



Smithdon High School  
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8 January 2025

Dear parents

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for the year ahead. If you made any new year's resolutions I hope you are in the 60% bracket for whom these are continuing to be successful in this second week of January.

### School Communications

Now that we have had a term of using Bromcom and have ironed out any issues with the My Child At School (MCAS) App, we will no longer be contacting parents via text message, except in an emergency. All messages from school will be sent out as emails and/or an alert on the MCAS app. As such, please ensure that you have downloaded and set up the MCAS app on your phones and/or computers - or made us aware of any reason you cannot have the app. If you need a new link to be sent to you in order to set up the MCAS app, please contact the data office on [data@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:data@smithdonhigh.org.uk).

If using the app on a mobile device, you will need to ensure that the app's notification settings in your device are enabled to receive notifications, otherwise you will need to log in and check the app regularly. (Please see your device's operating system instructions for how to check this).

Whether using the app or an internet login on a computer, you will then find any communication in the 'messages' area, with the newest at the top. If you can't see previous messages, you click on the one in the 'messages' area and all previous messages will appear to be able to click to review and see links to letters, etc.

**Please note that the SIMS app and contact number are no longer in use by Smithdon High School and that any communication with us needs to come through the usual email addresses, telephone numbers (found at <https://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk/about/contact>) or via the MCAS app.**

We have also listened to feedback from parents regarding the amount of emails that we send out as communication. We are, therefore, trialling a new system this term where we will send letters (such as this or about trips/events) as and when they are required but will aim to send all other communications of information, local events and material from external agencies in one grouped email on a Friday only.

We will seek feedback on these changes and the trial of reducing communications in a few months' time.

### Payments to School

As with the above, the MCAS app is the only way to make electronic payments to your child's lunch account or to pay for trips, etc. and has been since 1 September 2024. With the start of the new term, please ensure your child has sufficient funds on their account to pay for food if they use the canteen. The app will alert you when the balance drops below £2.80.



## Upcoming Events

As always, we have a number of events and opportunities for students taking place this half term, including:

- UK Intermediate Maths Challenge
- Yr7 Explore and Enlightenment launch
- Yr9 & 10 Maths Eureka Days at Cambridge University
- Year 9 GCSE Preferences launch
- GCSE Drama trip to see *An Inspector Calls* at Norwich Theatre Royal
- Yr8 Talk the Talk Event
- Battle of the Bands at Springwood High School
- Theatre trip to *Hairspray* at Norwich Theatre Royal

And for Year 11 specifically (in addition to the published calendar of booster sessions):

- Thursday 16 January - Yr11 Parents' Subjects Evening
- Monday 20 January - Yr11 PPE2s begin with MFL orals
- Tuesday 21 January - WNAT Yr11 English G&T event at Springwood High School
- Monday 27 January - Yr11 written PPE2 timetable begins

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely

A. Gibbins,

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