



Year 6 Transition – Frequently Asked Questions

Parent FAQ's: Please find below a list of common questions asked by parents in relation to transition.

Q. Where can I get the College uniform?

A. Our College uniform and PE kit is available to purchase from A. Oakes in Dudley (01384 255600) and Totally Uniform in Kingswinford (01384 270498). The full uniform list has been outlined within your transition pack.

Q. Do I buy ties & badges from the school office?

A. No uniform is held in college and all uniform items must be purchased from either A. Oakes or Totally Uniform. The tie you will require will depend upon the House group your child has been placed in and are as follows:

7 Stephen	Red
7 John	White
7 Bernadette	Green
7 Clare	Yellow
7 Andrew	Blue

Q. Can my child wear plain black Vans or black trainer shoes?

A. No. All students must wear black shoes, which end below the ankle. Trainers of any kind are not permitted. Again, our full uniform list is outlined in your transition pack.

Q. Where do students go on their first day

A. Students are to enter through the front or back gates and will be directed where to go by staff. Depending on the level of social distancing in place in September will determine where we are able to meet with students.

Q. Are students put into sets in Year 7?

A. Initially students will be taught in tutor groups. When we have assessed students and ascertained their ability we may look to rearrange teaching groups into ability sets.

Q. As students are not SAT's will they be baseline tested in Year 7?

A. We always baseline test our new Year 7 cohort so that we can get an accurate picture of their academic ability and support student progress appropriately. We are also in close contact with primary schools who are advising us on individual abilities and levels.

Q. Can student bring a mobile phone into college?

A. Students can bring mobile phones to college but once students are within the College site all mobile phones and any electronic equipment must be switched off and put away out of sight. If students are caught using their mobile phone this can then be confiscated by staff.

Q. What time does the school day start/finish?

A. The College day starts at 9.00am, a bell is sounded at 8.55am to alert students to make their way towards their tutor rooms or assembly. The college day ends at 3.20pm, students can choose to make their way home or stay and take part in the many clubs available.

Q. Do we have an online payment system for school lunches?

A. We do not usually offer the facility to pay for school lunches online and student would pay our canteen staff in cash. However, due to the current circumstance surrounding hygiene linked to Covid-19 we are looking at implementing some form of online payment system. Further information linked to this will come out to all parents prior to September.

If you child is eligible for Free School Meals you should have notified the college and appropriate systems will be put in place for you child.

Q. How many students are in each class?

A. The maximum number of students we look to place in teaching groups is 32. However, this number will differ across subjects.

Q. What subjects do students study in Year 7?

A. All students study their core subjects which are English, Maths, Science and RE plus Geography, History, ICT, Art, PE, Modern Foreign Languages, Performing Arts and Design and Technology.

Q. How much homework is set?

A. We expect students in **Year 7** to be completing extra study set by their subject teachers. In English, Maths and Science they will be set TWO pieces of Preparatory Study lasting 30 minutes each, and ONE 30-minute task for RE, History, Geography and MfL per week. In English this will include one reading and one writing task; reading tasks will be to complete 30 minutes of independent reading at home, recorded in their Reading Journal. Arts and practical subjects may set homework when required.

Q. How many lessons are there in a school day?

A. Each day students will undertake 5 x 1hour lessons. All students will be given their full timetable and planner on their first day in college.

Q. How often do parents get a College report?

A. Parents will receive 1 full report each academic year, plus 2 progress reports. There is also an annual parents evening whereby you will meet with your child's teachers to discuss their progress.

Q. Can I leave medication at the school office for my child to take?

A. Yes, however the appropriate paperwork will need to be completed and returned to college. You should call into college to inform Mrs Heath regarding the medication to be taken and the medical conditions it relates to.

Q. What happens if my child feels unwell during the day?

A. Students should make their way to reception and report they are feeling unwell. They will be seen to by trained members of staff who will ascertain whether we need to contact parents/guardians. Students should not contact you in the first instance.

Q. Who is the best person to speak to if my child has an issue?

A. The best staff to speak to will always be the Tutor and Head of Year Mr Cutler.

Q. What happens if my child has additional needs?

A. We are working hard to ensure each individual child has a settled and positive start to life at Bishop Milner and staff are in contact with primary schools to collect information on every child. If your child has a special educational need you would like to discuss further please contact our college SENCO Miss Bowen on mbowen@bmilner.dudley.sch.uk

Student FAQ's: These are common questions usually asked by pupils when visiting the primary schools:

Q. What are the lunches like?

A. Students can choose to either bring in a packed lunch or purchase a lunch from college. College lunches vary each day and both hot and cold food is available. Most of our current students tend to purchase college lunches.

Q. What happens if I get lost or I am late for a lesson?

A. For the first few weeks we expect that students will get lost or forget where classrooms are – do not panic you will not get in trouble! There are always staff and students you can ask who will guide you where to go.

Q. Can we go to the toilet in lessons?

A. Our policy is that students should use toilets before college, at break and at lunch. Student should not be taking time out of lessons to visit toilets. Students with medical conditions can be given toilet passes and this should be discussed with Mr Cutler.

Q. How are detentions issued and why?

A. Detentions can be issued when students do not meet our behaviour expectations or for failure to complete classwork and homework. The full behaviour policy can be found on our website and will be fully explained during your transition.

Q. How much homework do I get?

A. We expect students in **Year 7** to be completing extra study set by their subject teachers. In English, Maths and Science they will be set TWO pieces of Preparatory Study lasting 30 minutes each, and ONE 30-minute task for RE, History, Geography and MfL per week. In English this will include one reading and one writing task; reading tasks will be to complete 30 minutes of independent reading at home, recorded in their Reading Journal. Arts and practical subjects may set homework when required.

Q. Do we go on trips?

A. The college organises 3 Reward Trips per year which are available for students. These are always run at the end of each term. For students to be considered eligible to go on trips their behaviour and attendance must be good.

Some departments offer trips which are specific to their subject – again behaviour and attendance must be good for students to be considered.

Q. What if I get stuck doing work?

A. Your teacher and tutor are always there to help you. If you are stuck with something in class or with your home learning you can speak to your teacher or tutor and ask them to explain it again. Your fellow students are also on hand so don't forget to ask them too.

Q. Will I make new friends?

A. Of course you will make new friends! If you are the only student from a primary/junior school coming here, we will make sure you have a chance to meet new people in the same situation as you.

Q. Will I need my PE kit on the first day?

A. You will not need your PE kit on your first day. You will be issued with your full timetable on your first day and you will need to ensure you look out for the days when you need to bring in your PE kit and any additional kit required throughout the week.