



Term 1 2025 **Year 7 Learning Overview**



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to 2025 and Year 7 at Southwell School. Thank you for making the choice to send your child to this superb place. A special welcome to all of our new families, you are now part of a wonderful community and we look forward to getting to know you.

Introducing the Year 7 Team

Room 17 – Tamsyn Riggins (Dean) - 7TR

tamsyn.riggins@southwell.school.nz

Room 18 – Josh McCabe – 7JMC

josh.mccabe@southwell.school.nz

Room 19 – Di Hazlett – 7DH

diane.hazlett@southwell.school.nz

Room 20 – Bridget Hawthorn – 7BH

bridget.hawthorn@southwell.school.nz

Room 21 – Rachel van Heuven - 7RVH

rachel.vanheuven@southwell.school.nz

Room 22 – Gayle McLean – 7GML

gayle.mclean@southwell.school.nz

One of these teachers will be your child's homeroom teacher. If you have any matters you wish to discuss, please contact your child's teacher first. You can do this through email or by phoning the school office – 07 855 2089. Effective learning begins with a positive partnership between students, teachers, and parents.

Below are some important notices regarding upcoming events and useful things to note about Year 7.

Week Ahead

This will be emailed every Friday to all Southwell parents from the School Administrator. It is important that you are getting this and you read it carefully as it has important information about what is coming up in the week ahead.

Diaries

This year, Years 6-8 will not be issued with a School Diary. The majority of communication between home and school is done via email and the organisation of homework is done through Google Classroom. Homeroom classes can post their individual class timetables on Google Classroom and the School's Weekly Themes can be found here [School's Weekly Themes](#).



Komodo

Student wellbeing is central to what we do at Southwell. We have a network of support to help us engage with our students to achieve good outcomes. We add to this network by partnering with Komodo, a wellbeing survey platform that can help us with levels of student wellbeing. It is also another avenue that students can use to 'check in' with their teacher. We have been using this successfully for the last few years. Wellbeing surveys are sent out fortnightly, starting after Camp, but it will not be compulsory for students to complete these. Here is a link to an [information sheet about Komodo](#).

Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will take place in Week 3 on the 10th-13th of February. Boarder's conferences are on Friday, 14th February. Please book online as soon as possible to get your preferred slot. The link has been emailed to you from the School Administrator. Learning conferences are a great opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher, and for the teacher to learn more about your child. A short questionnaire has been sent home with your child. Please complete it and return it to school prior to your scheduled conference.

Sport

Trials and practices start in week 2. Year 7/8 sports trials are scheduled for Tuesday 4th February, and Wednesday 5th February. Once the sports programme is underway children should bring their Sports gear on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If the weather is inclement, coaches will supervise teams in their classrooms until normal collection times.

Sport practice days and times

Tuesdays 2.30—3.20pm

Thursdays 3.30—4.20pm

NB: there is no after-school sports training in Week 3 (Thursday 13th February) due to Learning Conferences.

Specialist classes

Please check when your child needs their P.E. Gear and Library books. Also please note when Science and Technology lessons are on, students will need to have their sports shoes as closed shoes are required to be worn in the Labs.



Uniform and Behaviour - Offline *and* Online.

Please refer to the [handbook](#) for correct uniform details. Please note that we have discussed the correct uniform, hairstyles, and attitude with the Year 7 students. We have also shared our [Code of Conduct](#) with them so the children are aware of the expectations and attitudes we require for everyone to maximise learning. Please discuss this with your child's teacher if you have further questions.

School hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. All children must wear their hats during break times. Please ensure your child brings their hat to school each day this term or leaves it hanging on their hook at school. Please make sure all items of school uniforms are clearly named. This is very important.

Communication with your child

If you need to communicate with your child *during* the school day, we ask you to call or email the office and the message will be forwarded to the Homeroom teachers. **Students do not have access to their phones during the day as they are required to leave them in their bags.** We also remind you that students need to sign out at the office if they are leaving the school grounds during school time. They are also required to be wearing full school uniform.

Homework

All homework will be posted on Google Classroom. Parents will be invited to join their child's Google Classroom to stay informed. The Year 7 homework guideline is up to 45 minutes per night, Monday to Thursday. This is designed to help students establish solid habits and develop good study skills for the future. Homework will typically include Reading and Mathematics, with occasional tasks from other subjects, depending on the teacher.

Stationery

Each student has been issued with stationery to start the year. More stationery items can be purchased through the Uniform Shop. Class teachers have copies of an order form that students can use and these are then charged to school accounts. As teachers, we have also found it helpful if students bring in a pair of cheap headphones to keep in the classroom to assist with audiobooks and text to voice apps on their laptops. These need to be named.

Brain Food

Every morning at 10am we have a “brain food break”. Please allow your child to pack an additional healthy snack such as fruit. A reminder to please avoid nuts and nut products. Boarders can take extra fruit from the boarding house before school for their brain food break.

School Hours

Children will be supervised in the classroom from 8.00am onwards and the school day finishes at 3.20pm. Any children that are not collected by 3.30pm will be supervised at After School Care in the Library.



