



ST CHRISTOPHER'S

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

YEAR 7 WELCOME BOOKLET

2024 - 2025



Welcome to St Christopher's

Dear pupils,

You probably feel excited and a little nervous about coming to your new school.

At St Christopher's, we try to make new pupils feel relaxed and a part of our school community as soon as possible.

Between now and September, you may also like to visit our school website www.st-christophers.org to find out more about St Christopher's.

This booklet contains lots of useful information. We would recommend that you keep it handy in your school bag for the first few weeks.

Should you have any extra questions when you start here, you can ask your Form Teacher, myself, Head of Year Seven, or Mrs Lillie, your Assistant Head of Year. We will usually be available in our classrooms or in the Heads of Year Room, which is located on the maths corridor.

We look forward to seeing you in September.



C. Ramsbottom

Mrs C Ramsbottom
Head of Year Seven



A. Lillie

Mrs A Lillie
Assistant Head of Year Seven

Members of Staff

Headmaster:	Mr R Jones
Deputy Headteachers:	Mrs A Spence Mr R O’Doherty
Assistant Headteachers:	Mrs L Williamson Mr D Allen
Head of Year Seven:	Mrs C Ramsbottom
Assistant Head of Year Seven:	Mrs A Lillie



Mrs Ramsbottom is responsible for helping new Year Seven pupils to feel comfortable and happy at St Christopher’s. See Mrs Ramsbottom, Mrs Lillie or your Form Teacher if you have any problems or worries.

Year Seven Form Teachers

At the start of every morning and afternoon, you will meet with the rest of your form and your form teacher when the register is taken. You will then move around school to assembly and to different classrooms to meet your subject teachers.

You will be in the same form group for registration and assemblies for the whole of your school career. You will also have the opportunity to make new friends as you join other pupils in your classes for some subjects and extra-curricular activities.

7A	Miss Buckley
7B	Miss Gerrard
7C	Mr Smith
7D	Miss Newburgh
7H	Mrs Dowd
7O	Mr Young
7P	Mr Muir



Your Daily Timetable

Monday to Thursday School Day

Registration and Assembly:	8.45am
Period 1:	9.10am - 10.10am
Period 2:	10.10am - 11.10am
Break:	11.10am - 11.30am
Period 3:	11.30am - 12.30pm
Period 4:	12.30pm - 1.30pm
Lunch:	1.30pm - 2.10pm
Registration and Period 5:	2.10pm - 3.15pm
End of school:	3.15pm

Friday School Day

Registration and Assembly:	8.45am
Period 1:	9.10am - 10.10am
Period 2:	10.10am - 11.10am
Break:	11.10am - 11.30am
Period 3:	11.30am - 12.30pm
Lunch:	12.30pm - 1.10pm
Registration and Period 4:	1.10pm - 2.10pm
End of school:	2.15pm

Punctuality

It is important to be punctual to school and to each lesson. If you are late for school, you must always go to Reception for your register mark. If you are late to lesson you will receive a mark on your CLUE Card. If you receive four marks on your CLUE Card, you will be required to attend Friday CLUE detention.

Assembly

Each school day begins with an act of worship.

- One morning** - Main Hall Assembly
- One morning** - Year Assembly in the Studio
- Three mornings** - Form Assembly in your Form Room

Your Form Teacher will give you a School Prayer Book, which you should bring to every assembly.

Library

The school has a well-equipped library, which is open at break time and lunchtime. You can use the library for quiet reading, for homework research and for borrowing books.

Computers are also available for you to use during these times.



Contacting St Christopher's

St Christopher's CE High School

Queens Road West
Accrington
BB5 4AY

Call: 01254 232992

Or via School Synergy. There is also a contact form on the school website.



School Food at St Christopher's

St Christopher's school food is freshly prepared each day by a team of catering staff who take pride and care in providing good quality, nutritious and wholesome food. We use locally-sourced products from reputable suppliers. We are happy to cater for allergies and genuine food intolerances. Information about allergens are available on the menu cards at point of sale and on packaged goods.

Please indicate any allergies or intolerances on your pupil information sheet.

