

Dear future Year 7 student,

Hello, hope you are well, my name is Archie. I'm going to introduce you to secondary school and guide you through it. Sometimes it can be tough and a lot bigger or have a lot more people. I felt overwhelmed when I went as I am from a very small school. Don't worry though as on the first day you are welcomed in very nicely and get to meet all your new class and teachers for each subject.

At lunch and break, there are loads of places to hang out to chat with friends and also you can play sport on the astro turf. Although, secondary school has a lot more homework there are many people who can help and there is a homework club in the library everyday of the week to complete tasks. Also you don't get set homework from every subject until later on in the year. If you worry about being lost there are maps given to you to navigate the school and soon enough you will learn the school off by heart. There are many nice people to ask for directions if ever needed as well. My top tip is too use homework club as it's a quiet environment and you can go with friends as well. Hopefully you will enjoy secondary school and have a great time. I look forward to seeing you in year 7.

Dear future Year 7 student,

Welcome to Reigate School !

I'm going to be talking to you about secondary school. You might think secondary is really scary but trust me it isn't. Reigate school has a lot of opportunities for you and you get to go on a lot of trips that you might think you would have never have been able to go to, for example Iceland - it is a beautiful place. Also if your teacher is kind enough, you may be able to visit somewhere where you have been learning about later on in the year.

If you are worried about getting lost, just ask teachers and students; but soon you will know your way around. If you think your teacher is going to be mean don't worry because they won't be! I can assure you that are really nice and they will make sure you feel comfortable in your new school.

Last but not least, if you are scared of the older kids please do not worry because they are just taller and most of them are really nice as well. They can remember when they were in year 7 so they have gone through exactly what you're thinking right now. Hope you have a good time in year 7 and remember not to lose your time table.

From Emily

Dear future Year 7 student,

Last September I was in your position, soon moving to secondary school and I will admit it did feel very daunting because so much was going to change in just a few weeks. To put your mind at ease I'm going to tell you some things that you may worry about or some things you might want to know or find out about life at Reigate school.

You may be thinking where would you go after lunch or for breaktime, well Yr 7 can go to the muga (tennis court) so that you are not around older years for the first few months so that you can settle in. But on rainy days I prefer to be inside so I like to go the library that has computers so that you can finish off homework in a calm surrounding or read.

You might be interested in the type of subjects at our school, there are so many subject that are amazing but my personal favourites and that you might be interested in are: English, Art, DT, Drama, Dance and my most favourite is food technology because they all have so much creativity and are all so much fun.

A few tips that you might want to know include; Firstly if you get lost and find yourself late for class do not worry your teachers will understand and wont be angry but if you are in that situation ask another student for help or go to student services. Make sure you do your homework on time because teachers are quite strict on that and there are so many subject you'll probably find that you have a lot to do so I suggest do it as soon as you are set it or do a piece of homework every night so that it doesn't pile up.

Make sure when you are set to revise for a quiz/test you do because they will ask you questions that you may have forgotten so it always helpful to revise even if it's just a little bit every minute counts as I always say.

There will be a lot of changes that will happen when you come but don't worry everyone in Reigate school will be very helpful, some of those changes are: lessons have more fun and interesting activities to do, you will get set goals to complete from tests like grades to work towards or being able to interact more with the class e.c.t, you will be tested/quizzed regularly so that they can see you improvement and see if you need more help or if you can move up set (your stage of where you are in the school and how much you know and if you need help during lesson) and finally the school will probably be a lot bigger than yours but on your fist day you will do fun activities to help you get used to where all the classes will be and on your first day it will just be Yr 7 in school so that you don't interrupt lessons while you are doing those activities.

To end on a funny note in my part, is how I began to know my way around school properly was that during a PE lesson we had the activity of trying to find numbers or letters around the school and we where given a map at the end of the lesson our whole class asked if we could keep the map to help us find our way around school because the school forgot to hand us out maps on the first day so it was relief when we where able to keep them. After using it for a while I was soon able to memorize where my lessons where and how to get to them. I hope that when you come you will have as much excitement and fun as I do!
Imogen

Dear future Year 7 student,

I'm writing to you to tell you about Secondary School:

Secondary school can be worrying about first, but it only takes a couple of days to feel like you have been there forever. Moving from Primary to Secondary can be a big change because: there might be new subjects, there are older pupils, it is a larger school and you will make new friends, but none of this is to worry about.

To start off with, the first day of Secondary might be a bit intimidating, but on the day it's actually really fun. You won't be doing any normal lessons, you will first meet your form tutor and form. Then you will follow your timetable (which you will get in form time) going to each lesson in turn. In each lesson you will do a fun activity and get to know your teachers and fellow students more. At break (25 minutes), you will have the opportunity to go to the upper or lower canteen to get some food or go to the Astro turf or tennis courts to play some football or just chat. At lunch (35 minutes) it will be the same except you will have a bit longer.

