



Thursday 3rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Preparation for the new academic year

As we reach the latter stages of the summer holidays, we wanted to write to update you on some key information in advance of the new academic year.

Our focus for the 2026-2027 academic year continues to be ensuring that students are ready for success, by being responsible, respectful and resilient young people. Being in school, meeting high expectations and engaging in high quality learning is crucial for student success; the data in recent years at Gosford Hill, locally and nationally confirms this.

Return to school dates

A reminder that due to the logistics with the work taking place to move part of the site into temporary buildings, we have a slightly longer staggered start this year:

- Year 7 and 11 students return to school on **Monday 7th September**.
- Year 12 students joining us in the Sixth Form join us for enrolment on **Monday 7th September**.
- All students return to school on **Tuesday 8th September**.

The school day begins in Student Development Time at 8:30am in tutor rooms. We encourage students to arrive on site from 8:20am, with a warning bell sounding at 8:25am to signal that students should move towards their tutor rooms.

School rebuild logistics (including parking)

The school rebuilding project is now well underway. In September, students will return to school and use the temporary buildings for their history, languages, music, art and design lessons. Our Sixth Form students will locate themselves in the former River Learning Trust offices. We will induct students to the necessary changes and buildings in the first days of term. An updated school map is located at the end of this letter for you to show students in advance should you wish. Students who have tutor groups in the temporary buildings will meet their tutor on the main playground on Monday and Tuesday.

Please inform students that the temporary buildings are out of bounds outside of lesson times and a one-way system is in place within the corridors to aid safe and effective movement around this area.

The location of Reception remains unchanged, although access to this area of school is around the hoarding that will be in place (and may move at various times in the academic year). Therefore, please ensure that you follow signage on site if you need to access the school buildings.



Please be aware that parking and vehicle access on the site is now very limited during the construction period. As such, parents should not drive onto the site to drop their children off in the morning or collect them at the end of the day. When coming to the school for scheduled events and meetings, please park away from the site as far as possible.

Uniform and equipment

A reminder of the main requirements for uniform and equipment is below. Please support your child to have the necessary items with them at all times. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Main uniform	Equipment
● Gosford Hill School jumper or blazer, and tie ● Short or long sleeve white formal collared shirt ● Black trousers, pleated skirt or tailored shorts ● Plain black, leather style footwear ● Plain white or dark (black or grey) socks or tights	● A bag large enough to hold an A4 folder and school books ● Black pen(s) ● Pencil(s) ● Ruler (minimum 15 cm) ● Eraser and sharpener ● Protractor and compass ● Calculator (the maths department recommend the Casio FX-83GTCW, available on parent pay or Amazon) ● Their fully charged Chromebook ● A reading book (which can be borrowed from the school library) ● PE kit or other practical equipment (eg. ingredients for Food lessons) on appropriate days ● Headphones for music lessons ● Purple pen(s) (we will issue one at the start of the year) It would be beneficial, but not essential, if students carried their own whiteboard pen(s) and highlighters.
PE kit	
● Gosford Hill School reversible PE top ● Gosford Hill School shorts or skort ● White or navy socks ● Trainers ● Boots ● Shin pads ● Gum shield or thermal under layers ● [Optional] Gosford Hill tracksuit bottoms, Gosford Hill midlayer	

Note that the items listed in **bold** are only available from our uniform supplier ([PMG](#)) or PE kit supplier ([Stevensons](#)).



Attendance and punctuality

We remain focused on ensuring that students attend school regularly, and on time. This is a key driver for student success. Therefore, as a school community, supported by families, we must work closely to support students to be in school and ultimately engage in lessons. We recognise that there can be many barriers to successful attendance, but we are determined to support all students to maximise their learning time. Our support systems and mechanisms for tracking, maintaining and improving attendance to school in the morning remains broadly the same as this year.

If you do need to report a student absence, please report this using the [absence form](#) on our school website, ideally before 8:00am. This should be completed for each day a student is absent. If a student has not been reported as absent and does not arrive in school, we will follow up to ensure that we know your child is safe and well as part of our safeguarding duties. This may include unannounced visits to your home.

In line with Department for Education statutory guidance, the default policy at Gosford Hill School is to decline all requests for absences during term-time. While advance permission can be given in exceptional circumstances, this is rare, and may only be granted by the Headteacher. Further information regarding this position can be found on the school website.

