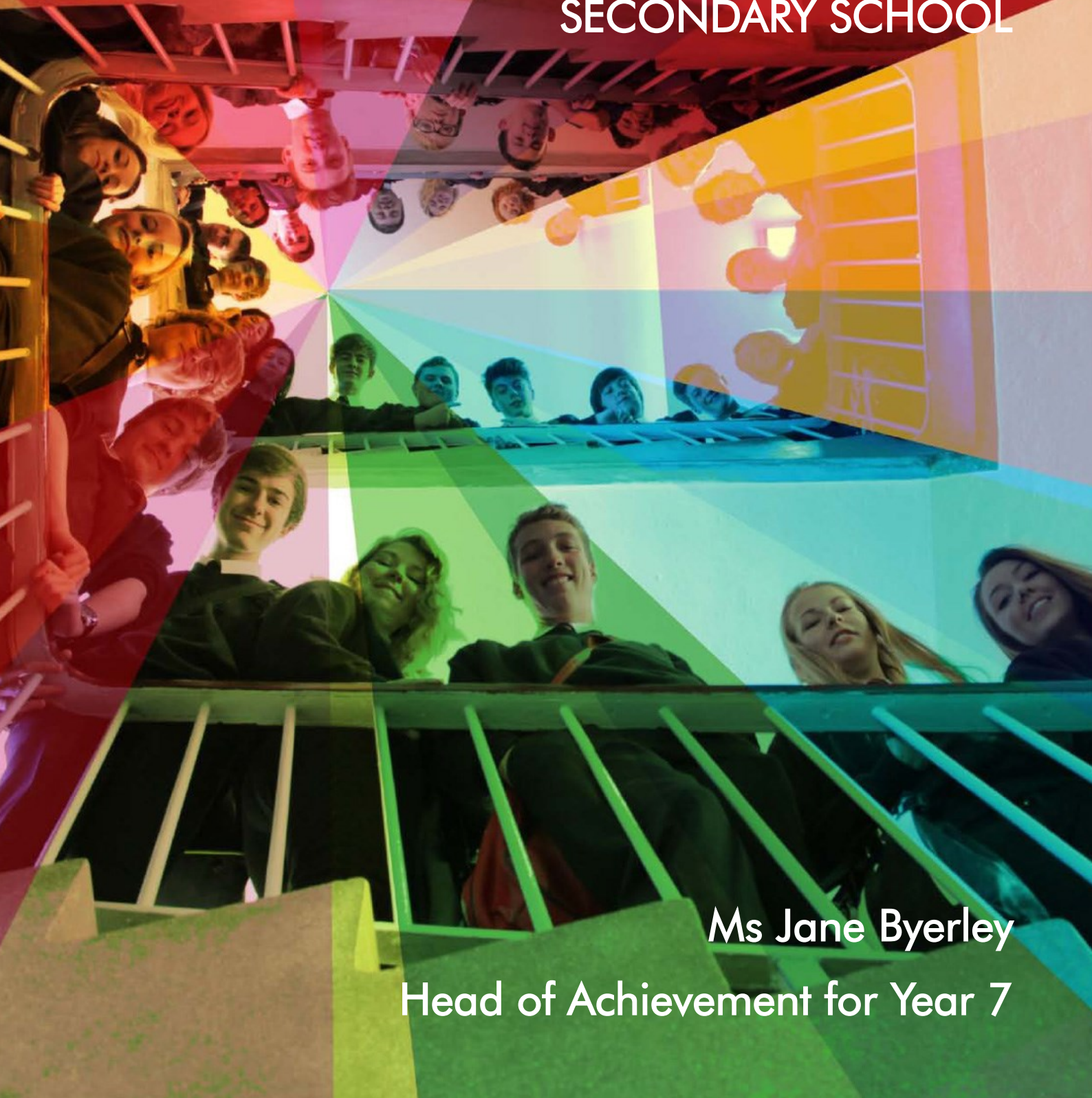




# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT SECONDARY SCHOOL



Ms Jane Byerley  
Head of Achievement for Year 7



## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

### FIRST DAY / ORGANISATION

- Your child should not expect to understand new routines and expectations immediately - it will take time to adapt. Reassure your child of this and encourage her/him to ask questions to clarify understanding
- If possible, be available at key times for your child during the first few days of the new term. Praise and encourage independence but be ready to offer a helping hand
- Practise new routines with your child and provide a tick-list to help them organise themselves in readiness for school. For example, encourage your child to pack their school bag and lay out their uniform before going to bed each evening
- Ensure that you label equipment and uniform, even shoes, with your child's name - use either labels or a marker pen
- Keep spares of essential items at home 'just in case'
- Help your child to organise the resources that they need for school and identify an appropriate space in the home where they can complete work undisturbed
- A box file or stacking system is useful for most children - each file can be labelled with the subject. A labelled A4 plastic or card folder to take to school for each subject is also helpful
- Teach a routine for 'packing the school bag'. The subject folders or books are replaced in the system every evening. Any subjects for which homework is required are placed in the 'homework to be done' in-tray. Do this with your child to begin with, then gradually let them take over. 'Spot check' every so often
- Encourage your child to relax and think positive. With caring support you can help to make the transition a happy and exciting period

