



25 June 2021

«Applicant»
«House_name»
«Address»
«Area»
«Town»
«Postcode_1» «Postcode_2»

Dear «Salutation»,

We are writing with more information about «Pupil_Forename»'s transition to Bradon Forest School.

Please find enclosed:

- New Student Information forms and accompanying notes
- Frequently asked questions document
- Uniform list

Please complete and return the new student information forms as soon as possible.

We are preparing a number of YouTube videos for families to watch. As soon as these are ready we will email you the links. We will also email you a link for our Virtual Parents Evening on Wednesday 7 July 2021.

We will write to you again before the end of term with details of which tutor group «Pupil_Forename» will be in and their copy of our induction booklet. We understand how important this is for students and assure you it is on its way.

We were so disappointed not to be able to welcome all the Year 6s for their induction days in July. We have therefore revised our plans for September. Our current plan is to have only the new Year 7s in school on Thursday 2 September 2021. This will be their Induction Day with students having the opportunity to meet their tutors, teachers and staff as well as the other members of their tutor group and year group. They will also be able to explore the school site. On Friday 3 September 2021 they will be joined by Year 11 and then the rest of the school the following week. We believe this staggered start will aid the students' transition to Bradon Forest allowing them the chance to explore and acclimatise to their new school before being joined by the rest of the year groups. Naturally, this may have to be amended if we receive guidance from the Department of Education and any changes will be clearly communicated.



BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs J Dickson BA (Hons)

The Peak, Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 4AT Telephone: 01793 770570 Facsimile: 01793 771063

e-mail: enquiry@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk Website: www.bradonforest.org.uk

A charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, as Athelstan Trust Company No: 7699625

We hope you will find the FAQs document useful. However, if you do have any questions not covered by this document then please do get in touch. Please send your enquiry to primaryadmissions@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk or telephone the school.

Additionally, we will hold a New Parents' Information Evening in September where you will hear a presentation from some key staff members. Towards the end of Term 1 you will also have the opportunity to discuss how «Pupil_Forename» has settled in with their tutor. Dates and details of these events will be confirmed at a later stage.

As mentioned above please contact the school if you have any queries.

We look forward to meeting you all in person as soon we are able.

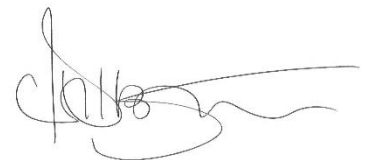
Yours sincerely



Mrs J Dickson
Headteacher



Mr Dipple
Assistant Headteacher with
responsibility for Key Stage 3



Mrs Wiltshire
Transition Leader and
Head of Year 7



Frequently Asked Questions

These are the usual questions lots of new students have asked before they start. Please note we will need to comply with the relevant government guidance in force at the time associated with Coronavirus so some things may be a little different in September.

Will I be in a tutor group with my friends?

We know that a successful transition can mean being with some of the people that you are closest to. That's why when Mrs Wiltshire, our Transition Leader and Head of Year 7, visited you at your primary school she asked you who you would like to be in a tutor group with. She also spoke to the primary school teachers to find out who you work best with. We try our best to accommodate requests where possible.

What happens if I get lost?

This is probably the number one concern lots of new students have but it really shouldn't be. Getting lost and finding your way around is all part of the process of joining a new school. We are preparing a YouTube tour video and the link for this will be emailed to your parents/carers as soon as it is ready. On your induction day on Thursday 2 September you will also have a fully guided tour of the site and there will be time for you to explore the school on your own on that day too.

Please don't worry, you will very quickly get your bearings. There will be a map in your induction booklet and there are maps around the site too. You can always ask a teacher or a fellow student. To make things easier, the majority of your lessons are taught in tutor groups to begin with so you can work together to find out where you need to be.

Who do I go to if I have a problem?

Starting secondary school can be daunting and so we make sure we have lots of different avenues of support to help you if you have a problem or are worried about something. You will see your tutor every morning and they will be your first port of call for any worries or concerns. You can also go to see Mrs Wiltshire, Head of Year 7 or Mrs Harris, Student Support Assistant for Year 7. You will also have Peer Mentors who are older students designated to your tutor group who will stay with you throughout your first day and you will see them once a week throughout Year 7. On top of this you can speak to one of your teachers or go to Student Services. Remember it's much better to sort a problem quickly than let it get on top of you.

