

# Year 7 Parent Information 2026-2027





Respect

Resilience

Success

Dear Families,

Welcome to the start of an exciting journey with Countesthorpe Academy. Our core mission is to help every student Show Respect, Develop Resilience, and Achieve Success from their very first day.

Please note that while this guide covers some of the essential starting points—such as term dates, equipment lists, and our "Crew" program—a full parent handbook containing more comprehensive details will be shared with you in the new academic year.

We are particularly excited to share that this is the first year our pupils will have their own dedicated Year 7 base, known as Base Camp. This is a specific area of the school where your child will have the majority of their lessons, providing a consistent and supportive environment as they transition to secondary school.

Because this is a new and specialised space, we are currently refining our learning routines and logistical details to ensure the best possible experience for our students. We are working hard on these expectations and will share further key information regarding the specifics of Base Camp as soon as we can.

We understand that moving to secondary school is a significant transition for both you and your child. We want to reassure you that we are working incredibly hard to ensure they feel a true sense of belonging and become a valued part of our school community from day one. We look forward to helping your child find their voice and build their identity as they begin this new chapter with us.

Kind regards,

Mrs C. Aitcheson  
Headteacher

Mrs C. Harley  
Deputy Headteacher (Base Camp Strategic Lead)

# School Term Dates

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## Autumn Term 2026

Teacher Days	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2026
August Bank Holiday	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026
Students Start	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2026
Mid-Term Break	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October and Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2026
Disaggregated Day (School Closed)	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2026
School Closes to Students	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026

## Spring Term 2027

Teacher Days (Closed to Students)	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027
Students Start	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027
Mid-Term Break	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2027
School Closes to Students	Friday Evening 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2027

## Summer Term 2027

Students Start	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2027
May Bank Holiday	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027
Mid-Term Break	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2027
School Closes to Students	Friday Evening 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2027



# Belonging

The most important thing for us in the first few weeks of school is that your child is happy, healthy and ready to learn. There are children joining us who will be worrying about making new friends as they've come from smaller feeder schools. We have thought about this very carefully and want to reassure you that we have worked hard to ensure that all aspects of your child's day have been planned so that there are lots of opportunities to:

- Meet new friends
- Have time with adults to ask questions
- Join in with organised games and fun during lunchtimes

Our induction period after the summer holidays will last for two weeks. During this time, we will be introducing pupils to their teachers and our school routines in a way that helps them understand exactly what to do - leaving nothing to chance means that pupils feel happy and safe! We will not be recording behaviour points during this time. This is because your child is learning the rules and we want to focus on learning routines and expectations.

# Learning Routines

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**Challenge** – ensure students hold high expectations for achievement (Mode A and B)

**Explanation** – ensure students gain knowledge and skills necessary to achieve – incorporating student agency

**Modelling** – ensure students have a clear understanding of how to apply their knowledge and skills – making use of visualisers and model answers



**Practice** – retrieval and independent practice allow students to embed learning (making use of IT)

**Feedback** – ensure students think about and further develop their knowledge and skills (rubrics as best practice)

**Questioning** – enable students to think hard through cold calling, targeted Q and whole-class response



## Equipment

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Equipment Students must be provided with:

- 2 pens
- Pencil Case
- 2 purple pens
- 2 different coloured highlighters
- Pencil & Sharpener
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Pair of compasses
- 1 Scientific calculator
- Protractor

There will be an equipment check every morning at the start of the school day in Crew. Now your child is in secondary school, they can start taking more responsibility, but please support them in checking that they have the right equipment when they pack their bags for school.

