



HELP!

MY CHILD IS GOING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Some useful information about
how to support your child's move to
Pilton Community College.

Moving from primary to secondary school is an exciting and significant event. When a child starts at secondary school, they and their parents are expected to cope with a whole variety of changes and experiences which ask for different skills and abilities, many of which children will need support in developing.

We hope that the information in this leaflet will provide you with information to support your child and to allow them to achieve independence.

Differences between Primary and Secondary

- Your child will probably have to travel further and possibly without you for the first time.
- They will have to wear uniform including shoes, no trainers.
- Instead of one teacher who has known them for a long time, they will be taught by about ten teachers and will have to get to know many different adults around school.
- The school site is much bigger and your child will have to find their way to lessons and carry all their equipment.
- Your child will have to be responsible for their books, equipment, dinner money, bus pass, PE kit etc.
- They will have to work out their timetable: their tutor will help them fill in a pocket-sized planner to help them with this.
- Content, structure and style of lessons could be very different.
- Break and lunch will require more responsibility and independence.

How can you help?

- Work out with your child what time they will need to get up in order to arrive at school on time. Registration begins at 8:45 am.
- Encourage your child to sort out everything they need the night before – there is much more time in the evening for finding a pencil case.
- Have a copy of your child's timetable displayed – colour the days when your child has PE or Food Technology so that you and they can see what equipment they need to take.
- Reassure your child that they will quickly get to know their way around and that they won't be going around on their own. Use the school plan to talk through their worries.

- Make sure your child knows what to do if they get lost or are late.
- Make sure your child always has basic equipment with them – keep some spares at home for late night emergencies. We recommend that all students have:
 - a school bag (we recommend a rucksack)
 - a reading book kept in a clear folder or bag for protection
 - a pencil case with a handwriting pen, a pencil, a rubber, a ruler, coloured pencils/felt pens, a glue stick and a compass
 - a scientific calculator with a fraction button
- Teach them a routine for emptying their bag when they get home. Check for letters to parents and other information which may have been sent home. Students are given subject exercise and text books and any specialist equipment when they need them. These are their responsibility, so please encourage them to take care of them, especially when they bring them home.
- You don't have to be an expert in all subjects to help your child get into a good homework routine but encouragement and working together are very important. Checking ClassCharts and talking each night about what they have to do and by when can help you plan together when they can complete their homework, particularly if they are involved with extra-curricular clubs and activities.
- Agree a routine for homework and be prepared at first to support your child, not do it for them! Check ClassCharts and encourage them to ask the teacher for further explanation if necessary, writing clear instructions down if appropriate. If they attempt the homework straight away they will have time to ask for help if required.
- Homework should be valued by all students. Some try not to do it and may seem to get away with it – rest assured they don't. Be wary of some of the tell-tale avoidance tactics used by students to fool parents over the thorny question 'What homework have you got tonight then?' ClassCharts is an essential tool for parents in this regard!
- Get to know who's who and what they do. This really helps when contacting the school regarding your child. Always give your name and your child's name and tutor group when calling or emailing the school. Refer your call to your child's tutor in the first instance. Please remember that all staff in school have teaching or student responsibilities and may not pick up telephone messages until the end of the day, therefore it is not realistic to expect a response within an hour. Staff are not able to meet in person without a prior appointment having been made.

Who's Who?

Listed below are the key staff for Year 7 students

7A FRR	Mrs Farris	7E TOP	Mr Topps
7A HRL	Mr Herlihy	7E HUD	Mr Hudspith
7D JAN	Ms Janovickova	7V EDS	Miss Edwards
7D GDD	Mr Goodland	7V CAM	Mrs Cambourne

Head of Year 7	Mrs Druce	Deputy Head of Year 7	Mr Hunt
Headteacher & Safeguarding Lead	Mr Hill	Deputy Head Teacher	Mr Heaton
Deputy Head Teacher	Ms Sherwood	Deputy Head Teacher	Mr Lark
Assistant Head Teacher & Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Almey	SENDCo	Mr Robilliard
First Aid	Mrs Ayre	Head of Y8	Mrs Hole
Head of Year 9	Mrs Ashton	Head of Year 10	Mrs Roberts
Head of Year 11	Mr Stocks		

Staff contact details can be found [here](#).

Useful links

- [School website](#)
- [Year 6 Transition website page](#)
- [Year 6 Information booklet](#)
- [Map of the school](#)