

Letters from our current year 7s to YOU!





Hello Year 6 Student,

You must be looking forward to your summer holidays, but also a little worried about starting at Oathall in September. When I joined Oathall, I didn't know anyone and didn't know what to expect, but I very quickly made amazing friends and learnt how Oathall works. I would like to share a few tips with you so that you can have a worry-free summer holiday and look forward to starting at Oathall Community College in September.

On your first day, you will go to the hall with all the other Year 7s. From here, you will be taken to your tutor group. Oathall is quite large with the classrooms in different parts of the building. You will get lost at first, but don't worry: you won't be alone. Everybody gets lost in the beginning. If you get lost, you can ask an older student, student support or a teacher. Everyone is there to help you. You will also receive a map and time table from your tutor; these are lifesaving. If you lose these, you can get copies from student support who help with everything and are very kind.

The first teacher you will meet is your form tutor. I have the best tutor in the whole school. Hopefully, you will be lucky and get the second best one! Your tutor is someone you can go to about anything, and tutor time is a place where you can socialise with your friends. Some things that you may do in tutor is: reading, quizzes, finishing your homework, and having fun. For each subject, you will have a different teacher. However, your tutor will not change. They will stay with you and support you for your five years at Oathall. All of the teachers are very tolerant and kind. They understand that many of the subjects are completely new to you.

You get many great opportunities at Oathall. Some of my favourites are science and the farm. The farm is an optional club that you can join and participate in. In Year 7, we are allowed to attend one session a week. When we are there, we are responsible for looking after and feeding the pigs, sheep, chickens (and cows in later years). We have an amazing new science block, and our science labs are really well equipped. So far, I have made a rocket car, and held fire in my hand (supervised by my teacher).

You may be coming to Oathall with a group of friends from your primary school, but if you're not you will quickly make new ones. Friends are the best part of school. We get to meet up at morning and afternoon breaks and also at lunchtime. We have a special Year 7 playground just for us, so we don't have to fight for space with the older students.

I really hope that you love Oathall. The friends and experiences that you have here will be some of the best in your life.

Have a great summer, and I might see you in September.

Yours faithfully,

Jacob



Dear Year 6 Student,

If you are reading this, you have made a wonderful decision that you will not regret, because Oathall is a fabulous school. When you first get to Oathall, it does seem like a very large, scary school, but trust me: by the end of your third week, you will know your whole way around school. If you are coming alone to Oathall don't worry, because I came alone, and now I have so many new friends who I have felt like I have known my whole life.

Oathall is a caring school and teaches you so many things to improve your knowledge on different school subjects. The teachers at Oathall are very helpful and will always support you with your learning.

My favourite moment from year 7 was going from knowing no one to knowing so many people who I care for and who are always here for me. Now, in every lesson I have so many friends who I can talk to, and they make learning so much more enjoyable.

If you find yourself getting lost in the first couple days, don't worry: the teachers will not tell you off, because they will understand. When you are lost, just ask one of the teachers or an older pupil to help you, and they will be happy to help you find your way. The older students may seem quite intimidating, but just remember they were year 7 once - and look where they are now.

Tutor is a fun time where you spend 20 minutes before lessons in the morning and 20 minutes after lunch.

I hope you have a great summer. I look forward to meeting you in September.

Yours faithfully,

Holly



Dear Year 6 Student,

We are really looking forward to you joining us at our school. I imagine you have mixed feelings about leaving your primary school, your teachers and your friends that you have got to know so well. I was nervous and excited - excited to feel I was getting older and that I could be more independent but also nervous about all the things I felt I didn't know, like how was I going to tie my tie, would I get lost in the corridors, would I be in classes with my friends.

Well, some good news: on my first day there were lots of familiar faces. I met my tutor and my tutor group at the start of the day, and we were shown around by year 8's. This really helped me enjoy my day, as they were really helpful and friendly. You may be worried about the corridors and finding your way. I was! But now it's the part I enjoy. We have a one-way system that makes it easy and helps guide you to your lessons. We have a map to our classes that is fun to navigate and a timetable that you can keep in your blazer pocket. The teachers will laminate you one if they get old like mine is now. I also quickly learned how easy it was to tie my tie!

One of my favourite things about Oathall is that I have made lots of new friends. We do lots more subjects here. I'm sure you will enjoy them. We have lots of different teachers, and I'm sure you will enjoy your learning with them as I do.