Payment - we operate a dinner card system and each pupil is issued with a card. Credit is loaded onto the card which is used at the tills and vending machines to pay for food. The average amount that pupils spend at lunchtime is approx. £3.00 but many pupils also buy food at breakfast or break. A daily spend limit can be applied to a pupil's card if parents wish. This can be arranged by parents contacting the school office. Your dinner cards are organised on the first morning in September.

Money can be credited to dinner cards as follows:

1. Using Parent Pay. Details of how to register for this are given separately in the information pack. This is our preferred method of payment.
2. Pupils can operate the REVAL machines in school, and put credit onto their card.

Breakfast - is served from 8.15am selling various morning goods including fruit, cereals, and yoghurts. Breakfast Meal Deals are available.

Morning Break - is similar to breakfast but with the addition of hot breads and savoury snacks.

Lunch - Year 7 have their own dining room which sells hot meals, sandwiches, salads, light snacks and drinks.

We offer three different daily 'Meal Deals': meat, fish and vegetarian choices, which include a milk or pure juice carton, ensuring pupils have at least two to three of their 5-a-day. Our catering staff understand that moving on to high school can be a huge step for Year 7s so we try to make lunchtimes as stress-free as possible so that pupils can rest, relax and refuel for the afternoon ahead.

Vending Machines - are open during breaks and before and after school, selling sandwiches, pasta and salad tubs, fruit juices, cheese and crackers, fruit, yoghurt, dried fruit bags, water and milk.

Fresh drinking water fountains are available in the dining rooms. We recommend that pupils bring a plain, clear water bottle that can be filled from the fountain to enable them to stay hydrated throughout the day.

Free School Meals

The free school meal allowance, currently £3.35 is automatically put onto pupils' cards daily. There is no fuss and this is not referred to at any point during a school meal transaction. When using the card, other pupils and staff are completely unaware of how funds are transferred onto the dinner card and therefore the system is completely anonymous. A recent change is that the £3.35 is split in such a way that pupils receiving free school meals can now enjoy a 'breakfast deal' in the morning for 50p if they wish and access a 'meal deal' at lunchtime. They may wish to use it all at lunchtime but the choice is there for them to make. All 'meal deals' are available to all pupils in school.

Please register with your Local Education office as soon as possible to make sure that your family benefits from this and that it is in place for the first day of school.

Packed Lunches

Pupils can bring their own snack, drink and packed lunch to school, but these should be stored in a strong reusable container, as pupils will need to carry any food or drink brought from home in their school bag. We would also recommend that pupils use recyclable packaging wherever possible.

We encourage pupils to bring fresh, still water to school in a plain water bottle and we allow pupils to drink water during lessons. There are drinking fountains in school. Please note that energy drinks are not allowed in school and will be confiscated.

At break, snacks can be eaten in the Year Seven Cocker courtyard and at lunchtime, packed lunches are eaten in a classroom reserved for this purpose.

If you wish, you can still buy hot and cold drinks, snacks, fruit or hot puddings to accompany your packed lunch.

If you have any questions about food and drink served in school, please contact Mr Gardner the Catering Manager at school at p.gardner@st-christophers.org. Pupils with food allergies will be catered for, provided that school is made aware of any issues with food that they may have.

Lunchtime Clubs

At lunchtimes, there are lots of clubs and activities which you can attend. The extra-curricular timetable will be published on synergy in the first four weeks of September.



Eco Group



Boys' and Girls' Football Teams



Netball Team



Charity and Fundraising Activities

Rewards and Behaviour

Credits

Academic credits are awarded to pupils for good behaviour, effort and organisation in class work / homework.

Badges are presented to pupils who have collected 50, 70 or 100 credits. At the end of the school year, certificates are presented to those pupils with the highest number of academic credits.

Attendance

High attendance is rewarded each half term in year assembly, with the form group gaining the highest attendance receiving a prize. Each term, those pupils with 96% or higher attendance are entered into a prize draw. Attendance certificates and badges are presented to pupils who achieve 100% attendance at the Year Seven Awards Assembly.

Absences

If you are absent from school, we must be informed of the reason by a phone call or email on the first day of absence before 9:10am.

Mrs Connor is our dedicated school attendance officer. She may phone home if you have an unexplained absence. Term holidays are not allowed, except by special permission from the Headmaster.