Secondly, lots of people will be worrying about not knowing their way around and I was like that too but it's not as hard as it seems. When you go through the main entrance, there is a big sign which tells you which way to go for each lesson so if you follow that you will be going in the correct direction. A few other things you might want to know is, for one; the school is actually a large circle, if you keep going round, you will end up in the same place you started. Secondly, each subject has a section of the school, when you find the section of the school that your subject is in, it won't take long to find the classroom you're meant to be in. If you get lost or don't know which way to go, remember you can ask anyone in year 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11. We will know which way to go so don't be afraid to ask!

Finally you may wonder if the teachers are nice, well they are! They might be a bit stricter now you're in secondary, but they're not at all mean. You will have a population assembly every week on a set day where you can ask your head of population any questions or talk to them about anything you are worried about. Then on Friday you will have a year assembly where your whole year will gather and a teacher from the school will talk to you about a certain subject depending on the day.

Hope this helped 😊

Dear future Year 7 student,

On your first day you meet up with your form group and get to meet your teachers. You will have a map to find your way around school and a timetable to know what lessons you have. The best lessons are art, DT, maths, P.E and ICT. All subjects are in different classrooms. At break and lunch you get to hang out with friends. There's way more homework than primary school that it might take you all afternoon. I found it hard to catch up with homework at the beginning but then it got easier and I started to catch up. At the beginning homework is annoying but some homework can be fun. My tip is to do homework as soon as you get in and then have a break in the middle of finishing all the work, then enjoy the rest of the evening!

If none of your friends come to the same school as you, hang out with family members or family friends. If you don't know anyone try, make friends in your form.

Jayden

Dear future Year 7 student,

My name is Lois and I started Reigate School in September. When I first arrived, I was so worried I would get lost or I had forgotten something(it turns out I had forgotten my pen but I was given one by one of my teachers), but I was immediately welcomed into a great group of people. On my first day we only had a half day and it was only year 7s. We did a scavenger hunt and discussed things about the school. I do not know if this will be possible this year but I am certain you will have a good first day.

One difference between primary school and secondary school is that secondary school is generally bigger. You may be worried about getting lost, but you will be given a simple map to guide you round school. After a few weeks you will start to get to know the school and there will be no chance of you getting lost. Another difference is that each lesson you will have a different teacher and classroom. You will be given a two-week timetable (it repeats every two weeks) that has the classrooms that you are in, the time of the class, and the teacher you have for that class. School starts at 8:45 and ends at 3:00 and each class lasts 1 hour. At the start of the day, you have 20 minutes of form time. This is where you take the register and you can ask your form tutor questions about homework. In year 7 you are in a form of 15 but you do your classes with another form (this is your joint-form). In year 8, you do form time with your joint form as well.

Break time is from 11:00 to 11:25 and lunch time is from 12:25 till 1:00. You can eat your lunch at both breaks and there are many places to get your food from including the top canteen that does hot food, the bottom canteen that does loads of food like chicken nuggets and chips and burgers, and the pit stop that is by the AstroTurf and serves things like paninis and smoothies. I suggest that whichever queue you choose you get there as soon as possible as the queues get bigger over time, though don't worry if you are late, there will still be plenty of food. There are tennis courts that only year 7 are allowed on and many year 7s spend break time on and around these.

I enjoy many classes including dance. You will have dance with Miss Swift in the dance studio. You may hear from other students that the warm up is nicknamed "torture" but this is nothing to worry about. You may find it hard the first time, but it gets much easier the second time. I also enjoy science and DT because there are many practical lessons involved.

I suggest that you bring a notebook with you to school so that you can write down all the information that you are given over the first few days. Bring a book with you to school every day as each day we do 20 minutes reading each day in a period that changes every two weeks. Don't worry about getting detentions for the first few weeks because the teachers will be understanding and helpful. We have a system where you get behaviour points and you get detentions when you have enough of these. You can also get achievement points. Teachers will give these out when you do something good. When you have 150, you will get a one-star badge. When you get 300, you will get a two-star badge, and when you get 450, you will get a three-star badge.

I hope this letter is not too overwhelming and that you will find it helpful. I am sure you will have a wonderful time at Reigate school.

Lois

Dear future Year 7 student,

You are about to take the scary move from primary school to secondary school but don't worry it's really not that bad! You will be put into a small form group of about 15 children and you will be with one or two children from your current class. You will have form time each morning and your form teacher can help you with any problems or questions that you have.

