

Induction

Q) What are the plans to help my child settle in?

A: Wednesday 26th June is the planned induction day. As part of this students will meet their form tutor and get to experience some subjects. A large part of the induction day will be allocated for team building activities to allow students to meet new friends and to familiarise themselves with their new school and surroundings.

There is also a Parent Information Evening scheduled for Wednesday 26th June. As part of this evening parents will be able to meet their child's form tutor and other key staff such as the SENDCO, and the Year Team Leader.

Further details of this including timings will be sent out to all parents ahead of the induction days.

Q) What equipment do I need for school?

A: For the induction days students will need to attend in their primary school sports uniform. Students will also need to bring a bag containing their completed transition booklet, a pencil case and a drinks bottle containing water only.

Further details of the equipment needed for August will be shared at the Parent Information Evening scheduled and via the school website transition pages.

Q) Where do I drop off and collect my child?

A: We have two entrances. These are the pedestrian entrance on Nottingham Road and the turnstile on Range Road.

Q) How will you ensure that you get to know my child as an individual?

A: As a school we have a through transition process so that we get to know every student. This includes liaising with our colleagues within the feeder primary school colleagues and sending out a student questionnaire. We also allocate a substantial amount of time during the first few weeks so that our form tutors get to know each and every one of their tutees.

Q) What is in place to prevent my child from getting lost?

A: During induction we plan to run orientation exercises and tours so that your child becomes familiar with their new school. We will have a range of form tutors and sixth form students and other staff who will escort and support the students in getting to their lessons.

Q) Who will my teachers be?

A: You will find this out and further information during the induction day in June.

Q) Are there any more opportunities for me to view the school?

A: On Wednesday 26th June a Parent Information Evening is scheduled. As part of this evening parents will be able to meet their child's form tutor and other key staff such as the SENDCO and the Year Team Leader. You will also get to see key areas such as the library and the KS3 canteen area.

Uniform

Q) What are the expectations in terms of uniform?

A: Full details of our uniform policy is available on our school website

<https://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/uniform>.

Q) Do you have a PE Kit?

A: Yes, all students will be expected to wear the Ashby branded maroon t-shirt (compulsory from our suppliers).

Students are also expected to wear a plain black sweatshirt, black shorts OR black skort OR black joggers/running leggings, black football socks OR white sport socks and suitable footwear. These can be purchased independently or from our supplies.

Further details of the PE kit needed for August will be shared at the Parent Information Evening scheduled for Wednesday 26th June.

Q) Will students be able to wear PE kit to school on PE Days?

A: No, when students start Ashby School in August, due to hygiene reasons our students will be expected to bring their PE kit and get changed for PE in school.

Q) Can my daughter wear trousers to school?

A: Yes. All trousers must be in a tailored style and made of polyester. They must not be skin tight, jeans or jean or chino-style. David Luke eco trousers (slim or sturdy fit) are available from our suppliers. Further details of our uniform policy are available on our school website.

Q) Can I wear black trainers?

A: Yes, if the whole shoe is black and does not have any coloured motifs or logos. Full details of our uniform policy is available on our school website <https://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/uniform>.

Q) Can I wear shorts?

A: No, shorts are not included within our uniform policy.

Q) Do we have to wear our blazer all the time?

A: Students must wear either a blazer or grey school jumper but may also choose to wear both. However, during the last half term, due to hot weather, students are excused from wearing their blazer.

Pastoral

Q) Who can I talk to if I'm worried/have a problem?

A: The first port of call will be the form tutor. They are the trusted adult in the school who you will see each day and are responsible for supporting your wellbeing. If your form tutor is not available, you can speak to any member of staff.

If additional intervention is needed our pastoral teams work with a range of additional services and external agencies. Your Year Team Leader will be Mrs Sever and she can be contacted on S-sever@ashbyschool.org.uk.

You will have the opportunity to meet your child's form tutor at the Parent Information Evening scheduled for Wednesday 26th June. As part of this event you will also be given their contact details.

Q) Who will contact me regarding my child's medical needs?

A: Our Medical Office is Mrs Lane. Mrs Lane will be available on the Parent Information Evening at the end of June. Mrs Lane can also be contacted on L-Lane@ashbyschool.org.uk.

Q) Who can I contact regarding my child's educational needs?

A: Our SENDCO is Mr Price. Mr Price will be available on the Parent Information Evening at the end of June. The SEND team can also be contacted on SEND@ashbyschool.org.uk

Q) How are children treated differently to primary school?

A: Students will be given greater independence and given the opportunity to try new things. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their social skills and meet new people. Students will be equipped with the skills to become lifelong learners and to develop and refine the skills that are needed for later in life.

Q) How strong is school discipline?

A: Our ethos is to have high expectations of all our students. This is because we care and want the best for them. Our expectations are shared with our students to ensure all students are clear on the expectations of

behaviour. Frequent rewards and giving for those students who accept responsibility and do the right things. We acknowledge that sometimes our students get it wrong and as a result have a progressive behaviour management system which allows students to take responsibility and correct their behaviour.

