



### **Can children cycle into school? Is there a cycle rack?**

Students are encouraged and supported to ride to school. Cycling has many great benefits, including reducing emissions and increasing exercise. There is a cycle rack, and we recommend that you provide your child with a bicycle lock. All bikes are left at the owner's discretion.

We ask that you please ensure your child knows how to ride safely to school and uses the correct safety equipment, e.g., a cycle helmet. While cycling to and from school, your child should be reminded that they must cycle responsibly and pay due care to cars and pedestrians. We do not tolerate anti-social behaviour on bikes

### **What happens if someone misses the 6th and 8th of July 2021?**

The Transition Evening on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 is incredibly important, and we urge all parents and students to attend. Hertfordshire County Council sets secondary Transfer day on 8th July 2021, and all schools take part on this day across the county. We are aware that one or two primary schools plan the Year 6 residential trip on this week occasionally, which means some students are unable to attend. The benefit of our transition program means that we will have seen your child several times already. In cases where it is deemed that your child missing transfer day will cause any anxiety, we will review this on a case by case basis and plan an additional meeting if necessary.

### **Have the transition packs been sent already?**

In your first email from me, you will have received a Welcome Letter, a Welcome Pack, and a Student Information Booklet. These form your transition pack. All documents are also available on the website under the Admissions tab/Year 6 into 7 Transition

### **What breakfast and after-school care do you offer?**

The canteen is open from 8am, and a small range of breakfast foods are available including cereal, fruit and toast.

### **Do you do any performing arts clubs?**

Yes, we offer a Drama Club and Glee Club. Next year we also hope to additional music clubs.

### **Do you have any violin lessons?**

We can arrange for external providers to come in to offer individual instrument lessons. Many of you will be used to a service like Herts Music, which is also used in primary schools. The provision will be based on uptake



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### **What time does school finish? How long are the lessons and how many lessons in a day?**

The full school timings are laid out in your Welcome Pack. Lessons are 1 hour long, and there are five lessons per day plus a 20 minute form time. School currently finishes at 2.50 pm for Year 7, due to staggered start and end times, as a response to Covid-19. We hope that we will return to one timetable in September 2021, when school will finish at 3.05 pm

### **What is the school's philosophy?**

#### **Respect, Aspire, Nurture, Achieve**

Our Commitment and Vision

- To ensure that all students receive a high quality, consistently outstanding learning experience
- To ensure all students make outstanding progress regardless of their starting point
- To develop aspirations for all members of the community for the future
- To build on and develop an inclusive community for all students
- To build a secure future for our school

We aim to ensure all of our students are positive future citizens, equipped for the modern world in skills, knowledge, experiences, and qualifications.

### **Do you have a girl's football team?**

Yes, we have both boys and girls football teams

### **What facilities are shared between Goffs-Churchgate and Goffs Academy? Do the students use any of the Goff buildings?**

We do not share buildings or teachers. Each school runs independently. At Goffs-Churchgate, we are blessed to have plenty of teaching rooms and additional areas for students. We have a generous bank of computer suites, science labs, technology rooms, dance & drama studios, art and media rooms, as well as an indoor swimming pool and brand new 3G football pitches. The schools work together, sharing CPD, pedagogy, and values.

### **Do we get homework every night?**

Yes, you will receive homework every evening as well as for the weekends. This will vary in length. In Year 7, we would expect you to complete about 90 mins per night, including reading. We use various online learning platforms, and the majority of your homework is completed through these.

### **Do you have swimming lessons?**

Yes. Swimming is part of the PE offer. You will have one lesson per fortnight. There is also an opportunity to attend swimming after-school clubs once restrictions are lifted.



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### **How do you communicate the set homework, is there a homework book or tracker?**

We use a system called Classcharts. When your child begins in September, you will receive a parent login, and your child will receive a pupil login. You can download the app for your phone. Homework is posted on there, and you can also access your child's behaviour and achievement points.

### **Do we get to do baking and cooking in year 7?**

Technology disciplines are taught on a termly rota. You will be taught product design, woodwork, textiles, and food technology.

### **Will there be an opportunity to learn Spanish?**

We do not offer Spanish, but each child will get the opportunity to learn both French and German in Year 7.

### **Can we go to school with a phone?**

Phones are not permitted in school. We recognise parent's desire for students to have phones for the journey to and from school. We work on the basis that phones must be switched off and put away before entering the school gates. If a phone is seen or heard on school grounds, it will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent.

### **Do students get to have a locker/space to store property?**

Yes, we provide lockers free to students. These are used on an ad hoc basis whenever a student requires one. It comes with a locking system that requires a self-chosen pin number in the morning. The student can then use it for the day. At the end of the day, items must be collected and taken home so that all lockers can be reset for the following day. There is good availability of lockers for students to use. Most tend to use them on swimming days only as students are not required to carry books around with them.

### **What are the sports that you offer?**

We offer a wide range of sports from Rugby to Dance, Swimming, Netball, and Athletics.

### **What the procedure for dropping and picking up at the school? Are we allowed to drive into the school to drop off/pick up?**

School gates are closed at the start and end of the school days for student safety. We encourage students to walk and cycle to school. There is a public car park near the council offices opposite the school if you need to drop and collect your child. We ask that you do not turn around directly in front of the school as this poses a danger to our children as they arrive and leave for school. The residential road



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directly adjacent to the school should not be used as a waiting area. We politely request that you are considerate of our neighbours, pedestrians, and other road users.

### **Are we able to use the toilets during lessons?**

No. Most children should be able to get through one hour without needing to use the toilet. Between each lesson is a five-minute change over time, and that is enough time for students to use them. For students with medical needs, we can provide a toilet card after reviewing medical evidence. We are also sensitive to the needs of our female student body.

### **How many lessons per week are creative arts?**

Below is a guide of the hours allocated per subject during this year for Year 7. This will alter slightly for September 2021 as we expand our music provision.

<b>Subject/Block</b>	<b>Teaching Hours per fortnight</b>
<b>Maths</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>English including Library Lessons</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Modern Foreign Languages</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>RS and Citizenship</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Technology and Art</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Drama and Music</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PE</b>	<b>4</b>





<b>ICT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Character Charter</b>	<b>1</b>

**How long are the lunch and break?**

Break is 20 minutes, and lunch is 40 minutes

**Are we able to bring in a break time snack, or is there a vending machine we can use?**

You can bring in your own snack for the break and/or packed lunch. The canteen is open at break time, serving hot and cold snacks from warm bacon rolls, waffles and croissants to sandwiches, vegetable snack pots, and fruit salads. We have a selection of hot plated dinners, sandwiches, paninis, and grab-and-go options at lunchtime. Please make sure your child has enough money on their canteen account each day as we cannot allow the account to go into arrears.

