When praising your son or daughter at home seek above all to praise effort rather than natural talent. Be specific in your praise using comments such as "I love the way you've..."

Help your child to realise it is alright to make mistakes. In fact, making mistakes means we are being challenged and can learn to improve.

Avoid micro-managing your child but help them become well organised and equip them with the skills needed to do this.

Top tips for brain boosting

Sleep, diet and exercise can have a really important effect on how well children learn so here are some questions to ponder.

Is your son or daughter:

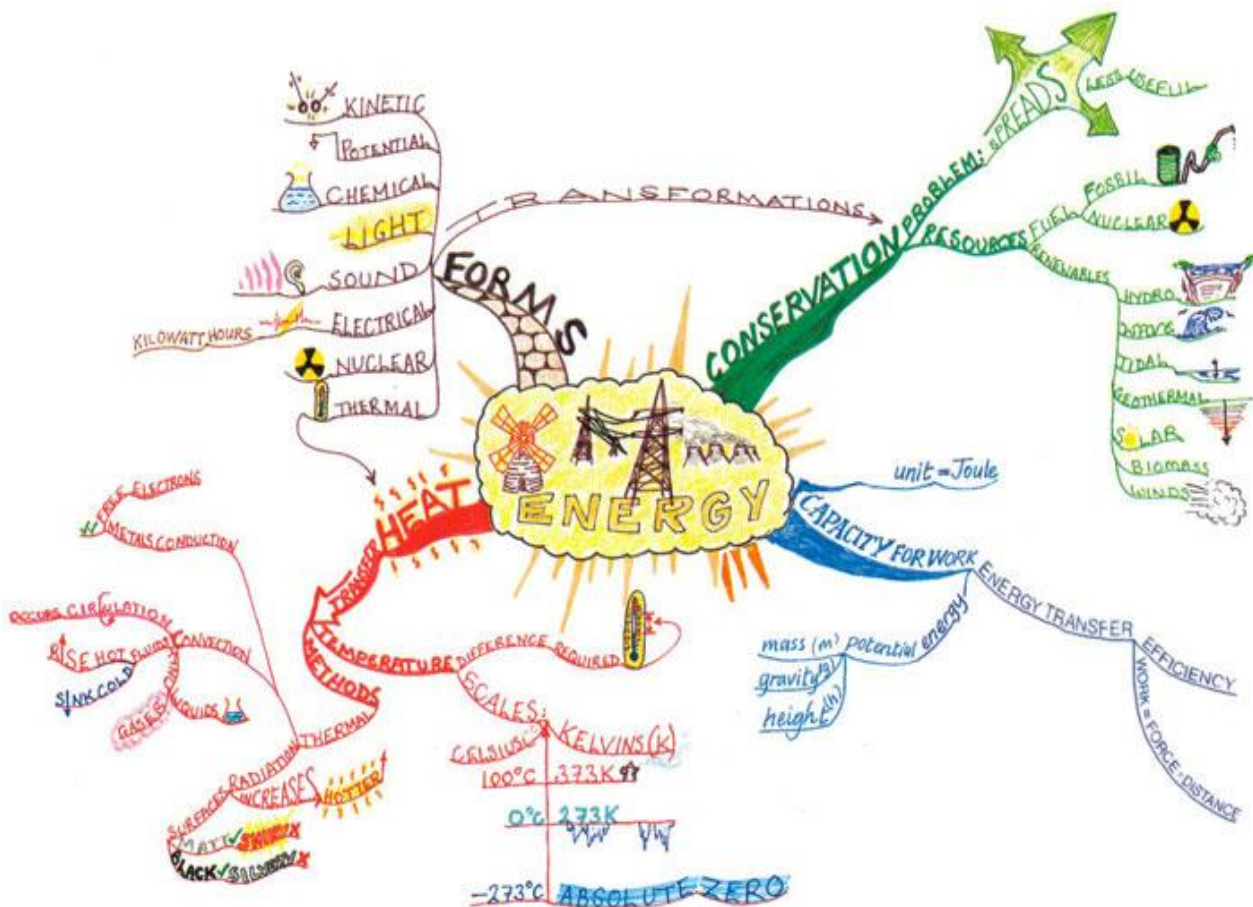
- having the minimum 9 hours of sleep that scientists recommend with no phones in bedrooms at night?
- avoiding screen time in the 30 minutes before getting to sleep to avoid the blue light that can make getting to sleep difficult and can affect the quality of sleep?
- eating at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables each day?
- replacing simple carbohydrates with more complex ones such as brown or wholemeal bread and pasta instead of white?
- avoiding sugary cereals and considering healthier cereals or perhaps eggs or porridge for a good healthy start to the day?
- having plenty of green, leafy vegetables?
- replacing unhealthy sugary or salty snacks with a healthier piece of fruit or nuts?
- making sure that their diet is rich in iron?
- avoiding sugary drinks?
- having regular exercise which helps physical and mental wellbeing?