On my first day we spent time getting to know our form group and teacher. Then we went to a couple of lessons to get used to moving around the school. There is an allocated area just for Year 7's to help you get to know others. We also did an activity where we had to find areas of the school to help us get to know our way round.

My favourite lesson is maths. You are split into groups and if you work hard and achieve good marks you can move up a group. My teacher is Mr Ford who is fun and supportive. I am also now learning Spanish, which is new to me and my teacher is really kind and we play games to help us learn.

In Year 7 we have one break in the morning for about 20 minutes. The canteen is open so you can buy a snack. Lunch break is for 40 minutes and again the canteen is open so you can buy hot or cold food. The canteen does not take money but you set up an account and pay for your food with a fingerprint. This is set up during your first week. After I have eaten my lunch I sometimes go outside to play with my friends or go to the library or one of the lunch clubs.

The School runs lots of clubs everyday which are free to join. Some of the clubs are active sports, arts, games clubs, movie and many more.

The main differences between primary school and secondary school is that you have to take more responsibility for yourself. You have to have the right equipment for the lessons, get to lessons on time and behave yourself. You can earn achievement points for good work and behaviour but you can also earn behaviour points if you misbehave.

My top tips would be to keep track of time, know where your next classroom is. Try to make new friends so that you have someone who has your back and enjoy the next 5 years of secondary school

Yours faithfully

Rhys
Year 7

Dear future Year 7 student,

Soon you will make the next big step in your life, going to secondary school. You have absolutely nothing to worry about.

You are probably bursting to the brim with questions about secondary school and people will be more than happy to answer them, your form tutor will probably be the one to go to but older kids (like me) will also be more than happy to help.

You may be scared getting lost or being swarmed by people and for the first day or two, getting around will be a bit hard, you may get lost or feel like you can't breathe in the hordes of people in the corridor but soon enough, you'll know your way around and avoid the cramped corridors.

Trust me when I say the food is better here at Reigate school. To be quite honest, that's what I enjoyed the most: the food. It is superior to any school dinner you've had before. For the first two weeks, there is no homework so there is no need to worry about that when you're still getting the hang of things here. After that two-week grace period and until the half-term you only get English, Maths and science so that you can get in the rhythm of homework.

A couple of tips:

1. Try and make friends in your form group and stick with them when going to your classes, its better to be lost together!
2. In the queue at lunch, don't shove or try to barge past anyone, you'll be caught out and sent to the back.
3. Be friendly to teachers and other kids, good first impressions count.
4. Try your best, Teachers will see this and that's what matters most
5. Most importantly, just ask if you need help or want to know something. That's what the teachers are for!!

I really hope you enjoy your time as a year 7, I know I did.

Yours sincerely,

Robert

Dear future Year 7 student,

I hope that in September things will all be back to normal and we will be able to go to school again! I am writing to tell you that you DO NOT need to worry about secondary school. A few concerns about moving to secondary school are:

- 1.) Getting your way around the school. Don't worry! Any teacher or student will be happy to show you where a place is. Also on the first day you get a map and that is one of the things that really helped me.
- 2.) How it is a lot different to primary school. This is true, it is a lot different but you will get used to it and, I will admit, I have actually found I preferred how secondary school worked!
- 3.) Friends. You might be being separated from some of your closest friends but as long as you stay in touch and meet up with them a lot, you will not lose them. At Reigate school, you will make more, maybe even closer friends than you did in primary school!
- 4.) Teachers, behaviour points and detentions. With this, as long as you try your hardest and focus you will get very few detentions. If you get one, it's fine, people make mistakes, just try to be the best version of yourself!

Some more positive things about Reigate school:

You get to try out new and fun lessons that you wouldn't have done in primary, stuff such as food tech, drama and much more.

Another good thing is that the canteen food is always really good!

One final thing is having your own form that starts to become like a big, school family.

Just remember, feel welcome to talk to any yr8 students as we might look tall and ugly, but we won't bite!

From
Cerys

Dear future Year 7 student,

I hear you are going to my school soon, so I am here to tell you some stuff you will need to know before going to Reigate school.

First when you go to the front gates you will come in and you will have to go to your line, that's the form - you will be in that form for the rest of the year.

Now I am going to tell you about my favourite lessons. I like PE because you can play loads of fun games , you can run around on a huge field and because you don't need to wear your school uniform for 1 hour! I also like art because you can be creative have fun and its a small room so you have a small chance of sitting with your friends. Do you like PE or art?

Break and lunchtime is my favourite time because I play my phone with my cousins but a lot of people play football or they go to a club. I hope to see you there.