Teaching and Learning

Q) What time is the school day?

A: School will start at 8:40 and end at 3:10.

Q) Will I get the help I need in my subjects?

A: At Ashby School we have lots of supportive and experienced staff. Our teaching and learning approach focuses on Quality First Teaching which emphasises high quality inclusive teaching for all students. Where additional needs are identified we also have a range of support available including teaching assistants and intervention groups to provide additional support.

Q) Will I be with a friend from primary school?

A: When allocating students to tutor groups we try to ensure that there are at least two students from the same feeder primary school who are placed together. This is something that is done internally through conversation with our feeder primary schools and not through student/parental choice.

We truly believe that meeting new people and making new friends is an important part of our students' holistic development. Please do not worry about this as we have lots of fun activities planned over the induction day and the first few weeks to ease the transition and to allow our students to bond and make new friends.

Q) Are tutor groups mixed year groups?

A: No all tutor groups are single year groups.

Q) Will there be sets for Core Subjects?

A: Our philosophy is to have mixed ability classes for all students at the start of KS3. However, where it becomes beneficial to move away from this, setting may be introduced in some subjects.

Q) Will my child be with their form all day for every single lesson?

A: We truly believe that meeting new people and making new friends is an important part of our students' holistic development. Therefore, in some subjects your child will be in mixed ability classes which are not their tutor group.

Q) How hard will the lessons be? How much work will there be?

A: All lessons will be set with the appropriate amount of challenge and work to keep students engaged and stimulated. However, they will not be pitched at a level that is too difficult that causes disengagement amongst our students.

Q) Will all Year 7's be kept together?

A: No. Due to the size of the year group, all students will be allocated to one of eight tutor groups.

Q) Are the teachers nice?

A: Yes, they are. We are very fortunate to have friendly and supportive teachers who often go the extra mile to help their students.

Q) How do I get help from teachers if I do not understand the work?

A: If you do not understand the work, there will be other students who feel the same. By putting your hand up, your teacher will be able to answer any queries you have.

Q) How many people will be in my class? How many people are in the school?

A: Class sizes will be between 25-30 students. In the school, we have around 1600 students.

Q) How many subjects do we do?

A: Students will study a minimum of 12 subjects. Subjects such as Design are on a carousel basis, which will allow our students to cover an additional three disciplines. Further details of this will be provided as part of the induction days.

Q) How many subjects will I have each day?

A: All students will have five subjects a day.

Q) How will I know what class to be in when?

A: All students will be given a timetable to follow. This will be explained during the induction days. For the first few weeks, staff and sixth form students will be on hand to help you around the site.

Q) How often will students bring home their books?

A: This will be done on a needs basis and will allow parents to see some of the work that has been produced within school.

Q) Which languages can I study?

A: At KS3 all our students will have the opportunity to study French. All students will be introduced to a second language in the summer term of y7 which provides cultural breadth. Some students will study both French and German in y8, whilst others may continue to focus on their French.

Q) How often is Music taught?

A: In year 7 all students will receive music lessons as part of the curriculum. In addition to this there will also be extra-curricular activities in this area. Once finalised the extra-curricular timetable will be published on the school website and updated each term.

Q) What Art activities are there to do?

A: In year 7 all students will receive Art lessons. In addition to this there will also be extra-curricular activities in this area. Once finalised the extra-curricular timetable will be published on the school website and updated each term.

Q) Are all lessons on one side of the road?

A: All lessons are on our Nottingham Road campus apart from PE. For PE lessons, members of the PE Faculty will meet their class on the inside of the turnstile. Staff will then escort all students across the road and back over at the end of the lesson. Students are supervised during this process to ensure that they are safe.

Q) In PE will boys have to do what are seen as boys sports and girls have to do what is seen as girls sports?

A: At Ashby School our PE is very inclusive and has a sport for all approach. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports regardless of their gender.

Q) When will I be able to use the swimming pool?

A: As part of the PE curriculum students will have the opportunity to use the pool.

Q) Can I go to the toilet during the lesson?

A: Our timetable is structured so that before each lesson students have a transition break. This should prevent the need to go to the toilet during lesson time. If a student has a medical need and needs to go more frequently this is something we will support as a school.

Q) How can I support my child to be more independent?

A: Strong partnerships between school and home are important and have a positive effect on outcomes. To support student independence parents can help their child establish good routines as this will help aid their

organisation. Parents can also engage in discussion about school, as asking open questions promotes student reflection and increases personal responsibility.

Communication

Q) Will I be kept fully informed of my child's progress?

A: Yes and the main method to achieve this is through a parent app that is available and also parents evenings. On the app you will have access to a wealth of information including attendance, behaviour, progress and homework. Further details of this will be shared at the Parent Information Evening scheduled for Wednesday 26th June.

