

Dear Parents/Carers,

21 July 2021

## **Transition Summer School Plans (23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August)**

This letter details the plans for our transition summer school, to be held at Wey Valley Academy from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August. We have planned an exciting range of activities which will enable your child to meet fellow students and staff, familiarise themselves with the Academy site, get them back into learning habits, have fun and take part in challenging activities.

Please ensure you read this letter carefully as it contains a lot of important information. This is particularly relevant with the external trips; students must be on time on the days they are assigned to one of the trips as the transport will leave on time and if late your child will miss the trip and have to join in with a school based activity instead .

### **Programme of Events**

The programme of events is at Appendix 1. It is organised so that tutor groups are together, so you need to know which tutor group your child is in (this information has been emailed to you and your child has been informed by their primary school). Unfortunately, we have very limited flexibility in moving individual students around to ensure they get to go on the external trips, so parents are requested to try to ensure their child is at school on the day when their tutor group's trips are scheduled.

### **Timings of the Day**

Each day starts with registration at 9am in the Will Mackaness Hall (see Fig 1). The external trips will depart immediately after that. The day will finish at 3pm and students will be escorted out to the main car park for collection. Students who are walking home, or catching a bus, will also leave via the main car park.

### **Food and Drink**

We will provide a packed lunch for every student, and water will be available on site throughout the day. Every student is to bring a water bottle and is to drink plenty of water throughout the day (especially if the weather is hot). Fizzy drinks, energy drinks, fruit juice etc are not to be bought on to the Academy site.

#### **Wey Valley Academy**

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

Rob Russell, BEd (Hons), Principal

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## Clothing and Equipment

Students will be expected to bring a small bag, pens, pencils etc with them as there is an educational element to all activities and they will be expected to write things down and fully engage with the academic content.

All children are to dress appropriately for the activities they are scheduled to take part in that day.

- They must bring a hat, especially if it's sunny
- If it's forecast to rain, a waterproof coat and dry change of clothes
- No cropped tops
- No skin-tight or high cut shorts
- No fashion shoes, or shoes that don't offer a high level of support
- No ripped denim
- All students are to bring a high-PF sunscreen and apply it regularly

## Watersports

We have an excellent opportunity to give all students a chance to try Stand Up Paddle boarding. Every day, two groups will be driven by minibus to Weymouth Watersports (<https://www.weymouthwatersports.co.uk/>), by Ferry Bridge, and have an hour of fun in Portland Harbour. Qualified instructors will be on hand to ensure every student has a great time and learns a new skill. Following this, the groups will go to Chesil beach and take part in a beach clean. We will provide gloves and litter pickers. There will be a prize for the tutor group which collects the most plastic!

All students will need to bring suitable swimwear and a towel; if they own a wetsuit or water-shoes, they are welcome to wear them. Weymouth Watersports have a very limited supply of small wetsuits and they sell water-shoes (£8 per pair). Children can safely go barefoot, or wear an old pair of trainers etc. Please provide a plastic bag for them to put their wet clothing in. There is also an opportunity to buy an ice-cream there.

These groups will return to school at approximately 12.30pm and continue with activities in school in the afternoon.

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## History Trip

We will also be visiting the Nothe Fort (<https://nothefort.org.uk/>) and the D-Day Museum at Portland (<https://ddaycentre.com/>) for a history themed day out. A coach will take staff and students to each location, with two groups rotating between the venues, spending half a day at each location.

Students are to ensure they wear suitable clothing and footwear as they will be walking some distance to each venue.

## Art at Lorton Meadows

The final external trip is to Lorton Meadows (<https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/lorton-meadows>), where students will be taking part in some art activities. There will be prizes awarded for the best artwork.

We recommend that students wear long sleeved tops and full-length trousers/leggings etc. The students will be in long grass meadows, and it is possible that there may be ticks and other insects. We will ask them to self-check on their return to school, but parents should also check their child for ticks when they return home. For more information on ticks, follow this link: [NHS Tick Pamphlet](#)

**Parents must fill in this online form to give consent to go on any external trip, by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August - <https://forms.office.com/r/JGK6dDCXN8>**

## Other Activities

We will provide a broad and balanced range of activities, including ICT, Design and Technology and Performing Arts, but we are also giving most students the opportunity to experience and learn some other life-skills. This includes some First Aid training and 'Forestry' skills (such as building fires and shelters).

