

Welcome to all of you starting with us in September! We know that the move from Year 6 to Year 7 can sometimes be nerve-wracking and leave you with a lot of questions, so we have asked some of our current students some questions about the transition to secondary school and life in Year 7. We hope their answers will provide some insight and tips about your new school and put your mind at ease about the big move.

What was your first day of Year 7 like?

'It was unlike primary school in terms of what the classrooms were, but it was also really nice because the school was new. And, sure its big, but it's easy to understand, so you really enjoy it after a bit.'

'I was really frightened to do that change because I've known the same teachers and the same friends from my primary school and I'm changing to all new different friends and teachers, but it was really good, everyone was very welcoming.'

'My first day at Prince Albert was fun and exciting because I got to experience what a Year 7 does and experience secondary school.'



What steps can you take if you have any worries in school?

'You could tell an adult, a teacher, or a pastoral leader.'

'You can tell Mr Whetton – the Pastoral Lead – and then the teachers can sort it out and make us feel like we don't have to worry about it because they are going to help us through it.'

'They listen to you, and they really help you out if you are ever worried about anything – especially Mr Whetton.'

'All the teachers here are good at welcoming us and making us feel good and helping us with our worries as well.'



What is the homework schedule like for a Year 7?

'They build it up; there is not as much at the beginning of Year 7.'

'At the start they didn't overload us with loads of homework. You have plenty of time to complete them and they are not too difficult.'

'The quizzes are multi-choice so even if you don't know the answer you could guess.'

'We have one week to complete homework, which is set on a Monday and due the next Monday.'



'Homework Club is on every day of the week so you can go after school to help you complete your work or revise.'

Can you give me an example of some of your favourite school dinners?

'Friday school dinners are nice - they give chicken, wedges and pizza!'

'There is more variety [than primary school], there is lots of flavour, it tastes delicious.'

'It's not expensive either. . . it's really good value in my opinion.'

'You deposit money into your account, and you scan your finger which pays for your meal'

'Everything is Halal and you can let them know any allergies you have as well, and they can provide allergy-friendly food.'



Can you give me an example of some trips that you have been on?

'The most recent school trip we have had is the school councillors went to parliament in London.'

'We went inside the house of lords and the house of commons, and we sort parts of debates in both of them. We also went on the London eye.'

'We also went to the University of Birmingham as a school trip.'

'Most of Year 7 visited UoB. The trip really showed us the different universities and gave us inspiration and aspiration to go to good universities like it.'



Are there any after school clubs?

'I go to Math club. You learn extra Maths like problem solving and many other things that you do in Maths.'

'If you go to football or basketball club, there is a school team you can get involved in and you can play against other schools.'

'I go to Drama, Choir and Band Night. But I also go to council and recommend them all.'

'Some clubs are not for everyone, but they tell us all the different clubs [when you start Year 7] and if you want to join a club you can just turn up and bring the right equipment.'



Can you tell me about the activities that are available at lunchtimes? Where can students go?

'You can go to the library, some days there is table tennis, on Friday there is a club in the sports hall.'

'On a Monday there is chess club.'

'Most days you can go into the sport hall and play Badminton.'

'You can also spend time in the dining hall or outside'



What is your favourite part of Year 7 so far and do you have any final tips?

'My favourite part of Year 7 has been getting to know new people, developing myself, and getting out of my comfort zone.'

'If I knew there were these great musical opportunities I would be more at ease.'

'Generally, in secondary school there are lots of lessons and there are lots of places you move to, and it can be a little stressful in my opinion. But this school is really good because in Year 7 you have most of your lessons with your form tutor and then specialist subjects with different teachers.'

'Don't be nervous and time flies in Year 7' When I came here, I was nervous but now I realised it is a good school, and you don't need to be nervous.'



We hope these responses have given you some good insight into life as a Year 7 student, and we are excited to welcome you to Prince Albert High School in September!

