

Year 6 Transition FAQs



Where do students go on their first day?

Students will enter school via the KS3/Lower playground. There will be staff on the roundabout to point them in the right direction and in the playground to greet them. When the bell goes, the students will line up for Roll Call with their tutor.

How do you envisage students starting in September?

We are expecting Year 7 to be in school on Wednesday 2nd September- that week will be focused on inducting students to EPCS. We envisage that from Monday 7th September they will follow their timetable. However, this is by no means set in stone and we will continue to review the situation. We envisage that Students will be in 'bubbles'. This is where they will have all their lessons in one room and will stay with the same students. It is the teacher that will move around the school site. It is a model that has been used by many primary schools.

Will the children have a chance to visit EPCS before they are due to start in September?

Current government advice is still to limit the amount of visitors to the school site.

Though visits to secondary schools for induction will not take place this year, some secondary schools may have capacity to undertake remote induction briefings or other types of sessions for pupils, for example, to meet form tutors, heads of year, or other key staff, or have a tour of the school virtually.

We are conducting a small number of tours for students who primary schools have identified as likely to need some additional support with transition. There will be an induction opportunity for all Year 7s when they start in September.

When will my child get their timetable?

Their timetable will be issued to them on their first day at EPCS. Their tutor will go through it with them and they will either write or glue it into their student handbook.

Will my child be provided with a map of the school?

Yes, there is a map of the school sent home in the summer in the student transition booklet and they will have a map of the school in their student handbook.

Are students required to have their full PE kit on the first day of school?

No, they will not need their PE kit on the first day. The only equipment they will require is their pencil case.

What after school activities are there?

Normally, we have a Homework club that runs every day in the library from 3:10-4:10. Due to the current situation we are unable to confirm when we will be able to resume running this club but we will keep you fully updated.

Clubs running from September will be published within the first few weeks of the new term.

Students do not need to register for clubs but can turn up on the designated night. At the moment we do not know if we can offer clubs in September due to Covid 19.

Do they stay in the same tutor group and house through school?

Generally speaking yes! Historically, we have moved a very small number of students to different tutors. We might find as they progress through the school the dynamics of the tutor group may change and the relevant HOY will assess if any changes are needed. Parents are always consulted before a change takes place.

Houses are allocated to tutor groups rather than individual students so if your child moves tutor groups then they may find themselves in a different house.

What are the differences in tutor groups e.g. how is 7D1 different to 7D3?

There is no specific difference. D1/D2/D3 are just codes for each tutor group. There is no ranking system and they are not organised by ability.

How are tutor groups sorted? Are they by ability?

No they are not, they are a mixture of all abilities from all our different feeder schools. Consideration of student need and dynamics are also carefully considered as who would be the most suitable tutor. It is quite a complex task! We try to place students with at least one of their friends and we also note recommendations from the primary schools. It is often not practical to place students with lots of their friends. As this year is slightly different we will monitor the tutor allocations and these may be reviewed during the first term.

Do students have their lessons in their tutor group?

No, we have two bands in the year group, X and Y. Students are placed in a band and from that they are placed into their classes. We are a mixed ability school and classes reflect this. We would normally place students in a band based on their SATs results. As this is not possible this year we will complete CATs testing of students and that may lead to students moving bands.

What are CATS tests?

CATs are designed to assess a pupil's ability in three different areas: verbal (thinking with words); quantitative (thinking with numbers); and non-verbal (thinking with shapes and space).

The result will be given in SAS (Standardised Age Scores) so they take into account a pupil's age. The average SAS is 100. The scores are used to calculate predicted levels and can also be used to predict the outcome of GCSEs. Tests will be completed electronically hopefully within the Year 7 Induction days. These tests do not require any preparation and we do not want students to worry about this!

Based on this testing it is likely that there will be movement between bands and classes during term 2. **Please be mindful that we do not place students in classes based on friendships but on academic considerations and see it as a good opportunity for students to make new friends!**

Can children wear watches?

Yes, that is no problem. However, if your child has a smart watch, please can you discuss the importance of them disabling communication services when in school, and ensuring they are not a distraction to their learning. Ideally, please ensure that social media apps remain on their phones and are not replicated on smart watches.

When will we get the Parent Pay Activation code?

This will be sent home over the summer.

What languages do they study?

Students will study either German or Spanish and this is determined by the Head of

Modern Foreign Languages, Mrs Lees.

What is the best way to contact the school?

Communication between home and school is really important, we always want to work with you.

Your child's tutor is your first port of call - you will receive contact in September informing you of your child's tutor's email address so you can contact them if there are any issues. Please be aware they are teachers so they may respond at the end of the day so we ask that you are patient.

If you want to relay a message to your child's tutor about a minor uniform issue/appointment there is room in the student handbook.

Many school notices and letters are sent home via email. We aim to be a paperless school so it is vital that we have your most current working email address. We will email you your child's tutor's email address during the first week in September.

The school website is updated regularly with news, notifications and updates on what's been happening in school. We also have a Facebook page, a Parents Facebook Group and a Youtube Channel which we try and update regularly. We warmly encourage you to join the Parents Facebook Group and subscribe to our Youtube Channel.