

Welcome to Year 7 September 2025



RESPECT | RESILIENCE | RESPONSIBILITY

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Year 7 - The Challenge Ahead

Change can be a challenge to us all and the transition between primary school and secondary should not be underestimated. Hopefully, many of the nerves have gone, friends have been made and relationships and routines between tutor and student have begun to form.

The triangle of communication between school, student and parent/carer is vital in helping us to deliver an effective education. For any child to reach their potential, support at home is crucial and this booklet provides some guidelines to parents/carers on how to achieve this vital support.

National and local research highlights that the move from primary to secondary school is a significant milestone for pupils. Transition to secondary school has the potential to impact attendance, attainment, behaviour, and wellbeing. At St. Katherine's we anticipate these challenges and our transition strategy includes support for children and their families to navigate these changes smoothly while focussing on learning and academic progress.

How do I know how well my child is doing and how can I support them?

- Talk to them. Engage with your child about their learning experiences at school.
- Regularly look through their exercise books with them.
- Support them in completing their homework and establishing good routines around this
- Ask them about their targets. You will have the opportunity to discuss personal targets with your child's teachers at progress evenings.
- Talk to your child's tutor if you have any concerns or queries. You are invited to email subject teachers and ask for an appointment if you are concerned.

Attendance and Lateness

Research conducted by the Department for Education in March 2025 makes clear that students who attend school regularly attain better academic outcomes than their peers who do not come to school every day. Overall the analysis shows that as the level of attendance increases, the likelihood of achieving key attainment outcomes at the end of KS2 and KS4 increases. The full report can be found [here](#).

Parents and carers are responsible for making sure that their children get a full time education that meets their needs. Parents/carers can allow their children to miss school only if they are too ill to attend or if they have advance permission from the school. There may be other exceptional circumstances where you can ask to take your child out of school. Our Attendance Manager will consider each application and may let you take your child out of school.

Our school's target for attendance this year is 96%. Most students can achieve this target with the support of their families and we will provide additional support for students and their families where there are barriers to attending school every day. A persistent absentee is defined as a student who misses more than 10% of sessions (authorised or unauthorised) during the year.

Absence during term time is only authorised in exceptional circumstances. A holiday is generally not considered an exceptional circumstance and you can be [fined or face legal action](#) for taking your child on holiday during term time. If you need to request an absence in advance, please complete the [During Term Time Absence Request Form](#) that can be found on the school website.

If your child is too ill to attend school, please report their absence to school on the first day of their absence and each subsequent day of absence using the '[Reporting your Child Absent](#)' from School form which can be found on the school website. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough for school, [this guidance](#) is a useful reference.

Students are expected to be in school by 8.30am, ready for registration at 8.35am. If you know your child is going to be late, please contact the school on 01275 373737 and select option 1 for attendance or email attendance@skdrive.org.

If your child is late and is not going to make it to their tutor group on time, they will attend late tutor with SLT to avoid disruption to the rest of the tutor group. Late tutor group takes place in the cover hub.

If a student arrives after 9.00am, they are required to sign in at the Student Support Office. If there is no acceptable reason for a student being late, a detention will be issued.

Houses

Our house system is the bedrock of our nurturing and inclusive school community. It is designed to unlock the limitless potential of every student and to help them in their pursuit of excellence. The House System provides students with enrichment and leadership opportunities through a range of inter-house activities including academic events, sporting events and fun competitions - with each house striving to be crowned the annual St Katherine's School House Champions.

- From Year 7 all students are supported by their Head of House who has lead responsibility for their pastoral care and personal development
- Each student is in a tutor group aligned to their house which they stay in throughout their school career. Siblings belong to the same house as one another
- Year 12 and 13 students have separate tutor groups but are affiliated to a house, acting as positive role models, mentors and leaders to younger students
- Each house has students elected as House Leaders that act as role models for others within the house.
- In September, each tutor group from Year 7-11 elect Tutor Representatives and Sports Captains to support the work of the House and feedback student voice to the House Council.

Our house names represent individuals who have made a significant contribution to their community and represent our core values.



Pankhurst

Emmeline Pankhurst was a British political activist and leader of the British suffragette movement, who helped women win the right to vote in 1918.

Head of House: Mr Iain Murdoch

House Colour: Green

Stephenson

Paul Stephenson is a community worker, activist and long-time campaigner for civil rights for the British African-Caribbean community in Bristol. Paul Stephenson is a Freeman of the City of Bristol and was awarded an OBE in 2009.

Head of House: Mr Ben Court **House Colour:** Red



Turing

Alan Turing conceived modern computing. He played a crucial part in the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in WW2. Despite his contributions to the war effort he was persecuted for being homosexual before dying in 1954. He received a pardon from the Queen in 2013.

Head of House: Mrs Hannah Price **House Colour:** Blue

Yousafzai

From the age of 11, Malala Yousafzai campaigned for girls to be given an education in Pakistan. At 15 the Taliban attempted to assassinate her by shooting her, but she survived and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. Today Malala campaigns for all to have an education across the world.

Head of House: Miss Alice Robinson **House Colour:** Yellow



The following opportunities are provided for parents/carers to meet and discuss issues with pastoral and academic staff:

- Parent/carer information evenings
- Tutor meetings
- Parents/carer evenings: These meetings are arranged with families to discuss the progress of students about whom we are concerned. Follow-up meeting will typically be established so that targets can be strictly monitored.

