

FAQ

What is a form group?

Every student at Guilsborough Academy has a form group. You will spend the first part of each day with your form group. There will be around 30 students in your form and you will have a form tutor. Their role is to help you with your work and they are the first person you should go to if you are worried about anything.

Will I be in the same form group as my friends?

We try to put people in a form group with some of their friends but likely not all of them. We do not want you to feel isolated so we ask your Year 6 teachers who you get on with. We use that information to help us put together the form groups. When you are at secondary school you have lots of different lessons in different teaching groups so you will meet lots of new people and make lots of new friends too.

What if I am the only person from my Primary School that is going to Guilsborough Academy?

This often happens. Try not to worry, there will be people in your form group in the same situation that you can make friends with. We find that children quickly make new friends at school and your form tutor will look after you and check that everything is going well for you

Is the work really difficult?

The work at secondary school is a continuation of what you have been learning at Primary. Some of the learning will be a recap of work you have already done at Primary. The teachers have planned the curriculum to build upon your learning at Primary so that it is both accessible but also gives you the right level of challenge.

How do I know which bus to catch and where to get on and off?

There will be a bus stop close to where you live where you will get on the bus each morning. When you arrive at school each morning there are members of staff who will help direct you where you need to go. After the last lesson of each day, you will go to the bus park and there are lots of staff on hand to help you get to the correct bus. If you are not sure you just need to ask. In the very unlikely event that you miss your school bus we will make sure that you are looked after and that you are able to get home safely.

What happens if you are late to school or are late to a lesson?

If you are walking to school you will need to be organised so that you are not late to school. You could try timing how long it takes from your house to school. Many students arrange to meet friends on route.

If you are taking the bus, you do not need to worry if the bus is late – this is not your fault and you will not be punished if your bus is late.

Your form tutor keeps a record of your attendance and punctuality in school. Students should aim to have an attendance of 96% or above.

Being late to lessons may happen sometimes in your first couple of weeks as you get used to finding your way around the school buildings. If you get lost then other staff or older students will only be too happy to help you find your way. After a couple of weeks, we will expect you to be used to the school and you will need to be on time for your lessons.

What happens if you get lost when you first arrive at Guilsborough Academy?

Don't worry. You will soon find your way around. There are five main blocks called A, B, C, D and E. The school will seem a lot bigger than your primary school but you will soon get used to it and will be able to find your way around. Your school planner contains a map which will help you find your way around. If you do get lost just ask a teacher or another student and they will help you.



Is it true that secondary school teachers are really strict?

We have high standards at Guilsborough Academy and expect students to behave really well and wear their uniform correctly. However, we want you to do well and we won't be any stricter than your primary teachers were. The main difference at secondary school is that you will have a lot more teachers because you have specialist teachers for each subject. You will find that we have the same high expectations for behaviour, attitude and work.

How much homework will you get?

This really depends on the teacher and the subject. Your teachers know the appropriate amount to set you in Year 7. They will also set the homework through the 'Edulink' School App and they will always tell you how long to spend on the homework and what date it is due in.

Will we be in sets?

For some subjects, you will be placed in sets. Other subjects you will be taught in mixed ability groups. Where students are taught in sets, we take account of lots of different things including teachers' assessments from your Primary school. The sets can and do change throughout the year so you are not stuck in the set you are in from the start of the year.

What are the timings of the school day?

08:45 – 9:10 Form Time
9:10 – 10:10 Lesson 1
10:10 – 11:10 Lesson 2
11:10 – 11:30 Break
11:30 – 12:30 Lesson 3
12:30 – 13:30 Lesson 4
13.30 – 14.15 Lunch
14:15 – 15:15 Lesson 5
15:15 – End of school

What are detentions given for?

Detentions are given for people that do not follow the rules within school. They either take place at lunchtime or for more serious incidents they take place after school. The vast majority of our students do not get detentions and visitors to Guilsborough often comment on how well behaved students are within school.

Are there bullying issues at Guilsborough?

Every school has to deal with bullying of some form or another and we would be wrong to say it never happens. However, bullying is very rare at Guilsborough and is mostly to do with fallings out and friendship groups. Nevertheless, Guilsborough takes bullying very seriously and always deals with and resolves issues that take place. We have a regular focus in school to prevent bullying including a focus on it in form time, during anti-bullying week and making sure that children are encouraged to speak out if it happens within school. We encourage other students who see it to speak out and inform a member of the Pastoral Team. The staff are used to resolving these issues and we instil in our students the importance of speaking out if they both experience or see bullying.

Who do I go to if I have a problem at Guilsborough?

Your form tutor is the first person you should speak to if you have any issues at school. You also have Mr Woolridge, Head of Year, who is solely responsible for your year group as well as Mrs George, Pastoral support. We also have members of staff responsible for safeguarding in school, including Mrs Lakey and Mrs Greenwood, who are able to help you with your worries, concerns or moments of crisis



Are the older students scary?

Not at all. Our older students are very welcoming to our younger students. In fact, we have a peer mentoring scheme where some of the older students help our Year 7 students when they come into school.

It can get quite crowded in the corridors and you will meet lots of different students. The older students will seem quite big as you were used to being the oldest children at primary school. However, you will soon get used to them and some of you will already have older brothers and sisters in school. What's important is that you treat everyone politely and respectfully and if you do that you should find you get the same treatment yourself.

Are there lots of extra-curricular clubs?

We have lots of extra-curricular clubs examples of which can be found on our website. We think it's really important that children have lots of extra-curricular opportunities. This makes lunchtime a really fun and interesting part of the day.

How can I stay organised to keep on top of all my work?

When you go to secondary school you have to be quite organised to remember to pack the right books, remember your PE kit and bring the correct equipment. Your form tutor will help you with organising this.

You will have a planner to help you record homework deadlines and make notes about things you need to remember! Make sure you get into good habits early on such as packing your bag the night before and making sure you have looked at your timetable.

Your parents have access to an app called 'EduLink'. They will be able to see what homework you have been set, what achievement points you have gained and any behaviour points. This can help you stay on track with your work.

Do you need to bring in lunch money every day?

Children all have an account and parents will pre-load this account with credit so you don't need money to buy your school lunch. You pay for your school lunch through this account either through a card or putting in a pin code. You will be shown how all of this works as part of your induction into the school

How will our parents know how we are getting on?

We have a computer system where staff record good things you are doing and any negative things that happen too. Your parents can get this information as soon as it goes on through the app called 'EduLink'. This means your parents always know what has been happening in your school day. We also give out rewards for students who get lots of positive comments – we call these House Points. We also have regular celebration assemblies where we celebrate your successes both individually and as a collective group of students.

Is there a house system?

All students are linked to a school house and there are various inter-house sporting competitions. The four houses are known as Rockingham, Everdon, Whittlebury and Salsey.

If you have any other questions then please e-mail

Year6transition@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

We would love to hear what you are currently getting up to

We know that a lot of you are currently not at your primary schools and are working from home. We would love to hear how you are getting on. If you have done some work that you are really proud of then please get your parent to e-mail this to us from a parental e-mail address so that we can see what you have been doing and get to know you a little better. We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you properly in September.