What will I be studying in Year 7?

The following document is a guide to what your son will be studying in his lessons in Year 7.

**Art**

In Year 7 we start by considering what Art is and how it is visible in the world around us. We make links to literature and look at the storytelling techniques of the Ancient Greeks and Kuna Indians. You will have the opportunity to make collage illustrations or work in textiles.

We will look at the importance of portraiture and consider its function and links to history. You will learn the proportions of the body and face and use these to produce portraits in the style of a number of different artists. You will have the opportunity to work in three dimensions and to use photography and computer aided design to make your work.

You will have the opportunity to make work for the House Art competition and to submit work for the Sutton Festival of Youth Art.

A protective garment will also be needed for work in Art & Design and Technology as the materials we use can be messy! You should bring an oversized old shirt that covers the entire top half of your body to ensure that your new uniform stays pristine. You will work on your artwork during lessons but will also require basic equipment to complete tasks at home. A set of drawing pencils, oil pastels and a watercolour set with paintbrushes will help you to complete homework tasks.

**Biology**

The study of Biology involves understanding the world around you and how your body works.

In Year 7 you will be learning about biologists of the past in 'Back to the Future'; how your body works in 'Inner Space'; animals and their relationship with the environment in 'Zoo' and lastly, you will tackle the outside world in ‘Explorer’!

You will also develop the following skills: scientific literacy and numeracy by conducting investigations and collecting data; team work and participation by carrying out lots of group activities; reflective learning by self and peer assessment; creativity and independent learning by undertaking projects, making models and setting up nature trails.

**Chemistry**

The study of Chemistry involves learning about elements, compounds and mixtures and how these react together in chemical reactions. You will also learn about acids and alkalis and methods of separating mixtures.
In Year 7 Chemistry, you will be learning the following themes:

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<td>Laboratory</td>
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<td>Acids and Alkalis</td>
<td>Acids, Alkalis, Indicators and the pH scale</td>
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You will also develop the following skills: scientific literacy and numeracy by conducting practical investigations and collecting and analysing data; team work and participation by carrying out lots of group activities; reflective learning by self and peer assessment; creativity and independent enquiry by solving problems in the world around us caused by chemical reactions.

**Classics**

The study of Classics involves everything to do with Ancient Greece and Rome. It also involves learning Latin as well!

In Year 7 you will be learning about Greek and Roman religion, what gods they worshipped and how they did this. You will also learn about adventures of the heroes that took part in the Trojan War such as Hector, Achilles and Odysseus.

In order to learn about the gods and heroes you will be introduced to the basics of Latin language. You will use these skills to translate parts of the Trojan War story such as the birth and judgement of Paris, the wrath of Achilles and death of heroes, the Trojan horse and the fall of Troy.

In Classics you will develop skills in Latin language, literary analysis, team work, creative thinking and debate.

**Computer Science**

You will be learning about the basics of computers and how they work. You will first be introduced to simple programming languages like Scratch, where you will make animations, games, and calculators. You will then learn some of a more advanced text-based programming language like Python. You will use online learning resources such as Codecademy. You will get some experience of building basic websites using HTML. You will also learn about the hardware components that make up a computer, for example how the CPU, RAM and Hard Drive work together.

Python is the language that we will look at in most detail. In Python we will look at different data types, getting and using input from a user, writing 'if... then...' structures and loops, and creating functions. We'll put them together into interactive projects and games!

If you want to get some experience of this material before starting, we suggest downloading Scratch and Python 2.7 onto your computer, and exploring these programming environments.
Design & Technology

During your KS3 Design & Technology course you will:

- Learn how to use the Iterative Process of Designing (iPoD) to explore, create and evaluate solutions to problems that are fit for purpose and meet the needs of a range of users.
- Work with a range of resistant materials (wood, metal & plastic) and electronic components
- Use tools and machinery to mark out, cut, shape, finish and assemble materials
- Learn how to design & build electronic circuits and make electronic products that work
- Learn a range of Computer Aided Design software packages
- Use a range of Computer Numerically Controlled machines
- Be assessed on knowledge & understanding through a range of short tests and longer project based assessments.