Unfortunately, we can't guarantee that every student will be able to take part in every activity.

## End-of-Week Prize Giving

We love to reward students and recognise their achievements and efforts, so we will finish the week with a prize-giving ceremony. The full list of available prizes will be shared with the students on the first day of summer school, but we plan to give out lots of rewards, certificates and badges. We have also booked an ice-cream van and pizzas for the final lunch.

During the last part of the week, the children will be giving a performance, lead by Mr Hintze.

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## Literacy Assessments

Summer school gives us an excellent opportunity to assess the reading age of each student, which is crucial for their start in September. Literacy is at the heart of our curriculum and we have excellent support for students, regardless of their reading ability, with plenty of challenge for everyone. Any student not assessed during summer school will be assessed in September at the earliest opportunity.

## Mobile Phones

We ask that students do not bring phones to summer school and if they do it is entirely at your risk as we will not take any responsibility for them. During the day we will apply our normal school rules about mobile phones, which are in place to safeguard students by reducing access to unfiltered internet and social media for which they are too young (age for most social media is 13 Years!). It must be switched off and placed in their bag. Anyone seen using a phone, will be given a warning and the phone will be confiscated if seen again. Students will be able to collect any confiscated phones from the main office at the end of the day. Students seen wearing headphones will be asked to remove them.

It would be great if the children could engage in a few days of fun activities without the need to have their phones in their hands at all times!

This policy also applies to external trips.

Parents needing to speak to their child during the day, should ring the main office on 817000.

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## Photographs

We aim to take lots and lots of photos and a video of your children enjoying themselves at summer school; these will be uploaded to our website and social media. We ask that students don't take, and then post photos to social media sites, as there may well be other students who for safeguarding reasons cannot have their photos on social media.

This is a unique opportunity for your child to take part in an exciting, innovative and challenging week of fun and education. We hope that they can join us for most, if not all, of it and make new friends, learn new skills and be excited to join the Wey Valley community in September as our new Year 7.

If you have any questions, email our Transition Team ([transition@weyvalley-academy.co.uk](mailto:transition@weyvalley-academy.co.uk)).

Yours faithfully,



Pete Lydford  
Vice Principal

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Appendix 1:

Wey Valley Summer School Timetable

		7NPE	7MOS	7JSP	7PHA	7PHY	7RWH	7SHH	7SLY					
Monday 23rd August	0900 - 0915	Registration												
	0930 - 1030	Watersports Trip			History Trip		ICT	Music	Cake Comp	Art				
	1030 - 1100	Break												
	1100 - 1230	Lunch					D&T	Performing Arts	ICT	Art				
	1230 - 1315	Lunch												
	1315 - 1345	Forest School	Reading Tests	Orienteering										
	1345 - 1500	Reading Tests	Forest School	Performing Arts	ICT	D&T	Cake Comp							
Tuesday 24th August	0900 - 0915	Registration												
	0930 - 1030	ICT	Music	Watersports Trip			History Ex.Trip		Art	D&T				
	1030 - 1100	Break												
	1100 - 1230	Music	ICT						Art	Performing Arts				
	1230 - 1315	Lunch												
	1315 - 1345	Orienteering	Art	Forest School	Reading Tests	Forest School	Forest School	Forest School						
	1345 - 1500	D&T	Reading Tests	Forest School	D&T	ICT								
Wednesday 25th August	0900 - 0915	Registration												
	0930 - 1030	First Aid	Cake Comp	Art	ICT	Watersports Trip		History Ex.Trip						
	1030 - 1100	Break												
	1100 - 1230	Cake Comp	First Aid	Art	Performing Arts									
	1230 - 1315	Lunch												
	1315 - 1345	Art	Orienteering			Forest School	Reading Tests							
	1345 - 1500	D&T	ICT	First Aid	Reading Tests	Forest School								
Thursday 26th August	0900 - 0915	Registration												
	0930 - 1030	History Ex.Trip			Music	Art	First Aid	Cake Comp	Watersports Trip					
	1030 - 1100				Break									
	1100 - 1230				Performing Arts	Art	Cake Comp	First Aid						
	1230 - 1315	Lunch												
	1315 - 1345	Forest School	Forest School	Art	Forest School	Forest School	Reading Tests							
	1345 - 1500	First Aid	Music	Art	D&T	Reading Tests	Forest School							
Friday 27th August	0900 - 0915	Registration												
	0930 - 1030	Sports B	Sports A	D&T	Cake Comp	Music	Art	Performing Arts	First Aid					
	1030 - 1100	Break												
	1100 - 1230	Sports A	Sports B	Cake Comp	D&T	Sports C	Art	First Aid	Music					
	1230 - 1330	Lunch												
	1330 - 1500	Awards Assembly & Student Performance												

