



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. Many lessons are with your tutor group so you will get to know other students very quickly.

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 recorded by Mrs Copping in Student Reception.

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 not in school and we don't know why or if you have missed a number 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. 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. Also, your student handbook contains a map.

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 My Child at School 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 school. 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 with pride. 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. We will also host a small schools day where students from other primary schools can meet as they are also the only one or maybe one of 2 or 3 coming from that school. This is a way to meet people in the same situation as you.

What are detentions given for?

Detentions are given for people that do not follow the rules within school. They either take place at break time, lunchtime or after school for more serious incidents. 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?

Maths put students into sets in the autumn term as they need to prepare students for the different tiers of foundation and higher. The sets are flexible and students can move between them. In 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.

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 are solely responsible for your year group as well as Pastoral Support.

We also have members of staff responsible for safeguarding in school, including Miss Keenes 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 cash 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 they will call home and can give you credit for you to take to the canteen.

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 our young people 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 and many more.

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 through Bromcom. It's the Student Portal for you. For others at home it is the My Child at School app. They will be able to see what homework you have been set what positive 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.