The Year 7&8 Key Stage 3 Foundation Course introduces and develops the technological competencies below:

1. Resistant Materials Technology
2. ICT: Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture
3. Electronic Products
4. Graphical Design techniques

The Department enjoys ‘state of the art’ ICT facilities. All students will become proficient in the use of ‘industrial standard’ 2 & 3D Design Software Packages, including those used to ‘drive’ our computer guided laser cutter. During practical lessons you will use tools to form and shape woods, metals, plastics and components. Students will apply their knowledge and designing skills to produce three-dimensional products that work from their own specifications and drawings.

Drama

Drama is a practical, artistic subject; it relies on the human ability to pretend to be some-one or something else. Your Drama lessons will ask you to use your imagination to explore how people in particular circumstances might behave, now and at different times and in different societies. Drama will give you opportunities to experiment with voice and movement, and will help you in improving your presentation skills. It will also encourage you to develop the fundamental skills needed to work well within a diverse group of people.

In Year 7, you will be learning how to:

- Express yourself creatively in ways that inspire and challenge you
- Develop your speaking and listening skills in ways that have real purpose and meaning
- Develop an understanding of a range of dramatic techniques.
- Work individually and collaboratively to devise and present scripted and unscripted work, which maintain the attention of an audience
- Extend your spoken repertoire by experimenting with language in different roles and dramatic contexts
- Develop dramatic techniques to explore in role a variety of situations and texts
If you are particularly interested in Drama, you will be able to get involved in extra-curricular activities and have the option of choosing it for GCSE. We always put on at least one play each year, in addition to the House Drama Competition which takes place in the Autumn Term. We aim to provide the opportunity for all students to attend at least one theatre trip during each key stage at the school.

**English**

The study of English involves developing your personal, learning and thinking skills in addition to the reading, writing and speaking and listening skills that are specific to the subject.

In Year 7 you will be learning about the global dimensions and the community in which you live, whilst exploring different text and writing types, including drama, poetry, non-fiction and the 20th century novel, investigating these through different assessment modes and forms: not just writing and speaking, but drama, film and project work.

**Food & Nutrition**

In Year 7 you will acquire a broad range of skills in both theory and practical lessons.

You will learn about the principles of healthy eating, nutrition and diet and topics such as Fairtrade, Organic Farming, Sustainability and Food Miles. Food from different cultures and festivals are looked at throughout the year and you will take part in a number of taste-testing sessions designed to encourage you to try foods that you may be unfamiliar with.

You will be taught basic cooking techniques and methods and will take part in a practical lesson every fortnight. You will be encouraged to source your own ingredients and as the year develops you will be given opportunities to adapt standard food products with your own ideas. Learning how to cook is an important life skill and you will be encouraged to cook at home as much as possible in order to increase your confidence in practical lessons and also experiment with different ingredients.

**French**

The study of French involves learning lots of new French vocabulary, listening to short French passages, reading short French texts and writing small paragraphs or role-plays. Sometimes you may have to perform these role-plays or even give a short speech in French. You will also learn some French grammar and verbs. Finally, you will also learn about French culture and traditions.

In Year 7 you will be learning about a vast array of topics including: giving personal information, talking about where you live, talking about your family and pets, talking about festivals and traditions, talking about the weather, your town, the time, your school day and school subjects, food & drink and hobbies!

You will also develop the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. You will do this by completing comprehension exercises when listening to and reading in French, speaking French with a partner or to the class, writing mini-essays and role-plays, doing translation tasks from and into French and taking part in many class games.

**Geography**
The study of Geography at WCGS involves exploring a wide range of topics and learning a broad range of new skills to become an expert Geographer throughout your time as a pupil here.

In Year 7 you will learn about many different places, cultures, processes and interactions. In their first year at school Geographers also have the opportunity to develop their skills in ICT, map reading data presentation, analysis, evaluation and. Assessment in Geography takes many different forms, from articles to adverts, all of which are explained thoroughly and give students the opportunity to show originality and creativity.

In Year 7 Geography we currently study the following topics:

- **Map skills** - Different types of maps and how to use them, focussing on OS maps skills.
- **Coasts** - Processes occurring along a coastline, different landforms and the processes involved in their formation.
- **Africa and development** - How Africa has changed over time, looking at the physical and human features of the continent and approaches to sustainable development.
- **Rivers** - The changing dynamics of the water world by focusing on the changes in a river profile and how flooding is managed in developed and developing countries.
- **Globalisation** - How the world is becoming increasingly connected and how this affects our everyday life.
- **Ecosystems** - The variety of ecosystems around the world and how the human and physical components interact.

