



DIDSBURY

HIGH SCHOOL

Year 6 to Year 7 Transition
Booklet September 2026

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Welcome

We'd like to take this time to officially welcome you as one of our newest members of Didsbury High School! It is with real excitement and enthusiasm that we welcome you as part of the new year 7 and we look forward to teaching, supporting and guiding you through your years with us.

At Didsbury High School, we all work hard to develop nine key qualities, attitudes and habits for everybody in our school community. These are **courage**, **social intelligence**, **vitality**, **curiosity**, **perseverance**, **integrity**, **gratitude**, **self-control** and **optimism**. Right now, there might be some of these qualities that you've never heard of nor understand. However, they will soon become really well-known to you and hopefully part of your everyday conduct.

Speaking of social intelligence, we imagine that you are currently a mix of emotions! The idea of leaving primary school will be a moment of celebration for some but a moment of sadness and worry for others. Didsbury High School will seem like a particularly large, potentially intimidating space for you. Again, some of you may have siblings here and be more familiar with the space than others. Some of you may only have been for our Open Evening or not at all. No matter how you are currently feeling, we hope that this booklet of information goes some way to making Didsbury High School more welcoming, less intimidating and a place where you will proudly excel. So, we encourage you to be **curious** about how we do things at Didsbury High School, **courageous** in your approach to be part of our community and **persevere** when things feel difficult. Because we promise that, if you approach Didsbury High School with **vitality** and **optimism**, you will thrive and go on to do amazing things. Now **that's** something to be excited about!

In this booklet, you will find information about life at Didsbury: what lessons are like; how we can support you; what our expectations of you are, amongst other important bits that make Didsbury High School what it is.

Enjoy and we'll see you on Year 6 transition day and then in September!

Your Lessons

It's pretty obvious that the main reason you come to school is to learn and that most of this learning happens in the classroom. It's so important that it's the first thing we wanted to talk to you about!

Firstly, it makes sense to show you the timings of the school day:

Free breakfast	7:30am – 8:10am	School opens at 7:30am and serves free bagels in the Dining Room.
Tutor Time	8:20am – 8:45am	Tutor Time is with your Tutor where they will give you information and make sure that you are ready for the day.
Unit 1	8:45am – 9:40am	Lessons!
Unit 2	9:40am – 10:35am	
Break	10:35am – 10:55am	Get some food, talk with your friends and make use of our social spaces!
Unit 3	10:55am – 11:50am	Lessons!
Unit 4	11:50am – 12:45pm	
Lunch	12:45pm – 1:25pm	Get some food, talk with your friends and make use of our social spaces! There is an outdoor area that is just for Year 7s.
Unit 5	1:25pm – 2:20pm	Lessons!
Unit 6	2:20pm – 3:15pm	

On Wednesdays, though, you will have Electives for Unit 5 go home at 2.20pm.

For each of your lessons, you'll be expected to find your own way around the building and get to your classrooms on time. Don't worry though, there are always teachers and other students around who will happily help you find your way! However, to get a head start, we've put the school map on this page. Really, the building is just a circle with a tail, one on top of the other. You'll find your way around sooner than you think.



Tutor Time

On the timetable of the school day, you'll notice that every day starts with Tutor Time. These sessions are run by your Tutor who is a very important person for you at Didsbury High School. This person will be your Tutor all the way through to the end of Year 11 and they will be able to help prepare you for each school day and find solutions to any problems or queries that you may have.

There are set activities during Tutor Time, all to help develop and improve your knowledge. There are Tutor Times focused on reading and literacy as well as one assembly per week. For assembly, you will go to your Tutor room, do the register and then walk down to the auditorium in silence. In assembly, we will often talk about one of our qualities, attitudes and habits. Can you remember any that we listed on the 'Welcome' page?

Every person in your Tutor group will also belong to the same House, which you can read more about [here](#).

