

Getting Ready Booklet



September 2026

Welcome - Mr Webber

It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome you to Testwood School for September 2026. You will no doubt be feeling excited and a little anxious. Try not to worry too much - our staff are already working really hard to make this as smooth a process as possible for you. We will work with your families to help you settle in as quickly as you can manage. The older students will help you as well: our prefects and sports leaders are already planning how they can help you learn your way around and make your first few days memorable.

This booklet has been designed especially for you this year. It is packed with information to whet your appetite for the weeks ahead. You can dip into the pages to find lots of ideas of things to do between now and September - those at home with you can get involved too if they wish! Keep all of the pre-learning work that you do because your tutor will collect it when we see you in September. I know all of your teachers are looking forward to hearing all about your adventures, experiences and ambitions.

At Testwood, we have 3 values that inform everything we do. Our values are:

- Caring
- Inclusive
- Ambitious

The first two of our values are particularly relevant for your transition to Testwood. So please be reassured that you will be cared for and you will be included. Before long, you will feel that you belong at Testwood and Testwood belongs to you.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all.

Welcome - Mr Ainsworth

I'm delighted to be taking on the role of Head of Year 7 from September 2026. Together with our fantastic team of Year 7 tutors, we are really looking forward to supporting and guiding you through the next five years of your journey at school.

This will be an exciting time for you to grow, discover, and achieve your full potential. Our aim is to help you develop the skills, confidence, and resilience you'll need for whatever comes next, whether that's college, an apprenticeship, or any path you choose.

At the heart of our year group will be a strong sense of being part of a team and community. We believe in treating everyone with kindness and respect, just as we would like to be treated ourselves. These values will shape everything we do.

We want each of you to feel that you truly belong here, and we encourage you to be **Caring, Inclusive**, and **Ambitious** in all that you do. Most importantly, we hope you always try your best and take pride in your efforts and achievements.

We are really looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you and sharing in the exciting adventure ahead.

Art

Head of Department: Mrs. R Hickman

rhickman@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mrs. R Hickman, Miss A Gavrilas

What are you going to do in Art?

We undertake termly projects that help to develop your drawing and painting skills, your awareness and understanding of artists and their work, your knowledge of techniques and materials and your ability to refine work to achieve a visual outcome. We offer Fine Art and Photography as an option for GCSE.

How can you prepare for September?

PRACTISE!!! PRACTISE!!! PRACTISE!!!

The ability to draw and paint, like riding a bike or learning to swim, is a skill that is refined and improved with practice. Draw from real life sources as much as possible and really LOOK!

What will you study in the first half term?

Our first term's project will be based on **COLOUR** and developing our drawing skills, using artists to inspire our ideas and create a very colourful painted final outcome.

Useful Websites

Designed for Kids: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>

Galleries in London: www.tate.org.uk; www.saatchigallery.com;
www.nationalgallery.org.uk

Galleries in New York: www.moma.org; www.guggenheim.org;
www.metmuseum.org

Galleries in Europe: www.louvre.fr/en; www.centrepompidou.fr/en;
[www.guggenheim bilbao.es/en](http://www.guggenheimbilbao.es/en)

Computer Science

Head of Department: Mrs. J Boorman

jboorman@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mrs. J Boorman, Mr J Lockyer, Mrs. H Haskell

What are you going to do in Computer Science? You will learn about all the different parts which make up a computer, and how they get the computer to do what you want it to do!

Once you understand how computers work, you will apply your knowledge by learning how to program them. You will then practice this through creating your own game.

How can you prepare for September?

You can learn to code at home by using hourofcode.com. You can also think about how simple daily tasks like brushing your teeth or making a cup of tea are linked to computers!

You can brush up on your typing skills by using Typing Club - Learn to touch type for free. <https://www.typingclub.com/>

What will you study in the first half term?

Your first half term will focus on Digital Safety. You will learn about the rules of the Internet and how to stay safe online.

