Welcome to Heron Hall Academy

Year 7 2026-27

A guide for our new Year 7 students and families



We look forward to welcoming you in September.

www.heronhallacademy.org.uk

Heron Hall ACADEMY

Academy PLUS

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Welcome from the Headteacher



Dear Year 7 students, parents and carers,



We are delighted to welcome you to Heron Hall Academy.

Starting secondary school is a big step. It can feel exciting, and it can also feel unfamiliar at first. That is completely normal.

Our job is to help every new student settle in, understand the routines of the school, make positive friendships and feel ready to learn.

At Heron Hall Academy, we want every student to feel safe, supported and known. We have clear routines, high expectations and staff who are here to help throughout the school day.

We also want to work closely with parents and carers. Children do best when school and home work together, so please contact us early if you have a question or concern.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you properly into the Heron Hall Academy community.

David Maytham
Headteacher
Heron Hall Academy





Welcome to Year 7

You are about to begin a new and important chapter in your school life.

Secondary school is different from primary school. The building is bigger, you will have different teachers for different subjects, and you will follow a timetable each day.



In your first few weeks, we will help you learn:

- how to read your timetable
- where your lessons are
- what equipment you need
- how homework works
- what to do at break and lunch
- who to speak to if you are worried

Many students feel excited and nervous before starting secondary school. Most students feel both. We will help you settle in.

You do not need to know everything straight away

We will help you learn where to go, what to do and who to ask for help.

What happens before September

There will be several opportunities to find out more about Heron Hall Academy and get ready for September.

When	What happens
June/July	Welcome information is sent to families
30 June	Parent and carer welcome evening
2 & 3 July	Children visit the school
Summer	Families read this guide, check uniform and plan travel
7th September	Year 7 students begin at Heron Hall Academy
Autumn term	Students are helped to settle in and parents receive updates

Parent tip

Put the key dates in your phone calendar now. Please contact the school office if you are unsure about any date or arrangement.

Your first day

Your first day at secondary school is exciting and a big step. You may feel confident, nervous, or a mixture of both. Many students feel this way.

You will not be expected to know everything on your first day. Staff will welcome you, guide you and help you understand what to do.

When you arrive

- staff will show you where to go
- you will meet your form tutor
- you will meet other students in your form group
- you will begin to learn your timetable
- staff will help you find your way around

Your Checklist
Remember

If you are not sure where to go, ask a teacher or another member of staff. It is always okay to ask for help.

The night before

- [ ] Pack your school bag
- [ ] Check your pencil case
- [ ] Get your uniform ready
- [ ] Check how you will travel
- [ ] Set an alarm
- [ ] Try to sleep well





Who will help my child?

EVERY YEAR 7 STUDENT HAS ADULTS WHO WILL HELP THEM SETTLE IN, LEARN WELL AND FEEL SAFE.

Person or team	How they help
Form tutor	Sees your child regularly and is usually the first point of contact for general questions.
Year team	Helps with progress, behaviour, routines, attendance and day-to-day support.
Pastoral Lead	Gives extra support if a student is worried, upset or finding something difficult.
Safeguarding and inclusion teams	Help keep students safe and provide specialist support when needed.
Attendance officer	Works with families to support good attendance and punctuality.
Autumn term	Students are helped to settle in and parents receive updates

Parent message

Your child will not be left to manage alone. If you are worried, please contact the school early so we can help.

Feeling safe and supported

We know that parents and carers want their child to feel safe, settled and ready to learn.

At Heron Hall Academy, staff help Year 7 students understand the routines of the school, know who to speak to and feel part of the school community.

We support students by:

- helping them understand where to go and what to do
- giving them a form tutor who sees them regularly
- making staff visible around the school
- supporting students during break and lunch
- helping students understand school rules and routines
- working with parents and carers when extra support is needed

Tell us early

Small worries are easier to solve when we know about them early.

Students should speak to an adult in school if they feel worried, unsafe or unsure about something. Parents and carers should also contact the school if they have concerns.

The school day

Gates open at 8am.
Students should line up from 8.40am.
School bells ring throughout the day.
Students should move calmly and safely between lessons and arrive on time.

What to bring each day

Being prepared helps you make a good start to each lesson.
Your school bag should include:

- books needed for the day
- black or blue pens
- pencil, ruler and rubber
- scientific calculator
- glue stick
- water bottle

Uniform and PE kit

Students are expected to wear the correct school uniform every day. Full details are included in the separate Heron Hall Academy Uniform Guide. Please read the uniform guide carefully before buying uniform or preparing for September.

Need help?

Contact the school office if you are unsure about uniform, PE kit or equipment.

Clear routines so everyone can learn
Students do best when routines are clear and expectations are consistent. Clear routines help students feel safe, help lessons run smoothly and allow everyone to focus on learning.

Time	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	Thursday
8.00am	Gates open	Gates open
8.40am	Line up	Line up
8.45–9am	Registration time	Registration time
9–10am	Period 1	Period 1
10–11am	Period 2	Period 2
11–11.20am	Break	Break
11.20–12.20pm	Period 3	Period 3
12.20–1.20pm	Period 4	Period 4
1.20–2.05pm	Lunch	Lunch
2.05–3.05pm	Period 5	On Thursdays there is no Period 5, students finish at 2:25pm
3.05–3.25pm	End of Day Tutor time	



Clear routines so everyone can learn

Students do best when routines are clear and expectations are consistent. Clear routines help students feel safe, help lessons run smoothly and allow everyone to focus on learning.

