

Transition - FAQ during our Virtual Open Evening

Questions about Transition Itself

You've previously done 3 weeks transition prior to summer has this gone completely as you talked about 3 days?

When joining the STAR MAT, we aligned our offer with Tadcaster Grammar. Three weeks caused a lot of issues for some primary schools as students couldn't be part of leavers' assemblies and didn't get a chance to unwind after working hard up to the SATs. In our opinion, 3 days is a perfect time for students to get familiar with the school, their form tutor and get to know others before the summer holiday.

How do you gather information about our child before they start?

The school's SENCO and the Senior Leader in charge of transition visit all our feeder primary schools. They spend time with class teachers and where possible they also speak to the students who will be joining us in September.

How do parents/carers find out about things like uniform, rules and other things about starting life at Sherburn?

We hold a special Parents' Evening in July where we run through all the things parents/carers and new students need to know before joining us in September.

We also give parents/carers an information pack with full details.

Questions about: The Organisation of Houses, Form Groups and Classes

Are forms mixed year groups or just children from one year?

Form groups will contain just one year group. We have moved to this system to allow us to use form time, what we call Period One, for the delivery of our Personal, Social, Sex and Careers Education - we feel that delivering units of work on these topics works far better in age appropriate settings. Single year group tutor groups also enables us to deliver intervention to Year 11 in preparation for their GCSEs.

How do you set your groups at the start of year 7? Do you look at their current primary school or does it go on SATs or on your own diagnostic assessments?

Every subject in Year 7 (with the exception of Maths) is mixed ability. We use the SATs information from Primary school to put together these mixed ability groups. We use the SATs information to help inform the Maths groups but our Maths team re-assess within a week or two and re-set based on the new information.

Can parents also mention other children they wouldn't want their child with?

Yes, we take information from the primary school but we also take additional information from parents too. As students are in 10 different lessons, it's not guaranteed that they'll always be apart but we'll do our best to accommodate special requests.

What do the different Houses/colours mean?

We have four Houses at Sherburn: Bramham (blue), Harewood (purple), Lotherton (green) and Newby (red). Each House has its own non-teaching House Achievement Leader, who is the main contact for parents/carers in matters relating to schooling such as attendance, behaviour, family incidents etc. The House system is used for events such as sports day and is also used to add competition to attendance, rewards and punctuality challenges!

Questions about: The School Day and Curriculum

What is the start and end times please?

Our day starts for students at 8:35am and finishes at 2:45pm.

What subjects do you teach in Year 7?

Over 10! The subjects include: Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, PE, DT, Art, French, Music, Drama, RE and ICT.

What subject options do you have available for GCSEs?

We have a wide range of subjects where students can pick 4 subjects from History, Geography, French, Religious Studies, Computer Science, ICT, Art & Design, Product Design, Textiles, Food Technology, Photography, Statistics, Drama, Music, Theory of PE, Health & Social Care, Business Studies.

We regularly review our subject offer - so it may be that by the time your child comes to selecting their options there may be even more or different subjects on offer!

How much homework is there?

Students on average in year 7 and 8 receive approximately 2, or 3 subjects per night. We have a homework timetable that balances the subjects out during the week, so we don't overload students, but also ensure good independent learning routines are formed.

Do you think you offer enough challenge for the brightest children?

Yes, we definitely do. Our high prior attaining students exceed their starting points and add value from year 7 through to year 13. Many return to our Sixth Form, are successful and large numbers achieve places at Russell group universities.

What about middle ability students, the quiet ones who just get on with things? Are they lost or ignored?

All students matter - our school motto is "Achievement for All." We track students, at their starting points, setting them individual targets. We monitor their progress towards these targets across the academic year, so that no child, regardless of their starting point gets "lost."

How do you support students with Special Educational Needs?

We don't think "one size fits all" - so our SEND support is bespoke depending upon need. For example some students receive one-to-one support, or small group withdrawal work to support their handwriting, dyslexia, numeracy and much, much more.

How many classes do we have each day?

The school day is a 6 period day. Period 1 is form time where PSHCE (Personal Social Health and Citizens Education) is taught, the other 5 lessons could be Maths, English, DT, PE etc.

How many pupils on average are at your school and what is the average class size ?

We have around 800 on roll at the school. In key stage 3, class sizes are between 24 and 30.

Is it possible to see a video of the classrooms and school facilities please?

Our latest school videos, including the opportunity to hear from our parents and students, can be found at www.sherburnhigh.co.uk/openevening.

Questions about: Catering

In relation to lunch is there limited food, i.e. the children who get to lunch last will certain food have run out?

During 'normal' times, we allow Year 7 to go for their lunch before other year groups. This allows them to beat the queue and have their pick of the menu! But, we work really hard to make sure that food doesn't run out and that all year groups get their first choice.

What is your lunch-time supervision like?

At lunchtime we have a team of staff who monitor inside and outside. These include lunchtime supervisors, the achievement team (including House Leaders) and the Senior Leadership team.

What are the options at lunchtime? How are items paid for?

Throughout the day, students have the opportunity to purchase food. This includes before school, morning break and lunchtime. Examples of foods include: toast, croissants, pizza, sandwiches, paninis and cooked meals. All food and drink are paid for using a biometric system, which is linked to a digital parentpay account which you top up from home. No physical money is used to purchase food or drink in school.

My child has dietary restrictions, is there any support?

We are really lucky as we employ our own catering team. Our Catering Manager is able to work with families, to ensure that any dietary requirements are catered for.

In addition, because of our on-line payment system, all parents can see exactly what their child has spent their dinner money on.

Questions about: Student Voice and Extra-Curricular

Is there a head boy and girl system or other positions students can apply for?

We have student leadership teams, each with its own purpose. For example, an environment team, teaching and learning team, mentoring team etc.

In our Sixth Form, we have Head students and Deputy Head students who are the pinnacle of our student leadership.

Are there school clubs and trips?

We have a wide range of clubs for students to join, regardless of their prior experience or ability. All our extracurricular activities are free and there is no limit on numbers. Clubs range for sports clubs like football, netball and even boxing - to the more creative type of club with music and drama clubs being particularly popular.

We also run lots of trips, both during the day and overnight. For year 7, we run a trip in the autumn term where Year 7 get to camp in the grounds of Castle Howard, and put their skills to the test by cooking their own meals, building dens and rescuing staff!

Questions about: Student Wellbeing

My daughter is worried about bullies in school, how is bullying dealt with in school?

We deal with bullying in two ways - the first is to educate young people about the negative effects of bullying. We spend a lot of time in period one teaching students about the correct to treat one another - to be part of "Team Sherburn."

The second way we deal with bullying is to encourage everyone to report any bullying to an adult in school. This can be any adult that they trust. Once bullying is reported, our non-teaching House Achievement Leaders tackle the issue, liaise with students and their parents so that we can put an end to any issues.

How do you support students' wellbeing?

Our non-teaching House Achievement Leaders are the first port of call for any student or parent/carer who has any worries. They are able to meet with students, explore any issues they may have and they can also refer them to our Support to Learn Centre where we run bespoke intervention for students who may be suffering issues to do with self-esteem, bereavement, friendship, anxiety and more.

We also work closely with external partners such as CAMHS and Early Help so that we can support young people who may have worries about school or life outside of the school gates.

This year, we are working with an NHS team to develop our approach to wellbeing and we are excited about the opportunities this brings.