



# Parent Transition Programme

2023

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# A warm welcome

We are delighted that your child will be joining Ormiston NEW Academy next year. Our academy is a school in which students experience a fun, challenging and knowledge-rich curriculum which will make them successful in 5 years time. Our commitment to you is to ensure we guide and support them based on our principles of endeavour, practice and discipline.

We do recognise that, for parents, this is a worrying and overwhelming time and if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us. Mrs McCrystal, the Senior Leader for Key Stage 4, will allay any fears and make sure the transition is one which is both reassuring and successful.

Our curriculum is based upon reading, writing, oracy and mathematics. Every new student will read with us throughout their time here. We guarantee that they will have read 8 classic novels during their English lessons to improve their vocabulary, knowledge of literature and their ability to write. I'm sure you do this already, but reading each night with your child will have a tremendously beneficial effect. Please contact us if there are any further ways we can support you with your child's progress.

If you would like to know more about the Academy, or if you would like to visit us please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs McCrystal on [transition@onewa.co.uk](mailto:transition@onewa.co.uk).

We look forward to developing a strong and supportive relationship to ensure the best possible future for your child.

**Mr Craig Cooling**  
Principal



@newacad

[www.onewa.co.uk](http://www.onewa.co.uk)



# An outstanding approach to transition



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# A time for change

At NEW we understand that transition to high school can be as much a time of worry for parents as it is for the children, therefore with this in mind we have designed a transition booklet filled with handy information and advice about your child's move from primary to secondary education and what to expect.

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to come and visit us. Change is always difficult as it often evokes feelings of uncertainty and apprehension but change can also be for the best and in terms of the move from primary to secondary, change in fact means a whole new world of opportunity!

Getting used to the changes is the hardest part and that's why we encourage you and your child to get involved and get to know NEW as much as possible in the months and weeks leading up to their start in Year 7. The more you get to know us, the more confident you will feel that you have made the right choice for your son or daughter.

Mrs McCrystal (Senior Leader for KS4 & Transition Coordinator) and Mr Hawley (Senior Leader for KS3) will be available to answer any questions you may have about your child's move to NEW.

Contact Mrs McCrystal on **01902 623111** or email **transition@onewa.co.uk** to make an appointment.



**Mrs J McCrystal**  
Senior Leader for KS4 &  
Transition Coordinator  
transition@onewa.co.uk



**Mr J Hawley**  
Senior Leader for KS3  
JHawley@onewa.co.uk





# What does transition to secondary school involve?

You may not be aware, but 'transition' for most students has already begun.

Over the course of the Spring and Summer terms, Mrs McCrystal will go into each partner primary school and talk to each Year 6 teacher. This will be a confidential conversation to help us determine how to best support your son/daughter when they arrive at the academy in September. This discussion will focus on levels of academic achievement but will include factors such as friendship groups and personality to ensure that each individual student can be placed in the most suitable form, set and house for them.

For any students requiring extra support, this conversation will lead onto an additional meeting with the school SENCO (Miss Gibson) so that a tailored care package can be organised and put into effect before the start of the new school year.

Mrs McCrystal will work with yourself, your child and their teacher to arrange extra visits for pupils who are particularly nervous about the move and those pupils who are coming from primary schools where only a small number of children are transferring from.

Transition does not end on the first day in September. During the first week of your child's schooling with us they will have additional sessions which will help them settle in. During the Autumn term you will be invited to a transition evening where you will be able to see what your child has accomplished in their first half term with us. By this time students are well settled and those initial nerves (from both students and parents) will have long gone.



**Miss R Gibson**  
SEND Coordinator  
rgibson@onewa.co.uk



# Things you need to know

## Lesson Times

### Monday - Thursday

Start	End	Activity
8.40am	9.10am	Form Time
9.10am	11.30pm	Lesson 1
11.30am	2.05pm	Lesson2
2.05pm	3.05pm	Lesson 3
2.05pm	4.05pm	Lesson 3 (Monday only)

### Friday

Start	End	Activity
8.40am	8.50am	Form Time
8.50am	10.50am	Lesson 1
10.50am	1.15pm	Lesson 2

Break, lunch and free time will be filtered into the day depending on the year group.

