



Noadswood

YEAR 6 WELCOME





Welcome to the Noadswood family and to a five year educational adventure for your child - I could not be more excited to introduce you all to our school, and I am very grateful to you for trusting us with your children.

Noadswood is a caring, inclusive community, and your child's wellbeing is my top priority. Mutual respect and being caring advocates and supporters for one another, whoever we are, are at the bedrock of all we do.

Our academic achievements speak for themselves, sitting alongside the very best in the New Forest area, a very strong group of schools and colleges that we are proud to be part of, striving for the best educational opportunities for all.

High quality, research informed teaching is all important to our dedicated, specialist colleagues both in the taught and enrichment curriculum. Students enjoy excellent facilities in classrooms, performance and creative arts/photography, sport, dance, design and technology and computing, enabling them to study a rich curriculum and develop new aptitudes and knowledge.

Our four Houses play a vital role in every student's life. They will build friendships and trusting partnerships with others of all ages, cultivating a palpable sense of belonging and pride right across our school.

Exciting as this all is, we know it is equally a nervous time for you and your children, as all is new for them in their school lives, and they join a much bigger educational family than they have known before.

This year, this is compounded as all your local secondary schools must work together to plan a transition programme that offers your child online opportunities to get to know us well until we can invite them in safely.

So this booklet is a starting point, offering you key information that you and your child will need, and giving you a flavour of Noadswood life. We will then keep communicating with you in a whole host of ways, through our special Welcome Year 6 Website, and through an enjoyable, if unusual, transition programme. Your queries to us at **[movingup@noadswood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:movingup@noadswood.hants.sch.uk)** will always be welcomed and opportunities for you to call us or speak to us over a video call will be put into place until it is again safe to meet.

We are in this together and your child has much to look forward to.

I can't wait to meet you soon.

**Kathryn Marshall**  
Headteacher



## TEAM BUILDING DAY

Every year we organise team building events, creating lasting memories with the new year group.

## Subject consultation evening

We will hold a subject consultation evening later in the year in which you and your parents/carers are invited to with each of your teachers.

You will be able to discuss your learning, homework and progress within these subjects. These consultation evenings are also an opportunity for you to share any worries or concerns with us although we encourage you to not wait until then to tell us anything of concern.

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## Attendance and punctuality

We ask that all students strive for an attendance at or above 97% throughout the school year.

We know that sometimes you will be unwell or might have other circumstances that make it difficult for you to come to school. If you are struggling to come to school we ask that you reach out to your tutor or Year leader so we can work together to support you. Progress and attainment is directly linked to attendance and we want to ensure we do all we can to help you reach your potential.

As directed by the government, we will only authorise holidays during term time under very exceptional circumstances. All requests for term time holidays should be completed via an absence request form and returned to the school. These will then be passed to Miss Marshall.

We also ask that any medical appointments such as orthodontists and optician appointments, are booked, where possible, outside of school hours. We know this can be very tricky to do but we find that most local practices try to accommodate this or give early in the morning/late afternoon slots to ensure minimal disruption to a school day.



## Home school agreement

We believe that working as partnership with you and your parent/carer is of the utmost importance.

It is through regular and clear communication with each other that we are able to support you through your time with us at Noadswood. We ask that all students and parents/carers read our home school agreement. It outlines our expectations of you as a student, of your parent/carer and, of course, what you can expect from our staff here at Noadswood.

### As a Noadswood student you:

- ▶ Strive for an excellent attendance of 97% or above.
- ▶ Are punctual to school and to your lessons.
- ▶ Wear your school uniform with pride.
- ▶ Show an excellent attitude to learning and work to the best of your ability.
- ▶ Are kind, honest and polite; treating all members of our school and local community with respect and compassion.
- ▶ Are respectful to others, their possessions and the school environment.
- ▶ Participate to the best of your ability in school and House activities.
- ▶ Tell us if you are worried or concerned about something.
- ▶ Follow all of our school policies (such as IT use, and prohibited items).
- ▶ Do not use your mobile phone during the school day unless given permission by a member of staff.



### As a parent/carer you:

- ▶ Adhere to and support the Noadswood school ethos and policies – working in partnership.
- ▶ Respect the roles and rights of all individuals within our school community.
- ▶ Avoid using social media forums (such as Facebook) to air any concerns or disagreements regarding Noadswood. Instead, you contact us directly and work alongside us to resolve these issues.
- ▶ Ensure regular and punctual attendance by your child.
- ▶ Avoid making health appointments, where possible, during term time.
- ▶ Ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment and discuss with us should this be difficult.
- ▶ Encourage your child to complete their homework and, where possible, provide a space and time within the home environment for them to do so.
- ▶ Contact the school regarding any problems or issues as they arise and work in partnership with us to resolve them.
- ▶ Share your child's successes and achievements with us, both those in school and in external clubs and activities, so we too can celebrate with them.
- ▶ Reply to school communications via Arbor, email or by telephoning the school.
- ▶ Ensure your contact details and medical information are up-to-date and inform us promptly of any changes.
- ▶ Avoid contacting your child by mobile phone during the school day – please contact reception or your child's Year leader should you need to communicate messages to your child.

