

Croft Road  
Hurworth-on-Tees  
Darlington  
DL2 2JG  
T: 01325 720424 / 721188

E: [enquiries@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk)  
W: [www.hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk](http://www.hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk)

Chief Executive/Head Teacher: Mr D Judson, BEd, NPQH

14 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child at Hurworth in September. If you have not yet sent back your Data Information Pack, please could you do so as soon as possible so we can have everything set up and ready for your child's start. If you require a paper copy of the information, please contact the school office on 01325 720424 and they will post a set out to you.

Mrs Pitchford has been contacting our primary schools with information about your child's form in September. Where possible, she has kept children with their friendship groups. If there are any changes to be made, we will look at these in September.

As we have been unable to offer our usual two Transition Days in school, the Local authority has arranged for secondary schools to hold 'Virtual Transition' times. Hurworth Transition was on:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 1.30 – 3pm.

Mrs Pitchford has contacted the primary schools for a contact email to send the TEAMS invite so that pupils can watch and take part in some 'online' lessons and activities, including a Q&A session with some of our current Year 7 pupils.

In September, Year 7 pupils will use the first two days to have their biometric thumb prints collected for our cashless catering system, have their photographs taken for our SIMS office system and be introduced to our school, staff and peer mentors.

## 4R Core Values

At Hurworth our aim is to provide all pupils with an educational experience driven by the desire to "Achieve Excellence with Care", whilst supporting all our pupils to become the very best version of themselves.

Our values are based on the four key expectations within the school:

- Relationships
- Resilience
- Respect
- Responsibility

We have called these our 4R Core Values. These core values are underpinned by five identified areas that together provide an overarching framework for all areas of school life:

- Opportunities
- Success
- Learning
- Expectations
- Character



In September, the 4Rs will continue to be embedded throughout the school. This will help clarify what the expectations are both staff and pupils, to provide support and ensure consistency across the school, and to create a unified identity for everyone at Hurworth.

Our core values allow our pupils to be **responsible** and **resilient** lifelong learners who strive for excellence by developing positive **relationships** and learning to **respect** themselves and those around them.

The warm and welcoming family feel to the school is an important part of its identity and we have high **expectations** of our pupils in all aspects of school life. We believe that the development of **character** is an essential part of **learning** and we will provide **opportunities** for all our pupils to experience **success**.

The highest standards are expected from our pupils and we firmly believe that a strong parent/carer-school partnership is essential as we work together to meet the needs of each child, provide them with the very best education possible and celebrate their successes.

### **Standards – including Equipment/Uniform/Jewellery**

At Hurworth we aim to support all our pupils to become the very best version of themselves. To ensure that all expectations and standards are clear we have created a Values Charter that links directly with the 4R Core Values.

The Values Charter can be found on the school website, in your starter packs or can be requested via contacting the school.

### **Uniform**

I am pleased to say that pupil's uniform has been first class since we returned from the latest period of lockdown and as part of maintaining high standards we will be checking pupils' uniform on the first day back after the summer holidays. If your child's uniform does not meet the required standard then they will be spoken to over the course of the first day and you will be contacted in order for us to highlight our concerns to you.

**Please note pupils will return to school in September in Summer uniform** which comprises of Maroon polo shirt with school logo, optional school jumper, plain black trousers (Leggings, ski pants, skin-tight trousers, shorts or ¾ trousers are not permitted). They will remain in this uniform until October half term, when they return to school following this break they will move to the "winter uniform" of white shirt and school clip-on tie in the appropriate house colour.

It is important to note that many teenage and young person fashion shops sell trousers which contravene these rules in their 'school' section; these are unacceptable. Hoodies are not permitted in school and will be confiscated from your child if they are worn to school.

Black shoes or low heeled 'Chelsea' style boots – Shoes/boots should give adequate cover of the foot for health and safety reasons. Trainers and plimsol shoes are not acceptable and neither are leisure boots such as Dr Martens, Rockport or Ugg boots. Shoes/boots with multi-coloured soles or uppers are unacceptable. Soles of shoes/boots must be plain black and not have a coloured or white line through them. Shoes/boots must be plain black and not have stripes or logos of any kind visible or have decorative bars/buckles/bows or similar on them.

If your child has issues with their uniform, they may be asked to borrow parts of the correct type of uniform from the office. If they refuse to do so, then a sanction will be put in place.

## **Jewellery**

One pair of stud earrings worn in the lobe of the ear is acceptable however other earrings and jewellery, including rings of any type are not permitted; watches are permitted.

