



Huntcliff School

Transition Experience – Frequently Asked Questions

1. School Uniform – should it be worn in transition week?

Students would not be expected to wear uniform in the transition week before September. Their Primary Uniform is fine.

2. Will students get to meet teachers and tutors before September?

Yes, all students will have a week in July replicating their September experience; this includes spending time with their tutors in their form classes to ensure a more settled start in September. There may be some staff changes between transition and September, but this will be minimal.

3. Are there ability groups in Year 7?

There are ability groups for maths in year 7.

In technology and PE, two tutor groups are mixed. All other lessons are taught in tutor groups so they settle in with their peers.

In Year 8 students begin to be mixed a little more outside their tutor groups, in English and science

In Year 9 they are mixed even more, and then when they choose their options and move to year 10 they are usually only with their own tutor group in tutor time.

4. Will my child be in the same class as their friends from primary?

Not necessarily.

As we are only a four-form entry, we do not guarantee that students will be with their friends.

We have to consider a multitude of things when putting tutor groups together: the gender split for PE, health and safety in terms of group size, historical and safeguarding issues etc.

Therefore, it may be that students are not with the people they would choose. However, we do try to put students together who might have similar interests and we spend a lot of time liaising with primaries to get to know your children through the eyes of the staff who know them best in a school setting.

Additionally, secondary school is a place to make new friends and they all inevitably do!

5. Can they move tutor groups if unhappy?

Students have moved tutor groups and it is a consideration if staff feel this would be in the best interests of the student.

We work closely with students and parents to explore all options. A tutor group move will not always be considered as the first or only option and will be decided by school staff after careful consideration. A move to be with friends is not usually considered.

6. How much more homework will they get?

Homework is set by subjects on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Most subjects will set weekly smaller tasks or larger project-based tasks over longer periods.

In core lessons (English/maths/science) they may be asked to do small consolidation exercises more regularly. Revision of key spellings or small facts can also be set over shorter periods but if you feel homework is excessive, please do contact your child's tutor group teacher in the first instance so we can look at it holistically.

7. Will there be support with homework?

Yes.

Teachers, tutors, and support staff will all offer help with homework if asked or needed.

We also have a homework club running for an hour after school every night where students can go and complete work before they leave school and do so in the presence of a member of staff.



It is important to remember that students have to ask or let us know they need support though; with more teachers this can seem intimidating so a note from a parent or a word with their tutor group teacher can certainly help initially.

8. How will our children know where to go for support?

As part of the transition process, we will make sure each student knows where their tutor group teacher will be, where the pastoral team will be and where inclusion is – all staff who could help, if needed. All of these people and places are available for support at appropriate times throughout the school day.

Inclusion supports the SEND pupils in school, but also those pupils finding school overwhelming often find solace there and in the Library at breaks and lunchtimes.

The pastoral team consists of four pastoral managers with one member of staff dedicated to supporting year 7 throughout the year.

9. How will parents be communicated regarding progress?

Arbour is available to all parents for day to day reports on behaviour, homework, detentions etc.

There are three 'data drops' for each year group per academic year. This allows you to see progress, effort and homework updates.

There is parents' evening towards the start of the summer term and there is also an opportunity to meet your child's tutor group teacher in October to discuss any issues after the first half term.

We encourage parents to communicate with staff too, around areas of celebration and concern, so you should never feel unsure of how your child is doing.

10. Will they have long enough to eat lunch?

The lunch break is 30 minutes.

Students usually take approximately half of this to eat their lunch and then the other half as a social time to mix with the other students in the year. All students get a lunch in the allotted time frame.

There is a breaktime service available to KS3 students.