Class Charts

We use Class Charts, accessed via the web or mobile app, as a live update of the day to day school experience. Via this platform parents/carers and students can see the most up to date information regarding:

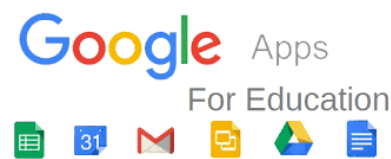
- Attendance
- Behaviour - both praises and any concerns
- Homework
- Any notes added by staff



Details of how to set up student and parent/carer accounts in Class Charts will be shared with you at the start of Term 1.

Google Apps for Education

On arrival at St Katherine's, each student is provided with their own school email address. This provides them with access to all of Google's education applications including virtual classrooms. This email address allows access both in school and at home. Used effectively this allows students to pick up where they left off in lessons and continue the learning at home.



Uniform and Equipment Requirements

St Katherine's school uniform can be purchased directly from Monkhouse (see page 8), except for the school tie, which is available from school directly. We also keep a small supply of some uniform items at reception and have a sustainable uniform shop that has some items of good quality pre loved uniform items.

For Year 7 joining St Katherine's in September 2025, ties can be purchased via Parentpay before the start of term. Tutors will distribute ties to students on the first day during tutor time.

Compulsory uniform:

- Maroon blazer (available from Monkhouse only)
- White, collared shirt, buttons to the neck (shirts must be tucked in)
- St Katherine's clip on tie (available on Parent Pay before September and available for students to purchase from the Student Support Office thereafter)
- Grey, tailored trousers (not skinny-fit or legging style) or
- Grey, tailored, knee length shorts or
- Grey, pleated knee-length skirt (Skirts must not be rolled up)
- Grey, black or neutral coloured tights or
- Grey or black socks
- Black, polishable shoes. (trainers, shoes with heels and shoes made of canvas and other non-waterproof materials are not allowed)

Optional uniform:

- Grey with maroon stripe v-neck jumper (available from Monkhouse only)

Permitted outerwear - over blazer:

- Overcoat, jacket, anorak, raincoat - plain colours, no logos. Coats must be removed in lessons.
- No Hoodies or non-uniform jumpers
- Gloves
- Woollen/fleece hat (must be removed in lessons)
- Sun Hat or cap (must be removed in lessons)

Permitted jewellery/piercings/makeup/hair:

- Rings, bracelets, badges and necklaces are permitted.
- Students may wear studs or small hoops in their lobes.
- Jewellery must be quickly removable for practical lessons. If jewellery is deemed unsafe or excessive students will be asked to remove it.

The following are not allowed in school:

- Unnatural hair colours or 'extreme' hairstyles and hairstyles that do not conform with the health and safety requirements of practical lessons.
- Any other kind of piercings aside from earrings.
- Nail extensions
- Excessive or unnatural makeup
- Tattoos

Prohibited items:

- Denim
- No slim fitted trousers or skirt
- Hoodies and jumpers other than St. Katherine's school jumpers
- Faux/real leather coats

Guidance for all:

- Hijabs and durags should be plain in colour
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times
- Vests or t-shirts worn under shirts for warmth must not be visible
- No coats, scarves, hats or gloves to be worn during lessons
- All items of school clothing should be clearly marked with the student's name
- Top button must be fastened and tie worn
- Blazer to be worn at all times except when uniform is adjusted for extreme heat

Wearing inappropriate uniform will be sanctioned according to the Behaviour Policy
Items may be confiscated and kept safe for collection at the end of the school day.
Wherever possible, students may be lent spare uniform to wear.

House Ties



Stephenson



Turing



Pankhurst



Yousafzai

PE Kit

St Katherine's PE kit can only be purchased directly from The Sports Shop, Portishead.
Other items of kit can be purchased from The Sports Shop or other retailers.

Compulsory Items	Optional Items
<p>St Katherine's polo shirt</p> <p>St Katherine's shorts or St Katherine's skort or St Katherine's leggings or St Katherine's joggers (students can wear whichever item of kit they prefer)</p> <p>St Katherine's hooped football socks</p> <p>Training shoes (suitable for physical activity)</p> <p>Studded boots</p> <p>Shin pads (Compulsory for football)</p>	<p>St Katherine's ¼ zip jumper</p> <p>St Katherine's reversible rugby top - (strongly recommended for rugby and designed for contact sport)</p> <p>Gumshield (strongly recommended for rugby and hockey)</p> <p>Base layers (recommended to be worn under PE kit for outdoor activities during cold weather)</p>
<p>Notes</p> <p>Students have the choice to wear shorts, a skort, leggings or joggers. Students representing the school in sporting fixtures & events may be asked to wear specific kit items. For example, a football or rugby team wearing shorts or a netball team wearing skorts or shorts.</p>	<p>Notes</p> <p>In Year 7, boys will need studded boots for PE lessons right from September. Girls will not need studded boots at the start of Year 7 so we would recommend not purchasing boots immediately. We will inform girls when they need boots for PE lessons and give parents sufficient notice.</p>

Uniform Suppliers:

Monkhouse
140 East Street
Bedminster
Bristol
BS3 4EW
Tel: 0117 966 1432
Email: monkhouse.com
Opening hours:
Saturday: 9.00am-5.00pm

The Sports Shop

39 High Street

Portishead

North Somerset

BS20 6AA

Tel: 01275 842573

Email: tssportishead@gmail.com

Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday: 9.00am-5.30pm (excluding bank holidays)

<https://sportsshopportishead.weebly.com/st-katherines-school.html>

Equipment for all students:

- Sturdy school bag
- Water bottle these should be labelled with the student's name and can be refilled at various water fountains throughout the school site
- Pencil case that is well stationery items
- Pens (including black for examinations and green for corrections)
- Pencils and pencil sharpener
- Coloured pens/pencils and highlighters
- Scientific calculator (we recommend the Aurora AX-595tv)
- Reading book - this must be brought to school every day
- Ruler

Parentpay

We operate an online payment system called Parentpay at www.parentpay.com. This enables the school to be

generally a cashless school and give parents/carers the

ability to pay by debit card for school meals, trips, and other items. Parentpay can be used on computers, tablets and on mobiles. The Finance Office will send you your login details and instructions for use. Free School Meals



Free School Meals

In September 2026, when your child starts Year 8, over half a million additional pupils will become eligible for Free School Meals under the new eligibility criteria. The change means that all households receiving [Universal Credit](#), above the current £7,400 income cap, will qualify for this support. **This new eligibility will take effect in September 2026.** This will give schools time to prepare for the increased number of meals they'll need to provide.