Useful Websites

- hourofcode.com
- scratch.mit.edu
- childnet.com/young-people/secondary
- www.blooket.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f
- Typing Club

Design and Technology

Head of Department: Mr A Blyth

ablyth@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mr A Blyth, Mrs. R Brown, Mrs. V Scott

What are you going to do in Design and Technology? You will learn a wide range of skills across three subject areas:

Food - you will know how to follow recipes, use a range of equipment and take-home delicious dishes.

Textiles - you will learn about fabrics, safe use of equipment, hand and machine skills and how to develop a design in fabric.

Product Design - you will research, develop and produce your own design in materials such as wood and plastic.

Computer Aided Design - Students will be taught how to use cloud-based modeling software to design a simple product. They will then get the opportunity to 3D print and test their design.

You can bring in your own apron during Food and Product Design lessons. A monetary contribution will be asked for so that you can bring your projects home.

How can you prepare for September?

- Help make and prepare your favourite dish for dinner for you and your family
- Explain how to sew a button onto a clothing garment
- Design and create a homemade car that is powered by a balloon

What will you study in the first half term?

Health and Safety of the Technology environment. How to prepare ingredients and cook/bake recipes. Develop skills of hand-sewing and machine sewing before developing and making a design.

Drama

Head of Department: Mrs. A Barnes

abarnes@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mrs A Barnes, Mr T Hill

What are you going to do in Drama?

You will learn a range of performance skills, study and perform plays, create your own performance work, learn how to collaborate effectively in group tasks and activities, explore different Drama styles and techniques, develop your creative skills and most importantly have fun!

How can you prepare for September?

Watch as much live theatre as you possibly can on the internet- Shrek the musical is showing on YouTube for free at the moment! Read plays, books and watch films and programmes about subjects you have an interest in- Drama runs on creative story telling. BBC Bitesize has lots of fun and useful Drama activities in the English section that you can take part in and will prepare you for some of the Key Drama terms and techniques we will be using.

What will you study in the first half term?

The first half term will focus on team work, characterization, storytelling, using the Drama space, building confidence and basic Drama techniques. We will devise, perform and evaluate work through a range of different topics and you will get to know your class and teacher.

Useful Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.artsonthemove.co.uk

www.whatsonstage.com

English

Heads of Department:

Mrs. V Ukahi

Mrs. M Fox

vukahi@testwoodschoo.co.uk

mfox@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mrs. V Ukahi, Mrs. M Fox, Miss H Richbell, Ms B Snook, Miss K Perkins, Miss R White, Mrs. P Collis, Mr D Townsend

What are you going to do in English?

In English lessons at Testwood you will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts; you will explore how writers engage readers through their choice of style and techniques. You will consider the purpose of different texts and focus on persuasion, as well as informative writing. Speaking and listening is an important part of your English journey and you will have the chance to practice presenting your ideas verbally in class through discussions and individual performances.

Writing is a key area of English and you will be asked to show off your creative writing skills through forms such as stories, poems and letters.

We have lots of exciting units of work in Year 7 including: Villains in Literature and Film, Shakespeare's Outsides, Novel study of 'The Island at the End of Everything', Gothic Story Writing and Narrative Poetry.

How can you prepare for September?

You can prepare for September by reading lots of novels, non-fiction texts or listening to audio books. There is a link below that will allow you to listen to the first Harry Potter story. You could practise your writing skills over the summer by keeping a notebook handy and perhaps writing some interesting descriptions of things you see whilst out and about. See if you can use any of the techniques your primary school teachers taught you, to make your writing come to life. We would love to see anything you write over the summer, so keep it safe ready for September.

What will you study in the first half term?

We start Year 7 with looking at Villains in Literature and Film where we explore a multitude of famous Villains from Cruella De Ville to Lord Voldemort.

Reading is incredibly important at Testwood, as it was at your primary school, and you will have regular reading lessons in the library.