Revision tips

There is no getting away from the fact that revision is key to success in school. In Year 7 there will be regular tests as well as end of year examinations and we do advise pupils in Year 7 on how to revise effectively using a range of techniques.

The key piece of advice is to try a number of different revision strategies to see what works best. Here are some:

- transform notes into a different form. This might for example be a poster or mind map summarise the key points in a different way.
- when revising put up around the room posters or post-it notes with key points reminders of what has been studied. Use whatever spaces you can such as doors and cupboards.
- produce sets of question and answer cards with questions written on one side and the answers on the back. Producing these helps consolidate learning and they can be used for self-testing or being tested by someone else.
- BBC Bitesize is packed full of useful information, video clips and mini tests. It is excellent in particular for the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science.
- go onto the website 'quizlet' and find hundreds of quizzes on a whole range of topics.
- produce mind maps of key topics studied on a sheet of A4 or A3 paper. See the example below for the topic of energy.



Clubs and societies

The School has wide range of extra-curricular clubs and societies and every Year 7 pupil should take part in at least one a week, but hopefully more. There should be something for everyone, but if there is something missing, your child can suggest it and we can see if someone can run it. The full list is on the School's website but here are some to whet your appetite:

Activity	Where?	When?
Reading/homework	Main School Library	Daily 8.00am -8.30am 3.10pm – 4.30pm
Training Band - Beginners to Grade 2	MP101	Monday (1.30pm to 1.55pm)
Year 7 Football Training - Invitation only	PE Department	Monday (3.15pm to 4.30pm)
Netball Shooting	Sports Hall	Monday (1.30pm to 1.55pm)
Big Choir	MP101	Tuesday (1.30pm to 1.55pm)
Year 7 Trampolining	Gym	Tuesday (1.25pm to 1.55pm)
Fitness training	Fitness Suite	Tuesday (1.25pm to 1.55pm)
Creative Writing Club	EN4	Tuesday (1.15pm to 1.55pm)
Badminton – All Years	Sports Hall	Tuesday (1.25pm to 1.55pm)
Boys Drama Club Physical Theatre	Theatre	Tuesday (1.30pm to 2.00pm)
Athletics/Cross Country running	PE Department	Tuesday (3.15pm to 4.30pm)
Year 10 and 11 Football training	PE Department	Tuesday (3.15pm to 4.30pm)
Christmas Cookery Club	Club DT5	Wednesday (1.15pm to 1.55pm) (Nov-Dec only)
Gymnastics	Gym	Wednesday (1.25pm to 1.55pm)
DWS Audio (by invitation only)	EN10	Wednesday (1.30 to 2.00pm)
Years 7 to 13 Girls' Football Run by Miss White	PE Department	Wednesday (3.15pm to 4.30pm)
Raspberry Pi Club in by Mr Ellaahiee	IT5	Wednesday (3.15pm to 4.15pm)
Rough Science Club	SC10	Wednesday (3.10pm to 4.30pm) starting in October
Year 7 Dance Club	Dance Studio	Thursday (1.15pm to 1.50pm)
Concert Band open to all woodwind and brass players Grade 2 and above	MP101	Thursday (1.30pm to 1.55pm)
Years 7/8/9/10/11 Netball Run by Mrs Philbrick, Miss Manning and Miss White	PE Department	Thursday (3.15pm to 4.30pm)

