



## ***Transition (2021): Frequently Asked Questions***

***If you have any further queries that are not answered in this FAQ document, please email Miss Laing, our Transition Coordinator, at [e.laing@mardenhigh.net](mailto:e.laing@mardenhigh.net).***

**Q: Where do Year 7 students go on their first day of school?**

**A:** On their first day of Year 7, students will be directed by Marden High School staff from their arrival at the school gate. On their first day they will be given a map of the school to help them find their way to their classrooms.

**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):

<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.

**Q: As Year 6 students will not be sitting SATs, how will my child be assessed when they start Year 7?**

**A:** We are in close contact with primary school teachers about students' grades and progress. In Year 7 some subjects will conduct a baseline assessment in the Autumn term to help us monitor their progress

**Q: How are my child's subject classes decided?**

**A:** Students in Y7 will be in mixed ability **settling in classes** from September. We will assess Y7s throughout Half Term 1 through class work and assessed pieces. Following this period, we will adjust students' classes in **October**, based on where we think they will make the most progress.

**Q: What time does the school open and close?**

**A:** Students are able to enter the school building from 8.30am. They are able to access the Cafe to purchase breakfast, the yard to sit with their friends, or the LRC (Learning Resource Centre) to complete homework or quiet study. The LRC is also open until 4.30pm after school each evening.

**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 the Autumn Term, 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:** Students should arrive at school before 8.45am to enable a prompt start to the day. 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: What are the school day timings?**

**A:** School day timings can be found here:  
<http://www.mardenhigh.net/parents/school-day-timings/>

**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: Where can I get support if I have a query about paying for school lunches?**

**A:** We operate a cashless system for lunches in school. Students are given a QR code, supplied by North Tyneside Council, that links to students' online lunch payment balance. More information can be gained by contacting [parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk).

**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 other students 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](mailto: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: Will my child be able to take part in any clubs or extracurricular activities?**

A: All students will be encouraged and supported to take part in a wealth of extracurricular opportunities, including sport, music and the performing arts, creative activities, cultural visits, outdoor learning experiences, work experience and opportunities to develop leadership skills. There are extra-curricular clubs running both after and before school, as well as during lunchtime. Here is a link to our current extracurricular timetable: <http://www.mardenhigh.net/category/extra-curricular-timetable/>.

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

A: 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.

**Q: What is Parent Portal and what is it used for?**

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: 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/>.