### HOMEWORK

- Encourage your child to check their study planner each night and double check that they have done this
- Establish a routine for homework and agree that TV, games etc. will only be possible after homework is completed and checked; in most cases it is best for pupils to complete homework on the day it is set
- Look for opportunities to talk to your child about schoolwork - children enjoy sharing what they are learning. Try to find topics that you are both interested in so it's more of a conversation than an interrogation





## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

### EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- A good way to meet new friends with similar interests is by joining a school club. Suggest that your child explores the options available - there are many!
- Encourage your child to take part in sporting activities or join a community club outside of school. There is a strong link between fitness, health and academic performance
- If you are planning a day out, when possible visit a museum or gallery that will tie in with work your child is doing in subjects such as Art, English, History, Geography or Science - this can be a fun way to add depth and interest to your child's learning

### RULES

- Every school has rules. Whether children agree with them or not it is much better to keep to them. Impress upon your child that rules are there so that pupils understand what is expected of them and it is just not worth getting into trouble

### FRIENDSHIPS

- Encourage your child to be supportive of classmates. Some may be having problems. Ignoring others or calling names can be very hurtful. However, being a good friend does not mean doing work for them!
- Discuss your child's choice of friends. Sometimes children feel pressured into doing things they know are wrong because their 'friends' tell them to. Under such circumstances they may need support to find more appropriate friends
- Remind your child that if someone is making them unhappy at school that they should tell you or a teacher. It is his/her entitlement to attend school without feeling intimidated and action would always be taken to stop any bullying behaviours
- Control and monitor your child's use of social media and electronic devices - ensure that all devices are switched off at a time decided by you, for example 7pm, and keep chargers for phones, laptops etc. downstairs

# Year 7 English Language and Literature

## Background to the subject

English Language is designed to inspire and motivate pupils, providing appropriate stretch and challenge, whilst ensuring, as far as possible, that the assessment and texts are accessible to the full range of pupils. English Literature enriches lives and opens doors. Therefore, it is designed for all pupils – accessible and enabling for pupils of all abilities through text choices and questions that provide both access and stretch.



We suggest that your child reads some of the books on the enclosed book list by September. At Springfield we use the Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme which produces an average of two years' reading age growth in just one academic year while promoting reading for pleasure. AR is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice. With AR, teachers can create a reading programme to meet the needs of every student. Using information generated by the software, teachers can help students select books that are difficult enough to keep them



challenged, but not too difficult to cause frustration. In addition, it helps teachers to monitor pupils' vocabulary growth, literacy skills development and reading skills taught through other reading schemes. AR develops a lifelong love of reading in your child, motivates children of all ages to read more, suitably challenging books, raises literacy standards for children of all ages and abilities and accesses instant reporting on each child's progress and diagnoses problems.

You may not be reading with your child as you did at junior/primary school but you can still support good reading habits. Talk to your child about the books you are both reading. Ask what books your child would like for a birthday present for example. Go to the library together and look at online book reviews.

Keeping up-to-date with the news helps with schoolwork. Encourage your child to read a newspaper at least once a week. Find news stories that connect to lesson topics. If your child is researching a subject suggest the online archives of a good newspaper.

## Year 7 Mathematics

### The Mathematics Department

We are a team of specialist Mathematics teachers who are enthusiastic about our subject and determined to challenge our pupils through activities which show what they know and can do, as well as providing the framework within which they can consolidate existing skills and learn new ones.

### What will be taught in Year 7 Mathematics?

The Key Stage 3 Mathematics curriculum is divided into six key areas: 'Number', 'Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change', 'Algebra', 'Geometry & Measures', 'Statistics' and 'Probability'. These areas are divided into topics (the timings of which can be viewed on the school website via the 'Learning' tab) and are revisited, consolidated and extended each year. We aim to build on the work that your son/daughter has been doing in primary school. He/she will find many of our activities familiar and should feel at ease with our methods which are designed to ensure continuity and promote high standards in this important area. All pupils will experience Mathematics through a range of practical, investigative, oral, written and problem solving activities.

We do not rely on any one published course but try to use the best ideas from a great variety of sources specifically chosen to suit the needs of our pupils. We do have access to various texts but also produce our own booklets and worksheets in addition to using a number of ICT activities. We encourage the use of the following websites to support pupils' learning, and your son/daughter will be provided with personal logins for these.

### Assessment

Teacher assessment is carried out on a continuous basis throughout the year and will take a variety of forms, including regular marking and feedback on homework tasks as well as more formal written examinations.

### Equipment

In addition to the standard school equipment, all pupils will need: Protractor, Compasses and Scientific calculator. Scientific calculators can be purchased, not for profit, from the school for approximately £5 – a considerable saving on the normal shop price! Some pupils also like to have their own coloured pencils and a glue stick.



### Setting

For Mathematics, the year group is split into three cohorts, V, W and Z. Each cohort is split into ability sets. Your child will begin work in a set determined by their Key Stage 2 test levels and teacher assessments. Our setting system is, however, very flexible as we use it as a means of motivation and pupils are monitored continuously to ensure their individual needs are being catered for. Movement occurs as and when necessary but is usually associated with a specific assessment period.



### Mathematics Homework

**Set: At least once per week Time required: 30-60 minutes**

The timing and form of the work will vary according to the teaching group but pupils will always be given a date by which the work must be completed. Whenever possible, at least two nights is allowed between the setting and collection or checking of homework. Pupils are however encouraged not to leave their work until the last minute in case they need additional guidance which will readily be given by the class teacher at a convenient time either at lunch or after school.