Will I have all my lessons with my tutor group?

For the majority of them, yes. However, some subjects such as Maths are taught in sets and others such as PE and DT (Design and Technology) are mixed with other groups. You meet with your tutor group every morning in your tutor base (usually your tutor's own classroom) apart from every Wednesday morning when we have a dedicated Year 7 assembly in the main hall.

What about Homework?

We use the website and an app called Satchel:One to set and keep track of homework. In September you will be told how to download the app and given a log in so you can access all your homework. Your parents can have a login for the app too but only you can tick off that you have completed your homework.

What are the timings of the school day?

8:45-9:05	Tutor time
9:05-10:05	Lesson 1
10:05-11:05	Lesson 2
11:05-11:30	Break
11:30-12:30	Lesson 3
12:30-13:30	Lesson 4
13:30-14:25	Lunch
14:25-15:25	Lesson 5

Will I study both French and German?

No. You will be allocated to study either French or German not both.

Do I need to bring money to school?

We operate a cashless catering system at Bradon Forest. That means you pay for items in the canteen using biometric data using your finger (the software we use doesn't scan or store a record of your full fingerprint, just enough information so that only you can spend your own money). If you prefer you can choose to use a pin code instead. Money can be added to this account online or through a specific machine located in the hall. You only need to bring in money if you need to top up this account. We will collect your biometric data on your first day in September.

At break and lunch time you can get food from the main hall or D2. A menu can be found on the school website. <https://bradonforest.org.uk/school-meals/>

We have charity fundraising days during the year when you may like to bring in cash to buy a cake or to take part in an activity organised as part of the day.

What are the Houses and which one will I be in?

We have three Houses at Bradon Forest. They are BATTLEWELL, PEARTREE AND RINGSBURY. You will be randomly allocated to one and will find this out when you find out your tutor group, eg if you are in 7B1 your house is Battlewell, if you are in 7P2 you are in Peartree.

What trips will there be?

Lots. Over the course of your time at Bradon Forest you will have the opportunity to go on lots of school trips and they are ever evolving. Make sure you make the most of those opportunities. You will be told about these trips in tutor time, in year group assembly or by a specific subject teacher. It's up to you to collect a letter about the trip if you are interested in going on it. Letters are not automatically sent home about these trips.

Can I do clubs?

Yes! We run a variety of different clubs to suit all interests over the course of the year. Your tutor will talk you through the WHOOSH (what's on out of school hours) activities at the beginning of each term. There is a list on the website and a copy is sent to parents at the start of each term with the weekly Parent Bulletin.

<https://bradonforest.org.uk/extra-curricular/>

What equipment do I need?

Your essential equipment list is as follows:

Blue or black pen	Compasses and protractors are needed in Maths
Green pen	A scientific calculator is needed in Maths and Science
Pencil and pencil sharpener	Eraser
Ruler	Colouring pencils
Glue stick	
Student planner	

A reading book for English and Tutor Time

Headphones - must have a standard 3.5mm headphone jack. Phone adaptors are not suitable.

Where do I catch the bus home?

On the Upper and Lower Hard Play areas (the playgrounds) there are signs with each of the bus numbers. You queue up here until a teacher tells you your bus is available for boarding. You must have your bus pass with you to get on the bus each morning and each afternoon. A temporary bus pass will be sent to you before you start school in September. You will be issued with a permanent bus pass once we have taken everyone's photograph.

Students whose parents may be collecting them from school are asked to park in one of the village car parks and that you walk to meet them. There is a primary school immediately next to Bradon Forest and it does get very busy around the entrance to the school at the start and end of the day.

Is there anything I can do to help get ready for the move?

There is no specific work that we want you do over the summer. Reading will help you in all subjects so keep up your reading over the summer break.

There are details of the curriculum our current Year 7s have been studying this year on the website. There might be some small changes for the new academic year but they will give you an idea if you want to have a look. <https://bradonforest.org.uk/curriculum-overview/key-stage-3/>

25 June 2021