



YEAR 7

SEPTEMBER 2020

INFORMATION PACK



WILMINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Common Lane, Wilmington, Kent DA2 7DA

wgsb.co.uk



Wilmington Grammar School for Boys

Travelling to School

Travelling to School by Arriva

It is possible to reach the School from most areas using public transport. Depending on the route, bus-stops are:

- inside the School grounds
- by Wilmington Costcutter Store
- at Leyton Cross roundabout
- in Parsons Lane or Oakfield Lane
- in Common Lane

All stops are no more than two or three minutes walking distance from the School. There are other routes served by buses which form part of the normal timetabled service.

Travelling to School by Private Coach

North Kent School Transport (NKST)
c/o 4 Till Avenue, Farningham, Dartford, Kent DA4 0BH
Chairman: Mr H Bracey
Tel: 01322 864810
www.nkst.co.uk

NKST provides Private Coach Transport from many areas to all the Wilmington Schools. The coaches drop and pick up within the School grounds.

Details and conditions can be obtained from Mr Bracey or see website (listed above).

Travelling to School by Car

In the interests of the safety of all our students, parents dropping off children or waiting in cars for them, should do so away from the School entrance gates **and in no circumstances within the School grounds between 8.20-9am and 3.15-4.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and between 8.20-9am and 2.15-3.00pm on Wednesdays** because of the heavy movement of public transport. Parking in a designated coach bay or a 'no waiting area' generates unnecessary congestion and causes danger to the students. Some parents operate car sharing arrangements, which the School encourages.



ParentPay

The School operates an online payment system called ParentPay, where parents can pay for trips, meals etc. This online system links to a personalised, smart School photographic ID card that the students will be issued with during the first week in September. This ID Card is used to authenticate food purchases in the kitchen from your ParentPay account, for access control around the School and for checking in/checking out books from the Library. If your son loses his ID card he will have to pay for a replacement card at the cost of £5. ID cards will need to be returned at the end of Year 11.

During July you will receive an activation letter for your Parent Pay account. Here you can pay in advance for:

- Your son's locker access (key or numeric code)
- Calculators and Dictionaries
- Meals for September term
- Food Tech/DT contributions

During the first day of term (Wednesday 2nd September) arrangements will be made for the students to be set up on the School's systems.

If your son wishes to have a School meal on their first day, please ensure their "Dinner Money" item in your ParentPay account is topped up. The main meal and dessert of the day at lunch is currently £2.40, and you may wish to add more funds for him to have something for break too. £3.40 per day is estimated to be a reasonable average allowance, so effectively £17 a week. Through your ParentPay account you will be able to see what your son has eaten each day.

Please ensure your son's Dinner Money account is kept in credit as he will not be able to purchase food if his account is in debit.

If your son is eligible for Free school meals please ensure you let Kent County Council aware so that they can set up your son's account with us and remove them from the primary school account.

Lockers

Each student will be provided with a School locker during the first week of term. There is a £5 deposit requested for your son's locker access, which must be paid by **21 August 2020** in order for your son to receive a locker key (or access code) at the start of term. The deposit will be returned once all school books, library books, locker key (if issued) and ID card are handed in at the end of Year 11.

If your son should lose his locker key (if issued with a key, rather than a numeric code), there is currently a £5 charge for a replacement.



Uniform List

Items can be purchased via TFS Outfitters in Dartford or alternatively by placing your order via their website. TFS, 45 Spital Street, Dartford, Tel: 01322 291838. www.fjsclothing.co.uk. *Please note due to social distancing you will need to make an appointment with the store to buy uniform.*

Uniform

- Navy blue (not black) singled-breasted blazer (with the School badge on the breast pocket)
- House tie
- Plain white shirt
- Plain black leather hard sole shoes: not black trainers or boots, not Timberland boots. Note: shoes should not look like trainers nor have a rubber sole bottom. No plimsolls.
- Plain dark grey/charcoal trousers (not black)
- Navy blue V-necked pullover with School logo
- Dark socks (black or grey)

- Outdoor coats: these should not be bulky as they need to be stored in the student's locker during the School day.