If you are physically sick you do not need to wait 48 hours before you return to school as you would have in your primary school.

Permit Cards

If you need to leave school, e.g. for a dental appointment, you must bring a note in advance to explain your absence. You must also collect a permit card during morning registration from Reception. When you leave school, you must “sign out” at Reception and if you return to school after your appointment, you must “sign in”.

CLUE Cards

We are proud of our high standards at St Christopher’s. All pupils carry a CLUE Card to remind them of no **Chewing**, no **Lateness**, to keep their **Uniform** tidy and to bring all of their **Equipment**. Pupils with a ‘clean’ CLUE Card are entered into a prize draw each term.

Rewards and Behaviour

Clothes and Property

You must look smart in your new uniform and take care of it.

- Make sure that your name is on all your clothes and property.
- Do not bring large sums of money or expensive items into school.

Homework

All homework is set via our Synergy system.

You will usually be expected to do homework each night. This may involve reading, learning, drawing or written work. Homework teaches you to work on your own. Here are a few tips.

1. Check your Synergy profile each day for new homework and the deadlines set.
2. If you are unsure of the homework, see the teacher at the end of the lesson or in a break.
3. Do not rush homework. Work carefully and thoughtfully.
4. Try to find a quiet place to do homework. Avoid distractions.
5. Always give homework in on time.

Remember that homework is more important than television or other entertainments. Do not neglect it.

If anything about your homework is worrying you, see your Form Teacher or Head/Assistant Head of Year.

Electronic Devices

We operate a strict no mobile phone policy. If you bring a mobile phone into school, it must be switched off and completely out of sight at all times. Any phones seen by a member of staff will be confiscated and taken to Reception, from where your parents will have to collect it at the end of the day.

All smart watches must be set to 'watch only' mode and not used for any other purpose than telling the time, or they too will be confiscated.

Equipment

Equipment Required for Year Seven Pupils

1. Fountain pen, gel pen or biro (blue or black ink only)
2. 30cm ruler
3. Eraser
4. HB pencil
5. Pencil sharpener
6. Pair of compasses
7. Protractor
8. Scientific calculator, preferably Casio (available from school early in the Autumn Term)
9. Technology apron (pre-order through school)
10. Art and Design pack containing everything required for lessons (pre-order through school)
11. Reading book (a recommended list will be available from school)
12. PE Kit (as explained in PE booklet)



Lost Property

If you lose any of your belongings in school, first try to find them by re-tracing your steps. Lost PE kit is handed in to the PE Department. Other Lost Property can be claimed from Reception.

If you make sure that everything is named, it is much easier for us to return it to you.

First Day

On your first day with us remember to bring with you:

1. School bag - you will be given some books to take home.
2. Pencil case with basic equipment.
3. Packed lunch or money to put on your dinner card to buy a school meal. Dinner cards are organised on the first day in September.
4. This Welcome Booklet.
5. You will **NOT** need your PE Kit.
6. Bus fare or bus pass.
7. A reading book.

Be sure that you know which bus to catch to get home at 3:15pm (2:15pm on Friday).



Road Safety and School Bus Service

Some of our pupils travel a long way to and from school by bus. The bus companies have a duty to carry you safely. You can help in the following ways:

1. If you have a Lancashire County bus pass, have it ready to show the driver every time you board the bus.
2. If you have to pay a fare, have your money ready as you board the bus.
3. When on the bus, remain seated throughout the journey and face the front.
4. Make sure you always behave well and listen to the Travel Prefects who will be with you on the bus to make sure you are safe.
5. **Never** distract the driver while the bus is moving; you could cause a serious accident.
6. **Never** lean out of bus windows. **Never** throw anything out of bus windows.

The roads outside school can be very dangerous at the beginning, and especially at the end of the school day:

1. Take special care when crossing on foot.
2. Remind your parents that it is illegal for them to park cars on the hatched markings outside school.
3. If you have to walk some distance from school, remember that in bad weather and bad light, you are at even greater risk from road vehicles as you cross the road.
4. Try to plan and practise your journey before you start in September.



**Enjoy your summer break and stay safe.
We are looking forward to seeing you in September.**



**“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not
wither - whatever they do prospers.”**

Psalm 1:3



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www.st-christophers.org

