



New Intake Students / Parents / Carers – September 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

When will I find out about my Tutor Group and Teaching Group?

You will find out about both of these when you arrive in September. We won't be able to confirm our type of tutoring until we know what the government's covid regulations are until just before the new term starts. We want to run our Vertical Tutoring system if we can. We don't want to tell you one thing now only for it to change when you arrive in September.

Will I be put in a Tutor Group with someone from my school?

We have 45 Tutor Groups and try to put some from each school in every Tutor Group so not everyone will be in a Tutor Group with someone else from their school.

Will I be put in a Tutor Group with my brother or sister?

Our vertical Tutor Groups have students from Year 7 right through to Year 13. Although you will be in the same House as your brother/sister, you will not be in the same Tutor Group as them.

What happens if I don't like the Tutor Group I've been put in?

We don't think this will happen! It will obviously take time to get to know everyone but you will quickly make friends. Remember it is only half an hour out of each day that you are in your Tutor Group.

How do I know what to put in my bag for each day?

You will always need your pencil case and the equipment from our Equipment List. You might also always need to bring (if you need them – bus pass; mobile phone; house key, packed lunch, etc). To check what else you need you should look at your timetable for the next day and pack your bag the night before – always remember to check whether it is Week 1 or Week 2.

Will a school timetable be released prior to the year starting or will this be released in the first week?

You will get a copy of your timetable during the first lesson of your first day in an extended Tutor Time. You just need to bring the items that you need each day (see question above) on your first day and don't need to worry about anything else. We will provide everything else. You do not need to bring your PE kit on the first day.

How early can I arrive (if I get dropped off by my parent/carer on their way to work)?

You can arrive from 7.45am but must go directly to the Dining Room (Perschore Kitchen) and stay there until around 8.30am or until your friends arrive. Most students do not arrive on site until around 8.30am.

Where do I wait before I can go to my Tutor Room?

You can wait in most areas around the school but not in any classrooms until the first bell goes. Most students wait in the Dining Room or outside. You will be told of areas you are not allowed to wait in when you join us in September.

Does everyone go through the main entrance in the morning to get to your Tutor Room?

You can enter the site from a range of entrances before 8.50am and make your way to where you will meet your friends. When the first warning bell goes, you make your way to your Tutor Group by the shortest available route, which may or may not include the Main Entrance. After 8.50am, you can only enter the school through the Main Entrance.

Do you still have a Yu-gi-oh club in the library at lunchtime?

All of our clubs and societies have been suspended during covid times and this included our Yu-gi-oh club. We hope to get as many clubs up and running again from September, if we are allowed to, including our Yu-gi-oh club. All clubs run based upon the demand for them and remember, you can always suggest a club should one not exist that you will like to be part of.

Do we have a locker or do we carry our things around all day?

There are no lockers in school. You can leave bigger items in your Tutor Room (e.g. PE kit) and collect them when they are required. Ingredients for Food & Nutrition should be taken to the classroom when you arrive in school.

Do we have to wear our blazer all the time even if it is really hot?

You should wear your blazer at all times unless you have asked for the teacher's permission to take it off in the classroom, you are playing ball games outside or the Headteacher has relaxed the rule for wearing blazers for a given period of time.

How will I know if I am late for a lesson?

Your teacher will leave the classroom door open until they believe it is a reasonable time for everyone to arrive when they will shut the door. After this time you are late. Your teacher will know where you have been coming from and so leave longer if it is from the other side of the school site. You do not need to worry about this in the first couple of weeks whilst your timetable goes through one cycle.

One of your 'non-negotiables' mentioned demonstrate 'Scholarship'. What does this mean?

Scholarship means presenting your work to the highest standard. Generally this means writing in blue or black pen and drawing in pencil. You should include a date and title for your work and always underline these. Your work should be well organised and make effective use of the available space. There are other subject specific rules e.g. labelling diagrams in Science that you will be made aware of.

Can I wear make up and jewellery in school?

A watch, small plain ear-stud (only one in each ear and must be removed for PE) and one simple ring are the only permitted items of jewellery. Ear plugs are not permitted. Other body or facial piercing is not permitted. Only discreet natural make-up is permitted.

School lunches - do you have a set menu or does this change weekly?

The lunch menu is a bit of a mixture. There are some days where the offer is the same every week (e.g. Fish & Chip / Omelette & Chip Friday!) and some days where the offer changes each week.

Can I eat and drink in the classroom?

You can only ever eat in a classroom if there is an agreed medical reason for you to do so, otherwise you are not allowed. You are allowed to drink water in the classroom but this does not include IT Rooms, Science laboratories and Technology Rooms.

What happens if my drink runs out?

You can fill up your bottle with water for free from any of the water machines located around the school. You can also buy drinks from the vending machines in the Dining Room using your finger print to pay. You should only do either of these before school, at break, or at lunchtime and not ask to leave lessons for this purpose.

When can I chew gum when in school?

You can never chew gum in school and should not bring it in. If you are caught with gum you will be given a detention.

Do we have a School Diary for me to put my homework in?

There is no School Diary or Planner for you to use. Instead, you will be given a copy of your timetable and school map for you to use when you arrive and carry around in your blazer pocket. To check your homework and how many House Points you have been given you will log into ePraise.

Do you operate an ePraise shop so we can buy rewards with any points we accumulate?

There is no ePraise shop at present; all of your ePraise points turn into individual achievement certificates which are emailed home and go towards our overall House cup (the Pardoe Shield) awarded to the winning House at the end of the year.

What do I call my teachers?

You can call your teachers by their surname e.g. Mr Nockton / Mrs Budding or Sir / Miss

What advice would you give me to help me settle into High School?

There's so much advice we could give but please be yourself, always try your best, get involved, don't be afraid to get things wrong and ask when you are not sure.

Who are the Houses names after?

Armstrong: **Neil Armstrong** – American astronaut and aeronautical engineer, and the first person to walk on the moon
Kingsley: **Mary Kingsley** – English ethnographer, scientific writer and explorer
Magellan: **Ferdinand Magellan** – Portuguese navigator and explorer, with one of his ships accomplishing the first circumnavigation of Earth

Well done for asking such excellent questions; we hope our answers have helped!