



Smithdon High School  
Mrs A Gibbins  
Headteacher  
Downs Road, Hunstanton  
Norfolk PE36 5HY  
Telephone: 01485 534541  
e-mail: [office@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:office@smithdonhigh.org.uk)  
website: [www.smithdonhigh.org.uk](http://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk)

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Dear parents

We have reached the end of a fantastic school year. In this morning's assembly it was a joy to go through the year in pictures with the Yr7, 8 and 9 students and to see all the different activities, competitions and trips they have had the opportunity to get involved in.

There are just a few messages we have to share with you before the summer holidays.

### **SIMS Parent App**

In September we will no longer be using SIMS as our management information system, and will instead move to BROMCOM. One of the advantages of this for parents is that you will have access to the MCAS app (My Child At School). This is an APP that you can download to your phone via the relevant app stores, or access online at <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>

We will be publishing communications to MCAS and you will be able to access information about your child at school. You will also be able to check and update your data collection form as soon as any of your details (address, phone number etc) changes. It can also be used to enrol your child into school clubs, book parents' evening appointments, and in the future will also be used for dinner money and other online transactions (we will inform you when this change occurs). This should be the only app you then require to access everything about your child at Smithdon.

You will initially receive an activation code along with instructions on how to access your account. This will be sent to the email address we currently have on file for you in the first few weeks of September - you will need to activate the account within a couple of days of this being sent.

For further information regarding this please see:

<https://docs.bromcom.com/knowledge-base/mcas-parent-guide/>



My Child At School

### **Attendance**

Please note that the DfE are changing a number of the ways we address student absence and record attendance. These come into force in August and we will provide more information in September. However, one of the key changes is around the way fines are issued for unauthorised absence (including holidays). Attached for you is a simple guide to how these will be implemented from September onwards.

### **Passes**

As usual, at the end of term, we have conducted a review of the passes issued to students. Our aim is to streamline these passes and reduce their number starting in September.



Toilet Passes.

For students with medical needs, toilet passes will be reissued upon their return. This ensures that those who need immediate access to facilities due to health conditions will continue to have the necessary support.

Time Out Passes.

These will no longer be issued as separate items. Instead, if a student requires time out of the classroom, this need will be documented in their student passport. This change will enable teachers to better support students by being aware of their needs and allowing appropriate breaks during class time.

### **Uniform & Equipment**

A final reminder of the two changes to the uniform and equipment policy from September:

- Schoolbag  
All students are required to carry a school bag - this needs to be big enough to carry their plastic wallets with their Smithdon Way booklets and Knowledge Organiser or 50 Questions Booklets at all times.
- Shoes  
**Plain black polishable school shoes**, providing adequate protection and support in a variety of school environments (no casuals, fabric, canvas, trainers, sandals, sling backs, pumps, high heels, coloured laces, coloured stitching, logos)
- School Shorts  
These are unisex (purchased from the school shop) and can be worn from Easter to October half term each year.

I hope you have a great summer - and that the weather remains sunny and warm, as it is today. Thank you for your support as always and we look forward to seeing you and the children in September - Year 11 on Thursday 5 September and Years 8-10 on Friday 6 September.

Best wishes

*A. Gibbins,*

**Mrs A Gibbins**  
**Headteacher**