Useful Websites

<https://www.wizardingworld.com/> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
www.stories.audible.com www.harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk

Geography

Head of Department: Mr R Jones

rhjones@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mr R Jones, Miss E Wheadon, Mr G Ranson, Miss E Dibdin

What are you going to do in Geography?

The world in which we live is always changing. By studying Geography, you can participate more fully in the excitement, enjoyment and challenge of this changing world. Geography explains why changes are happening and helps to prepare you for them.

How can you prepare for September?

If you are able to visit places, think how is Geography involved? Watch the news, read a story on an app, find out what is going on in the world – be worldly wise. Watch programmes such as 'Race across the World' to help you understand what other countries are like.

What you will study in the first half term?

We start by spending several weeks taking a virtual tour to some 'Fantastic Places' around the world, including Rio de Janeiro, the River Ganges and the Amazon Rainforest.

Useful Websites

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/geography/>

History

Head of Department: Mrs. T Leyman

tleyman@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mrs. T Leyman, Mr N Gilbert, Mr T Webber, Mrs. A Hall

What are you going to do in History?

At Testwood you will study history from all around the world and see how historians investigate the past. You will look at the causes of significant events in our history and how the world has changed.

How can you prepare for September?

Have a look at the websites below. The English Heritage has a great section on the Battle of Hastings. You could also find out about one of the Norman sites in England, including great castles and magnificent abbeys. You could visit SeaCity museum and find out about how Southampton has changed over time. Who lived in Southampton? What can archaeology tell us about their lives?

What will you study in the first half term?

You will start the first term looking at Islamic Empire, the Silk Roads and the city of Baghdad. We will move onto look at the Saxons, the tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands that settled in England in the 5th century. Finally, we will investigate 1066, a momentous year for English. You will study the Battle of Hastings and the consequences of the Norman Conquest.

Useful Websites

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39>

English Heritage: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/1066-and-the-norman-conquest/>

Historical Association: <https://www.history.org.uk/>

SeaCity video on Saxon Southampton: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkJ-0BsDpT3c>

Southampton Stories: <https://southamptonstories.co.uk/>

Mathematics

Head of Department: Mr A Terblanche aterblanche@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Miss M Horne, Mr D Atkinson, Mr C Jenkins, Mr C Ball, Mr D Clarke

What are you going to do in Maths?

In Maths you will follow a scheme of work which encourages fluency at core skills, develops critical thinking in problem solving and grows your communication levels so that you are able to demonstrate what you have understood to each other.

How can you prepare for September?

The core skills you have learnt in numeracy will still be needed at Testwood. Please continue to practice your times tables, especially those 7s and 8s. Continue to problem solve, thinking of methods and steps to find solutions. Can you explain how you have solved a mathematical problem to someone else?

What you will study in the first half term?

In September you will have the chance to;

- study core skills of numeracy building upon and building up those learnt skills from Junior School
- Start to study algebra looking at all types of sequences, substitution and using function machines.

Useful Websites

The following websites are used within the Maths department for various activities.

www.nrich.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.mathsbot.com - the starters and drills section

MFL

Head of Department: Mrs. M Kingsbury mkingsbury@testwoodschoool.co.uk

Teachers: Mrs. M Kingsbury, Mrs. K Lee-Betti, Mr M Rowlinson

What are you going to learn in French?

French is the first language for millions of people around the world and it is spoken as a second language by millions more! It is also the language of our closest neighbour in Europe and we mustn't forget that France and Britain have a shared history which has undeniably influenced the English language. In your French lessons, as well as learning to understand written and spoken French, you will express yourself in the target language and learn how to communicate with each other in French! You will learn about how the language fits together and you will find out about the culture of French speaking countries around the world.

How can you prepare for September?

You could:

- Teach yourself or revise key vocabulary such as basic introductions, numbers to 100, colours or countries using YouTube videos.
- Research on streaming services to find suitable films or series that you could watch in French (with English subtitles)
- Download the Duolingo app on a phone or tablet and start building up the longest streak!
- Create an account on Quizlet once you receive your school email address

What will you study in the first half-term?

