



Rushcliffe School

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Re: Introduction to Head of Year

Dear Student,

I am so excited to introduce myself as your Head of Year. My name is Miss Vale and I am really looking forward to welcoming you into Rushcliffe School and supporting you through your transition. This can be both an exciting and worrying time for you but myself and Rushcliffe staff and pupils will be there to help. We are currently working really hard to make sure that you have a strong start to Year 7 in September. Hopefully soon I will be visiting you at your primary school and I can't wait to introduce myself in person.

I am delighted that you have chosen Rushcliffe School as your secondary school. You are joining a really successful school, which is a vibrant and a friendly place for students. We have a simple core purpose at Rushcliffe School: 'everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly'. Throughout your time at Rushcliffe you will be given a wide range of opportunities, such as joining the student council, playing for a sports team, being part of a performance or going on a residential trip. I hope that this letter gives you an idea of what to expect when you start Rushcliffe School. As your Head of Year from September, I am also going to let you know a little bit more about myself.

In September, we will be in very similar situations. As you will be starting a new school, I will be starting a new exciting role as your Head of Year. Just like you, I am feeling anxious about all the changes, but also looking forward to all the new challenges this will bring. I am proud that we are going to be on this journey together.

In your time at Rushcliffe, you might be fortunate enough to have me as a teacher. I teach both Drama and Music to Year 7 and so you may be really lucky and get me for both! Performing Arts is a huge passion of mine. When I was younger, I attended dance and drama classes 3 times a week and took singing lessons. I regularly took part in dance competitions and theatre performances and loved being on stage. Before lockdown, I used to regularly visit the theatre and attended an evening rock choir, just to keep the performer in me alive. I absolutely love musicals (Wicked is my favourite) so if you hear someone singing and it is coming from the Drama studios, it is probably me! When the performer side of me needs a rest, I often spend time visiting countryside parks across the Midlands and enjoy finding new viewpoints and taking pictures.

As you will be new to Rushcliffe School, we want to know as much as possible about you so we will be able to help you as much as possible. I know Mr Crawley, one of our Assistant Principal's has already sent your parents an 'All About Me' activity for you to complete so I know about your hobbies, passions, your love of particular subjects, how you are feeling about coming to Rushcliffe and any plans you have over summer. Over summer I will be spending time catching up with family and friends across the UK who I have not been able to see during lockdown. Fingers crossed and restrictions permitted, I will also be visiting Prague for 3 nights and Norfolk for a short coastal break. Myself and your Year 7 tutor look forward to reading about your summer plans on your 'All About Me' sheet.

In Year 7 you will be part of 1 tutor group of 10 across our year group. Within your tutor group there will be 30 students and you will have a Form Tutor. Your Form Tutor is a different type of teacher and they will be the first teacher you see every morning. Each morning, you will go to your tutor classroom where your 'Form Tutor' will greet and start the day with you. Your Form Tutor will be there to register you and make sure you have a settled start to your day. Starting at a new school, especially secondary school is a big step. It is completely normal if you are anxious and nervous. Your tutor will be your first port of call to discuss any concerns that you have and they will be there to answer those questions that you already/ might have during the first couple of weeks. For problems that might take longer to sort out, we also have your Pupil Support Unit (PSU) Link. Her name is Jessica Wheatley-Creasey; you can call her Jess or Miss Wheatley-Creasey if you prefer. I will also be

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there to reassure you and your parents. Our roles are to care and nurture you as a year group and make sure you enjoy life at Rushcliffe School.

Form time is 20 minutes and there will be a variety of interesting activities for you to do, such as discussing and debating key issues in society. This will provide time to express and to listen to each other's opinions. Other activities will focus on equipping you with the skills needed in the classroom at secondary school. You will also be involved in some exciting inter-form competitions, where your form will work together to win prizes. Each week we will also come together as a year group for an assembly which will be taken by myself and a teacher from the Senior Leadership Team. They will focus on key themes that you might have discussed during tutor time. Assemblies also provide time for me to celebrate your hard work, effort and success as individuals, tutor groups and a year group.

During lesson time you will experience a much larger range of subjects in comparison to primary school. Many of these you will be familiar with, such as Maths and English, but you will experience many new subjects such as Design and Technology, Food technology and Drama. Subjects such as Science, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Art and PE are also a key part of the curriculum. Your lessons will be across the school site in different classrooms with different teachers who specialise in that subject. However, please do not worry, you will have a timetable to show you where you need to go and it will also tell you which teacher you have, so that you can remember their name. Remember that all the students in your year group will be getting used to new teachers and a new school and that there will be people around to help you. I am really looking forward to visiting your lessons to see the great learning happening and to see how you have settled in with your new teachers and subjects.

At Rushcliffe School, I am proud to say you will experience many opportunities outside of your lessons. If you want to get involved in Performing Arts at Rushcliffe School, there is a successful Lower School Orchestra and we hold multiple concerts a year. There will also be the opportunity to join Dance club as well as Drama club. Having ran these clubs myself, I can honestly say that students really enjoy the experience of performing in a purpose-built theatre. We are lucky enough to have outstanding facilities in Performing Arts such as recording studios, 3 large Drama studios, a box office and a sound and lighting deck which enables us to create outstanding shows. Our excellent sports facilities also enable us to run a wide variety of sports clubs throughout the year including football, rugby, athletics, netball, tennis, dodgeball, basketball, trampolining and handball. In 2020 before lockdown, the Year 7 rugby team finished third in the South Nottinghamshire Tournament and the Year 7 girls Netball and boys Football teams both reached the semi-finals of their competitions prior to lockdown. Other clubs include, film, book, Warhammer and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In September, I want to see you attending many extra-curricular activities across the school as they are a great opportunity to make new friends, try something new and you also get the opportunity to represent our school.

I am hopeful, as restrictions ease, that I will get to visit your primary school soon and meet you ahead of your transition day. In the meantime, you and your parents will receive even more information about your transition over the next coming weeks. I am definitely excited to be your Head of Year and to be starting the journey with you. Just remember, feeling a wide range of emotions at this point in time is completely normal. I hope that this letter has given you something to look forward to when starting Rushcliffe, whether it is a new subject you will be studying, a club you think you want to join or even just knowing a bit about who your Head of Year will be. I will be in touch and am very much looking forward to meeting you. In the meantime, focus on the positive and the new opportunities that starting Rushcliffe will bring you.

Kind Regards

Miss Tubb

Head of Year 7

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