

The Birley Academy Transition FAQs

September 2020 Intake



The Birley Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

Will there be a traditional transition week or day this year?

Unfortunately due to Covid-19, this will not be possible due to health and safety concerns. We will, however, be offering various experiences for students and parents online to help with the transition to becoming a student at The Birley Academy.

Will my son or daughter be with their friends from Primary School?

At The Birley Academy, we are keen to ensure all students have time to see their friends however classes and tutor groups are not decided based on friendship groups. Activities in Tutor Time are structured in the first instance to allow new friendships to be formed. In addition to this, lessons are for learning.

As there have not been SATs this year how will my son or daughter be set school work at the correct level?

Ongoing discussions around academic ability have been undertaken with colleagues at Primary Schools. In addition to this, there will be baseline assessments in the School year to ensure all students get the best experience possible. Decisions will be made by the Curriculum Leader and Progress Leader with student achievement always being the focus.

Who are the key staff who work with Year 7?

Each student at The Birley Academy has a team working around them that will include the form tutor, year leader and progress leader. Your child may also have other people working with you to support them, for example, the SENCO and/or the EWO. In September you will receive a Team Around Your Child document which will give you the names and contact details of all the relevant people.

Where do students go on their first day in September?

Students will enter the school on Thornbridge Road and make their way to the main doors where they will be greeted by members of the Leadership Team who will welcome them, reassure them and support them in understanding where they need to go.

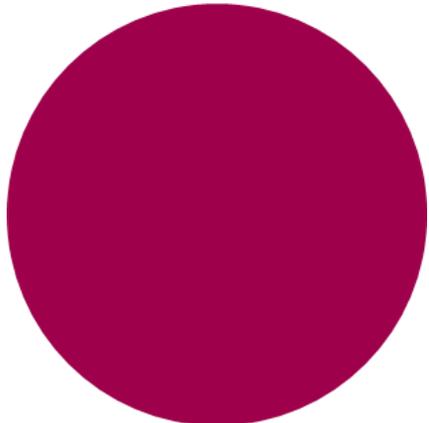
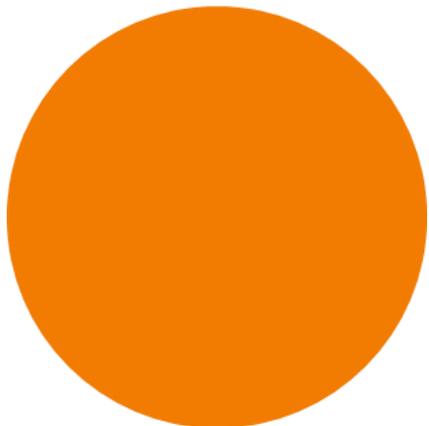
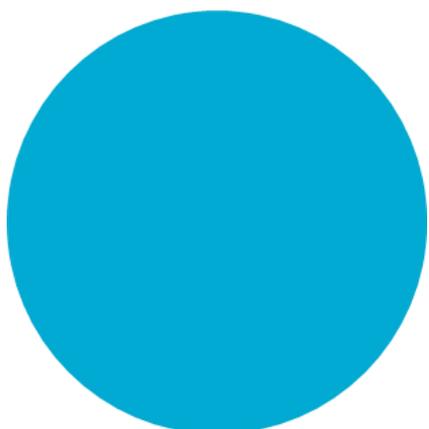
What Uniform is required?

Full guidance on uniform is provided on our website at: <https://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk/parents/uniform>

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What will happen if I get lost?

Yes, we have a big building however we have a fantastic set of student ambassadors and friendly teachers who will make finding your way around very easy! If your room starts with a 1, it's on the first floor. If it starts with 2, it's on the second floor.

Will the school work be hard?

Work is set appropriate to ability and will challenge students to make progress. Teachers will support students to be successful in their work through a carefully designed curriculum and targeted teacher feedback.

What does a typical day look like for a year 7?

All year groups have Tutor Time, 5 Lessons, Break and Lunchtime. Year 7 will attend Tutor Time followed by Period 1 and 2. They'll then attend Period 3 and then the first half of Period 4. They will then have a 30-minute lunch on their own, away from other year groups. This is then followed by the second half of Period 4 and then Period 5 before the school day ends at 2:45 pm.