Now I am going to tell you how to find your way around the school if you have any older siblings you can ask if you don`t you can use the map we give you or you can ask a teacher.

A lot of you are probably worried thinking that Reigate is so much different to your school but its not - all that is different is that you move class and you haft to carry your bags. If you need any more tips here you go: try not to be nervous, try as hard as you can, and if you are too scared to ask a teacher don't be - they will not eat you!
From Dawson.

Dear future Year 7 student,

My name is Hannah and I am going to attempt to make secondary school less intimidating for you!

At Reigate school one of the best things is the canteen. Unlike most schools it doesn't serve everyone the same thing. You get the opportunity to choose from a vast arrangement of foods, from pasta to main meals. The canteen is also a great place to make friends.

The best place in the whole school is the library! You can go there before school, after school and at break times. You also get one library lesson every two weeks. This is a lesson dedicated to reading! We also have DEAR (drop everything and read); this happens every day for 20 minutes at the start of a lesson.

Reigate also has a vast assortment of clubs, both at lunch and after school. This is a marvellous opportunity to make friends. There is always a large amount of choices including sporty clubs, arty clubs, book clubs, game clubs, boring clubs and many more.

Yet, nothing is perfect and neither is Reigate school as they give you stack loads of homework. To tell the truth this does take up a large portion of your life, especially when you stay after school to get it done with your friends, but end up doing nothing. The school can seem very intimidating at first due to its large size and many corridors. This is why they give you a map, but it is very hard to read. It is better just to ask a teacher or follow the rest of your class like a pack of wolves.

Reigate school is a big change no matter where you come from. If you need any help go to student services along the ground floor main corridor or see whether you can find me (I tend to be in the corner of the library).

From
Hannah

Dear future Year 7 student,

When I first moved to ReigateSchool I was very worried about many things. On my first day the teachers asked us what our main worries were and the majority said getting lost. We were told by the teachers that if we did struggle to find our classroom we could ask any teacher or student and they would be willing to help (especially if it got them out of lessons). There are also signs around the school. After a few days I felt I knew my way around the school quite well. My main worry was not having friends. When we arrived at school on the first day, we lined up outside the two doors. Once we reached the front, we were asked our names and then another student took us to sit with the rest of our form. Really I had no need to worry, as I made friends really quickly the same as everyone else.

Going into year seven is a big change but the school does share some similarities with primary. At my old school we stayed in the same groups for all of our lessons apart for English and Maths. Now we move around a lot, which is nice as we get to work with other pupils. My favorite thing about the change is the new range of subjects. There is a large variety which is nice as all are days are very different. On our first day, we got given two week timetables. I didn't like the idea of this at first but it has really helped me. I made my timetable my screen saver for my phone so I could quickly turn it on and know where I was going. I thought that secondary school lessons would be really strict, but they weren't. In the first couple of weeks, the teachers ease of the rules for years sevens, since it seems like a lot to remember. Personally, my favorite subject is P.E. I like the freedom of it and the fact that it is quite a relaxed subject in some ways. (By that I mean we can mess about a bit.) The teachers are not that strict. As much as they want us to get the work done, they are quite competitive with one another and we do have a laugh with them. I initially struggled to switch into the sort of time zone of ReigateSchool. In primary, we could take time with our work. But at secondary, we need to complete work in the time we are given. At break and lunch I spend my most of my time chatting with my friends. There are loads of places you can go. One thing I really like is that you can sit in the corridors and stay inside no matter whether or not it rains. Break is about 20 minutes long and lunch is about an hour. At break and lunch you can: play football on the football pitch, go to the pitstop (this is like a tuck shop), go to the canteen, meet friends, and go to clubs.

DETENTION: don't worry about detentions. I think it is quite hard to get a detention. You get many warnings before you even come close to one. Reigate School gives achievement points for good behaviour and work and behaviour points if you do something wrong as a warning.

My top five tips for secondary school:

1. Make your timetable your screen saver
2. Ask for help if you need it
3. Stick in groups when you travel to lessons to avoid getting lost
4. Pack your bag the night before
5. Schedule your homework

Hopefully this will help, Leah

Dear future Year 7 student,

You should enjoy your first day of Reigate School. On my first day, I tried to see my friends as often as I could and whenever it was possible, we would always just walk together because it makes it so much easier to get on with your day. To be honest at the end of the day you've probably made friends with someone new in your form.

My favourite lessons are probably Science, P.E and D.T. The reason why Science is one of my favourite subjects is because one of my Science teachers would always go off topic, so in one Science lesson the teacher would spend half the time talking about something random and in the other one you actually learn something. P.E has always been one of my favourite subjects because I quite like anything to do with sports. I like D.T because it's fun and most of the time you get to express your creativity. If you're lucky you'll get Mr. Kent he's really funny.

