

March 2019

Dear parents

Welcome to Gillotts!

We are delighted that your child has been offered a place at Gillotts for Year 7 in September and I am writing to welcome you to our school and to set out what you can expect to happen next, once you have accepted the place.

You will be joining the Gillotts community at a very exciting time for us. Our 2018 results confirm that, for the sixth year running, the progress our students make is the top 25% of schools in the country. We continue to work hard to improve further and the next academic year will see us continue to develop our curriculum across all five years to ensure students are prepared well for the 9-1 GCSEs. At the same time, we continue to nurture the strong sense of community within the school and to deliver the outstanding care and guidance that we are well known for. We know this is often a stressful time and we want to do as much as we can to make the transition process simple and effective, so your son or daughter can feel excited about the move to a new school.

This is a summary of the key communications and events in the coming few months:

Activity	Timing	Notes
Main mailing to new parents	Late April	This will contain: A student information form , which we would ask you to complete and return to us. Details of our uniform and an order form. Information on school transport. Final details regarding our Pioneer project.
Pioneer project	Week 1: 04-06 June – Shiplake Week 2: 11-13 June – Valley Road Week 3: 18-20 June – Trinity Week 4: 25-27 June – Sacred Heart Week 5: 02-04 July – Badgemore	This is a three day transition experience that will enable your child to get to know their way around the school and to experience what learning at Gillotts is like. It also helps us to get to know our new students, and plan for September. If your child attends a different primary school from the five listed, we will let you know which week your child is invited to attend.
Information session for new parents	At 2.30 pm on the final day (Thursday) of your child's Pioneer project week	Parents are invited to come and join their children for an introduction to the school. A Parents' Handbook, an A-Z guide to Gillotts, will be available at this event. Uniform orders can be collected and orders/ exchanges organised.
First day	Tuesday 3 September 2019	All students should arrive for an 8.45am start. Their Heads of House will be ready to welcome them!

Although we would be saddened if your child does not join us, we do understand that you might have an alternative plan in place for their education. If this is the case, it would be really helpful if you would confirm your decision to your local authority as soon as possible online, or as outlined in their offer letter.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions Administrator, Leanne Herbert, in the first instance, either by phone (01491 574315) or email: newstudents@gillotts.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you and your children to our school and to working with you in partnership over the next five years. Thank you for choosing Gillotts.

Yours sincerely

Ms Catharine Darnton
Headteacher