## Lunch Time and Snacks

A 'meal deal' can be purchased from the canteen for £2.10. This offer includes a hot lunch, a small cake or a piece of fruit and a drink.

The academy operates a "Cashless Catering" system where students each have their own personal account which they can top up with coins and notes via a machine in school. Purchases can then be made in the canteen using the biometric system.

**Please note that fizzy drinks/energy drinks are not permitted in school and will be confiscated and disposed of.**

There are water coolers available around the academy site. We encourage students to bring a reusable bottle to school.

## Free School Meals

If your child receives a free school meal they will have £2.10 added to their account automatically each day just before lunch time. Your child might want to bring an extra snack with them or extra money to buy food from the school canteen at break time.



# School uniform

- Academy blazer
- Academy tie (gifted)
- White shirt (long or short sleeve but not open neck)
- Black tailored trousers
- Black skirt in a suitable school style to the knee
- Black or grey socks or tights
- Black leather school shoes
- School jumper (optional)
- All jewellery must be removed for PE
- Plain black headscarf (optional)







## Footwear

Plain black leather or leather style shoes only. Canvas, trainers, trainer-style and shoes with bright logos or laces are not permitted.

## School bag and equipment

Students must arrive at the academy fully equipped to learn. All students must have a school bag, pencil case and be equipped with a pen, pencil, ruler and reading book.

A scientific calculator is also of benefit for students to familiarise themselves with using the same equipment when at home as in school.



# What can you do to help?



## Induction Days

Ensure that your son/daughter is able to attend their Induction Days, as these events are key in enabling pupils to feel more confident about starting secondary school.



## Chat

Talk through any worries your son/daughter may have about starting secondary school. Reassure your son/daughter that feeling nervous is completely normal and everyone else will be feeling exactly the same.



## Enrichment

Encourage your child to attend enrichment clubs. All activities will be introduced to students with a timetable during the first term.

## Prepare

Ensure that your child has all their uniform and equipment sorted before September and knows how to get to school and has their route/travel arrangements planned in advance, to avoid anxiety on the first day.



## Attendance

Ensure and encourage good attendance. Attendance is essential to a child's academic progression, but it is also significant to the transition process. If a child misses the first few days, they may find starting secondary school even more daunting, as others will have already started to form friendships, find their way around and complete work.