### Students and parents can expect that Noadswood will:

- ▶ Provide a happy, safe and caring environment for learning.
- ▶ Ensure that we look after and nurture your mental health and wellbeing.
- ▶ Provide excellent teaching across a wide range of subjects.
- ▶ Carefully monitor progress, supporting and using effective interventions.
- ▶ Support any additional needs you may have and take steps to ensure these needs are planned and catered for.
- ▶ Acknowledge your efforts, achievements and progress.
- ▶ Set appropriate homework.
- ▶ Provide up-to-date information about school events.
- ▶ Communicate in a timely and effective way with you about any concerns that may arise.
- ▶ Deal with challenges in a professional manner.
- ▶ Make appointments to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have.
- ▶ Report to you, daily, on your child's attendance.
- ▶ Ensure that our dedicated team of safeguarding leads work collaboratively with our staff and local agencies to ensure that you are kept safe at school and within the home.



## Digital apps

Noadswood have two digital apps which we use.

The first is our FROG portal which is aimed at our students. This is where they will see any assignments of work which have been set, have access to department sites for resources and support as well as a wealth of tailored student pages including our wellbeing site, access to the Microsoft suite including shared drives and programs, useful information for all year groups and lots more.

Our second digital app is ePraise – this is our main communication platform for students and parents which offers a whole host of functions:

- ▶ Messaging for students, parents and staff – get in touch with your tutor/Year leaders/class teachers.
- ▶ Book parents' evening appointments.
- ▶ See documents including reports and the information we hold on you (e.g. permissions/medical information/address and contact information etc...)
- ▶ Electronic versions of the timetable.
- ▶ School information with useful links and lots more.

Both apps are available to download now from your app store and login information will be sent when enrolment occurs in September.

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## Student journal

We know that starting secondary school can feel very overwhelming – a new timetable, new teachers, new classes and a new school site to navigate to name but a few things!

We will provide each of you with a student journal which we ask that you bring to school with you every day. Your student journal will provide you with key information about the school, some dedicated pages to mental health and wellbeing and will have space for you to record any key information given to you by teachers. It will also be used as a tool for you to reflect on your transition journey and key milestones throughout the year.





## Uniform

You can find all the uniform and equipment requirements (including information about lockers) on our website at: [www.noadswood.hants.sch.uk/uniform-and-equipment](http://www.noadswood.hants.sch.uk/uniform-and-equipment)



### HOUSE TIES

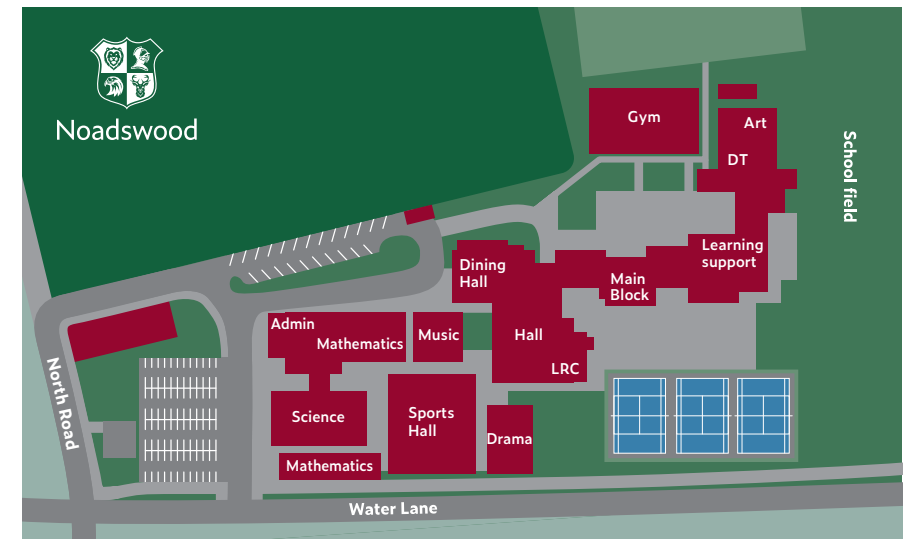


- Red = Anderwood
- Gold = Knightwood
- Green = Wilverley
- Blue = Deerleap

## Times of the school day

Our school day is staggered for different years (with specific social areas available). For Year 7, the times and zones are:

