



STUDENTS ASK!

FAQ.

1 How do you decide what House and tutor group we will be in?

The transition team take information from your teachers and parents to help us make an informed decision on which House to place you in. **Bannister**, **Earhart**, **Seacole** and **Tolkien** are all excellent Houses to be a part of! If you have a sibling at the school you will be placed in the same House as them! We will always try to make sure you have at least one friend in your tutor group. If you are coming up from primary school on your own do not worry! We will support you in making friends.

2 What is a tutor group?

A tutor group is led by your form tutor who is the teacher you will see every morning for 30 minutes. Your tutor is your first port of call for support and they will help you get settled for the day.

3 When will we find out our House and tutor group?

You will be sent your House allocation letter in the post in by the end of June.

4 When is transition day?

The transition day is on Wednesday 24th June. Please also bring a packed lunch unless you are in receipt of free school meals.

5 What is the best thing about Oxford Spires Academy?

There are so many great things for you to get involved in! Our current year 7s had this to say:

- It's great having science laboratories to do science experiments in!
- We love the large field that we can play football on.
- The library is a lovely quiet space to go and read. Mr Sheppard the Librarian is really nice.
- It's nice to have different lessons and move around the school.
- We love taking part in the House competitions!

6 What happens if I get lost?

During the transition day you will have a tour around the school to help familiarise yourself with the school surroundings. You will also have 3 current Year 7s with your tutor group for the whole day who will help you get to your classes- ask them lots of questions as they were in your position a year ago! All staff will be on hand to help you find your class if you get lost but there will be meeting checkpoints at the end of each break to gather and be escorted to your next location.



7

Will I get in trouble for being late to my lesson?

We always encourage our students to move promptly to their next lesson. It is understandable in the first couple of weeks to arrive late if you get lost and your teachers will be understanding of this.

8

Will I get set a lot of homework?

We understand that all of you will have had differing experiences with homework being set. We will support you on getting set up with our online learning platforms and support you in organising yourselves to complete homework.

9

What happens if I get a detention?

On the rare occasion you get a detention, your parents and carers will be informed and it is important that you attend.

10

What can I do if someone is unkind to me or if I have any issues?

If someone is unkind to you it's very important that you report it so we can help resolve the issue. Your Tutor, Head of Year, Year Team Support Manager/Pastoral Leader and the Safeguarding team are all on hand to support you with any issues. If you feel uncomfortable to speak to someone in person you can post into our whisper box anonymously.

11

When can I use the gym?

You will learn how to use the fitness suite during your PE lessons.

12

Are there any trips planned?

We will share any trips organised for Year 7 with you at the start of the year. We also have an Enrichment week at the end of the school year with lots of activities in!

13

What does the daily schedule look like?

The school day starts at 08:30 with tutor time or assembly. You then have 5 one hour lessons with a break after lesson 2 and lesson 4. School ends at 15:00 unless you have a club or detention.

14

What language will I learn?

You will have the opportunity in Year 7 to learn all three languages we offer: German, Spanish and French. You will then have a choice as to which subject you go on to choose

15

What do I take in my bag?

In your bag you should always have your equipment, scholars guide (you will find out what this is), any exercise books you will need for the day and a reading book.

16

What can I do at lunchtime?

During lunchtimes, you can sit and eat in the canteen, go out to play on the school fields or go to the library for a quieter environment.

17

What can I do to prepare over the summer?

During the transition day we will provide you with a list of books we recommend for you to be reading over the summer to help prepare you for your new journey with OSA!





PARENTS ASK!

FAQ.

1

House System

- Q. What does being part of House side 1 or a 2 mean?
- Q. What is the relevance of the House students are in?
- Q. How many students per House and how much contact with children in their House?
- Q. How many are in a tutor group?
- Q. Will there be further information on students' class tutors and contacts?

A. Each student and family will belong to one of our 4 Houses: **Bannister**, **Earhart**, **Seacole** and **Tolkien**, led by tutors. Each House will have 2 tutor groups per year E.g. 7B1 and 7B2. Each tutor group will have approximately 28 students based on our pupil admission numbers (PAN) into Year 7 of 220. There is no difference between the 1 and 2 side. This is our internal numbering system to organise the timetable.