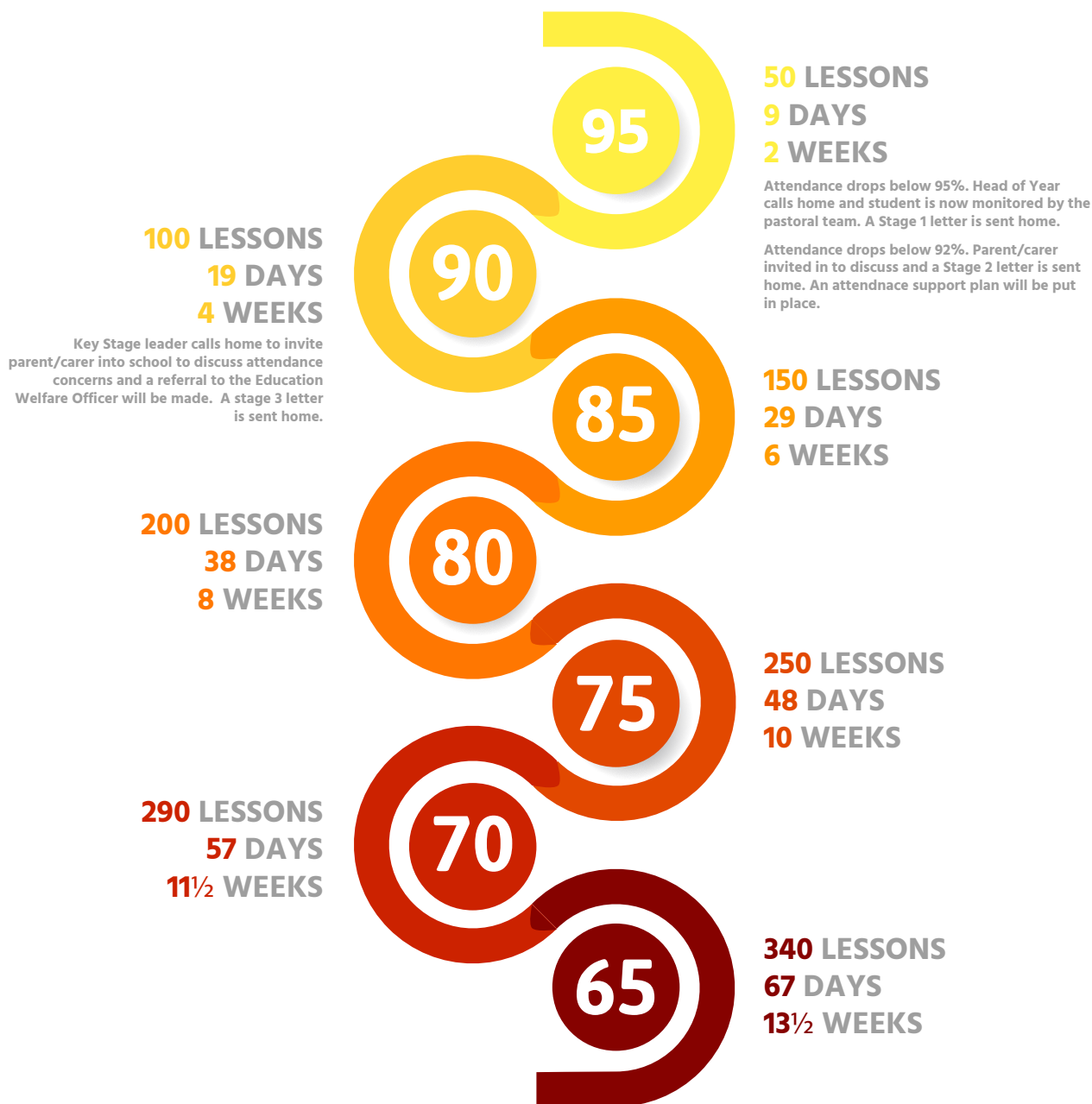


## Read with your child

Academic research shows that reading ability and high comprehension levels underpin all other aspects of learning. Supporting your child with their reading will undoubtedly give them a boost with their class work.



# Attendance and Punctuality



## Attendance

The national figures for attendance at secondary school are expected to be over **97%** for each individual student. If attendance falls below this figure, then a support package will be put in place by NEW to help your child improve their attendance.

## Punctuality

The academy's school day starts at 8.30am, to ensure a prompt start to form time at 8.40am. Students need to be ready to start their day by this time.





# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q** The school is an academy, what does it mean?

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An Academy (in the education system in England) is a school that is directly funded by central government (the Department for Education) and is independent of local government control. The benefit of this is that we receive more funding from the government, which we are free to deploy as we see fit. This means that we can employ more staff to teach and support your children or purchase extra resources, like computers or books to help them to make progress. We are also able to subsidise many trips, such as theatre and sporting events.

