

## HOME SCHOOL INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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### **Tutor Groups at Brockington**

Brockington College receives pupils from a range of different primary schools. In creating tutor groups, we try to take into account a number of areas. These include:

- creating balanced tutor groups on ability ranges and numbers of pupils from different primary schools so that groups are not biased either towards one particular primary school or ability group
- any specific needs that need to be catered for
- friendship groups – although because these can be extended, we try to ensure there is someone in each group for everyone without affecting the balance of the tutor groups

Transition can be an anxious time for some, whilst others take it in their stride. We recognise that pupils react differently as do parents and carers, especially if this is their first child moving up to secondary education. We appreciate how different secondary school is from primary schools not only in the size of the school but also the number of teachers your child has. In order to support this, we have developed two days of induction when pupils get to know their new tutor groups through a variety of activities including team building events. We would encourage all parents/carers to support their child through this process. Although it can be daunting, the opportunity to make new friends and create a wider circle of acquaintances will in the long run be beneficial to all. However, if you do have any concerns we would ask that you alert your child's form tutor during the parent information evening at the end of the first welcome day.

### **Groups within lessons**

As well as changes to tutor groups, pupils are also taught in lessons in a variety of different ways. Again, pupil and parent/carer experience will be different according to the size of the primary school and the organisation of classes. For some they will have experienced setting in the core subjects; others will have not.

At Brockington College in Year 7, there are a number of subjects such as Art; Computing; Drama and Music where pupils will be taught in mixed-ability tutor groups. In some practical subjects like Design Technology, tutor groups are mixed up in order to create smaller groups whilst retaining a balance of ability and primary schools. For the core subjects, English, Maths and Science, some setting takes place. In Year 7, English and Science groups have been paired so once KS2 SATs scores are in, there is the possibility of a higher and lower ability group to enable better progress to take place, whilst trying to retain some of the advantages of mixed-ability teaching. Maths has the ability to group pupils across a half year group in a variety of ways. As with English and Science once the KS2 SATs scores are in we will decide on the best format. However, we acknowledge that pupils come from a range of schools and what was 'top' in one primary school may not be 'top' in another. As a consequence these groups are reviewed on a regular basis, however if you have concerns then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Marsden, Head of Year 7, to discuss these further.

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### **Pupil Lockers**

Every pupil at Brockington College will be allocated a locker. This eliminates the need for pupils to carry bags and coats around school with them. Pupils will, however, be issued with a wallet at Key Stage 3 to carry their stationery and a small number of books. Lockers will be accessed using a code that will be issued to pupils in the new academic year.

### **Cashless Catering**

In order to provide an effective service for pupils, we use cashless catering at all times within the college. This means that:

- food can be purchased using the school cashless biometric system (or an identity card).
- accounts may be topped up at any time using ParentPay, or small amounts of cash can be inserted into the machines located opposite the servery in the courtyard
- accounts for pupils in receipt of free school lunches will automatically be credited to them for daily use throughout the duration of their entitlement

### **Publicity**

Please inform the Principal, in writing, if you are not happy for your child's photograph to be used in the press, on the school website or in publicity materials.

### **Pupil Equipment**

Once pupils start in Year 7 they will need to bring the following items to school on a daily basis.

- Pen(s)
- Pencil(s)
- Coloured Pencils
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Pencil Case
- A set of small unbranded ear buds or headphones
- Maths equipment including protractor, calculator and compass

Pupils can purchase items from the school shop, 'The Cabin', using our cashless system.

At the start of the academic year the college will issue pupils with the following item for daily use.

- A wallet to carry equipment around the college

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### **Medical Matters**

Brockington College has two School Health Co-ordinators who act as the main school first aiders. One of them is available, if required, throughout the school day. A medical matters form is included in this pack for you to return to the school.

### **Key Points to Note**

- Pupils with inhalers and epipens should carry them at all times
- Inhalers and epipens need to be clearly labelled with the pupil's name and form
- The college carries an emergency inhaler for use by pupils with asthma in the event of their inhaler not being available. Please complete the relevant letter in this pack to indicate that you give permission for this to happen in the event of an emergency.
- If required, after parent/carer discussion with a School Health Co-ordinator, a spare inhaler and epipens can be stored in the first aid room
- Some pupils with on-going conditions or allergies may need to have an individual care plan. Parent/carers should contact a School Health Co-ordinator to arrange this
- A signed consent form (available on the website) is required if a pupil needs to take any prescribed medication during the school day
- Pupils are not allowed to carry any medications or painkillers in school

If you have any questions about the above, or any other medical concern, please contact Fran Childerhouse or Simon Setchell the School Health Co-ordinators (extension 109) or visit the school website.

### **Brockington Library and Resource Centre**

The Library actively encourages and promotes students 'reading for pleasure' and stocks a large selection of fiction and non-fiction books, daily newspapers and the latest monthly magazines to encourage this. The library adds the latest titles to the book stock regularly, ensuring popular reads are always available! As well as books we have computers for students to use as well as a number of laptops, tablets and kindles.

New students are enrolled into our library system and are able to borrow up to two books at a time for a period of two weeks. Students are encouraged to write book reviews and recommend books to their peers.

The library is open daily and we run a Homework Club. Days are advertised at the start of each academic year