We have mentors from year 10 who are there to help if you need a chat and that can really help. I like mine. A really fun thing that I found to do once I had settled in was to do the lunch and after school clubs. I wish I had done these straight away, so try and do some. You meet new friends, and they're really fun. I enjoy lunchtime basketball and after school rugby, but there are loads of different ones to choose from. A sad time of saying goodbye can also be happy, as I'm sure you will be at Oathall.

Good luck and see you at school in September,

Connie



Dear Friend,

I hope you are keeping well, and you're ready to start at our big school. It is okay to feel anxious about secondary school. I will take you through the journey at Oathall, and I hope it helps you to feel confident.

Oathall is quite an old school, built in 1938. It offers fantastic facilities with well-equipped classrooms, a music facility, a big library, and the massive sports hall. The recent attraction is the maths and the science building opened in 2018. The science labs are amazing. One unique feature of Oathall is the farm, where you will meet Gloria and Scarlet (pink and black pig) and her piglets. I am sure you are going to have great fun visiting the farm. The Oathall campus is very big, but it is well planned and easy to find your way around.

Now the most important members of Oathall: the teachers. The teachers at Oathall are very welcoming and kind. They are always there to listen to you and assist you with your learning.

Next, I am going to share with you what I have enjoyed the most in Year 7. I have really enjoyed meeting different teachers for each subject. The interaction with new friends has been fun. My favorite subject is Design & Technology where I get to learn how to cook yummy recipes and make fun toys. It is very relaxing. I have also enjoyed the English creative writing club. Don't forget to explore different clubs in Oathall. Year 7 gives you the opportunity to be more independent. I really enjoyed working with my English and maths teachers.

Last, I'm going to take you through my first day at Oathall. I was a little bit nervous on the first day of school. We all gathered in the assembly hall and were told a lot of information. We got to meet our tutors and when I went to my tutor room, it was nice to see other new faces. Getting to know each other and our tutor was very helpful. We got to have our new lockers, which was amazing. We also got our timetable. The dining hall experience was completely different to primary school, so much much on offer on the menu. The first few weeks were tiring, but we got used to it and I really love coming to school.

I'm sure you will have a great time in Year 7. I look forward to welcome you to Oathall.

Best of Luck,

Abhinav



Dear Year 6,

This is one big step you're taking! You must be quite nervous, which is TOTALLY normal and it's nothing to feel embarrassed of (because everyone feels like that). However, the best part is to see what you achieve in a short space of time.

You have so many things to look forward to like:

- The school farm
- All the music clubs
- The Year 7 Science Club

There is so little room but so many things I could list!

I was a bit worried the teachers wouldn't be like my primary teacher. The truth is they turn out above and beyond what I was told! It's true the more you get to know them, the more you'll like them. I wouldn't change my teachers at all.

And the teachers will help you if you get lost in the big school, but within a couple weeks you will know the school grounds like the back of your hand. Really - don't be scared to tell your tutor or teacher if you got lost. They will be ok with you!

It's easier than you think to make friends, I was so lucky to find loads in my tutor group. YOU have to remember that everyone is in the same position.

Good luck!

Agathe



Greetings Year 6 Pupil,

Your time in primary is coming to a close ... but your Oathall life is just beginning! Think about it - new subjects, teachers and experiences - which all sound great, but everyone has some nerves. However, this letter will reassure you that there is nothing to be worried about!

Starting a secondary school can be very scary at first, but this paragraph will explain the general facts about Oathall. The Oathall grounds are much bigger than your primary school, but there is still nothing to worry about as you are given a map of the grounds on your first day - and it is easy to get used to. The school day will start off with you going to your tutor. You will be registered and sent off to period 1 (your first class) - the first out of the 5 periods in the day. Break starts after your first two lessons, lunch will be after periods 3 + 4, and period 5 will start after afternoon tutor. It sounds complicated, but once you have the rhythm it is hard to forget. To sum up, you will be fine!

This letter would not be valid if I did not mention the teachers. The teachers are the heart of the school, pumping life into it and leading you through your Oathall life. The teachers have the same main interest at heart: to help you do the best you can. If I were to list the qualities that all the teachers had, I would be rambling on forever, but some of the most important ones are that they are funny, kind, tolerant, helpful and happy. To be straight, you are going to have the best learning experience!

Year 7 has been a very fun new experience for me, and I would like to go over some of my favourite moments I have had this year. Since I started Oathall, I have had a great interest in music - so I joined the band. I had the lovely privilege of playing at the Christmas concert, which has to be one of my highlights of the year. However, my most favourite moment of year 7 was when we made the rocket cars in science. Being a bit of a petrol head myself, I really enjoyed learning about aerodynamics and traction. There are some amazing opportunities at Oathall, so I would grab every one you get!