Each House has its own identity, strengths, and qualities. The House system develops a culture of enrichment and healthy competition which raises aspirations. It is our intention that every child takes part in the many opportunities available to them and participates in the various House competitions to extend their learning and enrich their time with us. We have House competitions most weeks of the school year – you can find these in your child's scholars guide.

Through the House system your child will be recognised and rewarded for their commitment, contributions and good attendance and punctuality. They will receive House points, commendations, half colours, full colours and honours, which count to the overall House points. Each year the House trophy will be awarded to the House with the most points. Therefore, every contribution your child makes matters for them, their tutor group, and their House. Siblings are members of the same House.

We don't have a sorting hat like Hogwarts we arrange tutor groups to ensure that students are with at least one friend from primary school. Tutors and Year team information will be displayed on the school website in the relevant year group area. Parents will get the opportunity to meet their child's tutor at our meet the parents evening.

2

Extra-Curricular

- Q. Where do I find more information regarding musical instrument lessons and any clubs?

At OSA we believe that a rich and diverse enrichment programme compliments and extends the quality first teaching and learning experience we strive for all of our students.

We offer an accessible and engaging programme of enrichment clubs, whole school activities, educational trips, visits, and events. Every student in each year group at each stage of their time at Oxford Spires has the opportunity to participate in an enrichment activity, whether going on a trip to a university, a visit to the theatre or an overnight residential during their time with us.

Details of enrichment and extracurricular activities are published on the school website, advertised within school, and shared with parents via Bromcom and with students during tutor time, school broadcasts and extracurricular booklets throughout the year.

3

NGRT Testing

Q. What were students tested on as part of transition and what are consequences of their score?

During transition day students will take the New Group Reading Test (NGRT). It is a standardised assessment used in schools to measure a student's reading ability, specifically designed to identify strengths and areas for improvement in reading comprehension and sentence completion. The test is adaptive, meaning it adjusts to the student's ability as they progress, and is used to benchmark progress against the national average, allowing for targeted interventions.

4

Timetable

Q. What will be happening in Year 7 e.g. timetable?

Q. How does sport fit into timetable?

Q. Are all their lessons with their tutor group?

Q. How are classes for the other lessons decided?

Q. Which subjects are students put in sets for? What are the sets based on?

A. Students will have a broad and balanced curriculum consisting of weekly lessons of Maths, English, Science, Drama, Languages, RS, History, Geography, Art, Music PE and a rotation of DT/Food/Computing. Students will experience Spanish, German and French lessons in the first six weeks of term, we will then ask them for their preference and allocate a first language to all students. Students will pick up a second language in Year 8, they will continue with both these languages throughout Year 8 and Year 9.

A. Students have 2 hours of sport on their timetable per week, however there are numerous sporting clubs and teams throughout break times and afterschool. We publish out extracurricular timetable at the start of each term.

A. All lessons will be mixed with students across other form groups.

A. Languages will be decided via student preference after the first cycle, all other groups will be mixed ability.

A. Most subjects will be mixed ability, meaning students of all skill levels will be taught together without grouping by performance. Maths may branch off into sets after the cycle 1 assessments. The sets are likely to be based on Cycle 1 assessment results. This means that after students complete their first round of assessments, they may be grouped by ability in maths.

5

Homework

Q. What devices are used for homework?

Q. Is homework set online?

Q. Do students have paper textbooks?

Q. Do students have paper exercise books?

Q. Do the teachers mark the homework?

A. Students can attend Homework Club if they need support or access to a computer. We have PCs available in the school library and various computer rooms around the school.

A. Homework is set either via Teams or Bromcom and students will use the Sparx platform for Science and Maths. All students will be shown how to access these portals once fully enrolled at Oxford Spires Academy in September.

A. Students will use textbooks in some lessons when this supports the curriculum plan, lesson PowerPoints will be available to students via the new student portal that will launch in September.