Units 1 to 6

In September, you will be given your personal timetable that will look something like the below:

Unit	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	7.30 8.15	Breakfast Provisions				
	8.20 8.45	Registration / Tutor Time				
1	8.45 9.40	English	Maths	Spanish	History	Computing
2	9.40 10.35	Science	English	Geography	Drama	Applied Science
	10.35 10.55	Break				
3	10.55 11.50	Maths	History	Beliefs & Values	Spanish	Science
4	11.50 12.45	Geography	Science	English	PE	Spanish
	12.45 13.25	Lunch				
5	13.25 14.20	Drama	Applied Science	KS4 Unit / KS3 Elective	Maths	History
6	14.20 15.15	Spanish	PE	Electives	English	Maths
	15.15 16.15	Electives	Electives		Electives	Electives

Each lesson is 55 minutes long. You will have 6 lessons on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. You will have 4 lessons on Wednesdays and then Unit 5, you will do an Elective.

Learning at Didsbury High School

We take learning very seriously at Didsbury High School. We know that it's hard. We know that it's tiring. But we also know that incredible feeling that you get when you've worked hard towards something and finally see the success! We are passionate about teaching you things you don't yet know from subjects and topics you don't even know exist yet!

All of your teachers will be subject specialists. This means that they are all trained to teach their own specific subject – they know their stuff! It's incredibly exciting to know that you are being taught by some of the best in the business. Your teachers will carefully plan their lessons to make explanations clear and they will support you when you get stuck. They will ask you challenging questions and make you think. They should be doing this because we want Didsbury High School students to learn, be curious and understand that knowing stuff is incredibly powerful.

For all of this to work though, we need you to...

Attend

Behave

Work Hard

What do I need to do as a student of Didsbury High School?

Attendance

As a student at Didsbury High School you will be expected to attend school every day. Attending school will enable you to gain an abundance of knowledge, allow you to access the wide range of electives we have on offer and create and develop new friendships. If you are absent from school and miss your lessons, it can be difficult to catch up and understand subsequent lessons in those subjects. Over time, this can impact on your achievement in school and affect your confidence. In year 7, missing school can also affect your ability to make new friendships and maintain current friendships.

If you are feeling unwell, we have staff in school who can look after you. We will expect you to be in school if you have a common illness such as a headache, sore throat, cold, hayfever, tummy ache etc. These can be managed by over-the-counter medication which we can give you, with parental permission, during the school day.

Our students enjoy attending Didsbury High School and we are confident that you will too.

Punctuality

It is very important that you arrive to school on time. You must be in your Tutor room at 8.20am. If you arrive late, you will miss out on opportunities available at school as it is during Tutor Time that these are shared with you, along with any other important notices. If you arrive to school after 8.20am, you will receive a breaktime detention and your parent/carer will be informed.

Arriving to lessons on time is also crucial. The first few minutes of a lesson is when the teacher may introduce the lesson and provide essential information and instructions. Your teacher may also plan 'retrieval' during the start of a lesson. This is where you will remember and revisit information you have previously learnt which will help you with that lesson. If you miss the start of a lesson, you will find the rest of the lesson more challenging.

Uniform & Equipment

You must wear the correct uniform every day for school. In addition to your trousers/skirt, white shirt and black jumper you must wear your blazer and tie at all times when moving around the school building. We do not allow trainers at Didsbury High School, even if they are all black. You must wear black leather school shoes.

When you start Didsbury High School, you will be given a timetable. You will have two lessons of PE each week. When you have PE, you need to bring your PE kit to school with you. This includes our school PE top and either our school shorts or plain black shorts/leggings/joggers. You will also need your trainers.

At secondary school you also have to remember to bring equipment for your lessons. You must bring the following items with you every day:

- Black or blue pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber

It is also useful to bring a refillable water bottle to school so you can stay hydrated throughout the day. You can refill your bottle at break and lunchtime from the water fountains available.

We recommend you keep your belongings in a school bag. It will have to be big enough and sturdy enough to store your equipment, exercise books and water bottle inside. Some students also pack their PE kit inside their school bag too. You need to carry your bag around with you for the day so ensure it is comfortable to carry. We recommend a backpack.