KS3 RockSchool	MP105	Thursday (3.15pm to 4.15pm)
KS3 choir	MP101	Friday (1.30pm to 1.55pm)
Eco Group	EN2	Friday (1.30pm-1.55pm) (fortnightly)
KS3 Drama Club Theatre	Theatre	Friday (1.30pm to 2.00pm)

The societies below are organised by students

Card Game Society	Si1	Monday (1.30pm to 1.55pm)
LGBT+ Society	HU29	Monday (1.30pm to 2.00pm)
DWS Law Society	HU26	Monday (1.20pm to 1.55pm)
KS3 Science Support	Science	Monday (3.10pm to 3.45pm)
Inner Peace Society	SC12	Tuesday (1.30pm to 2.00pm)
Debating Society	HU7	Tuesday (1.30pm to 1.55pm)
Programming Society <i>(to learn about programming languages in more depth)</i>	IT6	Tuesday (3.15pm to 4.15pm)
Mental Health Society	SC1	Wednesday (1.15pm to 2.00pm)
Model United Nations Society	EN9	Thursday (1.15pm to 2.00pm)
Politics Club	HU13	Thursday (1.30 to 1.55pm)
Engineering Society	SC10	Friday (1.15pm to 1.55pm)

"Failure is an opportunity to grow"

GROWTH MINDSET

"I can learn to do anything I want"

"Challenges help me to grow"

"My effort and attitude determine my abilities"

"Feedback is constructive"

"I am inspired by the success of others"

"I like to try new things"

"Failure is the limit of my abilities"

FIXED MINDSET

"I'm either good at it or I'm not"

"My abilities are unchanging"

"I don't like to be challenged" or "I can't"

"My potential is predetermined"

"When I'm frustrated, I give up"

"Feedback and criticism are personal"

"I stick to what I know"

Success requires a growth mindset

At Darrick Wood we encourage everyone to have a growth mindset. This means an awareness that intelligence is not fixed but can be developed. It means an attitude of embracing challenges rather than avoiding them because of fear of failure. It means persistence in the face of obstacles rather than giving up easily. Those with a growth mindset understand the importance of effort and the value of constructive criticism. Research shows that people with a growth mindset are more resilient and tend to do better than those with a fixed mindset.

As teachers we work hard to encourage a growth mindset but it is just as important that you as parents and carers do the same. These are a couple of the messages you need to reinforce with your son or daughter:

- They can do it, they just need to believe in themselves and not give up. They should appreciate the value of challenge. If they are not able to do something they would like to, it means that they cannot do something **yet**, but not forever. If they find something particularly difficult, they might feel like giving up, but actually – this is when their brain is ‘growing’ the most.
- We can all feel embarrassed and deflated when we make mistakes but not being afraid to make mistakes is a fundamental part of having a growth mindset. EVERYONE makes mistakes. Mistakes do not mean that we are stupid. Mistakes are opportunities to learn. We often make mistakes when we are pushing to our limits and that is when our brains have to work the hardest. If they are not making mistakes then it is probably because they are not challenging themselves enough.
- It is important to put a lot of effort into all that is done. Without effort very little can be achieved.

Below are a few growth mindset quotes:

A challenge only becomes an obstacle when you bow to it. – *Ray Davis*

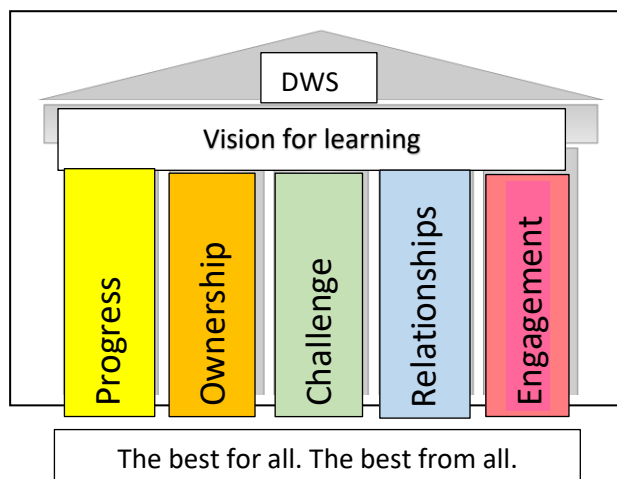
Don't worry about failure. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try. – *Sherman Finesilver*