At break and lunch I would usually just get a snack and play some football at break (I'm a boy) and at lunch I would either eat in the canteen and talk with my friends or eat and then play football. Again.

The way I found my way around school was quite easy. At first, I would walk around with my friends who had the same lessons as me and then gradually I would learn my way around the school because it's not actually that hard it's probably the last thing you should worry about. If you don't think that either of these will work for (which they probably will) you can always just follow the signs around the school.

There are really only three things different about Primary School compared to Secondary. Number one would be the amount of clubs there are and the amount of freedom you have to create your own clubs. Number two would be the size but like I've already said eventually you get used to how big it is. Finally, number three which would just be how many different teachers you have and getting used to which ones are more strict than others. You have to be careful here.

A definite top tip would be as soon as you get your timetable, take a picture of it that way you don't end up having to ask a friend and then find out that they're not in your next lesson and THEN go to student services to find out what your next lesson is AND THEN be late for class and I think you get the picture. Also remember to put your phone on silent during lesson, they should tell you this but I'm just letting you know in advance. I know from experience.

Yours sincerely,

The Anonymous Person In The Year Above (Niyo actually)

Good Luck.

Dear future Year 7 student,

On the very first day we got put in our new forms in the assembly hall . We were able to chat amongst ourselves to introduce and to get to know everyone it was scary at first but then I started to make new friends. After the chat in assembly we had a tour around the whole school (which seemed really big at the time) and then went to our new form room . We then met our form teacher and she was really friendly. After that we had some taster lessons like in maths we played some maths games and done some maths questions which were really easy. We also done some English and we had to find out a murder mystery which was really fun . Then we put our finger print on the system.

I found my way around the school by looking at the signs around the school and also by asking people around me to help and most of them are kind and will tell you but some of them ignore you . We also got given maps . At lunch and break on the fist day I sat in the hall with my old friends but the we started to sit outside because it is way to loud in there. But if you didn't want to be with the older children then you can go to the astroturf which is just for year 7 . If it is raining then it would be better to go indoors but some people still go outside . You can play football at lunch and break if you want to .

My favourite lessons in Reigate school is P.E because I love sports (my favourite is netball and gymnastics) and my P.E teacher is really nice . My 2 other favourite lesson is art and food tech . I love art because I think it is just relaxing and calm and sometimes the teacher put on music . I also love food tech because we get to make food and some of the are actually really tasty .

It is very different from primary school because you have to move classes and have different teaches for different subjects. We also have shorter lunch and break and not that much time to get to your lessons . We also have something called achievement points and behavior points . Achievement points are good point which you want to get and when you get a certain amount you get a badge but behavior points are bad and you don't want to get them . You can also get detention if you get too many also for talking in class when you are not ament to .

Hope this is useful

From Poppy

Dear future Year 7 student,

I know that this is probably not the way you were expecting to enter Reigate School, but trust me, it'll be alright. When I came, everything was ready and the teachers were so great at settling us in, and even in these circumstances, I still know that that will be the case for you guys.

At Reigate School there are loads of extra curricular activities that really help you make friends if you are struggling; it's where I made mine, so I don't see why you couldn't! You may be a bit scared of all the older years, but if you're nice to everyone then there will be no problem. You might also be a bit worried about getting your way around the school, as if you have already been to the school, you'll know that it's really big! But, on your first day, you're given a map of the school and get to go on a treasure hunt to get used to all the different areas of the school, and that really helps.

Every student gets put into a form of 15, where each day you spend 20 minutes with your form tutor talking about what is going on, and it's like an extra little community. You get paired up with another form to make a class of 30, who you will do most of your lessons with, except maths, French, Spanish (which are set), and DT. This is also a really fun opportunity to meet people from other schools and other classes. You will only be put in classes with other people in your population. These are three parts of the year that you do all your lessons with and you each have a different head of year. For my year (and maybe for your year 7), the heads of population were Miss Singleton, Mr Jones and Mr Marsh, all of which are nice and help you get settled in really well.

You get a variety of different lessons which are spread across a two week timetable. You get new lessons like Drama, Citizenship, DT, and Food and Nutrition. All of these new subjects are really fun. You may not have done much science at your Primary school, but at Reigate School we do it three times a week. It's really fun and you get to do lots of fun practicals and other things.

