

# WEST HILL SCHOOL

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Year 7 Parents Modern Languages Information Letter.

Dear Parents,

I hope that your son has enjoyed his first few weeks of German lessons. Here in the department, we are delighted with how receptive the boys have been and with the progress that they are making. The purpose of this letter is to give you some further information and advice relating to lessons, homework and resources.

Lessons.

German lessons are conducted totally or almost totally in German as appropriate, with the emphasis only on listening and speaking. This is a different method of teaching languages to previous years and we are finding it has a number of positive benefits. The boys are finding ways of training their memory skills, they are more actively involved in lessons and they are finding it enjoyable to be able to communicate without the distraction of reading and writing at this early stage.

Homework.

Homework is set after every lesson or it might be a longer piece set over a series of lessons. It will usually consist of recalling and repeating phrases or independent study using one of the websites to which we subscribe. As we begin to write spelling tests and word/phrase recognition tests will become more of a feature. I hope that your son has involved you in 'teaching' something that he has been learning in class.

Any parent who may be interested in a short workshop about learning techniques for languages is welcome to email me to register interest.

Resources.

There are many websites which are excellent for learning languages. We recommend duolingo and hellomylo both of which are free and send you a daily word to learn. We subscribe to [www.linguscope.com](http://www.linguscope.com) our school username and password is westhill / global. We also use [www.klar.co.uk](http://www.klar.co.uk) both username and password are the same for this site -goethe. These websites cover basic and advanced language and have a variety of resources ranging from games to reading comprehensions.

We will eventually begin to use bilingual dictionaries and although we do have a stock in school to use. We find that many boys find that prefer to have their own. We have negotiated a deal on Collins School Dictionaries which are priced at £4.14 instead of the usual £5.99. If you wish to take advantage of this offer then please send cash, a cheque or pupil premium vouchers in an envelope marked with your son's name, form and German teacher into school by Friday 21st November.



Cheques should be made payable to West Hill School. Envelopes are to be handed into the school reception.

#### Visits.

There will be a year 7 visit to the Christmas markets in Manchester in late November during the school day. The group size will be limited and names of those boys wishing to go will be drawn out of a hat. More details will follow once we have the final group.

There will be a visit to Berlin in October 2016. As part of this trip we are hoping to be able to visit our partner school. On this trip we visit the Olympic Stadium, The Brandenburg Gate and the remaining part of the Berlin Wall. We aim to gain an overview of the history relating to the National Socialist period and of the Cold War era. Should your son be interested we will be accepting deposits from January onwards. As a guideline, the price in previous years has been in the region of £450 for a four day visit including meals, travel and entrance fees.

I hope that this information has been of use to you and if you have any questions or observations, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Kind Regards,

Mrs D.L.Kenworthy.