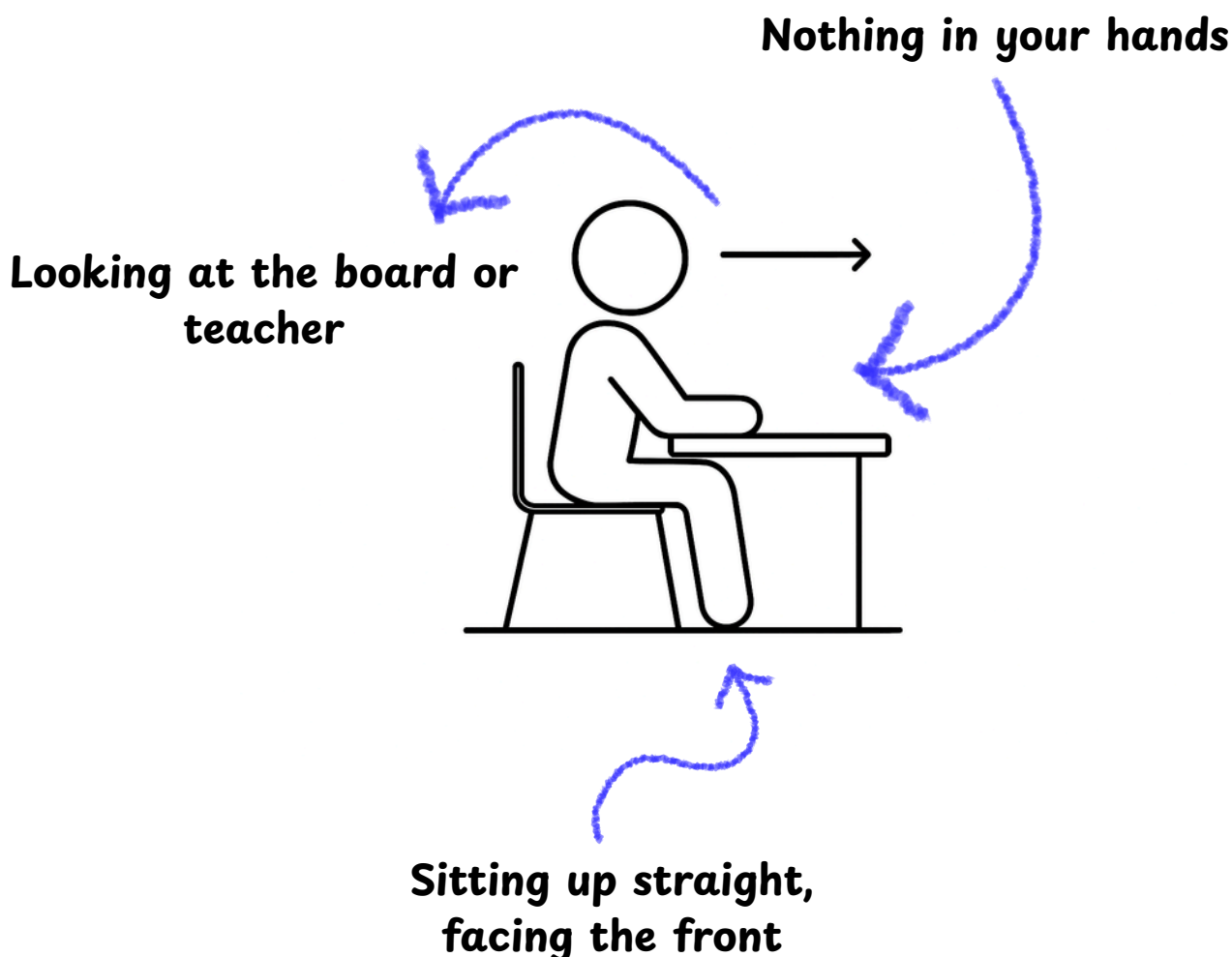
# Ready to Learn

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When your child's teacher needs their attention, they will ask them to be 'ready to learn'.

Whilst we are always ready to learn, this means something specific in the classroom.

When their teacher asks them to be 'ready to learn' they want your child to face them or the board (whichever makes them more comfortable), take everything out of their hands and be ready to listen.



# Crew Programme

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Our CREW Programme is designed to ensure that every student is supported, empowered, and prepared to thrive both academically and as a member of their community. The Year 7 journey focuses on personal growth, developing agency, digital literacy, and active participation in society.

## **Finding a Voice and Identity**

The journey begins by helping students settle into their new environment. A core component of this are our Linking Project and Introduction to our Pupil Parliament, developing awareness of commonality and democratic participation early on.

Students will also engage in their first Mission "Who am I?". Our Missions are cross-curricular, brought together in CREW and culminate in a Showcase. For this Mission your child will take you on a tour of their school, showcasing the milestone work they have completed during their first term. These activities allow them to explore their individual identities while receiving essential Device Training to navigate their digital learning tools. Throughout this phase, we conduct Aspirations and Student Voice surveys to ensure we are listening to their needs and goals from day one.

## **Planning for the Future**

As students become more comfortable, the focus shifts to short, medium and long-term planning. Students will develop a Personal Profile and prepare for Careers Day and learn why goals are important and how to set them effectively.

Students identify an Aspirational Person to serve as a role model. Regular Goal Reviews and Aspirations 1-2-1 coaching sessions help students reflect on their progress and re-plan their steps to success as needed.

## **Developing Expertise**

In the third phase, students move toward mastery in goal setting and review. They will also develop their oracy and public speaking skills. Their second Mission, Climate Change Makers sees them designing and pitching an app. to help mitigate against Climate Change as well completing cross-curricular milestone assignment linked to this theme. The highlight of this Mission is the Expert Pitch, where students prepare and deliver a presentation to an expert from the Digital or Green-Tech industry.

