

Hawkey Hall High School

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Headteacher: Mr P McKendrick



8th October 2026

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take a moment to share just how incredibly proud we are of our Year 7 students and the fantastic start they have made to high school.

They have truly surpassed all our expectations. From the moment they arrived, they have embraced the opportunities, experiences and challenges that come with beginning this exciting new chapter. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, independence and enthusiasm as they have found their feet and settled into life at high school.

On a personal note, it has been a real pleasure getting to know the students as the SLT link for Year 7. I have also been lucky enough to teach some of them in Music, Drama and Food, which has given me the opportunity to see them in different settings and get to know them beyond the day-to-day life of Year 7. Seeing their personalities shine through, watching them develop new skills and seeing them become increasingly confident has been a real highlight.

Across their subjects, they have already been introduced to such a wide range of exciting new learning. In Food, they have been developing their practical skills by making frittatas, while in Music they have been exploring the elements of music. In Drama, they have been learning how to create a character and bring them to life, developing their creativity and confidence along the way.

Their academic learning has been just as varied. In English, they have been exploring *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*, engaging with themes and ideas through literature, while in Maths they have begun tackling algebraic manipulation and developing their mathematical thinking. In RE, they have been exploring the fundamental question, "What is religion?", encouraging them to think deeply, ask questions and consider different perspectives.

What has been particularly impressive is the way they have embraced the challenge of learning things that are new and unfamiliar. They are beginning to develop the resilience to persevere when something is difficult, the confidence to contribute and share their ideas, and the independence needed to thrive at high school.

They are also developing so many important skills beyond the classroom. We have seen them building new friendships, becoming more independent, growing in confidence and learning how to manage the increased expectations and responsibilities that come with being a secondary school student. It has been a privilege to watch them make this transition, and there is already so much for them to be proud of. They really have made an amazing start to Year 7.

We are also really looking forward to welcoming you to our **Year 7 Settling-In Evening**. It will be a lovely opportunity to meet with you, share how your child has settled into school and celebrate the progress they have made during these first few weeks. We can't wait to see you and to share more of the positive experiences your children have had so far. If you haven't done so already, please can you complete the MS Forms [Year 7 Settling In Evening – Fill in form](#) so we are able to cater for everyone who is attending.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are incredibly excited to see what the rest of Year 7 brings and to continue watching them grow, learn and thrive.

Well done, Year 7 — you have made a fantastic start!

Kind regards,
Miss Palmer
Senior Assistant Headteacher



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