The Chantry School

New Year 7 Intake - Frequently Asked Questions

If you can't find the answer to your question here, in Mr Hill's Welcome Sway or in your Welcome Pack, then please get in touch.

Where do I go on my first day?
When you arrive at school, there will be plenty of staff to meet and welcome you. You will be asked to walk along the front of the main building to the Hall. You will be welcomed by your new Head of Year, Mrs Clear the Headteacher and Mr Hill an Assistant Head Teacher, before going off to your tutor room.

What is a Form Group?
It is also called a Tutor Group. This is similar to your class in primary school. In Year 7 most of your lessons will be with the people in your form group. There are some that are not though (see below). Every day you will have Form Time with your form tutor. The rest of the day you will be with your subject teachers, following your timetable. This will be different every day.

What subjects will I study?
When you join Year 7, you will study English, maths, science, RE, PE, music, drama, geography, history, personal development, a range of DT subjects such as food, graphics and resistant materials. Also, you'll study French and German.

Will I be in sets?
Most subjects you will have lessons in your form groups, but at some point in the school year, you will be in sets maybe for maths. You will also be in different teaching groups (but not sets) for DT and PE. You will get to meet and work with pupils from other tutor groups at this time.

What are the timings of the school day?
The school operates a two week timetable, so you will need to remind yourself if you are on a week A or week B timetable, before checking which lessons you have. The timings of those lessons is below:

Form Time	8:50am
Period 1	9:20am
Break	10:20am
Period 2	10:40am
Period 3	11:40am
Lunch	12:40pm
Period 4	1:20pm
Period 5	2:20pm
End of school day	3:20pm

How do I catch the bus in the morning?
If you come by bus, your parents will have spoken to School Transport who will have told them where and when the pick-up and drop off is near your home. If you know any older Chantry pupils who live near you, they are a useful guide as well. If in doubt, ask your parents / carer to call School Transport. You will need to remember the number of your bus, for example MT10.

How do I catch the bus in the evening?
At the end of the school day, all pupils who take the bus walk down to the yard at the front of the school. Check the number of the bus eg. MT10. You will get on your bus and wait! Staff will be checking that the

school is clear of pupils who need to catch the bus, so you won't be left behind. We will also check that you are wearing your seatbelt before the bus is allowed to go.

Am I allowed a mobile phone?
We understand that sometimes it is handy to have a mobile phone with you for the journey home after school, to let people know that you are home safe. You are therefore allowed a mobile phone, but it must be turned off and kept out of sight in your bag throughout the school day, unless a teacher gives you permission in a lesson. If you break this rule a member of staff will confiscate your phone and you will have to collect it from the office after school. You will also receive a sanction. A second offence will lead to an After School Detention.

Will I be in the same form group as my primary school friends?
We are currently in the process of allocating you to one of 6 form groups – named Ankerdine, Bredon, Cotswold, Kinver, Malvern or Woodbury. These will be formed with pupils from a mixture of primary schools. We do know important it is to pupils to be with their friends, but it is not possible to form tutor groups based on this. We will be aiming to create groups that have a mix of boys and girls, abilities and with no single primary school being over-represented. This is always an anxious time for pupils, but please remember that there are over 20 primary schools feeding into us!
We always find that pupils settle into their form groups and make new friends, as well as retaining their old ones even if they are in another form.

Where do I get and eat lunch?
You can either bring a packed lunch or buy food from the canteen or cafe. There are 3 places to buy from – the 2 service points near the hall are indoor, and there is an outdoor service point near the science block which is used at certain points during the year.
You can eat your lunch in either of the seated areas by the indoor service points or anywhere outdoors. We have a big covered area on the patio outside science which overlooks the field. There is plenty of other seating around the school site to use as well. You are not allowed to eat in corridors or on the field. The field is only open when weather permits, mostly in the summer.

How do I pay for lunch?
You will pay for your lunch with our cashless system. You will either use a thumbprint or a PIN. You add money to your lunch account using either the re-valuation machines in school or by your parents doing it online for you.

Are the older pupils scary?
Not at all! The Chantry School community is very friendly and you will find lots of help from older pupils. We have some schemes, like Peer Mentoring, where older pupils support you. However, you will find there are many very helpful around the school if you need to ask anything.

Will I get lost, and what happens if I do?
You might get lost, but it won't be for long! The school is actually quite small for a secondary school, and within a few days pupils easily find their way around. The most important thing is to know your timetable, so you know where you are heading. If you do get lost – just ask. Any teacher or older pupil will help you find your way. Most of all though, don't worry. Teachers know that you are finding your way around, so if you are a bit late to lessons in the first few days everyone will understand.

What happens if I am late to school?
If you are late to school for any reason then you must report to the main school office as soon as you arrive. Our friendly office staff will then sign you in and hand you a late slip. You should then make your

way to form time or your normal timetabled lesson and hand the late slip to your teacher. That way they will know that you are all signed in and ready to start the day.

