



Marden High School

Transition Q&A 7 July 2020, 6pm

***Thank you for all of your questions this evening.
We hope that this has been a useful event for you.***

***If you have any further questions please email
e.laing@mardenhigh.net.***

***Further information regarding transition can be found on the
transition section of our website here:***

<http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/transition/>

We look forward to working with you all in the future.

Q: Hi what help and support do u provide for children with confidence and low self-esteem problems please? Thank u

A: Our pastoral and SEND teams support all students with self esteem, confidence and autonomy. Every student participates in Personal Development lessons, which help to develop the whole child.

Last year we held a very successful student wellbeing day, which was an opportunity for students to reflect on their own mental wellbeing and learn strategies to develop their confidence and look after their own well being.

Our Year 7 and Transition Learning Mentor, Mrs Atkinson, works closely with students on improving their confidence and developing their self esteem throughout their transition to high school.

Our work on developing mental healthiness has led to being awarded the Mental Health Award for schools.

Q: Are we going ahead with a start date on the 1st of September?

A: Our first day of term is Wednesday 2nd September 2020. We will be expecting Year 7 students to arrive on site at 8.30am.

Q: What are the arrangements for the first day for year 7?

A: Our first day of term is Wednesday 2nd September 2020. We will be expecting Year 7 students to arrive on site at 8.30am. On their first day of Year 7, students will be directed from the school gate by Marden High School staff to their designated, supervised 'bubble zone'.

Q: What are the arrangements for the first day of term; date, start time and where they

need to be?

A: Wednesday 2nd September. We will be expecting Year 7 students to arrive on site at 8.30am. On their first day of Year 7, students will be directed from the school gate by Marden High School staff to their designated, supervised 'bubble zone'.

Q: School lockers, how and when do we apply for one?

A: In September we will hand out letters to students with information on lockers.

Q: As there will be no transition days for the students this year, what are the plans for the first day of term. Will somebody meet the new students and take them to their form rooms for the first time and basic orientation.

A: On their first day of Year 7, students will be directed from the school gate by Marden High School staff to their designated, supervised 'bubble zone'.

In September there will be a range of transition activities incorporated into the first two weeks of term.

Although there won't be an opportunity to visit before September, some of our transition activities are happening virtually (such as a video tour of our school and introductions from some of our staff) and can be found on the transition section of our website

<http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/transition/>

Q: What after school or lunch time clubs can my child take part in?

A: Usually in school we have a full extracurricular programme both after school and during school hours. However, when returning in September these will be postponed while we are managing the current COVID-19 situation, in line with government guidelines.

Here is a link to our current extracurricular timetable as an example of what activities we may offer: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/extra-curricular-timetable/>.

Q: Is the food served at school competitively priced? How much for a standard meal?

Information on our food outlets can be found at this link: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/food-outlets/>

Prices for lunches are available on the school website here: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/price-list/>. All students stay on site for lunch.

Q: Will there be a chance for my son/daughter to visit the school again before September?

A: Although there won't be an opportunity to visit before September, some of our transition activities are happening virtually (such as a video tour of our school and introductions from some of our staff) and can be found on the transition section of our website <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/transition/>

In September there will be a range of transition activities incorporated into the first two weeks of term.

Q: What are the school day hours going to be?

A: The school day will start at the same time (8.45am), and we will be expecting Year 7 students to arrive on site at 8.30am. For the initial half term, they will be leaving school at 3.10pm (5 minutes before the normal end of school).

Q: If you have two children at the school do you get two parent portal logins? Or are

they under the same account?

A: Parents will receive one login for ParentPortal and will be able to view the progress, rewards and other information for all of their children from their one account.

Q: Are children allowed to bring their own water bottles to school and use them throughout the day?

A: Yes, students bring their own water bottle filled before school.

Q: Will the children be able to be introduced to their form tutor virtually before they start in September?

A: Yes, we will be sending out information about form classes and tutors via post before the end of term.

There will also be a video introduction from form tutors in the transition section of our website before the end of the Summer term.

Q: After placing an order with Emblamatic sometime ago we are yet to receive our order. Should we have continued difficulties over the summer will new students be given a grace period until they receive their uniform?

A: We are aware of some difficulties that Emblematic are having in distributing uniforms, and we will take this into consideration.

Q: How do we hire a locker for September?