## **Wellbeing and Community Impact**

Active citizenship extends beyond the classroom through the cross-school Citizenship Competition which encourages students to engage with local issues. We also place a heavy emphasis on health and wellbeing through the Healthy Minds Mission.

Students explore the science of happiness using the PERMA Power framework (Positive Emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, and Accomplishments) to build resilience. This phase ensures that while students are striving for success, they are also maintaining their mental health.

**By following this roadmap, we aim to develop students who are not only academically successful but are also confident, tech-savvy, and socially responsible citizens**

# Homework

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Homework plays an important role in reinforcing learning and developing independent study skills. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that, in secondary schools, effective homework can add the equivalent of around five months' additional progress, particularly when tasks are well-planned, purposeful and linked closely to classroom learning (EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit: Homework).

All homework is set and logged on Satchel One, where it can be viewed by both pupils and parents/carers, ensuring clarity around tasks and deadlines. Subjects set homework at different frequencies depending on the curriculum; for example, Humanities typically sets homework once every five lessons, while other subjects may set work more or less often.

In addition, all pupils are expected to complete weekly Bedrock, Sparx Maths, and Sparx Science tasks. Teachers are responsible for setting high-quality, appropriately pitched homework in line with EEF guidance, while regular parental engagement in checking Satchel One and supporting good routines helps maximise its impact on pupil progress.



# Rewards and Consequences

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## Key Words in School:

**Base Camp:** The Year 7 base where your child will have most of their lessons

**Care and Guidance:** The team of pastoral staff dedicated to supporting pupils' wellbeing in school. This is also a physical space near to the pupil entrance.

**First Time, Every Time:** When we ask pupils to do something, we expect pupils to follow our instructions first time, every time

**Postcards** When a pupil goes above and beyond or if they are consistently brilliant, teachers can reward these and they go home to you!

**R&R:** This is the conversation that takes place after school between staff and students to ensure that they have a positive relationship

**Reflection:** This is the name for our lunchtime detentions

**Respect, Resilience, Success:** These are our core principles. Our value points are linked to pupils showing these in their lessons

**Take Up Time:** This is the time adults will give to allow pupils to process their feelings before following instructions.

**Value Points:** When a pupil does well in the lesson, they will be given a value point

**Work Hard, Be Kind:** These are important aspects of our life in school. We want all our pupils to work hard and to be kind to one another

## Rewards:

Pupils can earn rewards in their lessons and by contributing positively to life in school. We want your child to know that they are an important part of school life. Pupils can earn rewards by doing the right thing in the classroom and espousing our values around school.

Rewards include:

- Value points
- Postcards Home
- Star of the Lesson
- Start of the Week

## Sanctions:

For the first two weeks of school, we will not be logging behaviour points. This is because pupils are still settling in. After this time, not following instructions or disrupting learning means pupils would be given behaviour points. All our sanctions are carried out with members of staff where the focus is on a positive start to the next day. These include:

- Detentions (reflection)
- Loss of free time
- R&R meetings with teachers
- Time out of circulation with a member of staff

# Essential Apps and Tech Info

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## **Arbor Parent Portal and App**

Countesthorpe Academy uses the Arbor Parent Portal and Arbor App as our main platform for sharing important information with parents and carers.

Arbor allows you to view your child's attendance, achievement points, behaviour incidents, timetable, update medical details, add additional parental contacts, and receive school communications in one secure place. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to activate their Arbor account and download the Arbor App to ensure you stay informed and up to date with your child's school life.

**Learn more at <https://www.clcc.college/arbor-app/>**

## **Satchel:One**

Homework is a shared responsibility between teachers, students and parents. It is a vital and essential part of a student's learning and will be set on a regular and gradually increasing basis during their time at school. Satchel:One is Countesthorpe Academy's online homework diary.

Parents will have received an initial login code from the school when your child has started with us, and using this parents can setup their own account. Students sign into the Satchel:One app using their Microsoft365 details.

**For more information visit <https://www.clcc.college/satchelone/>**

## **Money & Personal Electronic Equipment**

(Mobile Phones, Smart Glasses, Smart Watches etc.)

Mobile phones and earphones are NOT allowed during 8:20am and 3pm. Students who bring in these items must ensure that they are switched off and kept in their bags. Using a device when NOT allowed will result in confiscation of the device which will be returned in accordance with school policy.

Smart Glasses are not permitted on the premises at all.

Under no circumstances can the Academy accept liability for any devices of this nature or cash; this includes accidental damage or theft.