ASHFORD SCHOOL
Inspiring Minds

Welcome to Year 7

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Pastoral Support and Pupil Wellbeing

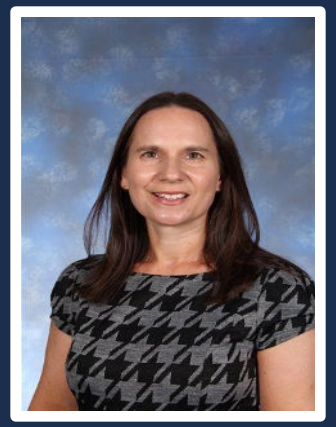
Y7 Pastoral Team

Pupils feel **safe** and **happy** in their school.

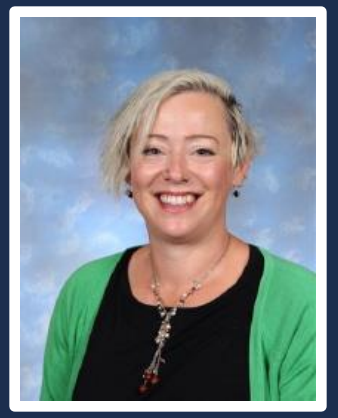
Mrs Kirkham
Head of Year 7

Leaders **actively promote** the wellbeing of pupils.

Miss Hyams - 7HH



Mrs Simes - 7LS



Mrs Johnston - 7KJ

Our Pastoral Provision

All Adults
All adults who work at the school are regularly trained in latest developments around pupil welfare and safeguarding. They are encouraged to raise any concerns with a pupil's form teacher.

Wellbeing Team
Whether it is Time4Me, specialised support or some time with our Chaplain, our Wellbeing team are always there to provide a safe area in which children can share their feelings.

Form Tutor
Form Tutors, who are the main point of contact for both parents and children, play the pivotal role in supporting children at School.

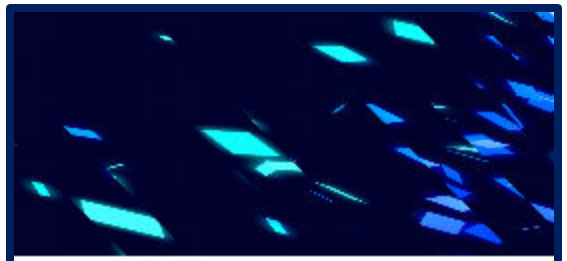
Health Centre
Our health team work closely with the staff, children and parents / guardians to ensure that children are as mentally and physically healthy as they can be.

Head of Year
The Heads of Year oversee more complex year group issues whilst having an overview of the needs of the year group.

Pastoral Team
The Pastoral Team work closely with pupils, parents / guardians, and ouside agencies, when necessary, to ensure there is sufficient support in place to enable every child to thrive.

Safeguarding Team
Our team of DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) work across the whole school in order to promote the children's welfare and safety as well as in collaboration with external agencies and parents.

Learning Enhancement Team
The team provide tailored interventions and support to pupils in order to promote their academic and pastoral development, and ensure they achieve their best.



Concern Report Form

Bullying Report Form

Wellbeing Services Referral Form

Pupils are **kind**, **tolerant** and **respectful** of each other.

Pupils display excellent **manners**, highly developed **communication skills** and **compassion** through their words and interactions.

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Online Support

Available in Year Group Teams.

Accessible on all school devices.

Accessible from home.

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Mental health is of **vital importance** and the school practise a **proactive** rather than reactive approach.

The school has **excellent structures** in place to ensure that pupils' mental health is well cared for.

Wellbeing Manager

Emma Boraston (Jess Grimes)

Counsellor

Chanel Gorman

Trainee Counsellor

Pupil self-referral.

Member of staff / parents / guardians can refer wellbeingteam@ashfordschool.co.uk.

Wellbeing Referral Form in Year Group Teams.

