

Year 7 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What can I do if I find out I am not in the same class as my friends?

Please do not worry if this is the case. It is impossible to put everyone in the same class as all their previous school friends but most of the students from the larger feeder primary schools will recognise some familiar faces in their form group. We also have to remember that there are some children transferring to Ashton who will be coming entirely on their own so this is a good way to ensure that more people will take the time to get to know them too.

2. What happens if I get lost?

This is a common concern but easily solved. All students will be given a map of the school to navigate their way around the building. However, the simplest way is to simply follow your class and keep left on the corridors. On the bell, staff step out of their classrooms to guide students around the buildings, we are very used to spotting our new students and helping you get to where you need to be.

3. How do you get a detention and what happens if I get one?

The honest answer is that high school detentions **do** exist, but it is rare for year 7 students to be kept behind. We do however have a very clear behaviour policy in school, and it would be a good idea to familiarise yourself with our rules before you arrive. This policy can be found on the school website.

If you do happen to receive a detention do not worry, one single detention is not the end of the world, but it is probably a good idea to reflect on what has happened, learn from the experience, put it behind you and positively move on!

4. What kind of extra-curricular activities can I join and how will I know where they are?

Ashton has a full and varied range of extra-curricular clubs for you to join and you will be encouraged to have a go at as many activities as you can - you never know, you may find a hidden talent. All our clubs are advertised on our BOOST timetable in your form room and Form Teachers will spend time discussing this with you in the first few weeks of the term.

5. What are the rules on hair and jewellery?

We have a very clear uniform and dress policy and aim for excellent standards of dress and appearance each day. Once again, your form teacher will discuss this with you, but please do not get any extreme hairstyles, cuts or colours at the end of your summer holiday or during term time. Neat and tidy is the name of the game - no shaved heads please or razor patterns on the scalp. No fake tan or false eyelashes. Jewellery must be kept to the minimum of one single pair of plain studs in the ear lobe and a simple wristwatch if required. Leave all your expensive accessories for home!

6. Where do I go at break and lunch – will I be able to see my friends?

Break time is from 11– 11.20 am and lunchtime is at 1.20 – 2 pm. This is when you are free to join a club or just meet up with your friends. All year groups in school have their own areas and Y7 free time takes place in and around the Year 7 yard.

7. Are we allowed mobile phones?

Whilst you may use them on your journey to and from school, once you enter the school premises they must be switched off and stored out of sight in a bag until you leave again at the end of the day. They are not allowed to be used during the school day and you will be sanctioned if you are found to be using it. If you repeatedly use your phone, it will be confiscated and your parents/carers informed and asked to collect it so the simple advice is to simply switch it off when you come through the gates.

8. Are there any school trips?

You are likely to have the opportunity to experience a variety of school trips during your five years with us – both in this country and abroad. Teachers advertise their trips in school assemblies so you won't miss out on the opportunity.

9. Where can I find help if I need it during the day?

Mrs Barrow and Mrs Barker are on hand every day for all year 7 concerns. We have an office – every student will be able to direct you there – don't forget they were Y7's once too! Come and see us – no problem is too small, we will be more than happy to help out and will look forward to getting to know you all!

10. School sounds great. Can I start now?

Unfortunately not – but we can't wait to see you all in September!