I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. – *Thomas Edison*

A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new. – *Albert Einstein*

Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration. – *Thomas Edison*

Darrick Wood School Vision for Learning



The pillars which support the School's vision for learning	Questions which your son or daughter should ask themselves
P rogress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I making progress? • Am I trying my best?
O wnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I accept responsibility for my own learning? • Do I welcome all the learning opportunities I come across in and out of school?
C hallenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I set myself realistic yet challenging goals? • Do I avoid giving up easily and stick at things? • Do I respond well to constructive criticism and act upon it? • Am I prepared to challenge myself to do better and accept the learning challenges I am presented with?
R elationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I welcome the praise of others? • Do I show respect to my teachers and fellow learners?
E ngagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I motivated to succeed? • Am I a committed student? • Do I want to develop my learning?

Supporting pupil wellbeing and mental health

At Darrick Wood School, we believe that pupils need good mental health and wellbeing to be successful learners. It is our aim to support all learners including enabling pupils to find strategies to deal with worry, anxiety, or stress about school.

What are the signs of a pupil who might need support?

Many pupils find the transition to secondary school challenging. Year 7 pupils are expected to be organised, on time and independent. They are also travelling between different classrooms, buildings and teachers. We recognise that some pupils become anxious, stressed and more emotional as they get used to being at secondary school. These moments are completely normal and teachers will guide, support and help pupils to settle in. However, occasionally there are pupils who need more support.

These signs might be:

- not wanting to go to school
- being more emotional (tearful, angry) than usual
- being withdrawn (or refusing to talk about school)
- showing confusion about things like homework, lessons, teachers

If you are concerned that your son or daughter may not be coping with the transition to secondary school, then please do speak first to their Form Tutor or Achievement Coordinator. There are a number of ways that parents and carers can support pupils with the ups and downs of beginning secondary school.

It's good to talk

One of the best ways to help a child deal with worry, anxiety, or stress is to get them talking. In a non-confrontational setting, ask them about:

- lessons and topics studied
- homework
- friendship group
- break time and lunch time
- after-school activities

Help them identify positives about school, as well as allowing them to express any negatives. Give them space to express what is going on without being judged.

What school can do to help:

- provide Form Tutor support
- find a buddy for break and lunch time
- provide a mentor from our Sixth Form students
- make an invitation to clubs and activities
- Create a referral to the School Counsellor
- help with a referral to Bromley Wellbeing or CAMHS (external counselling service)



Frequently Asked Questions

This section has been designed to answer the queries sent in by Year 7 parents and carers since the start of the term and which have been posed in previous years.

How can I get involved in the life of the School?

There are many ways to engage in life at the School. The best way is to support the many events organised by the PSA or to offer to help with these. The more parents who are involved, the lighter the load and the higher the chance that more money will be raised to benefit all pupils.

How do I stay informed and up-to-date as a parent?

The website is the best place as it contains all the letters which are sent out, the School calendar and many other documents. There are drop down tabs which you can use. Letters are sent out electronically and there is a weekly bulletin for parents and carers sent out by Dr Airey. Other items of news are published on our news blog (also on the website) and the School has various Twitter feeds including the main school one @DarrickWoodSch.

My child is keen to take part in extra-curricular music. What could they do?

All pupils have the opportunity to sing and play and are encouraged to extend their knowledge and skill by taking up individual tuition and singing and playing in extra-curricular ensembles. On entry to Year 7, pupils are directed to Training Band, Key Stage 3 Choir or on occasion a more advanced ensemble as necessary. Details are under the extra-curricular tab on the School's website.

As they progress through Key Stage 3 their progress in individual tuition is monitored as is their participation and progress in ensembles.

By the end of Year 9, we expect many to have progressed to Jazz Orchestra, Concert Band, School Choir or smaller more advanced ensembles as appropriate. For the most able, bespoke chamber groups are created and performance opportunities at Bromley Youth Music Trust, Trinity, and the London Colleges are available.

What are ClassCharts points?