A. For almost all subjects' pupils write in exercise books, a different book per subject. In Art and Design Technology students use bigger folders. We will also provide all students with an equipment pack that includes a mini whiteboard set, reading ruler, scholar's guide and purple correction and improvement pen. We do ask families where possible to support us with a contribution of £2.50 towards these resources at the start of the year.

A. Homework is automatically marked via the relevant platforms where homework is set.

6

Mobile Phones

Q. If children have a smart phone for travel, can they leave it somewhere locked up and pick it up at the end of the school day?

A. Oxford Spires Academy is a 'Smartphone Free School' and we encourage families to refrain from issuing smartphones to children until they are in Key Stage 4. If a student does need to use a smartphone for travel purposes, it must be handed in on entry to school where it can be locked in a secure box until the end of the day. If, however, the phone is not handed in and seen or heard throughout the school day, the phone will be confiscated and will only be returned to a named parent/carer.

Students can bring a basic phone into school. This must not have the ability to access the internet, have apps or a camera facility, however if a student is seen using it during school hours it will be confiscated in the same way as smartphones, but the students will be able to collect it at the end of the school day.

7

Behaviour

Q. How you manage disruptive behaviour and concerned that children are being told to reflect without clear consequences?

A. At Oxford Spires Academy, we take a restorative approach to behaviour. This means we do not just focus on punishment; we focus on repairing relationships, building understanding, and helping students learn from their experiences.

We know no one is perfect. Every student will, at some point, make a mistake or find themselves in a difficult situation. That is okay — what matters is what comes next.

However, we will not tolerate behaviour that impacts other students' ability to learn, and we operated a clear 3 warning system in the classroom that ultimately results in exceptional circumstances with the student being removed from classroom.

We run detentions at breaktimes for students that have arrived late to school.

If a student misses two detentions or restorative conversations in a week, they will receive a 2-hour detention with the senior leadership team.

If a student accumulates more than 15 negative house points in a week, they will receive a one-hour detention on a Monday.

Any detention for one hour or longer is communicated the day before to parents/carers via Bromcom. Our school behaviour Policy can be found on our school website.

8

ParentPay

Q. How do we make school dinner payments and paying for items such as trips and resources?

A. In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school we are asking all parents to only use our e-payment method to pay for dinner money, trips, music lessons etc. This can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay or in cash at local stores where you see the PayPoint logo.

You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique activation username and password; Further details will be sent out once your child is officially on school role.

Please ensure students bring a packed lunch for the first day of term.

9

Scholars Guides

Q. Will children be given homework diaries?

A. Scholar's Guides are our way of communicating our knowledge rich curriculum to parents and carers and a tool to complement the work done in classrooms every day. Scholar's Guides develop students to master core knowledge and skills quickly so that teachers can push them further later.

By making knowledge and skills clear via Scholar's Guides, students and parents can support learning from home, especially when preparing for the cycle assessments.

Scholar's Guides can be used by SEND departments and teaching assistants to pre teach students who may require it and to target interventions and re teaching effectively. Some students may require more support and scaffolding, but Scholar's Guides means that every student has access to ambitious lessons planned from an aligned, sequenced curriculum and we avoid denial of knowledge!

10

Communication

Q. When will parents receive information on joining any parental school portal?

A. Bromcom is the school's MIS (management information system) and is the central piece of software in the day to day running of the school. 'MCAS' stands for My Child at School and is the name of the parent/carer view of our published data on both desktop and the app.

The use of My Child at School (MCAS) is part of our ongoing effort to improve the information and communication the school provides.

Instructions on how to set up your Bromcom account will be issued once your child is officially on school role. Further details are available on our website.

11

Support

Q. How will my child be helped to transition and be helped to be comfortable at school?

A. Each Year group has a strong pastoral team including Head of Year, Pastoral Leader and Tutor. All students will also have access to a trusted adult who they can turn too if they need a little extra support. Our student Services team are also available to support if students require any additional help with uniform, equipment, or illness.

Please explore our school website, which is updated regularly, where you can also find lots of information including news, updates, galleries and policies and procedures. www.oxfordspires.anthemtrust.uk.



If you have any questions about the transition process, please do not hesitate to contact us via the general enquiries link on the website or email: year7admissions@oxfordspires.anthemtrust.uk