

## Year 6 Transition – Frequently Asked Questions



**FAQ's:** Please find below a list of common questions asked by parents (and students!) in relation to transition and BMCC life. It is not an exhaustive list, but may be of some initial help:

### **Q. Where can I get the College uniform?**

A. Our College uniform and PE kit is available to purchase from:

- **Crested School Wear Dudley**  
Unit 14, Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley, DY2 7BJ – Tel: **01384 918330**
- **TOTALLY UNIFORM**  
Unit 2 Park Street, Kingswinford, DY6 9LX – Tel: **01384 270498**

### **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 the suppliers listed above. The tie you will require will depend upon the House group your child has been placed in (letters are sent in June/July) and are as follows:

- **7S STEPHEN – RED**
- **7J JOHN – WHITE**
- **7B BERNADETTE– GREEN**
- **7C CLARE – YELLOW**
- **7A 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. We usually meet in the school hall.

### **Q. Are students put into sets in Year 7?**

A. We hope, this year, to place the students straight into teaching sets when they arrive in September. Obviously, we have SATS data to use but, crucially, we are always in close contact with primary schools all throughout the Summer Term. We communicate with them regarding the overall individual ability levels and key pastoral information of incoming students. We may also undertake some of our own baseline testing to aid student progress appropriately. Teaching sets are constantly reviewed and there can be some set-movement throughout the academic Year.

**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 and parents may be requested to come to college and collect the phone.

**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?**

We operate a cashless canteen system. Students pay via finger print identification. These accounts can be topped up via the school gateway app (below) or using the cash top-up machine in reception.

SCHOOL GATEWAY



If your child is eligible for Free School Meals you should have notified the college and appropriate systems will be put in place for your 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. 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 Form Tutor or Pastoral Co-ordinator for Year 7 (currently Mr Biddle)

**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 Mrs Bansal at [fbansal@bmilner.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:fbansal@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.

**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. Currently, 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. The college homework policy is regularly reviewed and is subject to change.

**Q. Do we go on trips?**

A. The college aims to organise 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.

**Q. What are the school day timings?**

<b>9:00 – 9:20</b>	<b>Tutor</b>
<b>9:20 – 10:20</b>	<b>Period 1</b>
<b>10:20 – 11:20</b>	<b>Period 2</b>
<b>11:20 – 11:40</b>	<b>Break time</b>
<b>11:40 – 12:40</b>	<b>Period 3</b>
<b>12:40 – 1:40</b>	<b>Period 4</b>
<b>1:40 – 1:20</b>	<b>Lunch time</b>
<b>2:20 – 3:20</b>	<b>Period 5</b>
<b>3:20 – 4:00</b>	<b>Clubs</b>