I hope this letter has helped you with being reassured about Oathall, and helped you understand the ground rules.

Best wishes,

Edward



Dear Year 6 Student,

Since you are reading this you must be ready to take the step from primary to secondary! If you have heard 'You are going from the big fish in the little pond to the little fish in the big pond' nearly as many times as I did, I'm sure you're tired of hearing it by now. What it's saying is essentially true; you're in a new place, and you may not be sure about it. All worries you might have will be covered, and I can assure you that you won't want to wait to start!

First of all, I would like to talk about the teachers. As you will be seeing them almost everyday for the next five years, it may be useful for you to know a bit about them. All the teachers at Oathall have one goal: to make sure you reach the best of your abilities.

There are lots of fun activities that go on in term time, some that I myself have participated in. These are some of my favourite memories that I have created and have helped me learn things as well! One of my personal favourites was the Eurovision contest held by the languages Faculty. One of our language teachers gave us a song to learn depending on what language they teach, and we had to go up against other year seven classes also participating. We came fourth, but it was so much fun that I didn't really mind!

I hope this letter has answered some of the questions you might have had and has eased any worries. I'm sure you will enjoy Oathall so much! Good luck starting and I hope you enjoy it.

Good luck,

Anna



Dear Year 6 Student,

I'm writing to you to help you with your induction to secondary school. I will be giving you lots of information about life at secondary school.

Now, I know it is scary moving from primary to secondary school (I was nervous too), but don't worry: you will settle in quickly and make loads of new friends.

First, the most important topic: the teachers. We have some incredible teachers at Oathall. They want to help you achieve your personal goals.

Now in every school there are rewards. Without rewards, I really don't know how anyone would survive. At Oathall, the rewards system means if you try hard in lessons and you do well, you will get a positive credit. We also have these cards for positive behaviour, for example, holding a door open for a teacher or showing good manners. Each time you will receive a signature from a teacher, and if you get 6 signatures you go into a raffle for a prize. On the other hand, if you are not working well or not on your best behaviour, you may receive negative behaviour points.

When you finish your first year at Oathall, you will have collected many memories. If I told you every single memory, I would definitely take up a whole page. My best memory is when I got an opportunity to play in a cricket tournament, and we beat another big Secondary School!

I hope this letter helps you to have the best first year at Oathall, and I hope you settle in and make loads of new friends.

Good luck,

Zac



Dear Upcoming Year 7,

Well look at you, you've made it to the end of primary school, and you now are ready to take the next big step to secondary school. You will experience new and exciting things, and you can make new friends here as well. Now, you may be nervous, but don't fret, this letter is going to tell you all you're going to need to know to be prepared for Oathall.

To start with, let's take you to your first day of school. It's September, and you are starting secondary school. You may be with your friends, and you may not. Don't worry if not all of your primary school friends go to Oathall. Like me, you will make plenty of new friends, and you may find yourself not needing your old ones - but it's always good to keep in contact.

Some of my favourite memories from year 7 are making friends and my first three weeks. I think the most fond memory I have is of getting lost and walking into a classroom (with one of my friends) that was full of year 10s. It was embarrassing at the time, but we couldn't stop laughing afterwards.

Finally, here is a top tip. Follow your dreams, this is the start of an exciting 5 years ahead of you.

Well, I hope you are now okay and set to have an amazing five years at Oathall. We can't wait to welcome you, and we wish you the best of luck.

Yours faithfully,

Dylan



Hello Year 6 Pupil,

You must be nervous making the leap from primary to secondary. Don't worry about the fact that you will be smaller than most pupils and the teachers teach you more subjects. That knowledge that you learn will help you in your future years. Secondary is quite different to primary, but everyone is here to help you through the adjustment. Just think: you now have the freedom to take different subjects, walk to school alone or with friends, and unlock all the potential you have. This letter will help you understand that secondary school is nothing to worry about.

On your first day, you will have to head to your tutor for registration, but this is also a time to have a little catch-up before classes start. During tutor, you will be given your timetable and a map of the school to help you find your way around. If you ever get lost, there are maps all over the school, and I am sure some older pupils wouldn't mind helping you if you asked. The teachers are also there to help if you ever get stuck or can't find your class.

All of the teachers here are super nice. Homework is set on something called Insight. Insight is the website that shows you your time table, homework that's due and your reports for that term. Your parents can also see what homework you have, because they are linked to your account on Insight.