PE Kit

- Navy blue shorts
- Navy blue shirt
- White socks
- Trainers (which are predominantly white and non-marking soles)

Games Kit

- Navy blue rugby shorts
- Navy blue with gold panel rugby shirt
- Hooped navy blue and gold socks
- Football/rugby boots (ideally with a safety kite mark, detachable studs, no blades)
- Shin Pads
- Mouth Guard

Note: Kit must be worn at all times. The PE department policy states that kit must be worn at all times even if the student is not taking part physically in the lesson. Students who are injured, but still in School, will be expected to change into PE/Games kit for lessons so they can be part of the learning.

Protective Clothing

A laboratory coat must be provided for practical work in Science and Technology for every lesson. This can be purchased via the school's designated outfitter TFS. An overall (possibly in the form of an old long-sleeved shirt) is needed for Art.

Equipment

When your son joins the School, it is helpful if everyone is using the same model/editions of items like calculators, dictionaries and atlases. Below are the versions that we would like to recommend to you. Some of these items are available from the School (they are listed on the School's ParentPay area) at a very favourable cost.

Writing Equipment

Students are asked to have their own writing equipment

- Pen (with spare cartridge, if applicable)
- Pencils (HB, 2B and 2H)
- 30cm ruler
- Eraser
- Set of coloured pencils
- Protractor (preferably **not** the type with cut-out sections)
- Pair of compasses
- Lined paper.

Calculator

We recommend the Casio Scientific Calculator fx-83GT Plus. This item is available from the School at a cost of £8.25. Please purchase these via the School's ParentPay system. It is an advantage if all students have the same model.

Dictionaries

We recommend the Oxford Mini School Dictionary and the Oxford Mini School Thesaurus. Both of these are available from the School at a cost of £3.00 each. Please purchase these via the School's ParentPay system. Students require an English dictionary and thesaurus. We would also recommend that your son has a foreign language dictionary and this is dependent upon which languages he will be studying. We would recommend that you purchase either a Collins or Oxford Pocket Dictionary in French.



Recommended Reading Books

It was once said that 'reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body' and this is a very true statement. Reading, like exercise, should be fun, enjoyable and challenging. Below is a list of books chosen especially for your son to enjoy; they are all of different types and involve many different characters.

A number of the books listed can be found in a public library and can be bought from good bookshops, such as Waterstones or WHSmith's.

It would be excellent if your son could fit in some reading over the summer break – two or three texts would be fine and will help him with his learning in English lessons during Year 7.

- Acevedo, Elizabeth - *The Poet X*
- **Alexander, Kwame** - *Rebound*
- Almond, David - *Colour of the Sun*
- Atta, Dean – *Black Flamingo*
- Boyce, Frank Cottrell - *Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth*
- Crossan, Sarah - *Moonrise*
- Forster, J.M. - *Shadow Jumper*
- Fraillon, Zana - *The Bone Sparrow*
- Gourlay, Candy - *Bone Talk*
- Lake, Nick – *Nowhere on Earth*
- Magorian, Michelle - *Goodnight Mister Tom*
- *McGowan, Anthony - Rook*
- Morpurgo, Michael - *Private Peaceful*
- Ness, Patrick – *Chaos Walking Trilogy*
- Palmer, Tom - *D -Day Dog*
- **Reynolds, Jason** - *Long Way Down*
- Ryan, Chris - *Siege*
- Schaap, Annet - *Lampie*
- Thomas, Angie – *The Hate U Give*
- Welford, Ross - *Time Travelling with a Hamster*
- Wolk, Lauren - *Wolf Hollow*

For further information on recommended books, please see the English Department or Ms Fisk, the School Librarian



School Library

Open from 8am – 4pm daily

BookBuzz 2020

In September your son will have the opportunity to choose one of these titles to keep.