If your child does wear jewellery that contravenes school rules they will have this confiscated and it will need to be collected at the end of the day. If your child becomes a 'repeat offender' in this area, they will be sanctioned and their parent/guardian will be asked to collect the jewellery from school rather than it been given to the child at the end of the day.

## **Make up/ Nails/Eyelashes/Hair**

- Acrylic or Gel nails are not permitted to be worn in school, as well as any coloured nail polish. Pupils will be sanctioned if they come to school with acrylic/gel nails, parents/guardians will be asked to organise an appointment to remove nails.
- False eyelashes are also not permitted in school, if they are worn to school your child will be asked to remove them immediately.
- Minimalistic make up to be worn, if too much make up is applied your child will be asked to remove this to reduce the amount worn.
- No 'extreme' hair colours or styles e.g. lines and/or patterns are acceptable. Pupils will be sanctioned if they come to school with any of the above.

## **Equipment**

A school bag large enough to carry an A4 file must be carried every day. Pupils must attend school with the necessary school equipment on each and every school day – pen, pencil, rubber, calculator, reading book, practical equipment where necessary e.g. PE kit, ingredients etc.

## **Reading**

One of our key focuses for the next academic year is promoting a love of reading for all of our pupils. The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health.

Therefore, we would love for you to encourage your child to read over the summer. We understand some children can be reluctant readers, so below are some tips to help you get your child enthused about reading.

Make books part of your family life – always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance. This doesn't have to mean physical books, there are many great online alternatives such as the online library service, where you can download books for free to your computer or the App 'BorrowBox' on your phone or tablet.

Visit: <https://www2.darlington.gov.uk/web/arena/welcome> for more information.

Match their interests – Help them find the right book. If your child is not sure what type of book they would like to read next, they can take this literary quiz to point them in the right direction.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/which-classic-childrens-book-should-you-read>

All reading is good – Don't discount nonfiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.

*The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more things that you learn, the more places you will go.* Dr Seuss

## Summer School

We are so excited to meet the pupils joining us at our Summer School, which takes place Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July. You should now have received confirmation of the days that you booked for your child. If there are any issues with your booking, then please contact the school on 01325 720424 or via email at [enquiries@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk).

We have an exciting range of activities in store that have been organised by our wonderful staff. Below is a timetable of activities so you know what to expect.

If your child is attending on Tuesday or Friday, they will need to wear PE Kit/Sportswear. Please also ensure your child is wearing sunscreen.

Days/ Timings	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>10-10.15</b>	Welcome and Registration <b>Set Tasks</b>	Welcome and Registration <b>All together</b>	Welcome and Registration <b>Carousel</b>	Welcome and Registration <b>All together</b>	Welcome and Registration <b>Carousel</b>
<b>10.15-11.15</b>	Groups to take part in one of the following: Chocolate Making D&T Project Literacy Escape Room	Hurworth Olympics	Maths Activity	Duck Day business skills	D&T Activity
<b>11.15-12.15</b>			Cooking Activity		Maths Activity
<b>12.15-12.45</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>12.45-1.45</b>	Interactive Quiz	Hurworth Olympics	Maths Activity	Duck Day business skills	PE Activity
<b>1.45-2pm</b>	Regroup and Parent Collection	Regroup and Parent Collection	Regroup and Parent Collection	Regroup and Parent Collection	Regroup and Parent Collection

Please remember:

- A free lunch will be provided daily for your child
- You will need to arrange transport for your child, as we cannot provide this
- Please have your child bring a drink with them, although water will be available throughout the day.

## Mental Health Support

This year has been very challenging for our pupils and their families and we wanted to let you know about the mental health support that is available for you and your children over the summer holidays and where you can access that support.

Throughout the holidays you can continue to access our mental health blog, where you will find links to mental health support services including Kooth.

Kooth.com is a free, online counselling and emotional wellbeing platform for young people aged 11-18 years in Darlington and the Tees Valley. Alongside their counselling offer, they are running a range of virtual workshops for parents and pupils including support for self-care, maintaining friendships over the break and mindfulness. There are workshops for pupils and parents. Pupil can sign up via kooth.com and parents have the opportunity to attend a session providing a brief overview of Kooth and what the service can offer young people. This session is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm and can be signed up for here: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/introduction-to-kooth-parentscarers-tickets-161767483899>

Darlington Mind are also running several support services. These include:

**Drop in Sessions: 1pm- 3pm Mondays.**

Come and chat with other young people in the area for fun chats, and discussions on wellbeing and mental health. Facilitated by Ian or Matt at Darlington Mind.