A: In September we will hand out letters to students with information on lockers and how to pay for these. They are £30 to hire for the five years that they are at Marden High School.

Q: If you're expecting all pupils to return full-time in September, will there still be social distancing/bubble measures in place and more importantly, will life in school for the kids be returning to normal? Appreciate this may change but can you please clarify your current advice/position?

A: We are currently reviewing our risk assessment and arrangements for full time return of all students in September and will be publishing this information on our website next week.

Q. When do we find out form class?

A: We will be sending out information about form classes and tutors via post before the end of term.

Q: My daughter would like to know if she will have access to a locker at Marden High School?

A: In September we will hand out letters to students with information on lockers and how to pay for these. They are £30 to hire for the five years that they are at Marden High School.

Q: What kind of hair cuts are allowed for boys please? Can they have patterns on one side or just simple hair cuts?

A: We expect that all of our students look smart and ready to learn. We would not encourage patterns to be cut into one side.

Q: Can you tell me how we go about paying for a locker?

A: In September we will hand out letters to students with information on lockers and how to pay for these. They are £30 to hire for the five years that they are at Marden High School.

Q: We were wondering when and how we find out what form groups the children are in?

A: We will be sending out information about form classes and tutors via post before the end of term.

Q: Is most homework done electronically and in which case do we need to buy something other than working on a mobile phone? Would you recommend netbook, chrome book or laptop?

A: There is a mix of computer and paper based homework. Our IT department would recommend a chromebook: they are fairly robust and suitable for almost all types of school work, they are also generally cheaper. If you are able to afford it, it may be useful to take out accidental damage cover.

Q: How will the organisation of form classes/sets be affected by the government COVID-19 guidance?

A: We will be teaching the full timetable of subjects and so there will be no change to the normal format for sets and form classes. In the next two weeks there will be further information on our school website about the strategies that we are employing to reduce the risks of virus transmission.

Q: How will lunchtimes be managed with so many large 'bubbles' of children?

A: Each year group will constitute a 'bubble' and will have their own dedicated 'zone' in which they can enjoy their break time, lunch and social time.

Q: Will the year 7s be covering aspects of the curriculum that they missed during lockdown? If so, will there be a high proportion of time spent on core subjects or are you planning for the usual varied curriculum?

A: There will be a focus on formative assessment early on in the Autumn term which will enable us to identify any students who may need to take part in intervention programmes. We will be teaching the full timetable of subjects and therefore continue to deliver a broad, balanced and high-quality curriculum to all of our students.

Q: What will the transition/phased start look like for year 7s?

A: There will be no phased start for any students in September. Like tonight's Q&A session, some of the transition activities are happening virtually and can be found on the transition section of our website <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/transition/> In September there will be a range of transition activities incorporated into the first two weeks of term.

Q: How will Marden assist the pupils coming from schools which are not part of the established feeder group, and may be the only pupil from their school making the transition? The loss of the transition days due to unforeseen circumstances has obviously prevented the chance to familiarise themselves with their new environment.

A: Our Year 7 and Transition Learning Mentor, Mrs Atkinson, works closely with students that do not have any pre-existing friendships when joining us at Marden High School, and it is common for us to have students being the only one joining us from their primary school. Our Transition Coordinator, Miss Veti has been in contact with all of the primary schools that our new Year 7 students currently attend, and we will remain in contact with them throughout the transition period.

We find that students forge new friendships with their form class or subject class peers quickly, and we encourage all students to 'branch out' of their existing friendship groups to develop their social skills.

We hope that the additional information in the transition section of our website has been useful in the absence of our usual transition days. You can find this information here: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/transition/>

Q: What can I expect as homework?

A: Homework at Marden is designed to extend on your learning in class. This could be a small research task, or a creative piece of work. Generally, homework should take about 60 minutes per evening in Year 7. There is guidance on homework on page 8 of the Student Handbook, which you can access here:

<http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/smartfile/ac964574086e5480e4c7c68968bc1ec0/uploads/2020/06/19094921/Student-Planner-final-draft.pdf>.

Q: I just wanted to ask what the policy is for children having time off during term time.

A: Information about our term time holiday policy can be found here:

<http://www.mardenhigh.net/term-time-holidays/>

Q. Will the children need PE kit on the first day?

A: Students will not need to bring their PE kit on the first day as they will be given further instructions on meeting their PE teachers.

