

Y6 into Y7 Information Evening Questions and Answers

Transition section of the school website to support Y6's move to us in Y7:

<https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/example-of-student-experience/>

Please do take a look at our videos on lots of the topics mentioned in these questions:

<https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/resources-to-support-your-child-transitioning-from-primary-to-secondary-school/>

Questions relating to the Transfer Process:

Will the google meet transfer day sessions in July be held at primary schools or from home?

Students will go to their primary school and if the primaries can they will access the sessions. If not we will also record the sessions so they can be accessed at home and they will be uploaded onto the school website.

Where do we hand the welcome pack in?

Please either drop off at reception at Biddenham between 3pm - 4pm or post to us.

Where do we have to bring our child's transition passport?

Please drop off at Biddenham's reception between 3pm - 4pm or post back to us

Do the primary schools know about the virtual transfer days?

Yes, I have let all of the primaries know, they don't have the finer details as yet, but as soon as we have confirmed them they will do.

Where can we get another school passport?

Please email transition@biddenham.beds.sch.uk with your child's name, current address and current primary school and we will get one out in the post for you.

Is the Tuesday 6 July 4pm 8pm meeting online as well ?

Yes this will be online, there will be a similar talk as tonight and we will have form tutor phone calls, these will be spread out over the next half term

Will we meet the other students locally, face to face

Via google meets yes, but not in person unfortunately due to Covid restrictions at the moment.

General questions relating to the School:

When will children finally graduate from Biddenham?

Students have to stay in education until they are 18. At 16 at the end of y11 they can continue at Biddenham or choose an alternative path for their post 16 studies.

Will the food outlets be open in September?

We hope that we will be able to return to full school meal provision in September - it will depend on the COVID situation though. Fingers crossed.

How many classes are there in year 7?

We will have 10 classes in Y7. With 250 students in the year group. So each class will have approx 25 students.

When is the first day of school?

3rd September 2021 this will be for year 7 and year 12s (sixth form) only to give them some time to settle in.

What time do you have to be at Biddenham?

We ask students to arrive at 7:45am. The new timings of the day will be out in the summer regarding the start of the first lesson and end. This is because we have had changes due to Covid restrictions, we will be in touch as soon as they are all confirmed. This year Y7 lessons start at 7:55am and end at 2:20pm and on a Tuesday, start at 8:45am and end at 2:20pm

Is it a two week or one week timetable?

In year 7 and 8 they have a one week timetable. In Y9 and above students have a two week timetable

Can you tell us a bit about what the first day of school looks like please?

Students will arrive and it will just be Y7 and Y12 on the first day. We will meet and greet at the front of the school and direct the students to where they need to be. This is where they will then head to their form tutor bases (we will let them where this will be on the day). During the day there will be lots of sessions on getting to know the school, their form tutor and each other. They will learn about timetables, the layout of the school and where their classrooms are, homework and other Biddenham expectations. This will be like a traditional transfer day they would have had in July.

What is staffing like for each class? Would it typically be 1 Teacher and 1 Teaching assistant?

1 form tutor per class who sees their tutor group each morning and then each class will have a variety of teachers depending on the subjects. Depending on the needs of the class will depend on the teaching assistant support. If you require any further information on additional support please do contact our SENDCO Emma Latchman via the transition@biddenham.beds.sch.uk email address or call school and she will be able to support you.

How long are lessons?

Subject lessons are around 1 hour. This is dependent on our new staggered starts. But they will be no longer than 1 hour.

Are there detentions?

Yes we do have detentions, and our detention process is all about supporting you with the mistakes you might make so that you won't make those mistakes again. Please see our Ready, Respect Reward program.

Are all of year 7 in the same building?

For a high proportion of their lessons however to make sure they are able to use specialised buildings and equipment they do use the Science labs, Food rooms, DT rooms, Dance, Music and PE facilities as well.

There is however a Y7 only play area for break and lunch and they are the only year group allowed in this area. Also when they are in E and V block only Y7 and 8 use these classrooms.

When do we receive our timetables?

You will get these during the first day and we will spend time going over them and where you go and what you need each day to support your organisation. You will also receive a planner to write your homework in and anything you need to remember for the next day. These need to be checked and signed by parents/carers each week. This is also a good place to send messages to your child's form tutor.

Questions about Travelling to school:**Is there a school bus from Great Denham?**

Number 8 bus runs from Great Denham to Queens Park and then right outside the school. We also have a lot of students who walk or cycle from Great Denham.

Is there a bus from Kempston?

Please have a look at the Stagecoach website for bus routes to help with this.

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables>

Is there storage for bikes or electric scooters?

Bike yes, you will need to bring your own padlock. Electric scooters no, they aren't allowed. However the traditional non-electric scooters are.

Questions about Extracurricular activities:**Can we get a list of the clubs before September?**

This is the link to the clubs on offer. If you also look inside your Welcome pack it gives you a taste of everything we have to offer. This year has been slightly different due to Covid

restrictions, so as soon as the timetable has been finalised this will be available on the website and given to your child.

<https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/clubs-and-activities/>

Do you have to pay for clubs?

No, all clubs are free.

Is there a dance team?

Yes, and we do lots of different performances each year

Will there be a football club?

Yes

Is there girls football?

Yes

Will we go to sports trips

We are hopeful trips and visits will happen again at some point next year. This is all Covid restrictions permitting.

Questions about Uniform:

How do we get a school tie as we couldn't find one on the SWI website?

They are coming online on the SWI website from the 5th July.

Are we able to buy the uniform locally?

All uniform is to be bought online via SWI. The link to this and the costs are on the school website.

How to order:

<https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/example-of-student-experience/attachment/how-do-i-order-my-uniform-2021/>

Price list:

<https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/school-information/uniform-code/attachment/2021-biddenham-uniform-price-list/>

Sizing guide:

<https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/swi-uniform-order-form-and-sizing-document-4-4-17/>

Can they have ties with elastic bands so it will save time in the morning?

All ties are clip on so no need to tie them in the morning

Do students need a long sleeve or short sleeve shirt ?

For their school shirt, either is ok.

When will I be able to order the uniform?

You can order any time from now, please don't leave until the last minute. If you head to the SWI website there will be a final deadline date for last orders to arrive in time for the start of school. If you need any support ordering please do make contact with us.

What happens if you forget your P.E kit?

We will support you in becoming organised by making sure you look at your timetable for the next day and packing your bag the night before. If you do forget we will let your form tutor know and contact home to help support you remembering it.

If you don't have the PE shorts can you bring your own?

No, you have to have the school branded ones for sale on the school website.

For PE do we need to get dressed in our PE kit at home or at school?

You will come to school in your school uniform and bring your PE kit in and get changed at school, Covid restrictions permitting.

Questions about being prepared for school:**What size backpack do students need?**

A Medium sized backpack, that has enough space for exercise books (big enough to fit an A4 folder) and pens plus PE kit on PE kit days. All students will receive a chromebook bag for their chromebook

Do students carry textbooks back and forth?

For some subjects they will take their exercise books home for homework and revision when needed. Most school textbooks will stay at school.

Do students get a locker at school?

There is an opportunity for students to have a locker in Y7 and Y8 they will receive information on this in the first week of school

What will students need with them on day one?

Students will need to be in Biddenham school uniform, they won't need their PE kit. They will need their bag with pens/pencil case etc and a notebook. They will also need a water bottle and any snacks for the day. Also if they bring their own lunches they will need to bring their own packed lunch.

We would also like them to bring their Be Awesome 'Go Biddenham' Diploma folder with the work they have completed over the summer for it.