



23 May 2022

Re: Introduction to Head of Year

Dear Student,

I am so excited to introduce myself as your Head of Year. My name is Ms Richardson and I am really looking forward to welcoming you into Rushcliffe Spencer Academy and supporting you through your transition. This can be both an exciting and nerve-wracking time for you but myself and Rushcliffe staff and pupils will be here to help. We are currently working really hard to make sure that you have a strong start to Year 7 in September.

I am delighted that you have chosen Rushcliffe as your secondary school. You are joining a really successful school, which is a vibrant and friendly place for students. We have a simple core purpose: '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 at Rushcliffe.

As your Head of Year from September, I'd like to start by letting you know a little bit more about me. I am currently the Head of Year 11 and will become your Head of Year when you start Rushcliffe. When I was at secondary school my favourite subjects were Geography, Maths and Science, with many of my hobbies revolving around Sport, especially athletics and volleyball. Now, I like spinning/cycling and am trying to get better at yoga! At Rushcliffe I teach Geography and so as you might have guessed, I also love to travel and learn more about different places around the world. As you will be new to Rushcliffe, 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 Principals, 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 the summer. Your Year 7 tutors and I look forward to reading these and learning about you prior to you starting.

In Year 7 you will join 1 of 11 Forms across our year group. Within your Form group there will be 30 students and you will have a Form Tutor. Your Form Tutor is one of our subject teachers 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 a bit 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. I will also be 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.

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 come together as a year group for an assembly which will be taken by myself or 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. 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, I am proud to say you will experience many opportunities outside of your lessons. If you want to get involved in Performing Arts, you could join one of our music groups, like the school choir, orchestra or percussion groups, or you may decide to try the Drama and Improvisation clubs. This summer we are looking forward to the school production of High School Musical and it is great to have so many of our school community involved, either as performers or as show team members helping backstage. Within PE, we also have a variety of clubs running throughout the year including football, rugby, athletics, dance, netball, tennis, dodgeball, basketball, trampolining and handball. This year we have had lots of successes with our Year 7 football, netball and rugby teams. Other clubs include, film, book, code combat club and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In September, I hope 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.

After the May Half Term holiday, Mr Crawley and I will be coming into your primary school to visit your class and meet your teachers. I'm also really looking forward to welcoming you to Rushcliffe for the transition day in July. The transition day will be a great opportunity to find out what a typical day is like as well as allowing you to begin meeting some other students who will be in your year group. In the meantime, you and your parents will receive even more information about your transition over the coming weeks. I am excited to be your Head of Year and I hope this letter has given you a flavour of what Rushcliffe is like, but just remember, feeling a wide range of emotions at this point in time is completely normal. I will be in touch and am very much looking forward to meeting you.

Kind Regards,

C Richardson

Ms Richardson
Head of Year 7