



Transition FAQ – questions provided by the pupils of Birchwood School

Will it be normal to feel overwhelmed when we first start high school?

It is absolutely normal to feel overwhelmed and a bit nervous when you start high school. Some of you are coming on your own, some of you will know lots of people. Some of you will be excited and some of you will be feeling anxious. Whatever your feelings are about starting at high school they are normal and we are here to help you with any worries and concerns that you have.

Will we get a transition day? Can we meet any of the teachers before we start?

Unfortunately it is highly unlikely that there will be a transition day this year, which I am very sad about. It is also unlikely that you will be meeting any of your teachers before you start. I am in the process of putting a video together which will introduce all the key people.

Will we be able to visit high school before we start in September?

It is unlikely that you will be able to visit the school before September. This is why I will be adding lots of short videos on to the website for you to watch

How will our groups be chosen for the high school?

I have been working with your primary school teachers to find out about you. They have told me who works well together and who doesn't. You will be in two main groups in Year 7 – your Tutor Group and your Teaching Group

Teaching Group

- This is a mixed ability group which you will be in for all your subjects (apart from Tech, PE and Tute).
- There will be a mixture of pupils from all the schools that people are coming from – if you are coming from one of our larger schools then you will be with people that you know
- There will be pupils from all four houses in each group
- There will be 8 groups of 30 in Year 7
- The teaching groups in Year 7 are called....7W, 7O, 7R, 7K, 7B, 7U, 7S, 7Y

Tutor Groups

- This is a house-based group – Arden (Green), Kenilworth (Blue), Stratford (Yellow), Warwick (Red) and will stay the same throughout your time at Polesworth
- There will only be people from your year group in your tutor group
- You will be in the same house as your brother or sister
- This is the group that meets for 20 minutes a day during tute time

When will I find out which group I am in?

By the end of June you will have received a letter which tells you which teaching group, tutor group and house you are in. It will also tell you which language you will be studying

If we get lost when we first start and are late to a lesson, will we get detention? Will anyone help us to find our way around when we first start? Will there be a tour when we first start?

- People are always worried about getting lost when they start. Most people have worked out how to get around within two weeks. If you are worried about this there is already a map on the transition page on the website and soon there will be a new map which tells you what subjects happen in each building.
- As most of your lessons are with the same group, people tend to move from room to room together
- There will be a tour when you first start, your form tutors will show you around the school on your first day, they will also show you where all your lessons are going to be that day.
- If you do get lost, please don't worry. People are very friendly at The Polesworth School and will point you in the right direction if you ask them.

Teachers all understand that this is new for you and you won't get a detention if you are late because you can't find a room during the first few weeks. Obviously if you are still late after several months then that is a different issue!

How long do we have to get from lesson to lesson?

You must get there as quickly as possible. If your teacher from the lesson before lets you out a bit late you will need to explain that to your next teacher. Once you've worked your way out around the school, it really doesn't take long to get from one room to the next

How long are lessons?

All your lessons are an hour long, apart from Tute time which is only 20 minutes. Please see the times of day in the handbook which is available on the transition page on the website.

Will my timetable change every day?

You will be on a two week timetable, week A and week B. You have five lessons a day plus tute time. You will get a copy of your timetable on your first day.

Are you allowed to come to school early to make sure you get to class on time?

Absolutely. Lessons start at 8.30 but people start to arrive much earlier, you can even get breakfast at school.

How long are lunch and break time? What can we do during this time?

Break time is 20 minutes – you can get a snack during this time and see your friends. Lunchtime will be half an hour, which is plenty of time for you to eat and also to see your friends. No other year groups will be having lunch at the same time Year 7

If we forget our lunch and can't buy food, will we go without?

The kitchen will provide you with lunch if you forget your food, as long as you don't forget it every day. If this happens you will need to make sure that there is money on your account or that it is paid back as soon as possible

How many subjects will I be studying?

- In Year 7 you will be studying lots of subjects including: English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, French or German, IT, Drama, Art, Music, Tech and PE
- For each subject you will have a different teacher and you will be in a different room – this is the biggest change that you have to get used to when coming to secondary school

How will we know what we will need for each lesson? Do we provide it ourselves?

Your teachers will let you know what you need for each lesson and will provide you with any exercise books and textbooks that you will need. You are expected to bring a pencil case.

How does homework work? Do we have it every day?

You will probably be set at least one piece of homework a day. Different teachers will give different deadlines and it is up to you to make sure that you hand your work in on time. If you don't understand the homework you must make sure that you ask your teacher

What kind of things do people get detentions for?

Most people never get a detention throughout their time at Polesworth. As long as you are Ready, Respectful and Responsible you should never get one.

What kind of sports will we do?

You will do all kinds of sports ranging from football, rugby, netball, dance, athletics to name a few

Are there afterschool clubs to take part in? What?

There are lots of afterschool clubs that you can join. There are sports clubs and there is the school play which you will find out about as soon as you start

What musical instrument lessons are available?

Lots and lots of instrument lessons are available. Mrs Glover, the of Expressive Arts will speak to you all when you start

What if parents can't buy uniform because of everything that is happening?

Our uniform suppliers are working as normal. All of the uniform is available through the school website and if you click on the transition page there is a direct link to our uniform shop. We are still hoping to have a uniform sale during the summer holiday, but with the current situation we are not sure whether this can happen

Can girls wear shorts, and if not, why?

We have a very clear uniform policy and shorts are not part of that policy. For what you can and cannot wear have a look at the website.

Where do I go if I get hurt?

If you get hurt at school or are feeling ill you need to make your way to student services. If you are feeling ill do not phone home to ask them to pick you up

What will happen/where do you go if you forget which class you have got and where it is?

If you forget which class you have or where to go you need to ask someone. You can ask your form tutor, Head of Year, Student Services or someone else from your class.

Is there a big library?

We have a very large library which can be accessed before and after school and during lunchtimes on specific days. You will also have at least one lesson a fortnight in the library.