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Academic Provision

Academic Life: An overview

- **Two-week timetable:** A and B weeks.
- **Homework timetable:** first two weeks no homework; then only core subjects/MFL/music practice until half term; all subjects after that. All pupils have a planner.
- **Baseline testing for all Year 7s**: computer adaptive assessments: Vocabulary, Maths, English, Non-verbal ability and skills. No preparation required.
- **End of year exams** in core subjects; all subjects run half termly assessments throughout the year.
- **Grade reports, one full end year report and one Parents' Evening.**
- **PSHE** once a week.
- **Learning Enhancement.**

Future Ready

- **An academic toolkit designed to enhance skills and provide an opportunity for independently-led, inquiry-based learning.**

- Taught sessions introduce and consolidate core skills associated with research. This includes independent learning, ethical AI literacy, effective research, communication and interviewing, and project planning.

- The course culminates in the Headmaster's Project. Pupils demonstrate their learning through the submission of a portfolio recording their planning and research approaches as well as a final artefact / essay.

- **Possible projects may be:**
  Design a wildlife-friendly school garden.
  Build a model of a sustainable house.
  Create a podcast episode about a historical mystery.
  Design a board game that teaches younger pupils about Ancient Rome.
  Is AI a good thing for schools?
  What makes a good leader?
  A short story inspired by a local place.

Ashford School Learning Habits

Tips to Prepare for Success in September

- Build independent learning habits.
- Maintain and stretch academic skills.
- Build emotional readiness and confidence.
- Strengthen social skills.
- Familiarise them with secondary school life.
- Manage technology and online habits.
- Keep a healthy balance.

Idea for a Weekly Structure

You might suggest a light routine such as:

- **Daily:** one independent responsibility (chores, organisation).
- **3 days/week:** 30 mins reading or writing.
- **3 days/week:** 20 mins maths practice.
- **Weekly:** reflection or discussion about feelings and expectations.

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Co-Curricular Provision

Outdoor Education and Trips

Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Year 8.

Duke of Edinburgh Year 9.

Sport

Comprehensive schedule of competitive fixtures.
(**Boys -** rugby, football, hockey, cricket
Girls – hockey, football, netball, cricket)
Swimming, athletics, cross-country, badminton, tennis and basketball

Drama

Junior Musical/Play

ArtsFest

Music

Instrumental Scheme.

Performances at Christmas and Summer Concerts.

ArtsFest

Activities

Choose 3 from 40+ per week.

Selected at the start of the term.

M	T	W	T	F
Activity	Activity	Sports Fixtures	Activity	Optional: Fortnightly Pre-Season

www.ashfordschoolsport.co.uk

Our aim is to encourage pupils to participate in a well-rounded programme of activities.

- **Care:** wellbeing, caring for others and the environment.
- **Craft:** learning and applying practical skills/techniques.
- **Cognition:** thinking, learning and developing cognitive skills.
- ***Contribute:*** Represent the school in sport, music and drama, read in services and assemblies, support charitable initiatives, be a member of the audience, enter internal/external competitions.

Pupils will be working towards a co-curricular diploma involving all four elements. This will be completed across their time in Year 7 and Year 8.

Settling in at Ashford School

New Pupil Induction

Wednesday 2nd September

- Students will receive their timetables, planners, devices.
- Spend time as a year group.
- Teambuilding activities.

The Year 7 Settling-In Sleepover

Friday 11th September to Saturday 12th September

- Teambuilding.
- Friendships.
- Independence.
- Support.
- Challenge.

How we help Year 7 pupils to settle:

- Form times twice daily.
- PSHE sessions.
- Wellbeing Workshops specifically for Year 7.
- Year 7 Singers every Tuesday.
- Gradual introduction of homework.
- Lockers being in the form rooms.
- Year 8 buddy system.
- Prefects on hand to help with lesson transitions.

Trips and Upcoming Events

Year 7 Settling-in Sleepover

Friday 11th September to Saturday 12th September 2026

Adventurous Learning Week

Previous trips have included:

- Harry Potter Studio Tours.
- Chatham Dockyards.

School Events

- House Shout.
- Christmas Fair.
(located at the Prep School)
- Christmas concert.
- Junior Drama Production.
- Spring Concert.

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Ashford Senior School

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