If you think you might be eligible for free school meals based on the current eligibility criteria below, please apply as the school will receive additional funding to support your child.

For information on applying for Free School Meals, please go to the webpage link shown below. It is worth investigating particularly if you are unsure. If you have any questions or are unsure, please contact Mrs Crocker at crockerk@skdrive.org. Entitlement to Free School Meals are administered on our behalf by North Somerset Council. Please note this includes students from all Local Authorities. This means that if you live in Bristol or South Gloucestershire, you should still apply through North Somerset Council. Applications can be made using their online eligibility checking service: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fsm. For further information email fsm@n-somerset.gov.uk.

You can apply for Free School Meals if you receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit

Pupil Premium

All students entitled to Pupil Premium will benefit from additional academic support to ensure they have a positive and successful learning experience. We aim to close any gaps in their attainment and achievement. Financial support is also available. For more information, please visit <http://www.stkaths.org.uk/about-us/pupil-premium>.

Keeping in touch with the school: Contact Details

We recognise that it is vital for parents/carers and school to communicate effectively. Parents/carers can contact teachers via e-mail at any time; addresses can be found on the school website. For pastoral issues, parents/carers should initially contact the form tutor. Guidance is for staff to respond within two working days. Therefore, please do not use email for urgent communications.

For queries about:	Contact:
Safeguarding	safeguarding@skdrive.org
Courses, homework, assignments or resources	Subject teachers
Access to online library resources	wyldl@skdrive.org
Technology related	francisblacka@skdrive.org
Curriculum	ovinkw@skdrive.org
Pastoral issues	Tutor
General queries	school@skdrive.org
Free School Meals	crockerk@skdrive.org

We are sure you will understand that we cannot and will not tolerate abusive behaviour towards any member of staff that may cause staff to feel upset or insulted. We encourage patience and courtesy from all members of the community, including parents/carers, as we work together in the best interests of the child.

We use various channels to communicate with the school community; the Weekly Communication is emailed to parents/carers during term time. Please read this each week. We produce a termly newsletter and post news articles on our website www.stkaths.org.uk, the school Facebook page (St Katherine's School) and our Twitter feed (@stkathsschool). The PE Department use Spond to communicate with students and their families about fixtures, practises and clubs.

Catering

Our menus change weekly and students are encouraged to comment on what is served.

We operate a cashless catering system so parents/carers can prepay for meals online via ParentPay. You can check their balance and we ask that you top up your child's account using Parentpay where possible to reduce cash on site.



Students in receipt of Free School Meals are eligible to receive breakfast every day from our canteen. They can choose from a range of cereals, toast and a drink of juice at no cost.

The Library

The Library is a well-stocked and friendly space, run by an experienced librarian, Ms Wyld. The Library is open from 8am until 3.30pm.

The Library plays a key role in fostering a school-wide reading culture to encourage students to be independent, self-motivated readers and learners for life. We have a large selection of books, covering a wide range of reading abilities and interests. There are a number of special collections including graphic novels, manga, Shelf Help (mental health issues) and careers. Students are encouraged to borrow regularly from the Library.

In the Library students can access:

- A great range of books to choose from
- Daily newspapers and magazines
- Printing facilities to support schoolwork
- A range of board games for use during breaks
- Regularly changing displays for inspiration
- Stationery shop
- A programme of events throughout the year



Every student reads in St Katherine's and in Year 7 you will have a fortnightly library lesson as part of the English programme. We use the Accelerated Reader programme to structure these lessons. This personalised scheme challenges students to read and quiz books that are suited to their individual reading ability, whilst giving school staff flexible tools to support, manage and monitor this. The ultimate aim is to see and celebrate reading growth for each and every student, regardless of individual ability.



During breaktimes the Library is a popular space for students from all years to spend time. Students are encouraged to be occupied, perhaps catching up on homework, playing a board game with friends, choosing and changing library books, and of course, reading!

The Library also offers a range of events and activities to help foster reading for pleasure. Each year we celebrate Roald Dahl Day, World Book Day and host an annual book fair. We have regular reading groups and a Carnegie Book Award shadowing group. Occasional author events are always inspiring occasions! There will be a lovely bookish surprise for every student arriving in Yr7 to look forward to as well.

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Progress and Achievement

How do we track and report progress?

Throughout Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9), regular reports to parents/carers will provide information on effort and academic progress. This information is a guide for parents/carers, students and teachers to help us track academic progress and to encourage students to give their best. An annual progress evening provides an opportunity for parents/carers to talk to subject teachers in more detail about their child's learning and progress.

How well do we know your child as an individual?

On entry into Year 7, we use four sources of evidence as baseline measurements at the start of secondary school. These help teachers plan for each individual to build on their academic strengths and work on areas for development. Students arrive in school in Year 7 with a numerical score based on achievement in external tests taken at the end of Key Stage 2. This is a baseline for measuring progress over time between the end of Key Stage 2 and the end of Key Stage 4, when students sit external examinations.