## **Q** Who are Ormiston?

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Ormiston are our sponsors. Ormiston was founded by the Murray family following the tragic death of Fiona Ormiston Murray in a car crash on her honeymoon in 1969. They wanted to create a living memorial to a woman who loved children, but was denied the chance to have her own. Ormiston opened its first service in 1981, the Robert Milne Family Centre, a former Barnardo's home in Ipswich. In 1992 Ormiston Children and Families Trust was established to manage the increasingly diverse direct service provision to children, young people and families. Partnerships with 'Save The Children Fund' and the prison service led to new and innovative work to support families across the region. Ormiston is now the biggest children's charity in the East of England, with services in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and London.

## **Q** My child has special education needs, what do I need to do to ensure that they receive support?

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Any students with SEND will already be identified to us from our liaison with Year 6 teachers. This allows us to plan ahead for any support that may be needed, including gathering information from outside agencies and making provision for any other support that may be required. We have an excellent SENCO, Miss Gibson and Deputy SENCO Mrs Hawkins who are available to discuss any of your concerns. Please be assured that your child will receive excellent SEND support at NEW.



## What is PSHE?

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Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is a planned programme of learning opportunities and experiences that help children and young people grow and develop as individuals, as members of families and of social and economic communities. PSHE forms part of the national curriculum and is delivered to all students across all year groups. The programme is designed to be age appropriate in all content delivered.

PSHE is extremely important as students who are emotionally healthy often perform better at school. PSHE helps children and young people to achieve their potential by supporting their wellbeing and tackling issues that can affect their ability to learn, such as anxiety and unhealthy relationships.

## What if my child gets bullied?

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The academy operates a zero tolerance policy on bullying and any such issues are treated seriously and investigated accordingly. Students attending NEW create and sign an anti-bullying pledge in Year 7 and regularly take part in bullying awareness activities throughout their time at school, to highlight the different forms and effects of bullying. Students are encouraged to talk to their form tutors, heads of year and class teachers at any time about anything concerning them. If you suspect your child is experiencing difficulties with another student, please contact their form tutor immediately so that intervention can be initiated.

## What if my child currently receives free school meals? Will this continue at NEW?

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If your child receives a free school meal (FSM) at their primary school, you will need to apply for this to continue at secondary school by completing an application form for FSM from Wolverhampton Civic Centre.



## Who decides what set my child goes into?

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Initially, Year 7 students are taught in their mixed ability tutor groups across the curriculum. This is to give them time to settle into the academy and for us to get to know their abilities for ourselves, rather than solely relying on the information provided from primary schools. We aim to stream the groups into sets in English, mathematics and science at the beginning of the second half term, with some broader groupings also in place across the rest of the curriculum. Subject teachers monitor this and our sets do evolve over time; where students make excellent progress there is always the opportunity to move up, and likewise if extra support is needed we can make changes to accommodate this.

## My child needs extra support with their work, how will it happen?

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The type of support required is determined by the nature of the child's individual need. Support can be offered in class through teaching assistants, during the enrichment session at the end of the day, or via withdrawal (at specific times) to attend individual programmes of support. All students are assessed based on their needs and subject teachers will adapt their lessons and differentiate accordingly. We have a dedicated group in Year 7 that runs like a primary school class, in that students have the majority of their lessons in one classroom with one teacher. This group is designed specifically for children who need intensive levels of support, particularly regarding their literacy and numeracy skills.

## What happens if my child is off school?

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In the case of illness you must contact the academy on 01902 623111 as early as possible, no later than 8.20am, on the morning of your child's absence (and every day that they are absent, unless stated in previous phone call that your child may be off for a certain number of days). You are required to send a letter to your child's Form Tutor on their return explaining the reason for their absence. If you fail to contact school regarding your child's absence, you will receive a phone call informing you that your son/daughter is absent and enquiring about the reason why. Sniffles, coughs and light colds are to be expected in a secondary school – we do not expect students to take time off for minor ailments and try to get them into a good work ethic from day one.





# GET IN TOUCH

## CONTACT US

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If you have any questions or would like more information about anything mentioned in this booklet, please contact Mrs J McCrystal



[transition@onewa.co.uk](mailto:transition@onewa.co.uk)



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