All teachers issue positive (and negative) House Points that are recorded on an IT platform called ClassCharts. House Points encourage and support the development of key skills as well as effort. Inside and outside of lessons we have a particular focus in the Vision for Learning. Parents and pupils can view this information live both online or through a free application available both on iPhone and android. There is a simple guide to support you with this on the School's website.

How do I discuss SEN issues?

Please contact Mrs Ashcroft at the School by emailing office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk should you wish to arrange an appointment to discuss any SEN concerns.

I have a minor concern, what should I do?

We would encourage you to contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance as they will be able to answer most of your questions. Again, email the School Office and they will forward it to the relevant member of staff. Please do not ignore issues no matter how small as experience tells us that early intervention can often help.

My son/daughter seems to be carrying lots of books all the time. How can I help?

All pupils have a locker where they can store books and equipment. Pupils are allowed to enter the school building to access their lockers before school from 8.20am onwards. They can also access them at the start of break and lunchtime and at the end of the school day. This means that during the day pupils should only have to carry two lessons of books at any one time, although each evening they may have three or even four pieces of homework. Organisation is key, so we would encourage parents to help with this whilst also balancing the aim of developing your child's independence and ownership.

When is the library open?

Pupils can use the library from 8.00am in the morning, throughout break and lunch and also after school until 4.30pm.

Is there a club fair?

We have considered launching all of our clubs and societies through a fresher style club fair. We haven't set this up this year but this may be something we look at for the future. We encourage every pupil to join at least one club or society and there is a partial list included in this booklet and on the School's website. We encourage all pupils to participate.

What extra-curricular Drama opportunities are there?

Pupils interested in Drama will find something to work for in every term. A whole school production takes place in November each year and Key Stage 3 Drama Clubs offer pupils the opportunity to develop the practical work that they do in class by writing and acting their own scripts as well as learning about technical aspects such as lighting and sound. Pupils also have the opportunity to audition to be a part of our Gifted and Talented Black Box Theatre Company as a way of further developing their performance and directorial skills. Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 can audition to take part in a Key Stage 3 Drama production. This will result in a performance in the Summer term. Pupils are given the opportunity to audition to take part in 'The Shakespeare Schools Festival' which is a public performance of a reduced Shakespeare play which is performed in a professional theatre. This year's performance of "The Tempest" is being performed at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford in October.

The Drama Department organise several visits throughout the year to see West End theatre in London and drama productions in a variety of local theatres, providing opportunities for all pupils to experience at least one play a year. In order to develop Drama students at Darrick Wood and offer exciting enrichment opportunities, we shall be taking a group of Drama students to Paris in February 2019. This trip is an excellent opportunity for students to take part in various Dramatic activities in a capital city which thrives on the arts and is something that we hope to be able to offer to pupils every other year.

How can I encourage my son/daughter to be healthy?

We would encourage all pupils to walk to school wherever possible. Lovibonds Avenue gets extremely busy so this will benefit both the driver's well-being and your child's health. You can also see what food has purchased at break and lunch each day. There is discussion of healthy eating in Learning to Learn lessons.

Regarding ParentPay, when will there be an auto-top up functionality added so that catering balances are always topped up?

At the moment ParentPay are planning to introduce that function. You can set email / text alerts to warn you when the dinner money drops below a certain amount.

Are there any School Apps in the pipeline so that parents can obtain year specific notifications, and download newsletters automatically, and to enable parents to synchronise the school calendar onto phones and tablets without having to keep checking the website?

Yes for everything apart from the calendar. When the school moves to using Bromcom next year they have a parental app that allows for these items to happen.

Is the School planning to introduce electronic setting of homework eg showmyhomework?

We are in the process of reviewing the options available for using an online homework platform. This may be something that we introduce in the future. Currently we expect pupils across the School to use their planners to help them with their organisation and meeting deadlines.

How does setting work across the School?

We very much believe in supporting and encouraging each and every pupil to be the best that they can be. We appreciate though that the pace of learning for children often varies. Therefore, pupils are set in English, Maths and Science so that every pupil can work at a pace that allows them to meet their academic potential. Throughout the year pupils will have several opportunities to move to a different set based on regular reviews of learning.

Please use the table below for any notes or actions

