



Pewsey Vale School

Year 7

**Information
Booklet**

2021/2022

Welcome to Pewsey Vale School!

Pewsey Vale provides a supportive and challenging learning environment where all students are empowered to succeed. We are passionate about ensuring that your child has access to the best opportunities which will help them achieve and prepare them for their future. Our school community works together to ensure that all students reach their full potential in their academic and personal development.

I believe that teaching needs to engage students and be challenging in a way that encourages them to take risks and endeavor to break through their perceived barriers. Our teachers have high expectations and students are supported in reaching these. We want our students to be resilient, creative and successful individuals.

I strongly believe in a holistic approach to education where personalized learning is at the forefront of a school's vision. As a small school, we can facilitate this where every student is an individual. Our staff know each young person and their families very well; they encourage everyone to develop and flourish in all areas of school life and beyond.

Our website is a great source of information for parents and students should you require further information and I hope that you will find this booklet helpful and informative to both you and your child as they begin the transition to secondary school.

Neil Pritchard
Head Teacher

The School Day

The school day at Pewsey Vale runs from 8.45am to 2.45pm.

8.45am – 9.00am	Registration / Assemblies
9.00am – 9.50am	Period 1
9.50am – 10.40am	Period 2
10.40am – 10.55am	BREAK
10.55am – 11.45am	Period 3
11.45am – 12.35pm	Period 4
12.35pm – 1.05pm	LUNCH
1.05pm – 1.55pm –	Period 5
1.55pm – 2.45pm	Period 6

Term Dates for 2021/2022

2021

Wednesday 1 st September	Inset Day – school closed to students
Thursday 2 nd September	Inset Day – school closed to students
Friday 3 rd September	Year 7 and 11 students only
Monday 6 th September	Whole school returns
Tuesday 19 th October	Last day of Term 1
Wednesday 20 th October	Inset Day – school closed to students
Monday 1 st November	First day of Term 2
Friday 17 th December	Last day of Term 2

2022

Tuesday 4 th January	Inset Day – school closed to students
Wednesday 5 th January	First day of Term 3
Friday 18 th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 28 th February	First day of Term 4
Friday 8 th April	Last day of Term 4
Monday 25 th April	First day of Term 5
Friday 27 th May	Last day of Term 5
Monday 6 th June	First day of Term 6
Friday 22 nd July	Last day of Term 6
Monday 25 th July	Inset day – school closed to students

Contacting Pewsey Vale School

Should you need to contact Pewsey Vale for any reason, the main school number is **01672 565000**. The e-mail address is.

The school website is www.pewsey-vale.org and has lots of easily accessible information about Pewsey Vale.

Should you have any concerns about your child from September, your first point of call is their tutor.

Attendance and Student Absence

Regular attendance is extremely important as missing lessons can have a big impact on learning.

In case of illness, please telephone the school absence line (01672 565000 and select the student absence option) on the morning that your child is ill and leave a message. Remember to call each day they are absent. The school must be informed of any absences for safeguarding purposes. If you have not informed the school when your child is absent, you will receive a message from us via SIMS In Touch to find out the reason for their absence. Please respond to the message you receive – you do not need to call the school as well.

Written permissions are required

Please try to arrange any appointments outside of the school day or during holidays. If this is not possible, please ensure that they have a written note in their planner with details of the appointment or email the school office. Students are not allowed to leave the school site without written permission. They must ensure that they sign out at reception before they leave and sign in again on their return.

Tutor Groups

The Year 7 tutors play a unique role in the transition process. Their pastoral experience and understanding helps students to settle into their new surroundings and encourage their independence. Tutors also help their tutees to meet new people and create new friendship groups. The tutors get to know their tutees quickly and the relationship focuses more on their care, well-being and transition, rather than on academic achievement. If any concerns arise in Year 7, your child should speak with their tutor in the first instance.

The Canteen and Refreshments

- Hot lunches, snacks and sandwiches are available in the Canteen during break and lunch time. Students pay for their items with cash – we do not operate a cashless system at Pewsey Vale. All food served in the canteen is coded for allergies and intolerances and we do provide meals for most dietary types.
- Students may bring in packed lunches (no nuts please) and drinks – no fizzy drinks (with the exception of fizzy water). We would ask that no energy drinks are brought into school and these will be removed if found.

Students are **not** permitted to leave the school site during break or lunchtime to purchase food from the shops in the village.

If your child forgets their packed lunch or money at home, a lunch voucher is available from the Main Office. This will enable the student to get something to eat in the canteen and they will be expected to bring money in the following day to repay the voucher.

Lockers

Lockers are available to those Year 7 students who would like one. We are unable to store any belongings either in classrooms or in the main office so please request a locker if your child needs somewhere to keep their PE kit or books during the day. The lockers are managed and maintained by an independent company and can be booked online through them – a letter from the company is also attached to this email.

Home Learning

Home learning is regularly set for KS3 and KS4 via Microsoft TEAMS for which students will have unique login. This takes a variety of forms and predominantly either prepares students for new topics or cements learning they have just studied. Students will record their homework in their planners and will be monitored using the schools monitoring systems.