Pastoral structure

Your child's academic and pastoral care are important to us, and we are thrilled to have a dedicated team that is responsible for supporting your child to successfully engage in their school life.

As ever, we are continuing to evolve and develop our structures so that we can ensure that we best meet student needs. For this reason, and working in collaboration with other schools to develop our models, we have taken the decision not to have a static and permanent 'Student Support' base. Our team of three Pastoral Support Assistants will continue to operate their roles, but increase their presence across the school and enable them to become more proactive to remove barriers, rather than react in the moment.

Instead of operating a 'Student Support' base, our Pastoral Support Assistants will manage a Student Reception during unstructured times (before school, break, lunch and afterschool). This will be found at the front of school and should be accessed for all student queries (eg. lost property, uniform queries, first aid, replacement timetables). During lesson times, Student Reception is closed and Pastoral Support Assistants will be moving around lessons to support as appropriate. Planned and individual arrangements for regular check-ins or appointments will be communicated directly with students and their families.

In most cases, Form Tutors and Heads of Year will move through the school with students. The list below highlights any alterations based on staff appointments, or room changes, for September.

Year 7 will be led by Mr Gannon.

- Year 7 tutor groups have been shared directly with Year 7 families



Year 8 continues to be led by Mr Gough

- Mr Day replaces Mr Sanders, and will be based in MA4
- Miss Ryan's tutor group will be based in EN3

Year 9 continues to be led by Miss McCarthy

- Mr Pratt will be temporarily covering for Mrs Sweeney at the start of the year
- Mr Basil replaces Mr Grimwade, and will be based in MA3

Year 10 continues to be led by Miss Curtis

- Mr Davidson replaces Mr Pratt, and will be based in MA1
- Miss Stockford replaces Miss Pankratova, and will be based in SC3
(SC3 is now Mrs Fugelsang's old classroom)
- Mr Cassidy replaces Miss Bainbridge, and will be based in MA6

Year 11 continues to be led by Mr Goldring

- Mr Williams replaces Mr Mitchell-Bunce, and will be based in MA2

Sixth Form continues to be led by Mrs Brimble

- Mrs Yardley and Mrs Francis replace Mr Ogilvie, and will be based in EN5
- Mr Hawkins tutor group will be allocated a new tutor and will be informed by Miss Brimble

We are looking forward to working with students and families in the forthcoming academic year as they demonstrate our school values and grow as individuals to become the best they can be.

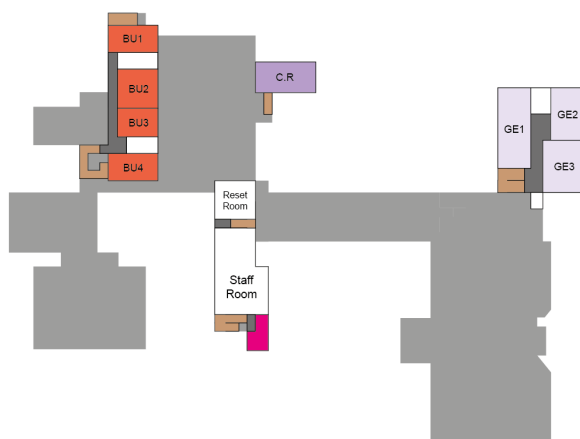
Yours sincerely,

Mr C Bateman
Deputy Headteacher

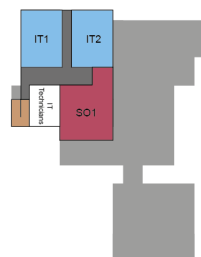
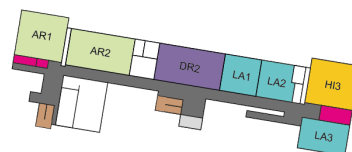
Updated School Map



**GOSFORD HILL
SCHOOL**



Upper Levels



Subject Code & Colours

EN	English	IT	Computing	SO	Social Sciences
MA	Maths	BU	Business	IN	Inclusion
SC	Science	LA	Languages	SI	Sixth Form
AR	Art	PE	Physical Education	TO	Toilets (Students)
MU	Music	GE	Geography	TS	Toilets (Staff)
DR	Drama	HI	History	ST	Stairs
DT	Design & Technology	RE	Religion & Philosophy Education	CR	Changing Rooms

Ground Level