You can check out all the books in more detail on the Booktrust website.

A Darkness of Dragons*

By S A Patrick

Animals Up Close

By Dorling Kindersley

Check Mates*

By Stewart Foster

City of Ghosts*

By Victoria Schwab

Home Ground*

By Alan Gibbons

Crater Lake

By Jennifer Killick

The Haven

By Simon Lelic

Icarus was Ridiculous*

Pamela Butchart

Little Badman & the Invasion of the Killer Aunties*

By Humza Ashad

The Switch Up

By Katy Cannon

* These books are on Accelerated Reader



School Fund

As school budgets are increasingly stretched, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys very much appreciates the generous contributions our parents continue to make in order to sustain and develop aspects of our extra-curricular programmes.

Below are a few examples of how your valuable donations are spent:

- Annual Maths challenge
- Student rewards
- Transport and entry fees to certain sporting activities
- Running the School's minibuses.

We therefore kindly ask our new Y7 parents to make a voluntary contribution for 2020/21 of £50 (reduced to £25 if there are already siblings at the school).

We would also ask that you sign the Gift Aid declaration form, as we have charitable status we are able to claim an additional 25% on top of your gift, from the Inland Revenue.

This incurs no extra cost to yourselves and the money we are able to claim goes to the benefit of the boys. The Gift Aid Declaration, that is enclosed in the form booklet, must be completed by a tax-payer. We do hope that you are willing to support the School and by further increasing its value by completing such a declaration.

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If you have any queries regarding Gift Aid Declaration or the payment of School Fund, please contact the Finance Officer, Mrs Faithorn jfaithorn@wgsb.co.uk

Thank you in anticipation of your support.



Frequently Asked Questions

What time does school start and end each day?

School starts at 8:45am, with form time for 30mins. On a Wednesday there is no form time and period 1 starts at 8:45am. School finishes at 3:30pm, except Wednesdays where school finishes at 2:30pm.

Where can I find the term dates for the school year?

You will be able to find this information on our school website.

Where does my son go on the first day?

He will enter through the main reception at the front of the school on the first day of school. After this day, he will need to enter the school site through the playground but he will be shown all of this on his first day.

What does my son need on the first day in September?

He will need to arrive in full uniform with a school bag containing a pencil case and equipment (details in the information pack) packed lunch (if not having school dinners) a bottle of water (which can be refilled). He will NOT need to bring in his PE kit on the first day.

Will my son be given a locker?

He will be given a key/access code in the first week and shown where his locker is. It is £5 for a replacement key/code.

How do I pay for school dinners?

Using an online payment system called ParentPay. You will be given an activation letter for this system. Each student will have an ID card which they use to pay for food and drinks.

When will my son know what lessons he has?

Students will receive a timetable on the first day in September. This will show the lesson, teacher and classroom. We operate a two-weekly timetable, after the first two weeks, the timetable will start on week 1 again.

I don't know how my son will be getting to and from school?

There was a travel form in the first information pack you received in March, if you need another copy of this please contact office@wgsb.co.uk. We would encourage you travel the route with him at least once so you are both familiar with the journey.

I will be driving my son to and from school each day, where can I park?

As we have lots of students travelling to and from school on buses and coaches, we politely ask you not to drive onto the school site when dropping or picking up your son. This is to allow for a quicker and safer transition for the students to enter and leave school. Please plan a drop off/pick up point with your son in advance.

My son is unwell and is unable to come to school, how do I inform the school?

You need to telephone the school on 01322 223090 (press 4) or email in to attendance@wgsb.co.uk to inform them before 8:45am on each day your son is absent from school, with details of his illness.

My son is late to school, what should he do?

If he arrives to school after 8:45am, he must sign in at the main reception before going to form group or lessons.

My son has a medical appointment; do I need to inform anyone?