MONDAY – FRIDAY	
08:40 – 09:00	Tutor time
09:00 – 10:00	Lesson 1
10:00 – 11:00	Lesson 2
11:00 – 11:20	Break
11:20 – 12:20	Lesson 3
12:20 – 1:20	Lesson 4
1:20 – 1:50	Lunch
1:50 – 2:50	Lesson 5
2:50	End of school day



## Digital detox and travelling to school

### Daily Digital Detox and online safety

At Noadswood, we want the students to enjoy their learning, and spend their time developing their relationships with their friends, classmates and all our staff. So we ask that their phones are out of sight from 8:50am, as they arrive on site, until 3pm, the end of the school day. This is an important expectation in our school for every student to adhere to because it is so good for the students' wellbeing.

We call this our 'Daily Digital Detox', and it applies to breaks, lunchtimes and movement between lessons, too, so that the students' attention can be mindfully on what they are doing and on the people they are learning with or spending time with.

Should they need to check their phone, because there is something happening within the family, or another important matter on their mind, all they have to do is ask their Year leader, and we will give them the time they need to check their phone or call you in the privacy from one of the Year Offices.

Similarly, if you need them to call you, because of something you are going through as a family, let us know and we will make provision for that to happen. And if you need to get a message to your child, you can ring the school on **02380 840025**, ePraise message your child's Year leaders or email [year7@noadswood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:year7@noadswood.hants.sch.uk)

We provide a range of resources and ideas to help you and your children manage their online life really well in our Wellbeing Portal within our Noadswood FROG Portal - it would be worth having a look through the resources with your child and then asking them to share with you their experiences online.

We are very grateful for your support with the 'Digital Detox' and with taking a real interest in your child's presence on the internet and social media.



### Travelling to school

Many of our students walk or cycle to school with a smaller number using the local bus routes. We expect the same high level of behaviour from you, whilst you are travelling to and from school, as we do when you are on school site. When you wear your Noadswood uniform, we want you to be wearing it with pride. We work closely with our local PCSOs and the managers of the local businesses (down at the Tesco garage and across the way at Arrosto's and WH Smith, for example) to ensure you conduct yourself in an appropriate way whilst on your way to and from school. We remind you of this expectation frequently - it is so important to us that you are safe on your journeys. For those of you who cycle, we ask that you wear a helmet and cycle sensibly at all times - no wheelies or zooming in and out of the road. Your safety is of the paramount importance to us - if at any time we do not feel you are being safe on your bike, we will ask that you find an alternative way of getting to school. If we are let down by anyone's behaviour out in our local community, we will act on this.





## Pastoral support

We have an amazing pastoral team here at Noadswood. You would have been introduced to them on our moving up website. If you have any worries, concerns or troubles, we really encourage you to speak out to your tutor or Year leaders.

We know though, that sometimes some more specific support is needed. We are really lucky to have Miss Harwood, our ELSA, working with us and supporting you when you most need that extra specialist bit of help.

## What is Emotional Literacy?

It's the ability to express one's emotional state and communicate one's feelings, crucial skills to learn. Healthy emotional development as young people helps to shape the rest of our lives, and being emotionally literate enables us to express our emotions effectively, appropriately and productively, while also developing positive social interactions with a whole host of other people in society, even when times are tough and when some of those people are hard for us to connect with. All this, in turn, builds great self-esteem.

We are proud to have in place a commitment to the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) project at our school, as part of our 'wellbeing menu'. This project was designed to strengthen schools' support of the emotional needs of their students from within their own resources and staff teams.

It recognizes the truth that we want to shout about: **young people learn better and are happier in school if their emotional needs are addressed.**

ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) receive specialist training from educational psychologists to support strong emotional development of young people in school through 1:1, small group and workshop activities, as well as through signposting to other services/resources as needed. They have regular professional supervision from educational psychologists to help them in their ongoing work.

## Why might I benefit from ELSA?

ELSA support might be offered if a young person is struggling at school or to get in to school, or if the young person requires some extra support around areas such as anger management, anxiety, self-esteem, bereavement, low mood, family strain or conflict, friendship pressures and relationships, parental imprisonment or simply when they're finding the teenage years tough to manage, even if they don't completely know why themselves.

All referrals to ELSA come through our pastoral team – you will either be referred by a Year leader or by Mrs Loveday (our assistant headteacher who looks after all things pastoral).



“ **The happiness and wellbeing of every student is my top priority. Respect and acceptance are important foundations of the school.** ”

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**Kathryn Marshall**  
Headteacher

**Noadswood**

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