Camp

You should have already received a comprehensive information letter regarding Y7 Camp 2025. A copy can be found [HERE](#) .

Learning in Year 7

For Term One our whole school's transdisciplinary theme is Who We Are. Please refer to your child's Google Classroom for their daily

timetable. Your child has the opportunity to learn a variety of subjects as we have specialist teachers at Southwell. Please feel free to contact these teachers should you need to discuss learning in these areas.

Writing - Year 7 Teachers

Students will be learning to plan, draft, and edit their writing using a variety of skills to enhance their work. They will be motivated to write with a specific purpose and for a specific audience.

Reading - Year 7 Teachers

In the initial stages of the Reading Programme, teachers will focus on getting to know their students as readers by understanding their reading habits, behaviours and abilities. Following this, students will develop and practice a range of comprehension skills to deepen their understanding of texts and grow as confident, capable readers.

Mathematics – Mrs Riggins, Mr McCabe, Mrs Hawthorn, Mrs McLean, Mr Walch, Mrs Steffert, Mr McKay, Mrs Hickey

We have 7 Mathematics classes which are grouped according to learning needs. These classes are based on data and information that has been gathered from last year and the start of this year. We use PAT, Entrance Tests, and GLOSS assessments to help us place students in appropriate classes. There may be some movement between classes in the first Term but classes are fixed from Term 2. During Term 1, students will learn effective

strategies to help them solve Number problems. Mathematics classes will start on the 4th of February once we have completed some initial assessments.

Inquiry - Year 7 Teachers

Year 7 will be conducting an inquiry into identity as individuals and as part of a collective with the aim of developing students' understanding of what it means to be human and how this helps us appreciate ourselves and our connection to others.

Physical Education – Year 7 Teachers, Mr Botha, Mr Norman and Miss Lovell



Stand by me

Students will be challenged in a variety of teamwork tasks, focusing on teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, and cooperation, among other skills. Constantly reflecting on the question, "What part can I play in this?"

What in the World!

Students will explore a variety of national and international cultural games, focusing on transferring their skill sets, including tactical understanding, into unfamiliar games. Reflecting on the question, "How can I use my sporting knowledge in games I don't know?"

Swimming

Students will refine their swimming techniques and reflect on their performance by exploring swimming drills appropriate to their ability level. They will work toward showcasing their progress at our School Swimming Sports.



Science – Mrs Voss

Our students will start the year learning how to work safely in the Science laboratory. They will go on to learn about methods of heat transfer and how insulation is important to maintain their own health and well being when in extreme conditions, as may relate to camp.

Technology/Healthy Choices – Mr Williams/Ms Hazlett

The students will be learning to use innovation and creativity to solve problems, along with an inquiry into 'Healthy Choices for Life', looking at food choices and well-being.

Music – Mrs Albery

In Term 1, Year 7 students will develop their knowledge and understanding of music theory and will demonstrate and extend their learning by playing the keyboard. By the end of this unit, students will be able to perform a piece of music to their peers.



Drama – Mrs Walker

Students will be learning to structure dramatic narratives and represent their ideas through the techniques and conventions of Drama. This term, all Year 7 students will be able to audition for the 2024 Southwell Opera, 'Shrek'. Toward the end of Term 1, students will begin working on the Year 7 class productions.



Art – Mrs Wing

Students will be drawing, painting, and creating works based on this year's theme in art 'Kiwiana'. During each lesson, students will have the opportunity to develop their skill base by using a variety of media, techniques, and processes that are used and valued in art.

Pottery – Mrs Wathen

Students will explore the pottery techniques necessary to create

artworks inspired by "Kiwiana" There will be an introduction to the wheel, extruder, and slab roller, this will take place early in the term.

Christian Education – Chaplain

In this term, lessons will be centering on the upcoming festival of Easter. This will involve analysis of Biblical stories and activities that will seek to contextualise Easter events into the modern context and the student's personal lives.

Library – Mrs Walch

Year 7 students spend an hour in the Library each week. Part of that time is spent browsing, issuing and reading for pleasure and the rest will be spent developing a toolkit of inquiry

skills, the aim being to support what their teachers are working on in class, and which will be skills they can take with them into Year 8, secondary school and beyond.

Te Ao Maaori – Whaea Whetu

This term, our focus will be on developing an understanding about who we are and our place in the world. Students will write and recite a simple pepeha explaining who they are and where they come from. Tamariki will delve into local history, exploring the rich narratives of the Waikato region and in particular, Ngāti Wairere.

Languages - Mrs Grant

In Term 1, Year 7 gakusei will begin their exciting journey into Japanese language and culture — Nihon (日本) and Nihongo (日本語). Through hands-on learning, students will create cultural and language activities to share with the wider school, demonstrating their new knowledge. We will explore cultural identity, connections, and our role as global citizens, reflecting on who we are in our diverse world.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year together.

Kind regards,

Tamsyn Riggins
Josh McCabe
Bridget Hawthorn
Rachel van Heuven
Gayle McLean
Di Hazlett

Year 7 Teachers