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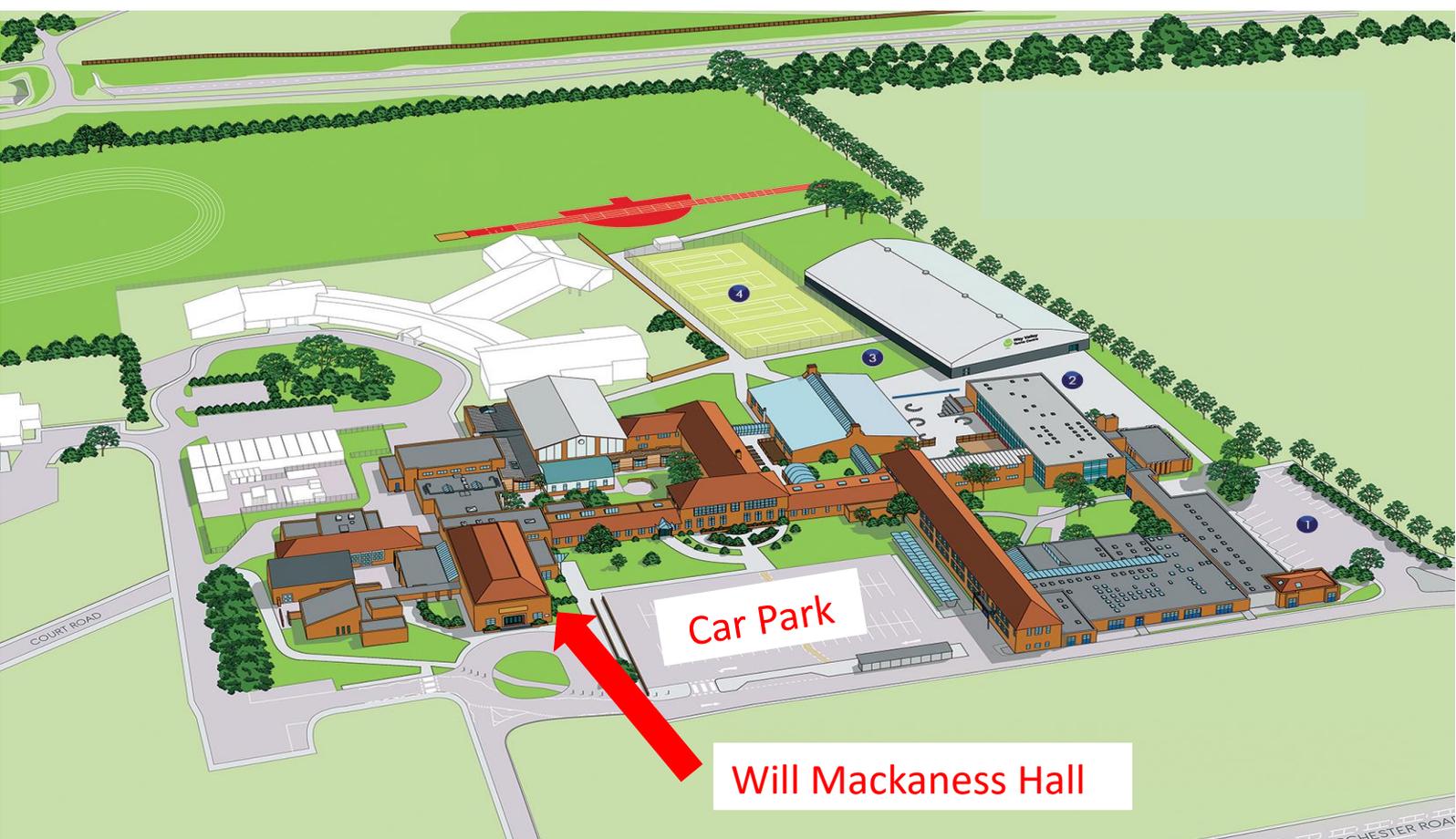
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**Fig 1: Will Mackaness Hall**



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