During lunch time and break time, I like to hang out with my friends, get something to eat from the delicious canteen and some days do some clubs. The food at Reigate School is delicious and I thought that I would be horrible but I was very surprised. They have a great variety and lots of choice, and a different main meal and pudding every day aswell as salads, potatoes, pasta, curry and other lovely stuff. The coolest part is the fact that you a fingerprint scanner which links to your account which you can buy your meals from, which you can top up with money whenever you like! The canteen is also open at Break, which is when I get my lunch, as there are my favourite chicken wraps, which always sell out, so you have to be fast to get them!

I hope that your start to Reigate School is just as good as mine was,
Yours Sincerely,
Rafe

Dear future Year 7 student,

Year 7 is, well it's fun. Don't let the fact you're not "the biggest in school" anymore worry you, Year 11 are not all annoying. The homework is no worse than year 6, it's relatively like year six homework just slightly harder. Each year its gets harder but you get smarter so it won't be too difficult. It's sort of like going back to year 3 but in a new school.

The teachers are really nice to everybody, and are like all other teachers so behave and never forget your P.E. kit and you'll be ok.

Seth

(◡‿◡)

Dear future Year 7 student,

On my first day of school, I walked around to find where all my classes are and to meet my new teachers. To find my way around the school I was using the school map and it took me only about a week or two before I knew where all my classes were. My favourite lessons are: PE, design technology and computing. When I have my break and lunch time, I normally talk to my friends and eat some food. I enjoy my break times because instead of me having to work I can talk to my friends and play outside with them before I have to do work again.

My secondary school is different to my primary school because it is bigger which means you're not squashed when you are trying to get to your class and when you know the way to all of your classes you will be able to find the easiest way and quickest way to get to your classes. If your worried about anything you can talk to the teachers because they are all very supportive and will make sure you're alright with everyone.

Hopefully you're looking forward to join year 7

From William

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'William', written in a cursive style.

Dear Future Year 7 student,

My first day.... Well, I've got to say that it was the day that I made most of my friendships. This is a day to S.O.C.I.A.L.I.S.E. However, do not put too much pressure on this. Don't worry about finding your way around as your form teacher will show you to your first two lessons. There is also a fun surprise activity to look forward to in the afternoon.

Next, we have favourite subjects and mine is PE. This isn't one of the most important points because the subjects aren't that different. Apparently, there is a new subject coming next year, take that as you will. There is one subject that most new students are interested in: DT is an extremely fun subject and it doesn't matter which teacher you have as they are all fun and exciting.

No matter what anyone tells you, it isn't that hard for you to find a seat in the cafeteria at lunch. Just choose an available table at the beginning of the year and keep sitting there and within a few days that'll be "your" table. Don't spend all your time in the cafeteria though, there are plenty of options outside or inside for you to hang out with your friends. For example, the tennis courts. They are a great place to talk with your friends or play football. If you are into quiet places to chat with your friends or be alone then the library is a choice. Finding your way around school is easy when you establish the three main corridors- the languages corridor, the sciences corridor and the cafeteria/ lockers corridor. There is a sign of directions at the left of the entrance. There are only a few minor differences from these two schools, all of which I am sure that you know already. Lastly, my top tips: memorize the way to your locker and then to your form room as these are the most important; running to the cafeteria really isn't necessary: homework- get the easiest one done first.

From Zoe 😊😊

Dear future Year 7 student,

I am writing to inform you about secondary school. It can be a bit scary at times but soon enough you will get used to it, but then again it is a big change since secondary school is very big it is fine to be a bit worried but don't be even if it is new lessons you have never learnt before or there are older and taller students, it is a larger school you will be going to but you will make a lot of friends.

To begin with on the first day of secondary it is year 7s only and the teachers of course this is so you get to know where everything is, it may take a while to get used to because your time table is set over 2 weeks. I think of my school as Hogwarts because for the rest of your years at school your form is like your family. At break you will have 25mins so there is time for a little snack from the canteen or play on the tennis courts or sit and chat, and lunch is 35 mins you can do the same thing but longer.

TOP TIPS

At lunch it can get very, very, busy in the canteen so if you don't have enough time at home to pack, pack lunch then at break I would get my lunch and save it for lunch.

In the morning and you forgot to do your homework that's due today try and get to school as quick as you can and before form time go to the library and try to get it done by then but make sure to get to form on time*.

If you can't do* then ask your form tutor if there could be a day of form time to do homework.

Lost? Don't panic ask anyone they will definitely help

Hoped this helped 😊 from Isabella

Hello year 6 student,

Hope you have had an amazing year 6 experience but I think year 7 will be way better at Reigate School. This letter will help you in making the move to secondary school.

Firstly, the staff at Reigate school are really nice and friendly and will always do what is best for you to make your learning the most enjoyable it can be. Also, you get your own form tutor with only 15 people in your form group at the start of the day. It doesn't increase to 30 people until you get to Year 8. It is a really nice and small group.