We expect students to:

- arrive on time
- be ready to learn
- follow instructions from staff
- treat others with respect
- move around the school calmly and safely
- speak kindly to others
- take pride in their uniform and equipment
- complete homework on time
- make positive choices

Good attendance helps students:

- keep up with learning
- build friendships
- feel part of school life
- develop good habits
- achieve their best

Parents and carers need to know:

- students must attend every day unless there is a valid reason for absence
- students should arrive for line up at 8.40am
- if your child is absent, you must provide a reason by 9.30am each day
- contact the school early if there is a problem with attendance

Why it matters

90% attendance means a student misses around one day of school every two weeks.

Learning, homework and reading

Year 7 is the beginning of secondary learning. Students study a wide range of subjects and begin to build strong foundations for the future.

Homework

Homework helps students practise what they have learned, prepare for future lessons and develop independence.



Students should:

- write down homework carefully
- check when homework is due
- complete homework on time
- ask for help before the deadline if unsure
- take pride in the quality of work

Homework is set on Google Classroom. Form tutors will show students how to log in.



Reading

Reading is important in every subject. It helps students build vocabulary, understand more in lessons, write more clearly and grow in confidence.

Food, lunch and free school meals

Students can have a school meal or bring a packed lunch.

School meals

The school is cashless. Parents and carers use ParentPay to add money to their child's account. Students do not need to bring cash into school.

Packed lunches

Packed lunches should be healthy and suitable for the school day. Energy drinks are not allowed in school.

Free school meals

The rules for free school meals are changing from September 2026. More families receiving Universal Credit may now be eligible.

Please complete the Enfield Free School Meals / Pupil Premium Application Form if your child already receives free school meals, your family receives Universal Credit, your details have changed, or you think your child may now be eligible.

Need help with the form?

Please contact the school office. We will help you.





Staying connected

We use school messages, email, phone calls, the website and school apps to keep parents and carers informed.

Arbor Parent App

The Arbor Parent App helps parents see important school information, including messages, attendance, reports and upcoming events.



ParentPay

ParentPay is used for school meals, trips, events and other school payments. Activation details will be sent before your child starts school.

Please check your details

Make sure the school has your correct phone number and email address so you do not miss important messages.

Rewards, clubs and STRIVE

At Heron Hall Academy, we recognise and celebrate effort, progress, kindness, good attendance and positive behaviour.

Students can be recognised through:

- praise from teachers
- merits and certificates
- Head of Year recognition
- celebration assemblies
- end-of-term awards
- rewards for good or improved attendance
- reward events, trips or prize draws

Academy PLUS

School is not only about lessons. Students are encouraged to take part in wider school life, try new activities and develop their confidence.

Opportunities may include sports, music, drama, creative activities, subject clubs, competitions, trips, student leadership, volunteering and community projects.

STRIVE

Our values are: Supportive, Tolerant, Resilient, Integrity, Visionary and Excellence.

Supportive
Tolerant
Resilient
Integrity
Visionary
Excellence



Working with parents and carers

Starting secondary school can feel new for parents as well as students. We will try to make information clear and easy to understand.

Children settle best when school and home work together. If you have a question or concern, please contact us early. We would rather hear from you quickly than have a small worry become a bigger problem.

Parents and carers can help by:

- making sure their child attends school every day
- helping their child arrive on time
- checking uniform and equipment
- encouraging good homework routines
- reading messages from the school
- keeping contact details up to date
- contacting the school if there is a concern
- supporting the school's rules and routines

Who to contact

If you have a question or concern, please contact us. If you are not sure who to contact, please contact the main school office. They will help you find the right person.

Question or concern	Who to contact
General questions, uniform, homework or medical appointments	School office - Heron@northstartrust.org.uk - 020 8443 9631
Attendance or absence	School office - Heron@northstartrust.org.uk - 020 8443 9631
SEND or learning support	Carla Courtney - ccourtney@northstartrust.org.uk - 020 8443 9631
Safeguarding concern	Zoe Kirby, Head of Safeguarding - 0208 804 4126 x620 - 07701 009 319
Lunch payments or canteen	Sapna Jethwa-Chapman - Heron@northstartrust.org.uk

Please contact us early if you need help. We are here to support your child and family.

Getting ready for September

Use this checklist to help your child get ready for starting Year 7 at Heron Hall Academy.

- ☐ Read this welcome guide
- ☐ Read the separate Uniform Guide
- ☐ Buy the correct uniform and PE kit
- ☐ Check what equipment your child needs
- ☐ Make sure the school has your correct phone number and email address
- ☐ Complete any forms sent by the school
- ☐ Check how your child will travel to school
- ☐ Check lunch arrangements or apply for free school meals, if needed
- ☐ Speak to the school if your child has any worries or support needs



Our message to every new Year 7 student

Be ready to learn.

Be kind to others.

Ask for help when you need it.

Try your best.

Take pride in being part of Heron Hall Academy.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

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