To provide further indications of each student's potential we also administer a series of assessments in the first term that are conducted entirely online. These assessments are designed to assess thinking and learning skills and there is no need for students to prepare for them over the summer.

CATs (Cognitive Ability Tests): Nationally recognised tests taken at the start of Year 7, which assess a range of reasoning skills. The tests measure four types of reasoning; verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial). They are good indicators of students' reasoning abilities and potential, as well as a source of information for teachers on how best to adapt teaching and learning for individuals and teaching groups. There is no expectation for students to prepare for these tests; they are a test of reasoning ability rather than knowledge and we encourage our students to see them as an interesting challenge.

NGRT (New Group Reading Tests): Nationally recognised tests taken at the start of Year 7, which assess reading ability. Access to all parts of the curriculum can sometimes be limited by a student's ability to read. As well as assessing the age appropriate reading level these tests provide an insight into a students vocabulary and their ability to comprehend a range of texts. There is no expectation for students to prepare for these tests but the more reading you can encourage from your child at

home the more likely they are to be able to take full advantage of the curriculum at St Katherine's. Baseline assessment takes place in most subjects at an early stage in Year 7. With clear preparation and guidance, students are set a typical task in each subject. They are encouraged to do their best work so that teachers can plan for individual progress in that subject, as well as challenging them in the unlikely event that standards slip.

While teachers use the above as a starting point, we recognise that there are a wide range of factors that contribute to academic progress. We constantly consider our students as individuals, taking into account effort, motivation and individual circumstances. Individual students make progress at different rates, some taking longer to fulfil their potential. Progress in different subjects varies too; for example, many students will be taking Spanish for the first time in Year 7. Mastering a new language takes time, compared to the considerable amount of learning that has taken place in other subjects by the end of Key Stage 2.

If at any point you are concerned about the rate of progress being made by your child, please inform both their tutor and classroom teacher without delay. Parents/carers are the first and most important educators of our children; we expect and will count on your full support over the coming years.

Stretching and challenging the most able students

'Most Able' learners are those students who show an outstanding ability in one or more subjects in relation to the St Katherine's school community. Our 'Most Able' learners are identified and their progress monitored in order to make sure they are continually provided for while at St Katherine's.

Subjects

We have provided a summary below of what students will learn in Year 7 for each subject. Further details can be found on our website: www.stkaths.org.uk/students/curriculum including our curriculum guides for each year group.

Art

Year 7 students undertake two hours of art every two weeks. All topics covered focus initially on working from observation. To start the year, students work from a selection of natural forms. The focus is on the formal elements of tone, line, texture and form and the first project culminates with students designing and making a clay sculpture inspired by the work of Peter Randall-Page, Kate Malone and Barbara Hepworth.

In Terms 3 and 4 students investigate the work of Friedensreich Hundertwasser and his use of colour, shape and pattern before completing their own mixed media composition of a fantasy cityscape.

In the final project of Year 7, students make transcriptions of medieval woodcuts using hatching skills, and observational drawings of animals practicing pencil tonal shading skills. Students create their own mythical creatures using collage and then a series of monoprints inspired by these.

Homework focuses on observational drawing using a range of media; these drawing skills underpin all projects that are worked on in KS3, for GCSE & A Level.

Students are assessed in the following four areas during each project:

- Investigating the work of other artists
- Developing personal ideas and experimenting with different media and techniques
- Observational drawing
- A final outcome



Parents/carers can support their child by:

- Going through their homework with them and assisting where necessary
- Visiting galleries and museums together
- Encouraging them to work on extra personal creative projects at home

Ms Eleanor Tallis: tallise@skdrive.org

Citizenship, Money and Careers

Citizenship, Money and Careers is taught as part of the tutor programme. Year 7 CMC units change on a termly basis and will cover the key principles of these disciplines. Students will begin looking at the concepts of identity and diversity and how these fit with the values of our community. We then look at rights and responsibilities, British values and how these underpin our governmental system. Students will also examine the role of the police in society as well as crime and the justice system. Lesson time is also given to the exploration of careers, finances and the environment.

Ms Jessica Huzzey: huzzeyj@skdrive.org

Computer Science



In Year 7 students will have one Computer Science lesson per week, during which they will receive a broad overview of the subject as well as developing practical skills that will prepare them for secondary school in general as well as subject specific knowledge.

During initial computing lessons, teachers will show students how to create a secure password and to log in to the school systems. They will learn how to use the commonly used google apps to help create high quality ICT work in all subjects. During Year 7 students will also be introduced to basic coding tools and skills through the use of the Scratch coding language and in preparation for moving into Year 8 they will become familiar with cloud computing programmes and online services. The intent of the computer science team is to make sure every Year 7 student learns about digital literacy, e-safety and computer science content. The focus on touch typing skills in class will also ensure that students become proficient at delivering accurate and quality literacy levels in digital documents.

Design and Technology

In Year 7 students rotate through three modules (Food Preparation and Nutrition, Product Design and Textiles) to offer equal experiences in the different disciplines within Design and Technology. The modules are often split evenly between designing and making to emulate real life projects and tasks. From day one we offer students the new skills and experiences that they will call and build upon in later years and life after St Katherine's. Across all areas, students learn to problem solve, be independent learners and produce quality items that they can take home and share.

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We aim to encourage a caring and innovative environment which allows students to investigate and experiment in a safe, supportive and positive atmosphere, enabling all students to reach their full potential and express themselves.

Students are assessed in the following four areas during the modules:



- Investigation
- Designing
- Manufacturing
- Evaluation

Parents/carers can support their child by:

- Going through their work and looking at how the presentation of the work can be improved.
- Looking at the feedback given by the teacher and making improvements to the work.
- Looking at the extension tasks.