When you go to school in the morning you go to your form room. You're supposed to be there at 8:45am where your teacher takes the register and gives you important messages for 15 minutes. Then at 9am it is your first lesson and at 10am you go to your next lesson. After that you have your well deserved break to meet your friends, which is at 11am to 11:20am. Then you are onto lesson three that is 11:20am to 12:15pm, as you go to lunch five minutes before every other year group. But then half way through the year, that changes and

lunch is then 12:20pm to 1:00pm. Nearly through the day now and on to lesson four you start at 1:00pm and end at 2:00pm. Now finally lesson five you start at 2:00pm and finish your day at 3:00pm. I like that you go in to school earlier but you come out earlier.

On your first day at Reigate school you should try to make friends and start knowing your classmates. Don't think you are going to get lost as it only took me three days and then I could easily navigate my way around Reigate school. Try to enjoy every subject to its fullest even if you do not like the subject because I think the teachers will change your opinion. My best subject is P.E. as you are outside in the fresh air and you are doing sport but yours can be anything from: Maths, English, Computing, D.T, Art, R.E, history, French, Spanish, Dance, Drama, Science, Food and Nutrition and P.E.

See you next year,
Jack

Dear Year 6 student,

I am going to be telling you about Reigate School and what to expect when you come here!

On my first day one thing I really liked was it was only the new year 7's and the year 11's at school so it was a lot less overwhelming.

First, we went to our form room, the teachers showed us how to get there if we didn't remember, and we were given a tour of the school. We were shown where our lockers were and the classrooms and some of our new teachers, and we scanned our fingerprints so we can buy our lunch! We also did a scavenger hunt around the school which fun.

I found my way around school by following some of the people in my class that knew where they were going, and I had a map that also helped me. One day I couldn't find the library (LRC) and I asked a teacher who helped me. I spent my breaks sitting with my friends in the canteen and my lunches in the LRC.

The LRC has computers to finish homework or schoolwork, it has a wide range of books to read and a lot of seating. There is also a lot of staff there to help you find a book or help with homework.

My favourite lessons are Art - there are a lot of opportunities to improve your art skills and learn more about it. Science -you get to do lots of fun practicals (experiments) and you also learn a lot about the world and the environment. DT -there are so many different projects to do in DT. At the start of Year 7 you get to make pens.

Secondary school is different to primary school because in secondary you have more freedom, you can have your phone, you can be in the school at break and lunch and you can go mostly anywhere in the playground. It is also

different because you are suddenly the youngest in the school (but that has its upsides!)

Sincerely,
Poppy

Dear Year 6 Student here is a Q&A style letter for you:

What did you do on your first day?

On my first day in Reigate school we had an assembly to show us what lessons we had and then we were taken by our form tutor to our form class after we had met our form friends and teacher, we then used our maps to find our way to our first class and for about a week they allowed you to find your way around but after the week they will give you behaviour points and they are bad achievement points are good.

What are your favourite lessons?

My favourite lessons are: Pe, Maths, Design Technology, Science, Spanish, French, Computing, Citizenship, History, Art, Re and Food Technology.

How did you find your way around the school?

It was very easy to find your way around, it took me about a week or less but they do give you time to find your way around the school and after that time you have to be on time or you will get a behaviour point which is bad you really do not want them -I know I all ready talked about behaviour points in the first paragraph but you just do not want them.

Any top tips you think the new year 7 should know?

My top tips are: Don't be naughty, Be good, finish your work in the lesson or next lesson time because they switch lessons very fast, Do your homework on time as you also get behaviour points from that, Tell the teacher if you need help it will really help out, This is for girls don't wear your skirts rolled up as the first time you will get told of second time it will be a behaviour points and work hard as it will get you achievement points.

How did you spend your break and lunchtime?

In my break and lunchtimes I would normally sit at the benches with my friends and chat, the boys would usually just play football and boy things, girls just do girly things or maybe football, break starts at 11 ends at 11:25 and lunch starts at 12:25 and ends at 1.

How is secondary school different from primary school?

Secondary school is vastly different to primary school, secondary school ends at 3 and primary school ends at 3:30. In secondary school you switch classes in primary school you stay in one classroom. Secondary school has different years. Pe is slightly more active in secondary schools. In secondary school they give you a lot more homework then primary schools.

From Amy

Dear year 6 student,

Even though it's hard moving schools and scary sometimes, moving into secondary school is cool. When I started Reigate School I walked around the school to see where everything was like the history block and all of the other lessons and I thought I'd never remember where to go! But trust me it doesn't

take long to work out where everything is! However if you do get lost that's okay you can always ask a teacher or an older student and they will be more than happy to show you the way to your class so don't worry.

