



## SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

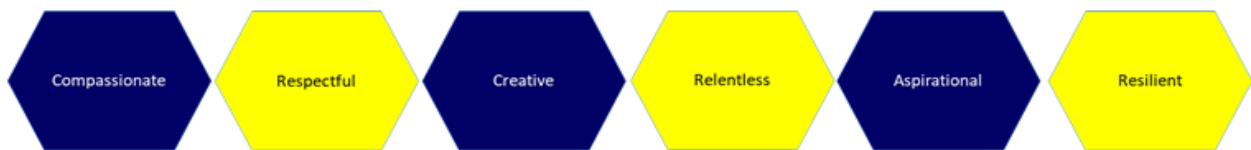
### *Our Vision:*

*To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.*

# Welcome Year 7

Moving from primary to secondary school can be a nerve-racking experience for some, but it is also exciting and adventurous. Firstly, it is ok to feel nervous and you may have lots of questions that will help make the transition easier. We have therefore tried to answer some of them over the next few pages, but don't worry if there are questions that are not covered here. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to ask us before you start in September.

### **What are the SHS values and why are they important?**



Our school values are linked to our Shirley Learner expectations for all pupils. These expectations are the traits that we expect all within our community to model and display throughout their time at Shirley High School. It is our belief that if you consistently implement the school values, you will exceed your potential and have opportunities in adulthood to become global citizens. Our school values are linked to our rewards and house system.

### **What is the Shirley Learning Journey?**

At Shirley High School we have high expectations for our teachers and pupils. Your teachers will plan and deliver high quality, engaging, fun and sequenced lessons. As pupils we expect you to take responsibility for your learning, for example; arriving to lessons on time and ready to work, displaying a positive attitude, actively taking part in all lessons, meeting deadlines for work set, being on task and well behaved. If you consistently implement our Shirley learning journey expectations you will develop and deepen your understanding across all subjects.

### **Our House System**

At Shirley, we have a House system, with the school being divided into 4 houses. Every pupil is allocated to a house when they join the school so that all four houses includes pupils from every year group. This is a great way to meet other pupils and make new friends. Each house is identified by its own name, historical figure, endangered species and colour. Pupils wear a house badge on their blazers, this will be issued to you by your Head of House within the first week of term. You will be able to earn house points through the SHS rewards system for good work, behaviour or participation in house events. Houses will compete against one another in inter house department competitions throughout the school year, providing a focus for teamwork and group loyalty. At the end of the school year the winning house is announced and rewarded with the 'House cup'.

### **Can I be in the same class as my friends?**

We try to place you in form groups with other 'friends' you have identified.



## SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

*Our Vision:*

*To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.*

### **What do I need to bring to school every day?**

Most important bring yourself and be on time. Research shows that the most successful pupils have the best attendance and punctuality.

As you are getting older, we expect you to take responsibility for organising the equipment and uniform required to prepare you for your learning. You will need a pencil case and stationery. Basic stationery items include pens (blue, black, red and green), white board marker (black), pencils, sharpener, ruler, eraser, glue stick, a calculator and maths equipment.

You also need to look at your timetable and pack your bags the night before with any additional items you may need, for example your PE kit if you have PE.

### **Classcharts**

Our new behaviour app will help keep track and alert you of all behaviours and house points throughout the school day. This instant communication is invaluable as we work together to ensure your child fulfils their potential.

### **Can I bring my mobile phone to school?**

We are a mobile free school, however we recognise that parents want their child to have a mobile phone to help with their safety and wellbeing. Due to this we run a Pouch system through our main school. All pupils have their own pouch (provided by the school). During form time at the start of the school day all pupils are expected to place their phone in their pouch and keep it out of sight for the entire day. At the end of the school day pupils can unlock their pouch on exit from the site. We believe that this system provides not only a calm and mobile free environment but also allows parents to contact their children to and from school.

### **Are the uniform rules strict?**

Yes - we pride ourselves on pupils looking smart in their uniform and we hope that you wear yours with pride. When you are travelling to and from school you are ambassadors of Shirley High School and your appearance and behaviour reflect that of your family and school. Remember to travel to and from school in full uniform and keep items such as hoodies, leggings, big belts, jewellery (you are permitted to wear a wrist watch) and all other non-uniform items at home.

### **Can you wear make-up?**

We would rather you looked natural in school. However if some is worn it must be minimal or you may be asked to remove it. No fake eyelashes or nails.

### **Can I use the school computer for my homework?**

Of course - we have a homework club where you can get access to all the IT equipment, resources and staff help you need to complete your homework or you can independently use our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) which is open before and after school.



## SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

*Our Vision:*

*To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.*

### **Who do I speak to if I'm worried about anything?**

If there's something on your mind that's affecting your emotional or physical wellbeing, then we are here to help. Your first port of call is your Form Tutor who you will see at the beginning of every day or your Head of Year. We also have our Assistant Head of Year, Mrs Dye on hand to help you. There is also our Pastoral Support Team if you need them. If we can't give you the best support in school we may be able to get help for you from outside school so please do speak to us if there is anything troubling you. We can't promise confidentiality but we will listen and find the best way to help you.

### **What if I don't feel well?**

We expect all pupils to be in school everyday. We know that high attendance of over 97% will lead to the best academic results. If you don't feel well enough to come to school, then your parent/carer must contact the school and inform the attendance officer ([attend@shirley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:attend@shirley.croydon.sch.uk)) every day that you are off sick, but remember what we said about attendance. If you don't feel well during the school day, then you must let your teacher know. If your teacher feels that you need the help of a medical officer/first aider, then they will send you to the medical room. The school will make contact with your parents if we think it is required.

You must not leave your lessons or the school site without permission as we cannot keep you safe if we don't know where you are.

### **What are biometrics and what are they used for?**

We are a cashless school and therefore all transactions take place via your personalised biometrics. With your parents/carers and your own permission, we take a scan of your fingerprint, which is then converted into a digital code. The fingerprint is then destroyed and all we keep is the code. This is called a biometric. You will need to load credit onto your account; your parents/carers can do this online using ParentPay login details which will be issued to them when you start. When you wish to purchase something from the canteen all you have to do is select the item you want, go to the till and scan your finger in. The cost of the item will be deducted from your account.

### **And finally...**

Extra Curricular activities are a massive part of school life here at Shirley. Pupils have a range of clubs to choose from and we recommend that all pupils attend at least one club per week (they can sign up to lots more if they want). The current list of clubs that are available is below:

Art Club	Badminton Club	Basketball Training
Boxing Club	Chess Club	Dance Club
Drama Club	Football Training (Boys & Girls)	Futsal Club
Games Club	Gardening Club	Guitar / Ukelele
Homework Club	Model Making & Crafting	Netball Training
STEM Club	Textiles Club	And many more...