Mr Simon Simmons: simmonss@skdrive.org

Drama

In Year 7 students begin exploring the foundations of drama; understanding the importance of physicality and believability in performance. Students work in a variety of groups to develop their interpersonal skills, important when thinking like an actor, director and producer. These skills are consolidated through a variety of genres and topics throughout KS3 such as the strange case of Anna Evans where we perform in role throughout the lesson, discussing the given circumstances of the case and debating the evidence to find out what happened to her. The aim of the first year is to build confidence in performing, enable students to explore and experiment with different styles of theatre and work collaboratively together.

The Performing Arts department aims to inspire and develop a passion for the arts. We offer a variety of opportunities for students of all ages to get involved. Some of these co-curricular activities include music concerts, performing arts festivals, drama clubs, dance festivals and music lessons.



We are also very proud of our annual whole school production which takes place every December; we work with professional theatre technicians and musicians to create a West End style production for friends and family to all enjoy. Our most recent production was the infamous Grease and it was a sell out!

Mrs Lauren Collins: collinsl@skdrive.org

English

In English lessons, students begin by learning about writing for life through a fictional class-created town. We then introduce students to literary analysis through the prism of our literary heritage, looking at *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales*. These skills are consolidated through our study of The English and Media Centre's short story collection, *Diverse Shorts*, where we hone our reading skills and explore the lives and perspectives of people from different backgrounds. The desire to build empathy and critical engagement is extended in our study of a selection of excerpts from Shakespeare's plays. Finally, we use Homer's *Odyssey* to interrogate the nature of heroism and hone our narrative crafting skills.



Reading is prioritised at St Katherine's. Students in Year 7 have one library lesson a week and use the Accelerated Reader programme, an online personalised support system which guides students to books which will help them to develop their reading skills. Every student reads every day in DEAR and for twenty minutes as part of their homework. Students record this in their reading record, which they share with their tutor and their English teacher.

Ms Joanne Jefferson: jeffersonj@skdrive.org

Geography

Year 7 geography lessons engage students to develop key geographical knowledge, understanding and skills. Students will learn how to use local OS maps to give grid reference locations, distances and directions. They will also use global maps to understand the impact of latitude on places. Lessons will explore both human and physical geography. Students will learn about global biomes, how we defend eroding coastlines, and population problems affecting countries across the globe. Lessons follow an enquiry approach to enable students to reach their own conclusions about an issue at the end of the topic.



Mr David Jones: jonesd@skdrive.org

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History



Year 7 history focuses on building a clear foundation of historical skills: chronology, evidential thinking and interpretations. These concepts are applied to the study of Anglo-Saxon and medieval history which have been selected to resonate with student understanding of the world around them in the 21st century. Students will learn how Britain was governed, the power struggle between the church and the crown as well as the social history of ordinary people. We

examine a diverse range of histories which stretch from female European leaders to African kings. Lessons will focus on an enquiry question and will allow students to utilise sources and interpretations to reach their own conclusions on the key issues affecting this historical period.

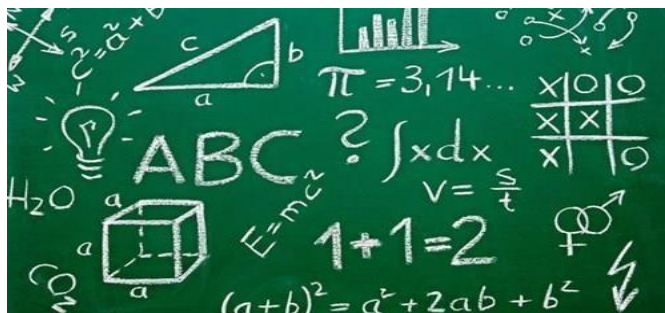
Mrs Ellie Cavanagh: cavanaghe@skdrive.org

Mathematics

In Year 7 we build on students' current maths experiences and try to allow students to have a successful and rewarding progress towards deeper understanding. We run a mastery curriculum based on the White Rose scheme of work.

Teaching maths for mastery is different because it offers all students access to the full maths curriculum.

This inclusive approach, and its emphasis on promoting multiple methods of solving a problem, builds self confidence and resilience. The students begin the year in classes that are initially grouped using primary school data to guide us. These classes are fluid and change depending on the individual student needs, they are



constantly appraised. The class sizes range from typically 30 students tapering down to 15 students in the smallest group.

Students will start with algebra in the autumn term, moving onto number, data handling and geometry. Throughout their work understanding, rather than rote learning, is encouraged and developed.

We use [Sparx Maths](#) to set HW for all students each week. This is a brilliant platform that supports students to get the practice that they need to build their fluency and understanding of the Maths they are doing in class, as well as regularly reviewing previous topics that they may have struggled with.

Mr Alex Lee: leea@skdrive.org

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

As a part of the St Katherine's Modern Foreign Languages curriculum, students will study either French or Spanish in years 7, 8 and 9. We feel strongly that students should have the time and space to learn one modern foreign language in depth across the three years of KS3, providing students with the passion and confidence to continue their studies into GCSE. We appreciate that your child may be particularly passionate about studying one of these languages during their KS3 studies at St Katherine's. We have therefore previously shared a preference form with you. Whilst we will take preferences into account when grouping students, we cannot guarantee that your child will study the preferred language.

In MFL, students learn to speak about themselves, their families and their interests, and how to use the language for real purposes of communication. Year 7 students are introduced to the basic language patterns and grammatical features which gives them an understanding of how the language works. They are also taught skills in order to better equip them throughout their language learning experience at St Katherine's, such as dictionary skills and pronunciation strategies.



