

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some frequently asked questions from both students and parents around transition:

Q: Airedale Academy is so much bigger than my primary school.

What if I get lost?

A: This is very normal worry when making the change to a new, much bigger school and you are not alone! You will be given a tour, have access to a campus map and our staff and students are incredibly caring and helpful. Just knock on any door or ask an older student or staff member for help and they will direct you to your destination. The team on Student Reception will always be on hand too if you need help.

Q: What if I lose my belongings?

A: If you misplace something, ask a friend or member of staff to help you and if you still cannot find it, go to Student Reception who will help you look through the lost property. Alternatively, you can speak to your Form Tutor who can contact your teachers to try and help you locate it.

Q: Will I be in the same form group as my friends from primary school and if not will I still get to see them?

A: Our assistant principal, Mr. Podlewski and the Head of Year 7 will spend time in the summer term talking to primary schools and trying to ensure students are paired up with at least one person from their primary school. Even if you are not in the same class as all of your friends, you will of course be able to see them at break and lunchtime and at after school clubs.

Q: Will my parents and carers receive regular updates about my progress?

A: At Airedale Academy we have just moved to a system called Bromcom which will allow parents and carers to download an app for the phone which will report all aspects of your life at Airedale Academy from attendance to behaviour to assessment information and much more. It is imperative that we have the correct contact details so that parents and carers receive all the relevant information and messages about your school life and upcoming events. You will also be issued with a paper report at every parents evening.

Q: I am feeling anxious about joining Airedale Academy, what support exists to help me?

A: Our core values of “ambition, bravery and respect” permeate within our academy and supports all students to become confident learners. We believe that no child should be left behind so we make sure everyone is supported to develop the skills and strategies needed so that they can leave Airedale Academy and take their rightful place as responsible citizens. This resonates both inside and outside of the classroom. Our pastoral team are always on hand to help and are specially trained to deal with student concerns.

Q: I am the only person from my school joining Airedale Academy, I am worried that everyone knows everyone else but I won't know anyone.

A: Pupils join us every year from up to 20 different primary schools. We understand that this is a daunting move for young people. This is why in the first few days, we organise activities which enable you to meet new people. Your form tutor will plan tasks that get you talking with others and you will quickly get to know a wide range of different people.

Q: I am forgetful. What if I forget what lesson I have or don't remember my homework?

A: We understand that this is a new way of working for Year 7. We will give you a copy of your timetable and explain how it works. In addition to this, all our pupils have a planner. This helps your personal organisation and is where you will record all important information. It has a copy of your timetable and space for you to jot down homework or anything else you need such as PE kit, letters or ingredients. There is also space for you to collect rewards.

Q: I am not sure whether I will like school dinners

A: There is a huge variety of meals on offer every day: hot meals, jacket potatoes, Pasta King, freshly made wraps, salad bar, pizzas, burgers, sandwiches. There is really something for everyone! There will also be staff on hand to answer any questions you may have. Lunch and breaks are a great social opportunity at Airedale Academy. Our dining hall is modern, bright and spacious, there is plenty of room for all. We are lucky enough to have a separate café which serves sandwiches and snacks too. Of course, if you prefer, you can bring a packed lunch from home!

Q: How do I pay for school dinners?

A: We operate a cashless system where pupils use their fingerprints to access their accounts. There is more information about how this is kept on the letter specifically about this. In short, you can top up your account with cash or your parents can top it up online from home. You don't need to handle any money, you just use your finger and off you go.

Q: I am on free school meals. How does it work for me?

A: Pupils on free school meals have their dining accounts credited automatically every day. There is always a meal deal available which includes a main meal, pudding or a drink. This costs the exact amount of a free school meal. If you don't fancy this, you can spend your allowance on other tasty choices on offer. What you don't use gets removed at the end of the day.

Q: How will Airedale Academy work out what sets I need to be in for my lessons?

A: Usually, we would use data collected from end of Key Stage 2 SATS to help inform which sets students need to be placed in. However, due to the cancellation of SATS in 2020, this process will have to be slightly different this year. Students will be placed into mixed ability groups to begin with and then each department will hold a set of school assessments to help inform setting. However, these classes are continually reviewed meaning students can move up or down depending on how they adapt to different topics and challenges throughout the year. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to discuss setting at parents evenings, of which there are 2 in Year 7.