What happens if I am late to lessons?
Our school is much bigger than a primary school, so it may take you a minute or so to walk across the school site from one lesson to the next. You will see everyone doing the same and it is likely that you will arrive to your lesson around the same time as others. However, if you are much later than the rest of your class then you may be marked as "late" to the lesson. You will be asked to give a reason. If you have been talking to a teacher, they will give you a Pink Slip to say that they held you up.

Are the teachers really strict?
No! We have high expectations and expect you to try your best, but we also recognise that mistakes can be made. As teachers we are understanding, like working with children and prefer it when we can form good relationships with our classes and the individuals within it. It's what makes The Chantry special. We are a community.

How much homework will I get?
Homework is an important of your learning at The Chantry School. However, we don't just set it for the sake of it. We don't set homework for all the subjects. We have a homework timetable and you have a weekly homework for English, maths and science and MFL. Then alternate weeks you have a homework for RE, history and geography. We always make sure we try to not set homework so it has to be completed over the holidays. We want to ensure you get a break and recharge your batteries. You can keep track of your homework using the Arbor App. You can see what homework is set and when it is due.

Do you have detentions, and what are they given for?
The school expectations will be made clear to you and are found on the 3Rs posters in classrooms and in your form room. If you are **ready** to learn, **respectful** to others and behave **responsibly** you will not be given a detention. Your form tutor and class teachers will go through more detailed school rules which help things run smoothly and for the benefit of all pupils. When pupils do not meet these expectations, they will be given a lunch time detention. For example, you will lose your free time for disturbing the learning of other pupils, not following an adult's instructions, or not completing your homework on time.

What should I do if I have a problem?
If you have a problem then you should talk to your form tutor who will listen to you and do their very best to sort things out for you. We have a whole Pastoral Team who can help with different things but, your form tutor is your first port of call for any issues that may arise, however big or small.

What uniform do I have to wear?
Our school uniform is smart and shows that we take our learning seriously and we are proud to be part of our school community. You will wear a plain white school shirt with a Chantry school tie. You can choose between a blazer with our school logo on the breast pocket or a black jumper with the school logo. Formal black school trousers or a formal black knee length skirt (one of two specific design from our official suppliers) featuring the school logo. Shoes that are substantial and will protect your feet should be worn and they cannot be training shoe style. You should have black socks or tights (not both) and any hair accessories will need to be in school colours only.

What PE kit do I have to wear?
It depends! Boys and girls have slightly different kit and we recommend different kit for different activities and at different times of the year. We want you to be comfortable and protected. Some items are available only from our supplier School Togs and other items are available from other shops.

Please look in the booklet called “A Guide to Starting Secondary School” which is in the same area as this document, on our school website.

Am I allowed to wear make-up and jewellery?
Jewellery is not allowed apart from one small pair of stud earrings – one in each ear. No other piercings are allowed. Pupils may wear a wristwatch.
Make-up is not allowed unless in year 11 and then only discreet or subtle make-up is acceptable. Nail varnish, or false nails are not allowed in school. False eyelashes are also not allowed. You are not allowed to wear jewellery for PE.

Are there any rules on hair styles?
Your hair should be appropriate for a business like and formal work environment – no extreme styles, no skin fades or unnatural colours. Hair essentials should only be in school uniform colours, black, red, grey, or white. We do not allow shaved patterns or lines in hair, we do not allow tipped hair colours or shaved eyebrows

What extra- curricular clubs are there?
We have many extra-curricular clubs on offer to suit all interests. We cater for many sporting activities outside your normal PE lesson, so if you enjoy playing football, rugby, netball or hockey you will be able to join in with some after school sessions. If sport isn’t your thing, then you might like to join in with some of the projects that our run by our senior pupil leaders, from charity events for the community to work on improving our environment. If you are musical, there are many opportunities to get involved. You might join one of the after-school sessions, like Rock School, or start to learn an instrument. You may even end up performing to the whole school in one of our Talent Shows. If you like Drama, then look out for the plays and musicals we put on. You might want to be in the spotlight, performing, or backstage making sure it all runs smoothly. Maybe you are into computing? If so, then the Coding Club will be for you. We even have a Craft Club and STEM Club in science. Whatever your interest, make sure you join in. You really do get out of school what you put in.

How are parents kept up to date with what we are doing?
Communication with home is very important. Parents can always contact form tutors, subject teachers or other people in the school, on an informal basis. They just have to go to the contacts page on the website. However, throughout the year there are opportunities for teachers to report on your work, behaviour and attitude in your lessons. You will receive three progress checks, there is a parents' evening and we send letters/postcards/emails home recognising good effort and work. Parents will also have access to the Arbor App. which show information such as timetable, achievement points, behaviour points and homework. Instructions introducing this app will be sent out to parents/carers. Pupils also have this app on their phones if they choose.

We look forward to answering many more questions, when we see you.