The MFL department is committed to providing a variety of opportunities for enthusiastic and talented linguists at St Katherine's. We offer annual trips abroad to France and Spain for students in Year 8. Students can go on a five day residential visit to Paris or Barcelona. Underpinning all of our trips is the aim that our students experience the culture and history of these vibrant cities, and use their language in a real context. We hold the European Day of Languages on 26 September every year,

and encourage all staff and students to try a different language as they greet each other.

Mr Pedro Sequeira : sequeirap@skdrive.org

Music

In Year 7 students begin exploring the elements of music through a series of practical activities designed to reinforce their understanding of the essential building blocks of music. These include pulse, rhythm, tempo, melody and harmony. They then move through a series of different topics which focus on different musical elements, while introducing them to a wide range of different styles and genres of music; topics include theme and variations, folk music, instruments of the orchestra and West African music. All Year 7 students have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in school either individually or as part of our trailblazers scheme. All Year 7 students are encouraged to get involved in various co-curricular opportunities such as choir, orchestra, wind group, brass group and the trailblazers orchestra.



Miss Abigail Adams: adamsa@skdrive.org

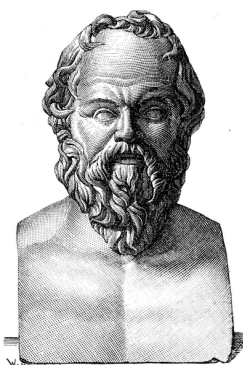
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Year 7 students have a one hour PSHE lesson every two weeks. These lessons are taught by qualified teachers in the Humanities Faculty and are rooted in the National PSHE framework. There are three broad themes that the PSHE curriculum is structured around: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World.

In Year 7 the students will cover the following topics: Staying Safe and Happy (Assessing risk and managing peer influence); Celebrating Diversity (understanding and appreciating all the ways in which humans can be different) and Staying Healthy (managing the physical and emotional demands of adolescence and the changing body).

Ms Jessica Huzzey: huzzeyj@skdrive.org

Philosophy and Belief



Students of philosophy and belief will be given the opportunity to explore their own moral code and values as well as those of different religions during Year 7 lessons. They will be introduced to the concept of materialism and Greek philosophical thinking and will be encouraged to reflect on what is important to them. Examining spirituality and different belief systems will also be a central line of enquiry for Year 7 students in order to give them a broad understanding of different religions.

Ms Jessica Huzzey: huzzeyj@skdrive.org

Physical Education

In Year 7 we aim to give students a complete induction to our subject, building subject routines and developing the essential PE ingredients that students will need for all of their subsequent lessons. We spend the majority of Year 7 focusing on building confidence and competence across a range of activities. We want all students to find a deep-rooted engagement with PE, physical activity and school sport.

What will PE lessons focus on?

We have six different focus areas and use these to categorise the work that we do in PE lessons. These focus areas cover three main domains; physical, social and cognitive. Our strands are sport physical, body physical, personal social, group social, sport cognitive and competitive cognitive.

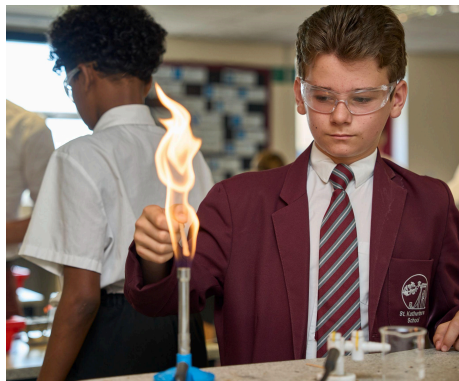
What activities will be covered?

Activities are always subject to access to facilities, weather and needs of any given teaching group. Staff may well adapt the content of lessons using their professional judgement. Groups will rotate activities during school terms and will be informed about activity changes by their teachers. Typical activities include - rugby, netball, rackets, gymnastics, dance, minor games, hockey, football, basketball, athletics, striking and fielding and adventure activities.

What else is on offer?

Physical Education lessons are one part of our faculty offer. We have a comprehensive range of co-curricular activities that focus on recreational physical activity and competitive school sport. We pride ourselves on the fact that there is always something happening in PE and we actively encourage everyone to come along and get involved. Our co-curricular timetable varies greatly and so more information will be available from PE teachers or form tutors.

Mr Dave Cook: cookd@skdrive.org



Science

In the first weeks at St Katherine's Year 7 students will sit an assessment that will assess students' knowledge and understanding of Key Stage 2 science. This will allow us to identify any students who need extra support or stretch in lessons.

The first topic students will study is 'becoming a scientist'. This topic will introduce them to working in a laboratory. Students will learn about the various pieces of equipment used in a laboratory and work on their practical skills.

Following this, students will then study the three sciences biology, chemistry and physics. Students will be taught each science separately by specialist teachers. Topics will build on the KS2 national curriculum. If you feel your child would benefit from some revision on KS2 science, please visit

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2pfb9q>

Topics covered throughout Year 7 are as follows:-

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cells	Particles	Sound
Organ Systems	States of matter	Light
Reproduction	Chemical Reactions	Forces
	Acids and Alkalis	Space

As well as the in-class learning, there will be co-curricular opportunities for students to take part in during enrichment such as natural history club.