You must inform the school office by emailing into attendance@wgsb.co.uk prior to the appointment to inform them of the date and times he will be absent. We will also need a copy of the appointment card or letter. If you are collecting your son for an appointment within the school day you must collect him from Main Reception.

Can my son bring a mobile phone into school?

Yes, he can at his own risk; however, students are not permitted to have mobile phones on during lessons unless the teacher gives the students permission to use them for the purpose of the lesson. Mobile phones are not allowed to be used around the school, playground or corridors, if caught, they will be confiscated and locked away securely to be collected at the end of the day. There are designated areas and times for use, which will be explained to your son in September.

How do I to contact my son whilst he is at school?

As the students are not allowed their phones turned on in school, you will need to contact the main office and the staff will get a message to your son as soon as possible.

My son has lost his football boots or PE Kit, what should he do?

Please ensure your son has his name in all his belongings, this makes it much easier to identify and hand back to your son. If he cannot find the item, he needs to visit the PE Department who keep a box of all unclaimed football boots. For lost PE kits, your son should speak to the Main Office where all unnamed items are kept. Items are only **held for two weeks** so please ensure he checks the lost property box or with the office as soon as possible.

Do I need to do anything with regards to my son's planner?

Your son will have his planner signed by his form tutor every week, we also ask you to sign this planner weekly and check through this homework details. This is to ensure he is writing down his homework as well as completing it on time. If your son loses his planner you can arrange for a replacement to be added to your parentpay account (£5 charge) and a new one will be given to him on payment.

My son was absent from school; how does he catch up on the work he has missed?

We encourage the students to speak directly to the class teachers of the lessons he has missed to find out the work he needs to catch up with in his own time. Homework must also be completed which was set on the date of absence and details can be found by speaking to the class teacher or on Sims Student and Parent App, our online communication system).

My son has forgotten his homework, what should I do?

We encourage the students to take responsibility for their own organisation, if he has forgotten his homework, he will need to receive the corresponding W point and hand the homework into the teacher the next day.

My son feels unwell during the school day, what does he do?

If your son feels unwell during lessons they need to advise their teacher who will make the judgement on whether to send the student to the office. The office staff will assess his symptoms and call you if necessary for a decision to be made on whether he can continue the day. In no circumstance do we encourage students to call home themselves and ask for parents to pick them up. Please note we are always happy to hold paracetamol or ibuprofen at school for your son, you just need to supply the medication to the main office for safe keeping.

Our home address, email address and telephone numbers have changed, who do I need to inform?

You need to email the change of details to office@wgsb.co.uk so we have the correct details for you in case we need to contact you regarding your son.

I need to speak to someone at the school, who should I contact?

Please find details below of who to contact at the school.

Role	Staff Name	Possible Reason
School Office Manager (Attendance & Admissions)	Mrs Edwards	Anything relating to attendance, medical appointments change of personal details. Mrs Edwards also deals with Admissions.
Head Teachers PA	Mrs Owen	Mrs Owen deals with the Head Teacher's email account and diary.
Year 7 Student Manager	Mrs Taylor	Any concerns or queries you have. Mrs Taylor will find out the relevant information or give you the details of who to speak to.
Head of Year 7	Mr Sage	Mr Sage oversees the behaviour, welfare and attendance of year 7 students. You will find that Mr Sage contacts you primarily if there are any concerns regarding your son.
Assistant Head Teacher (SENDCO)	Mrs Hollebon	Any Special Educational Need requirements.
Assistant Head Teacher (Student Welfare & Behaviour)	Mr Smith	Mr Smith oversees all student behaviour and attendance issues.
Head Teacher	Mr Guthrie	Headteacher of the School any requirements will be through Mrs Owen, Head Teachers PA.



**We look forward to the students
starting on Wednesday 2nd
September.**

**If you have any queries over the
summer break please email
office@wgsb.co.uk**

