



Primary Transition 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child have the opportunity to visit Moorside prior to starting in September?

The transition team work hard to put together a range of activities that allow pupils to find out more about what life is like at Moorside ahead of starting in September. This includes an annual Open Evening, visits to the primary schools and our transition taster days in the Summer term. Transition staff will visit primary schools and liaise with teachers and school leadership to learn more about pupils and their friendship groups. On the transition taster days, pupils are able to come in to school to find out what a typical day will be like, as well as meeting their form tutor and other students starting with them in September.

Does my child get to pick their form group?

At Moorside High School, we want all students to feel that the transition from primary to secondary is as smooth as possible. Whilst students do not get to choose their form or who they are in a form with, we take the process of choosing each child's form very seriously. For each student attending Moorside High School, we meet with their year 6 teacher to gather helpful information and we use a lot of this advice and knowledge to place a student in a form group.

What equipment does my child need for school?

As a minimum expectation, we would expect pupils to arrive at school with a blue or black pen, a pencil, a ruler, their planner, knowledge organiser and a reading book. It is advised that they bring a pencil case and are welcome to bring other useful equipment such as highlighters/coloured pencils/rubber etc. a full list of equipment can be found in the parent handbook.

It mentions having a reading book. Is this a book provided by school or the student brings their own book of choice?

We do have a range of books in school that they can read, however, if they are reading a book at home, they are welcome to bring this in.

What if my child has no friends in their form group?

Miss Birnie and Mr Williams work hard to look at all the information from the primary schools to ensure that every pupil is in a form with someone they went to primary school so that there is a familiar face on the first morning. Students will be in different classes for each subject and meeting new people every day in those first few weeks. Before long, these new students have become friends. If a student is attending from a primary school and none of their peers are coming to Moorside, we will be sure to put them in a form group with a student in a similar situation.

How much lunch money does my child need?

Moorside High School is a cashless catering service, this means that students do not need to bring their lunch money to school. Parents/Carers must upload money onto a student's account. Login information for ParentPay will come out to parents/carers during the summer holidays before pupils start at the school. This will give parents/carers the chance to top up before pupils start in September. £2.20 will cover a main meal at lunchtime (this includes a meal, dessert and a small drink) however extra items can be purchased. For early morning Breakfast or Breaktime, we have a range of snacks.

With ParentPay and meals, is there the ability to set a daily spend limit?

Yes, there is a daily spend limit of £5. This can be changed on written request to the Business Support Officer at school.

How do I claim free school meals?

You can check if your child would be eligible for free school meals by clicking the link below and following the steps. We encourage all parents and guardians to apply irrespective of their income. This is because if your circumstances change, you'll automatically be enrolled and your child can start receiving free school meals right away.

Please note, if your child currently receives free school meals at primary school, you must still apply through the link to reconfirm your eligibility direct with the academy

<https://www.moorsidehigh.co.uk/page/?title=Free+School+Meals+Eligibility+Checker+%26%238211%3B+Pupil+Premium&pid=41>

Are Year 7's allocated into sets for their lessons?

In the first instance, all students will be in mixed ability lessons, at least until October half term, this gives staff time to identify where students are working. Following this, if any decisions are made to change groups or stream students, parents will be informed.

What do I do if my child has a medical condition?

The information regarding medical conditions is included in the admissions form. If your child will need medication in school or they will need extra support and care you can contact Mrs Anderson, the school nurse. Mrs Anderson will be able to let you know if we need any further paperwork completing and what medication would need to be held in school.

I always get to see the teachers at primary school when I drop my child off. How do I speak to the teachers at Moorside High School and how do I find out who I need to speak to?

Communication can look quite different at high school compared to primary school but that does not mean we don't want to have the same level of communication. Communication is key to the transition aspect of your child's life at Moorside High School, but also throughout their time with us. At primary you will probably only deal with one teacher each year and perhaps the Headteacher in some cases. At Moorside your child will have several different teachers and staff that support them in different ways, so how do you know who to turn to?

Teachers - If you have a question about a specific subject, this could be relating to classwork, homework, or progress, your first port of call is your child's teacher, you can do this via email or phone. If it is a pastoral question or concern, then we have several different people you can talk to.

Form Tutor - Your child will have a Form Tutor. They will see them each morning and they are there to look after them in school. They will make sure that they start the day off with the right books and equipment. They will also pass out any messages to the pupils regarding trips and other school activities.

Head of Year - Mr Williams is always available to support with any of the above. The best way to contact Mr Williams is by contacting reception on 0161 921 1045 or by emailing the school at MHSinfo@consilium-at.com. The most important thing is to keep communicating. Often when things go wrong it is because we have not been made aware of something and we have to pick it up when it has already escalated. Any concern to you is a concern no matter how small, so please contact us.

What is the SIMS parent app?

The SIMS parent app is an application that can be downloaded on to your mobile phone. You will receive a log in for this prior to the academic year commencing. The app can be used to update parents on attendance, behaviour and achievement.

You are also able to provide the school with updates to your contact information through the app.

Do pupils have permanent seats in class?

All of the teachers will have a seating plan of where they will want students to sit. They will organise this in different ways. Some teachers like to put their class in register order (this is quite popular when you start in Y7), some organise their class so that people with similar grades work together. Every so often your teacher will change their seating plan, so you get to work with different people. All of the classrooms are set out differently. Some are set out with the desks in rows, whereas some are set out in groups. In some of the practical lessons, such as design technology and food technology, you don't really have tables you may have benches or you will be working in a kitchen.

What happens if my child gets worried about something?

Firstly, you don't panic. You need to tell someone. We have a lot of people in school that can help students. Mr Williams is always around so students can go and see him first. He will let students know where his office is on the first day, so students can find it. Form Tutors see students every morning and will take the register so that we know students are in school. The Form Tutor is there to look after students and make sure they are OK and set for the day. If students have any worries when they come into school, they can always speak to their Form Tutor in the morning. If students are worried about something that is linked to a lesson, students can always go and see their teacher. We have lots of people at Moorside High School to help you. The most important thing is that you let us know if your child is worried. If you don't tell us, then we can't do anything to help.

What is break time like?

Break time is going to be very similar to your break at primary school. We have a 15-minute break in-between lesson 2 and lesson 3. You can meet up with your friends and catch up with teachers if you need to.

Do the corridors get busy?

Moorside High School is a lot bigger than your primary school and the corridors do get busy between lessons. For the first week, we do let Y7 go slightly early to get to their lesson before all of the other classes start to move. This means that it will be a little quieter for you at the start while you are finding your way around. There are lots of different ways to get to your lessons so you will quickly find the easiest way for you. You can also find the quietest route that you are happier with.

What happens if I get lost?

This is something that all Year 6 students worry about. Moorside High School is a big school compared to your primary school and we would be amazed if you managed to find your way around with no problems. For the first few weeks, all teachers will help you find your lessons. There are always staff on the corridors that will be able to help and the older students at Moorside High School are lovely: they will always help out and take you to your lesson if you don't know where to go.