In the first half-term, we will work on key linguistic structures to give information about yourself and the people you love. You will learn rules of pronunciation and intonation to sound French when you speak!

Useful Websites

For vocab learning: www.quizlet.com

For general revision: www.duolingo.com, www.babbel.com, www.busuu.com, BBC Bitesize KS3 French

Music

Head of Department: Mr C Byrne

cbyrne@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Mr C Byrne, Mr T Hill

What are you going to do in Music?

We will be learning how to rehearse, compose and perform using your voice, the keyboards, djembe drums and the ukulele.

We will learn about the purpose of music in different countries and time periods. We will also be learning how to program music into computers.

How can you prepare for September?

- Learn the lyric to Consider Yourself. Both the singing and the cup part
- Practice and rehearse singing your favourite song using lyric then karaoke videos on YouTube. You could look up how to warm-up your voice

What you will study in the first half term?

We will be looking at musicals and how to use your voice, the most important instrument there is. We will play some games using voices, practice in groups and perform 'Consider Yourself' from the musical Oliver

Useful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/artices/zbrwjhv>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjcOzqxu4JQ>

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion (PER)

Head of Department: Mr J Booker

jbooker@testwoodschool.co.uk

Teachers: Mr J Booker

What are you going to do in PER? At Testwood, you will explore how humans have always searched for meaning, using philosophy (questioning the truth), ethics (study of right and wrong), and world religions to answer life's biggest questions. You will study religions from all around the world, such as the major world faiths, as well as non-religious worldviews, like Humanism, to see how different people find the answers to these questions. This subject is for everyone, whatever your beliefs are. You'll find out what people believe, how they worship and how their beliefs influence their lives. It's not just about learning facts, it's about thinking deeply, being curious and considering different viewpoints. It's a subject that helps you understand the world, respect others and make sense of your own values.

How can you prepare for September?

Have a look at the websites below. BBC Bitesize has lots of great information about world views. You could also check out the excellent My Life, My Religion videos on YouTube. In Year 7, the religions we focus on are Judaism and Christianity.

What will you study in the first half term?

In your first term we will be looking at a story called 'The Island', about a cruise ship which crash-lands on a mysterious island. Will the passengers work together to survive? In this topic you will be thinking about why community is important, and why we celebrate events such as the birth of a baby, or a wedding.

Useful Websites

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zh3rkqt>

My Life, My Religion on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcvEcrcF9zL_rMIPzjyuhf7-VuPVq4yI

Physical Education

Head of Department: Miss K. Barbour

kbarbour@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Teachers: Miss K. Barbour, Mr C. Manning, Mr N. Ainsworth, Mrs. R. Brown, Mrs. M Holmes, Mr S Barron, Mr J Fuccio

What are you going to do in Physical Education? You will learn skills, techniques and tactics in a range of sports including Netball, Hockey, Rugby and Football, alongside creative activities such as Dance and Gymnastics. Athletics, Rounders' and Cricket will also take place during the summer term.

How can you prepare for September?

Improve your stamina by walking, jogging or cycling for more than 30 minutes every day. Develop your coordination by throwing and catching regularly.

What will you study in the first half term?

You will be developing your Core Skills required to support success within physical activity. A Cross-Country challenge will occur in Term 1 before moving on to traditional sporting activities.

Uniform

Purchase from Skoolkit; House colour Polo-Shirt and black shorts/skort, with trainers and moulded boots. Also, it is recommended to purchase a fleece jumper and tracksuit bottoms, both with Testwood logo. Leggings are not part of the year 7 PE uniform. Hair is expected to be tied up and all jewellery removed every lesson. PE kit is expected to be worn every lesson, even if excused.

Please note, moulded boots must be worn on the Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) and the grass. Please do not purchase astro trainers as they are unsuitable for the ATP.