Mrs Zoe Ivey (Head of science): iveyz@skdrive.org

Mrs Stephanie Lewis (Head of biology): lewiss@skdrive.org

Miss Lauren Hodder (Head of chemistry): hodderl@skdrive.org

Mr Kevin Arden (Head of physics): ardenk@skdrive.org

TERM DATES 2025/2026

Term 1	
Tuesday 2 September 2025	INSET DAY
Wednesday 3 September	INSET DAY
Thursday 4 September	Start of Term 1 (Year 7 and 11 only)
Friday 26 September	INSET DAY
Wednesday 22 October	End of Term 1
Thursday 23 October	INSET DAY
Friday 24 October	INSET DAY
Term 2	
Monday 3 November	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 November	Start of Term 2
Friday 19 December	End of Term 2
Term 3	
Monday 5 January 2026	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6 January	Start of Term 3
Friday 13 February	End of Term 3
Term 4	
Monday 23 February	Start of Term 4
Thursday 2 April	End of Term 4
Term 5	
Monday 20 April	Start of Term 5
Friday 22 May	End of Term 5
Term 6	
Monday 1 June	Start of Term 6
Monday 29 June	INSET DAY
Wednesday 22 July	End of Term 6

Homework



In Year 7, we would expect students to be spending up to 1.5 hours each evening on homework although this may vary slightly. Students should aim to spend approximately 30 minutes on each homework task. All homework will be published on Class Charts. Students will need to submit homework online and also submit when they complete the homework.

Top Tips

- Monitor Class Charts to know what homework has been set and when it is due
- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework
- Avoid distractions such as screens or busy areas of the house
- Make sure the materials your child needs are available i.e. paper, pencils, dictionaries
- Help your child with time management. Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Do not let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Help plan your child's homework schedule
- Be positive about homework. Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires
- When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers. Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for them
- Stay informed. Talk with your child's teacher and tutor. Attend progress evenings
- Celebrate success with a special event (e.g. pizza, a trip or link to pocket money)

Mobile Phones Use

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the school site. We use the phrase 'not seen and not heard' when talking about mobile phones on the school site. This means phones must be turned off and placed in a student's bag. If a mobile phone is 'seen or heard', it is confiscated, kept safe overnight and returned at the end of the following school day. We know that social media can be damaging to children and we recommend that you regularly check and monitor your child(ren)'s communications and only allow them to have access only to age appropriate apps. A parental guide to social media can be found [here](#).

Student Leadership

Our student leaders are integral to shaping the school development plan and helping make leadership decisions. Leadership is not a one-time event but should be discussed, modelled and reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

There are numerous ways that students can take on leadership roles, not least through our House System where each tutor group will elect a tutor representative that will work alongside their Head of House to inspire and motivate staff and students to give their best for their House. Students also work alongside staff to provide leadership and direction on a number of projects that are important in our community. Whatever your child is passionate about, they will find a leadership opportunity to suit their skills and interests including environmental issues, peer mediation, anti bullying, equalities and diversity as well as many others. Please encourage your children to get involved in as many leadership opportunities as possible.

The purpose of encouraging student leadership is:

- To develop students' character, accountability and teamwork skills
- To offer a range of roles and responsibilities to a larger number of students
- To promote active citizenship and to deepen student engagement
- To promote student groups who have real influence in taking the school forward
- To develop dialogue between staff and students for the benefit of the whole school
- To contribute to whole school improvement

Clubs and Activities

At St Katherine's School, we recognise that a good education should be about more than success in the classroom, important though that is. There are many clubs and societies within the school and innumerable co-curricular sporting, musical and dramatic opportunities: all students are encouraged to take part in the wider life of the school.

Most of our clubs meet during the lunch break or immediately after school. There are frequent school plays open to various age levels, and sports teams compete in rugby, netball, football, rounders, hockey, cricket, athletics and other sports. All these opportunities for individual students to develop their talents and to learn how to work with others.

Equalities and Diversity

St Katherine's School is proud to be a diverse and inclusive community of many different races and cultures. Governors and staff celebrate racial, cultural, sexual and religious diversity. We positively promote equality, challenge bullying and stereotypes and create an environment which champions respect for all. We believe that our diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit.

British Values

The DfE have recently reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs'.

This should happen in the context of a wider (PSHE and Citizenship) provision through which schools should:

- Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working the locality of the school and to society more widely
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for the public institutions and services in England
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for other people; and
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

St Katherine's Values

St Katherine's mission statement is We are St. Katherine's - a nurturing and inclusive community united in the pursuit of excellence. Our core values are; respect, resilience and responsibility.

Respect

- **towards peers:** listening actively when others are speaking, not interrupting and valuing differing opinions
- **towards teachers:** following instructions promptly and addressing teachers politely
- **towards the school environment:** keeping the school clean through using bins and respecting shared spaces such as the library and canteen

Responsibility

- **personal accountability:** completing homework on time, being punctual to school and lessons and arriving at school in correct uniform with all equipment
- **self-discipline:** staying focussed during lessons. Understanding and supporting the school rules
- **social responsibility:** tell someone if you have any concerns about other students

Resilience

- **academic challenges:** persisting through challenges, asking for help when needed and learning from mistakes
- **social situations:** overcoming conflicts with peers by working to resolve disagreements maturely
- **enrichment and extracurricular activities:** continuing to practice and improve in sports, music and other extracurricular activities despite setbacks or failures.

Lost Property

Lost property is located at the Student Support Office

- Students should report items which are missing to their tutor and provide details of when and where lost, list of items etc
- Items found of high value (such as mobile phones or jewellery) should be delivered to the Student Support Office
- Any items clearly labelled will be reunited with their owners as soon as possible

- Students can collect lost property before school, during break, lunchtimes and after school from lost property (reception)
- Please encourage students to come to lost property at those times ONLY
- All unnamed lost property will be displayed at the end of each half term and if the item is not claimed it will be sold or given to charity

Privacy Notice - How we use pupil information

Cathedral Schools Trust and each school within the Trust has certain obligations as a data controller of personal information. A new data privacy law was introduced in the UK from 25 May 2018. As a result, we are publishing a new Privacy Notice to make it easier for you to find out how we use and protect your information. We will not be changing the ways we use your personal information, but the new notice will provide you with additional details.