Peer Mentor Scheme:

The main workshop runs 10am-12pm every Monday, with follow-up workshops on Tuesday 10am-12pm (starting 27th July).

**Mental Health Workshops: 1pm-2pm and 2-3pm (Wednesdays)**

- Session 1 (21st July): **Mental Health Awareness**
- Session 2 (28th July): **Self-esteem and Resilience**
- Session 3 (4th August): **Body Image**
- Session 4 (11th August): **Exam Anxiety**
- Session 5 (18th August): **Self-Harm Awareness**
- Session 6 (25th August): **Mindfulness**

All sessions are virtual and free and you can arrange your attendance by emailing: [Ian.Neale@darlingtonmind.com](mailto:Ian.Neale@darlingtonmind.com)  
[Matthew.hoss@darlingtonmind.com](mailto:Matthew.hoss@darlingtonmind.com)

Our school mental health blog can be found here:

<http://mentalhealth.swiftacademies.org.uk/>

**Setting information**

As we do not have the usual KS2 data this year pupils will be completing baseline assessments in English and Maths during the first two weeks in order to obtain a current working level in their subjects, during this time your child will remain in their tutor group.

The English Year 7 baseline assessment will consist of an imaginative writing task, and a reading test focussing on vocabulary and comprehension. While in Maths pupils will complete three baseline assessments, concentrating on arithmetic ability, mathematical reasoning and applications.

During this time pupils will also complete Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) to assess their verbal, non-verbal, spatial and quantitative reasoning skills and provide us with additional data to support both the setting and target setting process.

This will provide us with the information required to ensure that pupils are placed in the correct set so the curriculum is delivered at the appropriate pace, identifying those who need additional support and those who require stretch and challenge.

There are five teaching groups (1–5) in the lower school for the majority of subjects.

From the week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September your child will be taught in the appropriate set for their ability, (this is of course subject to regular review and adjusted accordingly dependent on pupil progress over time), we will send another letter informing you of your child's set at the appropriate time. Please note that all other subjects (Geography, History, RS, MFL etc.), with the exception of Maths are set in line with English.

During the course of the academic year teachers can make set change recommendations via their Head of Department through regular Progress Review procedures. There is also a formal review of teaching sets in the Summer Term where departmental recommendations are considered by the Leadership Team, Heads of Core Subjects and the relevant Raising Achievement Co-ordinator.

### **Personal, Social, Health, Economic and Citizenship (PSHCE) Education**

Our PSHCE curriculum aims to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, team working and critical thinking whilst giving pupils opportunities to develop their understanding of democracy and justice, rights and responsibilities and identities and diversity.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. PSHCE can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

The PSHCE department's aims are therefore to create:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Confident and autonomous individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

Our PSHCE curriculum also covers the statutory content for relationships, sex and health education as set by the DFE.

Our PSHCE Policy and departmental learning journey can be found on the school website. If you have any questions about the PSHCE curriculum then please contact Mrs Douglass (Head of Personal Development).

### **Transport - Late bus applications**

We are still accepting applications for School Transport for September, if you have not already submitted an application, please could you do this as soon as possible via the link below. If you think you should be entitled to statutory transport, please contact the School Transport team at Darlington Borough Council on [schooltraveltransport@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:schooltraveltransport@darlington.gov.uk)

### **[School Transport Applications September 21](#)**

As we have been unable to have transition days in school, we will send temporary bus passes and timetables out by the end of August, in time for the start of the new school year. Once your child has started with us in September, we will issue a bus pass with their photograph on it.

## **Social Media**

Follow @HurworthSchool on either Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to keep up to date with important news, events and celebrate achievement.

## **Careers:**

Information will be sent to the parents and carers of Year 11 at the beginning of the next academic year regarding an information evening for post 16 choices.

Full details of the careers offer for pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 is available on the Swift Academies careers website.

<https://careers.swiftacademies.org.uk/>

Mr Judson informed pupils last week that he will remain as Head Teacher at the school for at least the academic year 2021/22; Directors and Governors will begin the process of seeking a candidate to lead the school in the Autumn Term 2021. It is their belief that by advertising the post at this time that we will be in a strong position to attract a field of high calibre candidates for a September 2022 start. However, he will remain in post until the time that the Governors and Directors are convinced that they have secured the right person to take the school forward in the long term.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful, peaceful and happy summer and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back to the school in September.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Pitchford  
Head of Year 7/Safeguarding Lead