

SMWCA Transition 2021-22

Frequently Asked Questions answered by Mrs Farrer

Assistant Principal

Hello Year 6! Hope you are all going to have a good time trying as many of the activities we have prepared as you can?

I have tried to answer some questions that we get asked every year, but if you have one that isn't included then please get in touch or ask your teacher in school and we will get back to you.

Enjoy your last few weeks and we look forward to seeing you soon.

How will I make new friends?

There will be lots of opportunities to make new friends and this will start by meeting your new form group and teachers. You may know someone joining SMWCA from your primary school, but it is equally important that you branch out and engage with others. There will be 210 students in your year group, so plenty of opportunities to make new friends!

What if I get lost between lessons?

There are plenty of staff members and students around between lessons, during break and lunch times to guide you in the right direction if you are struggling to navigate around our building. Use this time wisely to find your classroom and next lesson so you are well prepared for the next visit. If you are unsure or think you are lost, just ask somebody.

What if I am late to school or to my lesson?

You need to be organised so you can avoid being late to school!

There will be occasions when this is unavoidable. If you travel by bus, you do not need to worry if the bus is late -this is not your fault and you will not be punished.

If you are late to your lesson when you first join us, please do not worry. WE give you chance to learn to find your way around. However when you are settled there will be a 30 minute same day detention for being late to your lesson, unless you have a valid reason. If this is the case you will have a note from the person who has kept you.

Your form tutor keeps a record of your attendance and punctuality and you should aim to have an attendance of 97% or above.

Do I get a locker?

Every student will be able to purchase a locker once you have joined us and we have reassigned those that were previously used by Yr11. You will be able to keep all of your belongings in your locker and take what you need to each lesson. Please remember to take what you need for your lessons, as it will not be possible to leave your class to get what you have forgotten!

I will be leaving a very small primary school to join SMWCA which has 1,200 pupils. It's very scary.

You and many others are in the same boat, coming from a small primary school and joining a much larger secondary school. I know this can be daunting, but you will rarely come into contact with all of these students at one time. It is busy but there are allocated areas for Yr7&8 and the library as well as certain clubs for those who want a quiet area, which means there is space available for you to have some down time and socialise with friends.

With Covid-19 affecting schools and transition plans, do you know how the transition process will look?

I wish I could predict the future and hope we get back to normal as soon as possible. Although the initial transition days are not happening, you can see from all the information we have sent out that things are in place. We will try and keep you updated with what is going prior to starting in September.

What happens if I can't keep up with the amount of homework?

In Year 7, you will be set homework. If you struggle to keep up at home, there are homework clubs after school in the library and study sessions at lunch times you can access to help complete your homework. You will be issued with a planner at the start of the year, this is a useful tool in helping you to get organised and write down important things such as your homework and its due date.

When do I need to bring my "This is Me" information back?

Your completed workbook needs to be brought back to us on your first day at SMWCA (date TBC).

Are we allowed to use the toilet during lessons?

You are not allowed to use the toilet during lessons unless you have a toilet pass. These are only issued for medical reasons to students who require them.

Are we allowed to bring phones to school?

Our school operates a no phone policy. If you are found to have a phone on you in school, you are required to hand it to the member of staff challenging you. This is then passed on to our Main Office where it is placed in a safe until the end of the school day. If this happens repeatedly, a parent/carer will be required to collect the phone. Any phone or device is the responsibility of the child, if they choose to bring a phone to school.

Do we get rewards for positive behaviour?

Teachers award achievement points for various reasons, both in and out of the classroom. These can include having all the correct equipment and wearing your uniform smartly, excellent work, a positive attitude and supporting your peers. You can receive a maximum of 5 at a time and these are collected throughout the year. Students with the most points at the end of the year will be eligible for a range of rewards.

How does the detention system work?

If you are issued with a detention, you will be expected to stay for either 30 or 60 minutes on the same day detention, depending on the expectation you have not met. 30-minute detentions are for not having the correct equipment or for not following the behaviour policy despite two prior reminders. 60-minute detentions are given if you do not change your behaviour and need to be removed from the lesson. If you fail to attend your 30 minute detention, you will then be expected to sit a 60 minute detention the next day and if you still refuse to stay, you will complete the Vice-Principal's detention which takes place after school on Friday until 5.00pm!. For more information about our system please read our behaviour policy on our website.

Does anything happen after the school day?

Yes, there are lots of clubs and activities for you to take part in and try out. These are all free and run during term time. More information will be released at the start of each half term about clubs.

What happens if I get bullied?

Every school has to deal with bullying of some form or another and we would be wrong to say it never happens. We have a lot of fallings out and friendship group issues, but sometimes bigger worries present themselves. Whatever is happening we take seriously and try our best to deal with and resolve issues that arise. We have a regular focus in school to prevent bullying including in assemblies, during form time and during anti-bullying week, as well as publishing tips on our website. We encourage other students to speak out if they see any bullying and to inform staff. We have 6th form mentors and peer support for students to speak to. We encourage our students that It is important to speak out if you either experience or see bullying.

Who do I go to if I have any other problems at SMWCA?

Your form tutor is the first person you should speak to if you have any issues in school. You also have a Head of Year, Miss Eardley, who is responsible for your year group as well as an Assistant Head of Year (tbc) as well as myself, Mrs Farrer. We also have staff responsible for safeguarding, Mrs Holdcroft and Mrs Edwards, in school who are able to help you with your worries, concerns or moments of crisis. However you will get to know your subject teachers and as long as you speak to someone, you can chat to anyone you feel comfortable with. It may be that you let your parents know and they can contact us. We MUST know or we cannot do anything about it!

Thank you Year 6 and if there is anything else you want to know ask and we will do our best to answer.

Once you join us you will soon realise that the things you were most concerned about will never happen or are not as bad as you thought!

Looking forward to seeing you and getting to know you better in September.

**Take care
Mrs Farrer**

