



Wednesday 9th September 2026

Re: Year 7 Class Groups

Dear parents and carers,

As part of their transition to secondary school, Year 7 students spend the first month of the year being taught in their form class groups. This allows students time to get used to the site, as well as key systems in staff in school. Moving forward however, to ensure that every student receives the most appropriate support and challenge in their learning, we group students in academic sets for their lessons.

What will the class groups be based on?

These sets are based on a range of factors, including KS2 SAT data, initial assessment outcomes, and teacher feedback. Our aim is to place students in the learning environment that best supports their development and helps them achieve their full potential. The progress that students make is regularly reviewed over their time at Ashington Academy to ensure that students are in the right set.

What assessment will take place in school before the class moves?

To support us with this, over the coming weeks, students will also complete baseline assessments in their English, Maths, Handwriting and Reading. The outcomes of these assessments will help to inform setting decisions and identify any additional support or intervention that may be beneficial for students.

- English and Maths assessments are designed to assess knowledge of the KS2 curriculum and what key knowledge, and skills students have learnt so far this term. These will take place in class and students will be informed in advance of when this will be.
- Handwriting assessments will take place in form time and students will be asked to write out a key passage focusing on their handwriting.
- Reading assessments will be carried out in computer rooms using the NGRT system.

If your child misses an assessment, we will look for an alternative time for them to complete it however this may not be possible before the class groups are decided. As ever, we would encourage attendance every day so that teachers can assess your child's ability and skill in their subjects.

When will students be informed of their new class groups?

Students will receive their new timetables on Monday 28th September, during form time. We have extended form time on Monday mornings which will allow staff time to discuss these changes with students.



We understand that changes to timetables can sometimes cause uncertainty, and we want to reassure you that any decisions made will be in the best interests of your child's education.

When will we be able to discuss how our child has settled in?

You are welcome to contact Mrs Mackenzie (Year 7 Year Manager) or Mr Ditchburn (Year 7 Director of Learning) at any time if you have any queries. On top of that, we would also like to draw your attention to the following key dates:

- **Wednesday 1st October:** Homework and Systems Evening, where you will receive further information about how to support your child with homework and independent study.
- **Tuesday 25th November:** Year 7 Parents' Evening where you will be able to make individual appointments with all your students' teachers as well as key Year 7 staff.

Thank you for your continued support as your child settles into secondary school.

Yours sincerely,

DDitchburn

Mr D Ditchburn

Director of Learning Year 7