Transport

Please contact Passenger Transport at Wiltshire Council if you feel that you may be entitled to transport to and from school. The School does also run a separate private coach to bring in students from the Collingbournes and Tidworth areas. A booking form for this service went out with the admissions forms but if you have not completed the form and wish to do so, please contact us on admin@pewsey-vale.wilts.sch.uk and we can send another form out to you.

Please also be mindful that our car park is shared by both Pewsey Vale School and Pewsey Primary School and can be very congested during drop off and pick up times, especially with a number of buses collecting students too.

Parents' Evenings and Reports

We hope to hold a Meet the Tutor event in October which will give you an opportunity to meet with your child's tutor and discuss how they are settling in. Progress reports are sent out throughout the school year and a written report is sent out annually. The Year 7 Parents' Evening is usually held towards the end of the academic year in order to give the teachers the longest possible time to get to know the students.

SIMS In Touch

Our main way of communicating with you will be via SIMS In Touch which goes directly into your email inbox. It is **vital** that we have an up to date email address for you. Please ensure this is filled in correctly on the admissions form that you should have completed and report any changes in contact details as soon as possible. Invitations to any events, Parents' Evenings, school reports, trip letters, sports fixtures and school newsletters are all sent out via In Touch. Please notify us if you are unable to receive or do not have an e-mail address.

Please always let us know if you change your email address as we rely on this for our communications.

Pewsey Vale Uniform/Dress Code/Sports Kit

Years 7 to 11, 2021/22

The uniform at Pewsey Vale is an essential part of the school. It should instill a sense of pride in personal appearance and also in representing the school.

We are currently finalising the uniform requirements for September at this time, and will be sending out more details and information as soon as it is available and in good time for the start of the school year. Please see below for our usual standard expectations of personal grooming. Please keep new piercings to the summer holidays only as we **do** require all piercings to be removed for PE lessons and they will need time to heal beforehand.

Acceptable in School	<u>NOT</u> Acceptable in School
Hair – hair should be neat and tidy. Long hair must be tied back for PE, technology and science practicals.	No extreme haircuts – nothing shorter than grade 2. No unnatural hair colouring, rainbow colours or dip-dyes.
Make-up – if worn, must be discreet and neutral. Nail varnish (if worn) must be clear, pale pink or French tip.	No heavy or excessive make up. No false nails.
Jewellery – should be kept to a minimum. One pair of stud earrings only (one in each ear), a wristwatch, and a slim necklace (if worn for religious purposes only.) No jewellery to be worn at all during PE or sports activities.	No facial, oral or body piercings including nose studs, stretchers in ear, tongue piercings or eyebrow bars. No wristbands, festival bands, bracelets, bangles or beads.

PE Kit

Compulsory Items – these can be ordered with Brigade via our school website	Optional Items
Black sports top with the Pewsey Vale logo Black sports shorts with the Pewsey Vale logo	Plain black sports leggings Plain black tracksuit bottoms (non-branded) Pewsey Vale PE Sweatshirt

Please do consult our uniform list on our website once updated before purchasing any uniform. Only the correct uniform items will be permitted. If your child repeatedly fails to wear the correct uniform, the Headteacher reserves the right to send the child home or arrange for the child to be collected. Please can you ensure that all items of clothing are named so that any lost property can be returned to your child.

Induction Information

We will be holding an induction day for new Year 7 students on **Wednesday 7th July 2021**. Students should arrive at Pewsey Vale School, ready to start at **9.00am** and should be collected at **2.00pm**. During the induction day, students should wear their current school uniform. There is no need for a PE kit.

Students should bring the following for their induction day:-

- A school bag
- A pencil case
- A bottle of water
- Emergency contact phone numbers
- A packed lunch – if you are entitled to free school meals, then please liaise with your Primary School to provide.
- Medication with dosage instructions and care plan if appropriate.

During the day, students will be engaged in a variety of activities in different subject lessons, enabling them to get to know each other and the school environment.

You will need to drop them and collect them from the school as they will not be able to travel on school transport with siblings already attending the school if they have any.

Parent Information Evening – Wednesday 7th July

An opportunity for all new parents to meet the tutors and key staff. The event will begin at 6.00pm and there will also be an opportunity for you to see the school uniform. Students are welcome to attend this event with their parents.

Useful Information for the first day of term – September 2021

- The first day of school for Year 7 students will be **Friday 3rd September 2021**
- Students should arrive at school to start at 8.45am
- The rest of the school will return on Monday 6th September 2021

What to bring on the first day of term – please ensure that items, where possible, are named:-

- Medication with dosage instructions and Care Plan (if applicable)
- Strong, sensible school bag
- Pencil case including pens, pencils, rubber, ruler and glue stick
- Reading book
- PE kit
- Packed lunch - if not purchasing food from the canteen
- Water bottle

Students will be issued with:

- A student planner
- Timetable
- Exercise books

We really look forward to welcoming you to our community and to seeing you all in July for our exciting induction day.