Science

Head of Department: Mr G Rothwell

grothwell@testwoodschoool.co.uk

Teachers: Mr A Batt, Miss S Niblock, Mrs Whitlock, Miss H Brackley, Mr J Rowlinson

What are you going to do in Science?

Scientists need a wide variety of skills: amongst the most important of these are observation (watching carefully), investigating, measuring and explaining. We will be using all of these skills to investigate everyday things and explain them.

We will consider questions such as: How do chemicals react? What is electricity?

We will be designing experiments that we can use to work out the answers to these questions and lots of other questions besides these too!

How can you prepare for September?

To prepare for September keep these skills going over the summer by doing the following:

1. Try experiments at home (with your parents' and carers permission). There are lots of simple experiments on the internet. Record your results and really try to work out what it means.
2. Watch scientific programmes by great presenters like David Attenborough, Dr Alice Roberts, Prof Jim Alkalili, Prof Maggie Aderin-Pocock, and Prof Brian Cox.
3. Watch Youtubers like Bill Nye Science Guy or Veritassum.

What will you study in the first half term?

In the first half term you will be studying some of these topics:

Forces - this is all about the effects of forces on objects

Energy - how is energy transferred and where does it go?

Matter - what is everything made of?

Cells - what are living things made of?

Useful Websites

Bill Nye-Science Guy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDN7M0J3Hxc>

Veritassium - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHnyfMqiRRGu-2MsSQLbXA>

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Careers

Careers Leader: Mr N Ainsworth

nainsworth@testwoodschoool.co.uk

Careers Advisor: EBP South Careers service

What are you going to do in careers?

At Testwood School, we recognise that all students need a planned programme of Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG). We are committed to our embedded programme of careers information and guidance, which provides targeted support to all year groups through our differentiated approach in P.S.H.E lessons.

In Year 7: You will complete a careers module as part of the PSHE lesson on a Thursday. The modules will seek to enable you to recognise your strengths and interests. They will aim to enhance your social and communication skills with others. You will have the opportunity to attend a business networking event, where you discuss with local employers about their industry and career. Also, what employability skills are needed for these careers.

Useful Websites

Xello Careers platform - <https://www.xello.co.uk>

Career pilot - <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

National Careers Service - <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

Learning Support

SENCo: Mr L Dear

ldear@testwoodschoo.co.uk

What we do:

The department is committed to supporting learners with a range of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities to reach their full potential. This is achieved by identifying and seeking to remove any barriers to their learning.

We are very fortunate to be able to work with some remarkable and unique young people and support them using a range of strategies tailored to their individual needs.

Our support seeks to be person-centred and we will always liaise with parents', carers and professionals to ensure that the provision that is put into place will enable the learner to ultimately achieve fulfilling outcomes well into the future.

More often than not, students with SEND have already been identified by their primary school provision. This is then shared with us, in detailed written form and also, in some cases, face to face meetings. This way we can then enable the transition for your child to be as smooth and stress free as possible.

Pastoral Team

Deputy Headteacher/ Pastoral Lead:

Mr P Ward

pward@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Assistant Headteacher Student Belonging:

Mrs M Holmes

mholmes@testwoodschoo.co.uk

What we do:

At Testwood School, each and every child is highly valued and we strongly believe that through excellent care and support, all children can feel safe, be successful and realise their potential.

Our Pastoral Team is responsible for creating and maintaining a positive, supportive and caring ethos within year groups and will endeavour to ensure that you both flourish and succeed in our care. Your tutor will play a pivotal role in liaising with your parents and carers to discuss how you are doing in school. They will monitor your attendance and behaviour, as well as maintain an overview of your academic progress.

We also offer support to your parents and carers, and are able to signpost them to other agencies if needed, who can advise and support you and your families outside school.

Testwood School is a fantastic place to be. Work hard, enjoy it and make the most of every opportunity that comes your way.

