



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a tutor group?

Every student at Guilsborough Academy is put into a tutor group of around 30 students. You will spend the first part of each day with your tutor group. Your form tutor will help you with your work and they are the first person you should go to if you need help or have any questions/concerns.

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

We try to put people in a tutor group with others from their primary school so that you know someone. 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 tutor 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.

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

West Northants County Council will allocate you a bus stop closest to where you live. When you arrive at school each morning there are members of staff who will help direct you. 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, 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 late – when you arrive, you sign in at student reception. 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.

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

Your tutor keeps a record of your attendance and punctuality in school. Students should aim to have an attendance of 96% or above. We will contact home if you are missing and we don't know why or if you have missed lots of days of school.

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 be 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. Don't worry, for the first couple of weeks as you find your way around you might be late for a lesson. There are five main blocks 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. Also, your school planner contains a map. If you do get lost just ask a teacher or another student and they will help you.

How much homework will you get?

Your teachers know the appropriate amount to set you in Year 7. They will also set the homework through the 'Go4Schools' app and they will always tell you how long to spend on the homework and what date it is due in. You will not get lots at a time, it will be spread out. If you have any questions or concerns, speak to your class teacher or your tutor about it.

Is the work really difficult?

The work at secondary school is a continuation of what you have been learning at primary. The teachers have planned the curriculum to build upon your learning so that it is both accessible but also gives you the right amount of challenge. We also make sure you are supported if you are finding anything hard and need support.

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 will not 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.

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 tutor group in the same situation that you can make friends with. We find that children quickly make new friends at school and your tutor will look after you and check that everything is going well for you.

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.

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.

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

Your tutor is the first person you should speak to if you have any issues at school. You also have a Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year, who is solely responsible for your year group as well as Student Support.

We also have members of staff responsible for safeguarding in school, including Mrs Phipp and Mrs York, who are able to help you with your worries, concerns or moments of crisis.

Do you need to bring in lunch money each day?

Children all have an account and parents will preload 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 your finger print or a pin code. You will be shown how all of this works as part of your induction into the school.

If you ever run out the finance office can give you credit and will take your name.

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. There are clubs for sport, music, drama, table-top gaming etc.

How can I stay organised and 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 tutor will help you with organising this.

You and your parents have access to an app called 'Go4Schools'. 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. 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.

If you have any other questions then please email: Year6transition@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you properly in September and hope you have a lovely summer.