

Washwood Heath Technology College



SETTLING IN AT WASHWOOD HEATH TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

We realise that the move to secondary school can seem quite daunting for both you and your child. At Washwood Heath Technology College we have a caring system which we are proud of. We know it works because 96% of our parents have told us they are made to feel welcome when they come to school*.

Your child will be in a form group and their form tutor will ensure that your child is happy and succeeds during their time here. As the school is large we believe it is important that your child has someone they can turn to, someone to talk to.

If your child does have any problems please let us know as soon as possible. Little things can often appear very large to an 11 year old. It is important that they do not develop into bigger problems.

If you are worried please do not hesitate to contact the school. The first point of contact is the Form Tutor. Although they may not always be available when you call, if you leave a message they will always return your call. Alternatively you may choose to ask the School Receptionist to arrange an appointment.

We aim to visit every child coming into Year 7 at Washwood Heath Technology College at their primary school. We put a great amount of time into planning our Induction Programme in order to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

Induction Day provides an opportunity for your child to meet new friends and to explore their new school before September arrives. Arrangements for the first day of their new term are also discussed. We share your desire for your child to settle in quickly and for them to be happy here and as a result before Autumn Term begins we offer two Parents' Evenings. One of these will provide you with the opportunity to meet your child's Form Tutor.

Communication between home and school is very important. Home and school should work together as a team. Our parents tell us that they very much feel they are treated as a partner in their child's education. In fact 79% – compared to an average of 69% nationally*.

One of the ways you can help to support your child at school is to monitor their homework by checking their planner. At Washwood Heath Technology College every student is given a planner where they record their targets and keep a record of homework set.

Your child's planner will also include a copy of their timetable. Monitoring this will help your child bring to school the correct equipment for that day. To aid movement around the school every student is provided with a locker in which they can keep their personal belongings until they are needed.

We are proud of our successes at Washwood Heath Technology College and celebrate these often. Rewards include Student of the Month, attendance and punctuality rewards, and achievement and effort awards in different subjects. We also acknowledge positive behaviour and events by issuing merits which contribute to more prestigious awards.

There are many activities for your child to get involved in, such as after school clubs which range from homework clubs to judo. We would encourage your child to become involved in these as participation helps our students to settle into school life here more quickly and develop a sense of belonging. This is important – it is their school.

We ask you to ensure your child arrives at school no later than 8.35am. If for any reason your child is absent or late, please notify us. We operate a First Day Absence system whereby we will contact you if your child is absent.

Your child will keep the same Form Tutor and form room for the five years they study with us. We feel this enables our Form Tutors to develop a meaningful relationship with your child to ensure their personal and academic successes.

Your child's Form Teacher will meet with your child once each day for registration first thing in the morning. This provides opportunity to celebrate and highlight successes or to help deal with any concerns your child may have.

At lunchtimes we offer a wide healthy eating menu which members of our Student Council helped develop. This includes Halal and vegetarian options. During lunch times students remain on the premises.

We do encourage all new Year 7 students to attend our Summer School in July and August. Application forms will be available when we meet with you and your child in July.

We are confident that working together as a home-school partnership we can ensure the success of your child here at Washwood Heath Technology College.

We have a highly professional and dedicated team of staff who look forward to welcoming you.

* Source: Keele University Questionnaire 2007