

Frequently asked questions

Any questions?

Coming to secondary school can feel scary at first and we know you have lots of questions. We have asked all your schools to send us a list of questions with things that you want to know.

First day at school:

What will we do on our first day?

You will spend some time with your form tutor at the start of the day. They will go through the school rules, things you need to know and give you your timetable. Then you will go to your lessons.

Who do you talk to if you are worried about something?

You can speak to anyone at the school and they will help. Ideally the best people to speak to are your form tutor, Mr Richardson, who is charge of Year 7 or Mr Tatham.

How many lessons in a day and how long does each one last?

There are five lessons in each day and each lesson is one hour long.

How long do we have to get to lessons?

You have about 3 minutes to get between lessons.

Will I have a locker or somewhere to keep my coat and PE kit?

We do not have lockers so you would need to carry them around with you.

Do we bring our books to and from school every day?

No; you leave your exercise books in your classrooms.

Break, lunch and food:

What time is break and lunch?

Break is at 10:50 and lasts for 20 minutes. Lunch is at 1:10 and lasts 50 minutes.

What sort of food can you buy?

There is a menu which changes every day over three weeks. We have lots of different types of food including curries, Mexican food and, if we are really lucky, Nachos at break time. There is always something you will like to eat.

Can I sometimes have packed lunch and sometimes school dinner?

Yes; you can have either whenever you like.

How do you pay for food at school?

We use a finger print system so you don't have to bring money into school. Don't worry we are not storing your actual finger print! Your Mum or Dad can then add money online to your account.

What happens if we run out of money?

The catering team will always tell you how much money you have left on your account. If you are unsure please ask. Make sure you remind your parents to keep your account topped up.

Where can you go at lunch and break?

Most students go outside and play on the playground. You can also stay inside in the Dining hall if there is space. The library is also open for people who want to read, draw, play chess, or use the computers.

Frequently asked questions

Are there lunch time supervisors?

There is a lunch time supervisor. There will also be teachers on duty each break and lunch.

Do we have to play in a specific area?

No, you can play wherever.

Charities, trips and houses:

Do you have houses or teams? What do they get to do?

Yes, we do. We have four houses called Churchill, Bannister, Pankhurst and Bronte. Each tutor group will be in a different house. We run competitions between the houses over course of the year.

Will we get a chance to go on school trips?

We hope to have the opportunity to run some trips towards the end of the school year.

Do you have sports days and other competitions?

Yes we do. We have a number of sports teams in each year and we run a sports competition between the houses each year. Our Sport Leaders also go out to the primary schools and help run activities there.

Do you have non uniform days for charity?

We do. We are very proud of the money we raise for our local charities.

Clubs:

Are there lunch time clubs?

Some clubs run at lunch but most run after school.

What sort of clubs are there and who can go?

Most clubs are open to everyone although some, usually sport clubs, are open to only certain years. We have a wide variety of clubs from Science, English and Maths, to Law and Chess. There is something for everyone.

Can you stay after school to do homework or wait for an older sibling who is in a club?

If you want to stay after school you would need to join a club.

Can we start our own club or band?

Yes, you can but you would need a teacher to sponsor and supervise it.

Homework

How much homework do we get?

It depends. Art likes to do long term projects which you will work on over a number of weeks. Maths on the other hand might set a worksheet one week and expect it in the next. Your teachers will talk to each other to make sure they do not set too much homework in one week.

What happens if we get stuck on our homework?

You will usually have at least a week to complete a piece of homework. Before it is due in you can go see your teacher for help.

What happens if you forget your homework?

If you forget your homework, you can bring it in the next day but it will be marked late. If you forget again, then you will get a negative mark for not doing the homework.

Frequently asked questions

Lessons and classes

Is there a set timetable for the week?

Yes; you will have the same lessons, at the same time, each week.

How will the teachers decide what sets we are in for each subject?

Mr Richardson speaks to all your teachers to find out more about you and then makes the sets. You will all be mixed up this year, with different primary schools and abilities, in each set.

Will any of my friends be in my class?

Maybe. We don't make a special effort to put people with their friends, as it is too difficult, but you will be able to see everyone at break and lunch.

Do we stay in the same classes all year?

Occasionally we move people between classes but most stay in the same class.

Will I stay in one classroom for all subjects with the same children?

No. Each subject is taught in a different classroom. There are also different sets depending on the subject, so lots of chances to make friends!

PE and Sports

Do we get any choice in the type of PE we do?

You get to do a range of sports over the year (invasion games, badminton/table tennis, cricket/rounders, leadership, fitness, gymnastics, athletics) although the teacher decides what you will be doing each lesson.

PE kit – need to get rugby/football boots (studs, moulded boots) at some point in the year (boys usually in September and girls in November, but it will be different this year and you will be given notice as to when you need to purchase boots – we don't want you growing out of them and having to purchase another pair!)

What happens if you forget your PE kit?

If you forget your PE kit you will be given a negative mark, borrow the PE kit and trainers from the department kit and take part fully.

Uniform

What is the uniform like?

You can find out more about the uniform, and how to order it, on the website.

Can we take our blazer off or do we have to wear it all the time?

When you are walking around the school you should be wearing it. Many teachers will allow you to remove your blazer in class if you ask first.

First Aid/Feeling Unwell

If you should injure yourself or feel unwell you must speak to a teacher in the first instance. They will then decide whether you need to seek First Aid/Treatment. If you are unsure please go to reception.