The categories of pupil information that we collect, hold and share include:

- Personal information (such as name, unique pupil number and address)
- Characteristics (such as ethnicity, language, nationality, country of birth and free school meal eligibility)
- Attendance information (such as sessions attended, number of absences and absence reasons)
- Assessment information
- Relevant medical information
- Special educational needs information
- Exclusions/behavioural information
- Biometrics (Parentpay)
- CCTV
- Post 16 learning information

Why do we collect and use pupil information?

We use the pupil data:

- To support pupil learning
- To monitor and report on pupil progress
- To provide appropriate pastoral care
- To assess the quality of our services
- To comply with the law regarding data sharing

The lawful basis on which we use this information

We collect and use pupil information under Section 537A of the Education Act 1996, Section 83 of the children Act 1989 and The EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) including Article 6 'Lawfulness of Processing' and Article 9 'Processing of special categories of personal data'.

Collecting pupil information

Whilst the majority of pupil information you provide to us is mandatory, some of it is provided to us on a voluntary basis. In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations, we will inform you whether you are required to provide certain pupil information to us or if you have a choice in this.

Storing pupil data

We hold pupil data for the time specified in the Trust's data retention policy.

Who do we share pupil information with?

We routinely share pupil information with:

- Schools that the pupils attend after leaving us
- Cathedral Schools Trust
- Our local authority
- The Department for Education (DfE)
- Arbor
- Classcharts
- GL Assessments (NGRTs and SEN Assessments)
- Lexia (SEN Resource)
- Childrens' Social Services
- NHS
- Parents' Evening System
- SISRA (Progress analysis)
- PiXL (Progress analysis)
- Groupcall Analytics (Academy Trust analytics system)
- Parentpay (Parental payment portal)
- Civica (Cashless till system)
- Colorfoto (School Photographer)
- Innovate (Catering)
- Independent careers advisors
- FutureQuest (Careers advisors)

- Unifrog
- Exam Boards (AQA, OCR, Edexcel, BTEC, Pearson and Eduqas, ESB)
- Required information such as dietary needs are provided only when necessary for residential trips
- Other teaching resources where limited information is disclosed, such as name and class

Aged 14+ qualifications

For pupils enrolling for post 14 qualifications, the Learning Records Service will give us a pupil's unique learner number (ULN) and may also give us details about the pupil's learning or qualifications.

Why we share pupil information

We do not share information about our pupils with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so. We share pupils' data with the Department for Education (DfE) on a statutory basis. This data sharing underpins school funding and educational attainment policy and monitoring.

We are required to share information about our pupils with the DfE under regulation 5 of The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013.

Data Collection requirements

To find out more about the data collection requirements placed on us by the DfE (for example; via the school census) go to

<https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-the-censuses-for-schools>

Youth Support Services

What is different about pupils aged 13+?

Once our pupils reach the age of 13, we also pass pupil information to our local authority and/or provider of youth support services as they have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

This enables them to provide services as follows:-

- Youth support services
- Careers advisers

A parent/guardian can request that **only** their child's name, address and date of birth is passed to their local authority or provider of youth support services by informing school@skdrive.org

This right is transferred to the child/pupil once he/she reaches the age of 16.

Our pupils aged 16+

We will also share certain information about pupils aged 16+ with our local authority and/or provider of youth support services as they have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

This enables them to provide services as follows:

- Post-16 education and training providers
- Youth support services
- Careers advisors

For more information about services for young people, please visit our local authority website.

The National Pupil Database (NPD)

The NPD is owned and managed by the Department of Education and contains information about pupils in schools in England. It provides invaluable evidence on educational performance to inform independent research, as well as studies commissioned by the Department. It is held in electronic format for statistical purposes. This information is securely collected from a range of sources including schools, local authorities and awarding bodies.

We are required by law to provide information about our pupils to the DfE as part of statutory data collections such as the school census and early years' census. Some of this information is then stored in the NPD. The law that allows this is the Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013.

To find out more about the pupil information we share with the department, for the purpose of data collections, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-the-censuses-for-schools>.

To find out more about the NPD, go to:

RESPECT | RESILIENCE | RESPONSIBILITY

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-user-guide-and-supporting-information>

The Department may share information about our pupils from the NPD with third parties who promote the education or well-being of children in England by:

- Conducting research or analysis
- Producing statistics
- providing information, advice or guidance

The Department has robust processes in place to ensure the confidentiality of our data is maintained and there are stringent controls in place regarding access and use of the data. Decisions on whether DfE releases data to third parties are subject to a strict approval process and based on a detailed assessment of:

- Who is requesting the data
- The purpose for which it is required
- The level and sensitivity of data requested, and
- The arrangements in place to store and handle the data

To be granted access to pupil information, organisations must comply with strict terms and conditions covering the confidentiality and handling of the data, security arrangements and retention and use of the data.

For more information about the Department's data sharing process, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data>

For information about which organisations the Department has provided pupil information, (and for which project), please visit the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-requests-received>

To contact DfE: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

Requesting access to your personal data

RESPECT | RESILIENCE | RESPONSIBILITY

Under data protection legislation, parents and pupils have the right to request access to information about them that we hold. To make a request for your personal information, or be given access to your child's educational record, contact school@skdrive.org.

You also have the right to:

- Object to processing of personal data that is likely to cause, or is causing, damage or distress;
- Prevent processing for the purpose of direct marketing;
- Object to decisions being taken by automated means;
- In certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed; and
- Claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of the Data Protection regulations

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Contact

If you would like to discuss anything in this privacy notice, please contact: school@skdrive.org