We understand there is a lot to remember at high school. We recommend you pack your bag each night with everything you need for the following day. It is also a good idea to get your uniform ready to ensure you have everything you need. We do have some lockers available to help with organisation, if this would help.

Behaviour

At Didsbury High School we love to reward students for positive behaviour. You will be rewarded for:

- Good classwork or PP&R (this is what we call homework)
- Displaying a positive attitude in lessons or around school
- Entering competitions, events or activities
- Being kind, considerate and respectful around school and in the community
- Having good attendance and punctuality
- Consistently wearing the correct uniform and having your equipment

Staff can reward you via verbal praise, house points, praise postcards, communication with your parent/carer or nominating you for a badge. We also have regular reward events and trips for students who consistently do the things listed above.

Unfortunately, at times, we do issue sanctions. We are firm but fair at Didsbury High School. If you disrupt the learning of others, do not behave in a kind, considerate and respectful manner, display any unsafe behaviours or avoid going to part of, or all of, a lesson, you will be issued with a sanction. You will either lose your break or lunchtime, be issued an after-school detention or not be allowed to attend your lessons and social time for an entire day.

If there is a serious incident or if you receive a number of sanctions for poor behaviour, you may be issued with a Fixed Term Suspension from school.

Mobile Technology

We do not allow students to use their mobile phones during the school day. You will have a small locker in your tutor room. Each morning, your tutor will ask you to put your mobile phone in your locker. You will need a small padlock to lock your locker. Ideally this will be one which requires a code rather than a key to open. At the end of the day, you will return to your tutor room and collect your phone before walking home.

The reason we do not allow mobile phones in school is because they cause a distraction to your learning and we want you to socialise with your friends during break and lunchtime, rather than using your mobile phones.

How will school support me?

The wellbeing of our whole school community is incredibly important to us. We understand that in order to learn, display positive behaviours, engage in our electives and wider opportunities and form and maintain friendships, you have to feel safe, supported and enjoy school.

All of our staff at Didsbury High School take their responsibility to nurture, care for and keep you safe incredibly seriously. There are a few roles within school who are solely dedicated to support you and to remove any difficulties you may face.

Head of Year

You will have a Head of Year at high school. This person supports all students, and their families, within the year group. You will work closely with your Head of Year and they are somebody you can talk to if you have any worries or concerns, regarding a situation inside or outside of school. If your parent/carers contact school, it is most likely to be your Head of Year who they speak to.

Your Head of Year will regularly review your rewards/sanctions, attendance, punctuality and interactions within the school community. Your Head of Year will run reward events and/or speak to you if they have any concerns regarding your behaviour or attendance.

You will have the opportunity to build a strong relationship with your Head of Year throughout your time at Didsbury High School and they will play an important role in your school life.

Your Head of Year will be Ms Melling.

House System

At Didsbury High School you will be a member of one of our 4 Houses. This will be either Altius, Citius, Fortius or Magnus. Everybody in your Tutor Group will be in the same House. There will be students from Years 7 to 13 in your House and you work collectively to earn House Points and win competitions in the hope that your House wins the House Cup at the end of the academic year.

Each House has a 'Head of House'. Your Head of House will pay particular attention to whether you are working hard in your lessons and participating in the extra opportunities we have at school for you.

If you are finding a particular subject challenging, your Head of House will work with you and your teachers to put support in place to help you.

Safeguarding Leads

The role of the Safeguarding Leads at Didsbury High School is to ensure that you are safe in school, online and in the community. They work closely with your Head of Year, Head of House and all of the staff in school. If there is anything preventing you from learning, affecting how you feel or worrying you, they will do whatever they can to improve your situation. They will listen to you and work closely with you to support you. They can also offer support to your parent/carers or wider family.

You will meet your Head of Year, Head of House and Safeguarding Leads within your first week at Didsbury High School. We encourage you to speak to them if you have *any* questions, concerns or worries.