**History**

History involves studying how people lived in the past to help us to see the bigger picture and to teach us how to learn from the mistakes of others. By being able to empathise with historical characters and situations you will be able to enrich your understanding of past events. Many of the skills needed in adult life are developed through a study of History; not least an inquiring mind.

In Year 7 you will study a broad curriculum involving some of the most famous stories of early British history. Starting with the Norman invasion of England and the Battle of Hastings in 1066, you will then move on to look at Anglo-Norman society, before looking at a broad range of events closely related to the changing experiences of the people, such as the murder of Thomas Becket, the implementation of Magna Carta, the impact of the Black Death, and the Peasants Revolt. Your year will end with a look at the important monarchs and events of the Stuart and Tudor periods, and the English Civil War.

During the year, you will also develop research skills, the ability to find and evaluate sources of information, and the means to identify and evaluate diverse interpretations. Work in History also improves basic writing and speaking skills. History is such a great subject; is there any other subject which can claim to be disgusting, revolting, rude, humorous, exciting, scary, inspiring, informative and fun?

**Mathematics**

If you enjoyed puzzles and problem solving in primary school, you will love the challenges in Maths here at Wallington. Not only will you be able to get your head round some mind-bending conundrums, you
will also learn new skills that will help you develop your conceptual understanding and your problem-solving skills to a new level!

The main areas of Mathematics you will focus on will be algebra, geometry, number, probability and data handling. You will also be rigorously prepared for the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge, which you will take part in the spring.

We have an explorative, creative approach to Mathematics at WCGS, where you will be supported in being creative thinkers and independent learners, able to discover things for yourselves. You will do a range of mini-investigations in year 7, such as describing interesting sequences and deriving formulae to calculate angles in polygons. You will also apply what you have learnt to real-life problems, such as calculating statistics from your actual year 7 PE data to determine which school house is the fittest.

By the end of year 7 you should emerge as a confident, capable problem solver, ready for even greater challenges! Thinking caps on...

**Music**

The study of music involves the development of three skill areas: performing, composing, listening and appraising. The curriculum places an emphasis on creative music-making through performing and composing with these being further nurtured and developed by listening to a range of different music including popular and world music as well as classical and film music. In Year 7 you will be learning about the elements of music (rhythm, pitch, texture, timbre and dynamics) and the particular emphasis is on keyboard playing and singing. In Year 8 students will also learn how to play the guitar.

You will further develop skills by being involved in some of the extra-curricular activities that we have on offer: orchestra, choirs, jazz ensemble, composing club and samba group. For the last few years we have taken the Upper Voice Choir to perform at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices Choir which was an experience they will never forget! We have also made four musical productions in the past years and the year 7 students have been able to take part too. Also, back in the summer of 2013 the music department made a trip to Paris and Disneyland to perform two concerts and we are hoping to run a similar concert tour again in future. There are also opportunities to perform in the school concerts during each school year.

There are several peripatetic instrumental teachers teaching a full range of instruments during school time on rotating timetables so that missing particular lessons is kept to a minimum. Included in the Year 7 Induction Pack Forms for Completion is a form to request peripatetic music lessons.

**Physical Education**

The study of PE involves participating in one practical core PE lesson a week to improve basic skills and fitness levels. You will also participate in 1 games session per week to improve the knowledge and understanding of rugby and other games.

In Year 7 PE you will be learning about the basic skills required to participate effectively in a range of different sports and activities as listed below. You will develop these skills and techniques, and learn how to apply them in different activities and situations. You will also start to understand what makes a performance effective and how to apply these principles to your own and others' work through self-analysis and peer assessment. You will learn to take initiative and make decisions about what to do in
increasingly challenging situations which will allow you to begin to perform more effectively in competitive game situations.

In games you will participate in team sports, mainly Rugby, Cricket, Athletics & Football. You will have the opportunity to represent your house in a number of different house competitions including Rugby, Football, Cricket, Cross Country, Table Tennis as well as the Assault course.

In PE and Games you will develop the following skills...