Q. When do parents get log in info for the parent portal?

A: Parent Portal is an online 'portal' that we use to communicate information with parents and carers of our students. This information includes students' house point totals, any recorded behaviour points and updates on their academic progress throughout the year. This system is also used to book parents evening appointments with subject teachers. You will be given Parent Portal login details within the first few weeks of your child starting at Marden High School.

Q: When do we find out what form class the children are in?

A: We will be sending out information about form classes and tutors via post before the end of term.

Q: Where do the children stand on first day on arrival?

A: On their first day of Year 7, students will be directed from the school gate by Marden High School staff to their designated, supervised 'bubble zone'.

Q: What time should children arrive on their first day?

A: We will be expecting Year 7 students to arrive on site at 8.30am.

Q: Will the LRC be open before and after school for pupils to do their homework by themselves?

A: While we are managing the current COVID-19 situation, in line with government guidelines, we will be unable to have students mixing in the LRC before and after school, as we normally would.

There will be detailed information from your child's teachers about how they should go about their independent home learning.

Students will be able to access their designated, supervised 'bubble zone' from 8.30am.

Q: We are thinking of buying my child a laptop for September - I see there is a Chromebook plan - could you let me know more?

A: Our IT department will not be running a leasing scheme this year. However, they would recommend a chromebook: they are fairly robust and suitable for almost all types of school work, they are also generally cheaper. If you are able to afford it, it may be useful to take out accidental damage cover.

I hope that this helps you with your choice.

Q: Do you expect the timings of the school day to change in September due to Covid-19?

A: The school day will start at the same time (8.45am), and we will be expecting Year 7 students to arrive on site at 8.30am. For the initial half term, they will be leaving school at 3.10pm (5 minutes before the normal end of school).

Q: How many forms are there in each year group?

A: There are six form classes in Year 7. They are 7M, 7A, 7R, 7D, 7E and 7N. Students will receive a letter before the end of next week which details which form class they have been placed in and who their form tutor will be.

Q: Will there be a staggered return in September for year 7 pupils, or will they be going back full time? If you'll be staggering their return, will consideration be made for siblings, so they may attend school on the same day and therefore travel together?

A: We are currently planning for all students to return full time in September following the latest government guidelines.

More information about these arrangements will be published on our website before the end of this term.

Q: When will the children find out who their form teacher will be and which of their current friends, will be in their form class?

A: We will be sending out information about form classes and tutors via post before the end of the Summer term.

Q: When would year 7 pupils usually receive their Marden computer/network/resource logins and are there any plans for this to be brought forward, so they can login during the summer holidays?

A: All of our students receive a Marden High School gmail account, and we use Google Classroom to share resources and information with students. Students will receive their login details when they join us in September.

We have information and activities on the transition section of our website, which can be accessed here: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/transition/>.

Q: I have a question about the payment for school meals at the various outlets serving food. Is there a prepaid card system of some kind or is it all cash transactions? Has the school ever thought about introducing swipe cards that parents could prepay and top up instead of using cash sales?

I note on the website, under the ParentPay tab, that the school promotes the Nimbl card for payments, does that mean the card is accepted in school or not.

A: Students pay for lunch using cash. We do not have a swipe card machine. We have trialled swipe card machines in the past, and, after a trial period, it was seen that a cash system worked better for our students.

We have a system in place to ensure that students have enough cash for lunch in the event that a student forgets their lunch money.

Prices for lunches are available on the school website here:

<http://www.mardenhigh.net/price-list/>. All students stay on site for lunch.

ParentPay is our online payment system. We use this as a way for parents to pay for school trips and events, such as the school prom. You will be given ParentPay login details within the first few weeks of your child starting at Marden High School. We do not use Nimbl cards.

Q: How do we apply for Login details and a password for the Parent Portal?

A: Parent Portal is an online 'portal' that we use to communicate information with parents and carers of our students. This information includes students' house point totals, any recorded behaviour points and updates on their academic progress throughout the year. This system is also used to book parents evening appointments with subject teachers. Any person with parental responsibility or who is a registered carer of a child is entitled to a login for this system. You will be sent Parent Portal login details by post within the first few weeks of your child starting at Marden High School.

Q: What will my child study as part of the Year 7 curriculum?

A: At Marden High School we aim to deliver a rich and varied curriculum for all students. Information on what to expect in Year 7 can be found here: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/parents/what-to-expect-in/year-7/>.

