



Malmesbury School Year 6 Transition

Frequently Asked Questions

At the end of the PowerPoint presentation, I asked you to send me any questions that you might have.

Here are the answers to the questions that came up, and some I have been asked in the past.

I hope you find them helpful.

Mrs. Wood

Will I get lost?

A lot of Year 6 students worry about getting lost. Most of our local primary schools are quite small, so Malmesbury can seem enormous in comparison.

When you start, we will give you a map, but the simple answer is yes, you might get lost. However, try not to worry. You can always ask someone to help you, and the teachers will understand if you arrive a bit late in the first few weeks.

However, don't just take my word for it. Read the **Dear Year 6** section on the Transition webpage – lots of the Year 7s write about how they worried about getting lost and what it was like when they started.

If you're still concerned, try getting ahead of the game by checking out the school map on the Transition webpage too. It's got lots of extra information on it which you should find helpful.



"I was nervous because the school is so big, I thought I would get lost. However, when I joined the school, we all got given a map to help us. The older students are really kind and helpful so don't be afraid to ask them for help. Because of all of the support we got, I never got lost and before I knew it, I knew the whole school inside out." Teya, Year 7



Your questions answered

Will I be in a tutor group with my friends?

When I talk to your Year 6 teacher, I'll ask them for their recommendations of who you should be with from your primary school and we use this to help me create the tutor groups. However, we also take into account what specific support you might need and other individual factors because it's important to us that you are in the best place for you to achieve your best.

Also try to remember that this is a fantastic opportunity to make new friends. There are lots of students joining us who don't have any old friends coming to Malmesbury, so it's important to be friendly to everyone and look out for each other, especially in your tutor groups.

Can we bring mobile phones to school?

Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school. However, you bring them at your own risk and we can't accept any responsibility if they are lost or damaged. For this reason, we wouldn't recommend bringing in any expensive phones.

You are allowed to use your phones during your free time, but they must not disturb lessons. If they do, the school policy is for the first offence, the phone will be confiscated, and you can collect it from Student Services at the end of the day. For a second offence, the phone will be confiscated, and a parent will have to collect it from school at the end of the day. If there are further incidents, you will also be issued with after school detentions. To avoid this (and save your battery), turn your phone off in lessons.

Will I get a lot of detentions?

This depends on how you behave. Most students will go all the way through school without getting a detention, whilst some will get a lot! If you make the right choices, you won't find yourself in detention.

Most detentions happen at break and lunchtimes. It is very unusual to get one after school. Often teachers will use detentions as an opportunity to talk to you about your learning or your behaviour, so that you can use it as a chance to understand where you went wrong and what you can do differently next time.

Having a detention isn't great, but it isn't the end of the world! We all make mistakes from time to time. It's how you move on from that mistake and learn from it that's important.

Every year the school sends a huge amount of un-named lost property to the charity shops. Please name all your personal belongings so that lost items can be returned to you.

"I was worried that I would get separated from my friends but luckily most of them were in the same tutor as me. Even though I got separated from others, I could still meet up with them at break and have lunch with them which was great." Eva, Year 7



Your questions answered

What extra-curricular clubs and sports can I do?

There are a huge number of extra-curricular clubs and activities which you can get involved in at Malmesbury School, from Orchestra to Coding Club, and Athletics to Ultimate Frisbee. You can find a full list on the school website of all the different clubs we offer.

What's great about nearly all these clubs is that you only need enthusiasm and commitment to take part. (Orchestra is a bit different: you need to be able to play an instrument to a certain level for this one.) They are also a great way to meet new people outside your tutor group and develop new skills.

Finally, if we don't already offer a club you'd like, suggest it to the School Council – that's how lots of our clubs started in the first place!

What happens at lunchtime?

You might choose to bring in packed lunch or buy food from the school canteen. The food in school is really good, so it's well worth giving it a try. For more information about the food in school, check out the [Introducing the School Canteen](#) document on the webpage.

If you are having a hot meal, you have to eat this in the school restaurant. However, you can eat your packed lunch or other foods elsewhere. You can eat in the main downstairs corridor (that we call the Lower Street) or outside.

As well as eating at lunchtime, it's also a time to have a break. You might want to meet up with friends and play or go to one of our lunchtime clubs. You could also go to Homework Club, if you need some help with some work you've been set. Also don't forget to get yourself ready for afternoon school – remember to fill up your water bottle and visit the loo!

What time does school start and finish?

School formally starts at 9am and finishes at 3.25pm. The school building is open from 8am and there are staff in school, though no specific supervision is offered. The canteen is also open for you to purchase breakfast items.

After school, there is a homework club which runs until 5pm and there are a range of other after school clubs which also run to a similar time.

For more information about the timings of the day, have a look at the [Example Timetable](#) on the webpage.

Do you have a two-week timetable?

Yes! If you look at the Example Timetable, you'll see that there are two weeks, so it's important to remember whether it's a Week 1 or a Week 2. Labelling your homework planner can help you remember. Try not to worry about it too much though – you'll notice from the example that the two weeks are normally quite similar.



"I was very surprised at all of the freedom and people and places and having new teachers and a new class but I am loving getting to know new people and new teachers and it's very exciting to work in proper science rooms and use DT equipment." Charlotte, Year 7



Your questions answered

Who can I go to if I'm worried about something?

There are lots of people at Malmesbury School who are here to help you.

The first person to talk to if you have a problem is your **form tutor**. You'll see them every day and they are there to help and support you with things to do with learning and with how you're feeling.

If your problem is more practical or more urgent, **Student Services** are there to help. They cover medical issues and First Aid, lost bus passes, missing clothes, and they can call your parents about changes of plan.

It might be that you're having particular problems with your learning and need a bit of extra help. In that case, your tutor might refer you to the **Academic Leader**, who oversees that everyone in the Year group is making the right progress with their learning. Or they might talk to **Learning Support** if they think you need some specific help.

If you're worried about your wellbeing or you're struggling with your behaviour, then you might need some extra support from the pastoral team, and the **Pastoral Support Assistant** (Mrs Lees) and the **Senior Pastoral Leader** (Mrs Wood) are here to help with these things.

Then, there are other students who have been trained to help and support you. You might need advice from your class **Anti-bullying Ambassador** or your **Year 9 Peer Mentors**. And some students have extra support from a **Sixth Form Peer Mentor**.

Finally, there are other people who come into school to offer students help and support. You can drop-in to see the **School Nurse** about medical worries or as for a referral to one of the **School Counsellors** if you feel you need help with emotions, worries or things that are going on in your life that are challenging.

Remember, there are lots of people who are here to help, so just speak up if you have got any worries.

What equipment do I need for school?

One of the differences between primary school and secondary school is that you move around for lessons, so you'll need to be more organized with your equipment.

For lessons you will need a pencil case that contains:

- Blue or black pens for writing;
- HB pencils for drawings and diagrams;
- A ruler;
- A rubber;
- A pencil sharpener.

A few colours and highlighters, and a glue stick are also useful things to have. The Maths department might also recommend a specific calculator in the future.

On the days that you have PE, you will need to bring your kit. Please make sure that it is all named clearly.

For cookery lessons you will need to bring in your ingredients from home, but your DT teacher will tell you more about this once you start.

Happy, Caring, Excellent

"My tutor helped me when I missed the bus home because my stuff was in someone else's locker (my locker wasn't ready yet). He got the master key and got my bag out, then took me to student services where they rang my mum to collect me." Sonny, Year 7