- Rugby – Passing; Running; Tackling, Rucks and Mauls; Attacking and defensive plays; Position specific set plays (e.g. backs moves; line outs; scrums).
- Football – Passing; Shooting; Tackling; Turns; Heading; Movement off the ball; Tactics and Strategies.
- Badminton – Grip and ready position; Serve; Overhand and underhand clear; Smash; Backhand shots; Drop shot; Singles and doubles tactics.
- Table Tennis - Grip and ready position; Serve; Forehand drive; Backhand drive; Spin; Singles and doubles tactics.
- Basketball – Passing; Shooting; Dribbling; Tactics and Strategies.
- Gymnastics – Movement; Rolls; Individual balances; pair balances; counter balances; counter tension; choreographing routines.
- Cricket – Grip and stance; Batting techniques; Bowling techniques, fielding skills; Tactics and Strategies.
- Athletics – Individual skills for the following events
  - Sprints – 100/200/300 and Relays
  - Middle distance – 800/1500
  - Throws – Shot; Javelin; Discus
  - Jumps – High Jump, Long jump & Triple jump
- Health and Fitness – Undertake the following fitness tests to assess different components of fitness.
  - Agility – T-test
  - Stamina – Copper run test
  - Muscular Endurance – Sit up test
  - Upper body power – Seated basketball throw test
  - Lower body Power – Standing Long Jump test
  - Co-Ordination – Alternate wall toss test
  - Speed – 20m sprint test

Please see the ‘Tackle Bag’ information on the WCGS website for Games/PE kit requirements.

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**Physics**

The study of Physics involves understanding how nature works, from the smallest scales for sub-atomic particles to the scale of the Universe as a whole.

In Year 7 you will learn about Physics in the contexts of Space and rockets, Pirates and Theme Parks. You will cover the Earth and the Solar System, Forces and Motion, Energy and a little Electricity.

You can expect to write a guide to the Solar System, plan a rocket’s route out of the Solar System, work out how to communicate in space, calculate the speed of planets, design a pirate ship, test out model boats to improve their performance in gutter pipe races, have a battle at sea, take prisoners, and plan a theme park which will make as much money as possible. In doing so you will learn about:

- the Solar System;
- speed;
- density;
- acceleration;
Religious Studies

The study of Religious Studies involves:

- Learning about what religious people believe and do.
- Thinking about the problems and challenges of religion.
- Looking at different opinions on important real-world issues like justice, prejudice and conflict, as well as more philosophical issues like the existence of God or human nature.
- Evaluating religious beliefs – do they make sense? Is there enough evidence? Do we need evidence?

In Year 7 you will be learning about:

- The reasons why religion plays an important role in our society today and the value that it can offer to people from different backgrounds.
- The potential dangers of religion, including intolerance, violence and the rejection of scientific discovery.
- How concepts such as evil, death and suffering might be seen to challenge the existence of God, and different people’s response to this.
- How art has been used to express and explore religious and non-religious responses to ‘ultimate questions’.

You will also develop the following skills:

- Debating and discussion skills, by taking part in small group and whole class discussions. This will also help to develop your listening skills.
- Teamwork skills, by working together to research, analyse and evaluate religious beliefs and the actions of religious people.
- Independent learning, by extending your learning with extra personal research and coming up with original arguments on religious issues.
- Creative skills, by using your knowledge and understanding to produce stories, art work and models demonstrating the key ideas you learn.

Spanish

The study of Spanish involves learning lots of new Spanish vocabulary, listening to short Spanish passages, reading short Spanish texts and writing small paragraphs or role-plays. Sometimes you may have to perform these role-plays or even give a short speech in Spanish. You will also learn some Spanish grammar and verbs. Finally, you will also learn about Spanish culture and traditions.

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**Wellbeing**

Wellbeing education acknowledges and addresses the changes that young people are experiencing, beginning with transition to secondary school, the challenges of adolescence and their increasing independence. It teaches the skills which will equip them for the opportunities and challenges of life. Students are encouraged to manage diverse relationships and the increasing influence of peers and the media. Wellbeing education allows students to be more confident in addressing the challenges of effective learning and making a full and active contribution to society. At Key Stage 4, students extend and rehearse the skills, further explore attitudes and values, and deepen knowledge and understanding acquired during Key Stage 3. Wellbeing education reflects the fact that learners are moving towards an independent role in adult life, taking on greater responsibility for themselves and others. Wellbeing education at WCGS is carefully tailored to reflect our students’ needs and local priorities. Delivery is built around the three core themes of 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships' and 'Living in the Wider World'.