What time does school start and finish?

Students are expected to be in school from 8:35am then the school day begins with Tutor Time at 8:40 am sharp and lessons finishes at 2:45 pm when students may leave unless they are attending an extra curricular club, have a detention or are meeting a teacher. Students are allowed in the building from 8:00 am and are expected to be at Tutor Time promptly.

What Extra-Curricular activities can my child take part in?

There are a wide range of clubs and activities after school for students to engage with should they wish. In PE there is everything from football to dance and students of all abilities are welcome. In September a full list of our extra-curricular offer will be made available.

How do you deal with any friendship issues?

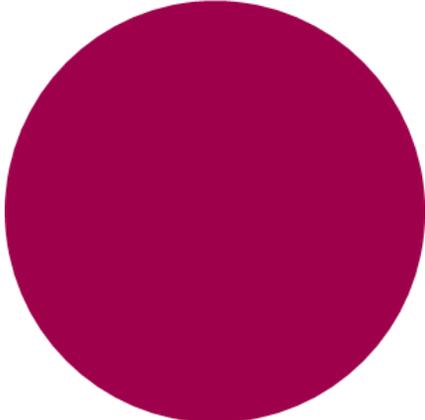
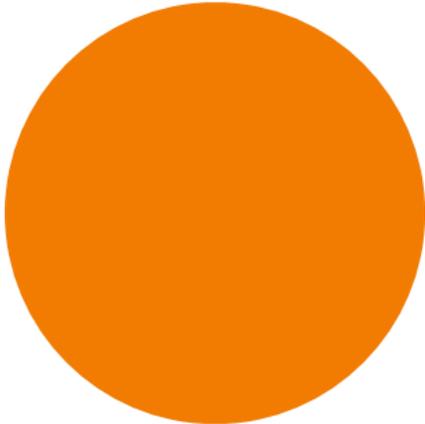
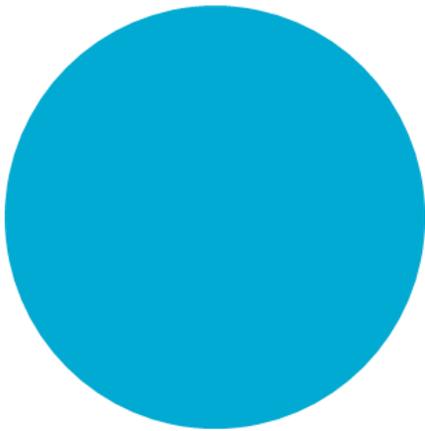
A students form tutor will be there to help support your child with any issues in the first instance. Further to this your child's year leader will provide support where appropriate.

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What happens if my son or daughter has additional needs?

We have been meeting with primaries and obtaining vital information around all students. However, if you have any concerns please send an email marked for the attention of Maria Thomas, our Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Adapted Curriculum.

Is there loads of Homework set?

Homework at Birley is meaningful and manageable. Students in year 7 will have homework which mainly focuses on Maths, English and Science. Other subjects may opt to set homework but this is to help increase and apply the students learning in a variety of ways. Regularly completed high quality homework is always rewarded.

Do I get rewards?

At Birley we regularly reward students for their hard work and effort. Students are rewarded in line with our vision of Lead, Empower, Achievement and Drive. Students are rewarded for having good attendance, taking part in extra curricular activities and being involved in other aspects of school life ranging from the school council to becoming a student ambassador. We reward students with certificates, specific subject rewards and also giving them the opportunity to attend celebration evenings.

What is there to eat?

Students are able to buy fruit and water at break time to help keep them going through until lunch. At lunchtime, there is a range of meals with vegetarian options available. There is a pasta bar and cold options such as sandwiches also available. We are able to cater for medical and dietary requirements. Each student has an account which can have money loaded onto it via Parent Pay for students to buy their food.

What equipment does my child need?

- Pencil case
- Black / blue pen
- Red pen
- Highlighter
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Calculator (preferably scientific)
- Dictionary

If you have any additional questions please feel free to email:
transition@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk
Mr Bradley Assistant Headteacher will be happy to respond.