Q) How will I know what homework to complete?

A: All students will be equipped with a planner for each year of KS3. All homework will be recorded in this and also set and communicated via our Arbor MIS and App. This is so that all our students and parents have an electronic record of all homework set. Students will be expected to complete reading as well as subject specific homework. Students will be equipped with the skills for homework completion through their Empowered to Learn lessons. Please note our stance on homework is that it must be purposeful.

Q) Is all homework set on computer?

A: No vocab tests, reading and completing written tasks still have their place in supporting our students learning.

Q) Do we supply ICT for students to complete their homework?

A: Students will have the ability to attend homework club in the library if they need ICT to complete a homework piece.

Q) If homework is not completed how are parents informed of this?

A: Parents will be notified through Arbor our online communication package.

Lunch and social time

Q) What time is lunchtime

A: All students will have lunch break between 12.25 and 13.05. There will be a set time within this for y7 to eat and also to have social time outside on a rotation with y8.

Q) I am scared about lunchtime as I don't know what will happen.

A: It is normal to feel nervous as you are moving to a new environment. There will also be lots of other students who feel the same. Please note y7 and y8 will have their own canteen so there should be some familiar faces that you recognise. We also plan to have lots of staff and 6th Form students in the canteen to explain what to do and answer any questions that you might have.

Q) How do I pay for my child's food? Will they enjoy the school dinners?

A: We are a cashless site and all lunch is prepaid. Further details of this will be shared at the Parent Information Evening scheduled for Wednesday 26th June.

At Ashby School we provide a range of sandwiches, wraps and a cooked options to give students choice.

Q) Can parents track what their child is eating during the school day?

A: At break and lunchtimes there will be a high staff presence in the canteen area. If a member of staff has any concerns this will be fed back to parents.

Q) What if I run out of money on my card?

A: We understand that this may happen. To support this, we operate an overdraft facility which allows students to still get food in these circumstances. We also operate a maximum spend limit of £6 per day (unless you request to opt out). This ensures that students don't overspend per day but also can purchase food and drink at break and lunch time if required.

Q) Will my child be safe as I am scared they might get bullied?

A: At Ashby School we have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. This is something that is widely promoted through the personal development curriculum that all students follow.

As a school we will have a KS3 only area where students will have catering, toilet and playground facilities. We also have lots of staff in these areas for students to pass on any concerns they have. As part of the Induction day, we will also be sharing the key adults all our students can speak to if they have any worries or concerns. These key staff include the form tutor and Year Team Leader as these are staff who all students will have daily contact with.

Q) I am worried that I will get lost and will get into trouble because of this.

A: It is normal to feel nervous about this when starting a new school. A key aim of the induction day is to familiarise all our students with the new site. We will have lots of staff and student helpers around the site to help direct our students. This is something that will also continue at the start of the new term. You will not get into trouble for being late during the first few weeks.

Q) Does the school give help to working parents e.g. breakfast and after-school clubs?

A: The school runs a breakfast club which will start at 8:15 each day in the KS3 canteen. The school will also offer a range of extra-curricular clubs including a homework club. Further details of this will be provided at the Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 26th June.

Q) Will year 7 integrate with years 10 and year 11 or be kept separate?

A: Our philosophy is to have a sanctuary not segregation approach. This means that KS3 will have their own canteen, toilets and playground. However during the school day, they will pass our year 10 and year 11 students as they move around the schools site.

Our older students are an asset to our school. As a result of this we have plans for our KS5 students to work with our younger students both within lessons and through extra-curricular activities.

Q) Will breaktimes be with Year 10 and Year 11?

A: Although breaktimes will occur at the same time as our KS4 students, year 7 will have the sanctuary of being in the KS3 only area. In this area they have their own toilet, canteen and playground.

Q) Where can the students play football at lunchtime?

A: Within the KS3 playground there is an allocated ballcourt for those students who wish to play football.

Extra-curricular activities

Q) What clubs will be held during and after school?

A: There will be a wide range of clubs being offered across all faculty areas. We firmly believe that extra-curricular activities promote the holistic and character development of our student and also support their wellbeing. We are currently in the process of finalising the list of clubs and will publish the extra-curricular timetable on the school website in due course. The timetable will also be updated each term.

Q) Are there any activities beyond sport?

A: Yes, as outlined above all faculties are offering clubs to ensure we have a wide range of activities and hopefully something of interest for everyone.

Q) Will I be able to play on the Astro turf?

A: Yes, this will be through PE lessons in year 7 and through the extra-curricular football club.

Q) Do we have a football club?

A: Yes, there are plans for a football club in the next academic year.

Q) What trips are available?

A: At Ashby School we offer a wide range of trips. Some of the trips include a visit to Warwick Castle, a team building and resilience building activity day at Beaumanor, an Art trips to London, an English trip to the theatre, an annual trip to the Christmas Markets in France and Germany, a ski trip and a rewards trip.