An introduction to each subject area can also be found by clicking on this link: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/subject-introductions/>.

Q: How much homework will my child receive?

A: There is guidance on homework on page 8 of the Student Handbook, which you can access here: <http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/smartfile/ac964574086e5480e4c7c68968bc1ec0/uploads/2020/06/19094921/Student-Planner-final-draft.pdf>.

Q: How will my child be supported through transition?

A: Starting secondary school offers many exciting opportunities for children and their families. At Marden High School, we are committed to ensuring that our new students feel comfortable and happy about such a big change in their lives. The smooth transition that we offer for our new intake is achieved through positive, frequent communication between students, staff, parents/carers and governors.

Our dedicated transition team and Senior Leadership Team can be contacted at the following email address. If you have any questions not answered in this FAQ list, please email transition2020@mardenhigh.net.

Q: How will I be updated on my child's progress throughout the year?

A: We send out reports about student progress once every term, as well as holding a 'settling in evening' for Y7 parents in October, and a parents evening in the Summer Term. Dates of these will be confirmed in September.

Q: What should I do if my child is absent from school?

A: If your child is going to be absent, please contact the Student Absence Line before 9.30am by telephoning 0191 296 2771 or texting 08449 842674.

Q: How will you contact me?

A: Usually by telephone, text message or by giving a letter/report to your child. So that we are able to contact you, please ensure we have an up to date address and telephone number, and advise us as soon as possible if you change any of your contact details. We also update the school website frequently with news and important information.

Q: Who do I contact if I have a problem?

A: Contact the school via the usual phone number 0191 269 2771 and explain the issue so

that you can be directed to the correct member of staff to help you.

Q: Where can I find the school term dates?

A: You can find out our term dates by clicking on this link: <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/NTC%20Final%20Term%20dates%2020-21.pdf>

Other useful dates, such as inset days, and information can be found on our parent calendar: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/parents/calendar/>

Q: How does my child purchase lunch?

A: Students pay for lunch using cash. We do not have a swipe card machine. Prices for lunches are available on the school website here: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/price-list/>. All students stay on site for lunch.

Q: What food is available for students?

A: Information on our food outlets can be found at this link: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/food-outlets/>

Q: Can my child bring a packed lunch to school?

A: Yes, students can bring their own lunch into school.

Q: Will my child be in the same tutor group as their friends?

A: We have students joining us from a large number of different primary schools, and we aim to keep students with at least one of the friends from primary school in their form class. Students will be allocated to a number of different groups throughout the day and may be with a different group of students in lessons. It is likely, therefore, that students from the same primary school will be with other students they know at some point during the day.

Q: My child has additional needs. What extra help will they get?

A: Inclusion is a core value at Marden High School and we have very high expectations of all our students, whatever their additional needs. Our SENDCO, Mrs B Reece, will make contact with the SENDCO of your child's primary school to make sure that we understand your child's individual needs and to plan for any support that needs to be put in place to allow your child to access a full and varied curriculum. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs Reece at b.reece@mardenhigh.net.

Q: What are the school uniform requirements?

A: You can find a list of our school uniform at this link: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/parents/uniform/>

Q: How and where can I purchase school uniforms?

A: Emblematic is our school uniform supplier. You can find out more about them and how to purchase school uniforms at this link: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/parents/uniform/>

Q: What equipment are students encouraged to bring to school?

A: All students need a bag to carry books and their equipment. All of our students are given a [student handbook](#) to record their homework. These must be brought to school every day, along with a reading book and pencil case. The LRC (Learning Resource Centre) is open before school and at break and lunch and sells essential stationery. All students are able to purchase a locker for keeping larger items, such as lunch or a PE kit. A £30 payment for the locker is needed and students keep their locker for 5 years.

Q: Can my child bring electronic devices such as laptops, phones or iPads into school?

A: There is guidance on equipment, including electronic devices, on page 10 of the Student Handbook, which you can access here:

<http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/smartfile/ac964574086e5480e4c7c68968bc1ec0/uploads/2020/06/19094921/Student-Planner-final-draft.pdf>.

Q: What is ParentPay and what is it used for?

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Q: Do you have a PTA? How can I get involved?

A: We have an active PTA at Marden High School. You can find out more about what they do and how to get involved at this link: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/parents/pta/>.