Secondary school is a lot bigger than what you are used to, but you will be surprised how quickly you will get to know it. The main school building is where you will find English, Humanities, PE changing rooms, food tech room and the assembly hall. The languages have their own block and so does Maths and Science (S.A.M). There is also a drama block, art block and DT block. In the main building, there is also the canteen where you can get lunch and snacks at break. For lunch, you can get the main option, a pot of pasta, or a baguette or sandwich.

There are some awesome clubs you can join like science club and drama club. There are some amazing sports clubs as well. My personal favourite club is farm club, because you get to help out with all the animals and see all the new born lambs and piglets up-close.

I hope that you have an awesome time here at Oathall.

Good luck,

Olivia



Dear Year 6 Student,

I imagine you have mixed feelings about leaving the familiar surroundings of primary school. I am writing this letter to you to tell you that, even though it is a big change, there is so much fun stuff for you to do in Year 7 at Oathall.

Oathall may be a big school, but it is as dense as a neutron star with amazing activities. There is always something to occupy your time. Unlike primary school, you do not stay in the same classroom all day. This may be a big change for you, but you will get used to it after a while. There was a new science block built a couple of years ago, and for me and hopefully for you, it has really boosted my love of science and maths. Another great part of the school is the astro and the playing fields. This is where most of your sports will be done, and there are lots of after-school activities done there.

You may be worried about whether your teachers will be strict or not. Some of them may be strict, but keep in mind that all they want to do is help you learn. Everything they teach you will come in handy in many situations.

My favourite part of Year 7 was most definitely the time I came tenth in the Sussex cross country race and made it through to the next round. I also love cross country club and table tennis club, which are both great ways to start off the day as they really wake me up.

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YEAR 8

1. Make a/some new friend(s)
2. Try a new club/sport e.g Table Tennis Club etc
3. Memorise all of your classrooms
4. Get an award

I hope this letter was helpful, and I wish you all the best of luck in year 7.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew



Dear Year 6 Student,

You may be nervous going to secondary school, but also excited! It's a very big experience, from everyone bustling around in corridors to listening as your teacher telling you about the wonders of the Battle of Hastings. I will explain everything, so get ready!

There are lots of rules, but they're simple, and easy to follow. There are fun new lessons, and you'll meet loads of new friends! You may think it is a big place, but you'll learn the layout quickly. There are tutors, libraries, and more! You're going to have so much fun!

Obviously, I can't tell you what's in store for all five years at Oathall, as I've only experienced a small part myself! The first thing I'll tell you is my favourite thing I've done so far. It has to be 'House challenge week'. At the start of Oathall, you are put into one of the four houses, a bit like Harry Potter. It may be the same for you in your school now. The four houses are: Endeavour, Pioneer, Voyager, and Discovery. During house challenge week, in all subjects you will be put in your houses, and depending on which subject you are in, you will do different challenges. I remember P.E the most. We did football, hockey, and a variety of different games. It was super fun!

The rules at Oathall are quite simple and self explanatory: No running in the corridors (like in the films), always have a tucked in shirt and wear a tie/correct school uniform, no rolling up skirts, and no chewing gum.

I hope that I have answered some of your questions and have made you less nervous and more excited to go into secondary school. It's going to be so much fun!

Yours faithfully,

Oliver



Dear Year 6 Student,

You might feel scared or nervous to start secondary school. However, it is not as scary as it seems. You have much more freedom and more opportunities to expand your learning! There is always something exciting around the corner! Oathall is great for every personality. There is a farm (if you like animals) , lots of sporting events to attend, amazing facilities to cook and bake, and there are also lots of things to do to be creative (dance, drama and art.) This letter will tell you all about Oathall!

On your first day!

You may feel frightened for your first day as it is a big leap. However, you're not alone feeling nervous. After your first day you will feel so much better and ask 'why was I so scared?' On your first couple of days, teachers and some students will show you to your classes. No teacher will be cross if you are a bit late on your first week, as they understand how you're feeling.

What I enjoyed most about year 7

Year 7 was a great year as you have much more independence than you do in primary school. The lessons are more exciting and much more interesting! For example: Science! You get to use fire for experiments and get to do some amazing activities! Also, in the canteen you get to use your thumbprint to buy tasty food! Finally, drama is always fun as the lessons are creative and interesting. When it is your turn for Food Tech, you have so much independence to make tasty goods on your own!

Teachers at Oathall!

All teachers at Oathall are supportive towards your learning and will support you to expand your knowledge.

Oathall is an amazing school and will do anything to help your learning be as positive and fun as possible. I hope you are excited for your opportunities ahead at Oathall!

See you in September,

Tom