Head of Year 7: Mr Ainsworth nainsworth@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Pastoral Support:

Mrs. K Isaac

kisaac@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Mrs. S Layram

slayram@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Miss G O'Driscoll

godriscoll@testwoodschoo.co.uk

Mrs. K Ward

kward@testwoodschoo.co.uk

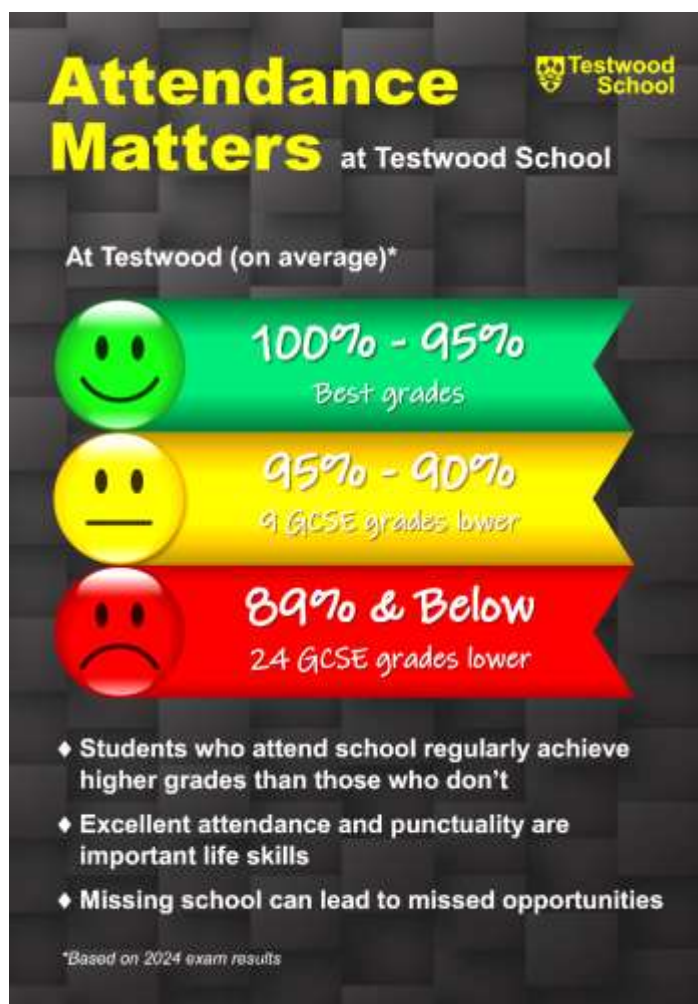
Attendance

What we do:

Every day that you do not come to school means that you miss five hours of learning. Students with low attendance will struggle to achieve their full potential and then their exam results can suffer.

If you have any problems that may cause your attendance to suffer, there is lots of support we can offer so always talk to your tutor if you need help.

Remember – **'Every Day Counts'**



Attendance Support:

Mrs L Canning ocanning@testwoodschoo.op.uk

Uniform

Testwood School uniform is available from Skoolkit's Totton branch:

1, Commercial Road, Totton

02380 667600

Equipment



Times of the Day

8.00am - Start arriving for school

8.25am - Bell sounds to inform students to go to their tutor room

8.30am - Registration Starts

8.50am - Lesson 1

9.50am - Lesson 2

10.50am - Break

11.10am - Lesson 3

12.10am - Lesson 4

1.10pm - Lunch

1.50pm - Lesson 5

2.50pm - Afternoon registration

3.00pm - End of the school day

3.05pm - Extra-curricular activities begin

Rewards and Sanctions

Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

Students are rewarded regularly at Testwood School for a wide range of reasons, which may include:

- Excellent contributions to lessons
- Completing a good piece of work in class
- Completing an outstanding piece of homework
- Contributions to extra-curricular
- Being helpful to staff or peers

This could be in the form of:

- Achievement points
- Certificate/postcard/letter/phone call home
- Subject badge
- Invitation to reward trip
- Nomination to Headteacher's Tea Party
- Reward Day!

Please refer to the school Behaviour for Learning Policy which is on our website for further clarification.

Map of the School