Once you get used to where you are meant to go it's the best feeling ever! And at break time year seven are allowed to go on the Astro where I like to play football, or there is a tennis court that only year seven are allowed to go on. The other good thing about being in secondary school is you make lots of new friends and you get to catch up with some of your old friends too!

My favourite lesson is PE because you can get outside and do some fun activities.

My top tip to you guys is to not stress about getting lost and don't be scared to ask someone for help everyone is very friendly at Reigate School.

From Callum

Reigate Secondary School
2nd June 2020

Dear Year 6 Student,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well with these difficult times. So, here I am writing to reassure you that coming to Reigate secondary school will have challenges but you will have fun.

I know that this year is going to be difficult with this current ongoing closure of your school and there might not be those transition days that my year had last year. This is where you could ask those questions that have been going around in your head but I would like to say I had nerves of starting my year 7, but I found that being scared is natural, and anyway the teachers and other pupils will be there.

My main questions were "Will I get lost, will I make friends?" Well the answers were - I did get lost because the school is so large and I could not work out the map they had given me but a teacher came to my rescue and took me to my lesson. I'd found that after a week I knew my way around and worked out the lessons. Friends - I have made loads. So I hope that this letter will ease some of your anxieties and you will be looking forward to coming to Reigate secondary school.

From Ella-Louise

Dear Year 6 pupil,

Hi, I'm Jessica - a pupil at Reigate School.

Secondary school and primary are hugely different but you don't need to worry about anything!

On my first day of school I knew barely anyone in my new class, but by the end of the day I had already made new friends! At break and lunch I spend time with friends (just remember everyone else doesn't really know anyone so they'll be in the same position as you, so you don't need to worry about that!) On my first day I had no idea where I was going, but you can always ask a member of staff or another pupil as they will almost always help you.

Hope you enjoy your first day at Reigate!

From Jessica

DEAR STUDENT OF YEAR 6,

I am writing to tell you about Year 7 and how fun it is!

In Year 7 you have a various number of subjects to enjoy and a 30-minute break and lunch. You will love lunch because you can choose whatever you want (That is available)! If you like PE, you will love the exiting things you do, for example football and rugby but by far my favorite sport is running sports! The science facilities are AMAZING, and you get to do cool science experiments like turn acids red and learn about distillation which is a fun experiment.

Back to lunch where if you get there fast you can beat the queue and get your food first, so you have plenty of time to get to your next lesson or play with your friends! On your first day, you will be given a timetable, so you know which lesson you must go to. What I did was take a picture on my phone and set it as my lock screen so when I turn on my phone, I can see what lessons I have got on that day.

Finding my way around the school for the first time was hard but, in the end, I knew almost every corridor and room in the building, so it was easy for me to find my class on my first day. The cafeteria had a giant queue but that is because I didn't rush there. Now though I rush there with or without my friends and I am done eating as soon as they get their food, so I am never late to class. You can get a detention if you are late or if you refuse to do your homework.

I hope you enjoy Year 7

Yours sincerely

Louie F

02nd June 2020

Dear new starter,

Welcome to year 7 at Reigate School. The transition from Primary school to secondary school can be quite scary but it doesn't need to be.

Everybody is friendly at Reigate School. I remember when I first started last year, and all the older students offered help and directions to classes when I must've looked lost!

It's much more fun at Secondary school. You're allowed to keep your mobile phone on you but must only use it break/lunch or when a teacher says you can.

I spend most of my break & lunch times playing football with friends I made here at Reigate. I do sometimes play on my phone at lunchtime too if it's raining or visit the canteen which has lots of options to choose from.

My favourite subjects are Maths & PE.

It's easy to know which lessons you have as the school give you a timetable which most students take a photo of and set as their home screen on their phone. You'll also get a map of the school, but I doubt you'll need that after a few weeks.

There's lots of after school clubs too. There's something for everyone to do and you can meet other students with the same interests.

See you in September! From Luke

Dear Year 6 Pupil,

I bet you're feeling nervous about coming to Reigate School but there is no need to be scared! Here at Reigate School we have friendly staff to help guide you to your next class or the canteen. All the children are really friendly and are there to help you. We made friends with everyone, the football pitches are amazing, the school is huge and there are separate buildings for maths, English and DT and Computing.

On my first day at Reigate School me and my form group just got to know the school to see where everything is and not forgetting meeting our new teachers. When you get inside the school you feel like a fish in the sea because it is so big. The first lesson that I had was science and all I had to do was make a poster about what you think science is like at Reigate School. At lunch time and break times I play football and socialise with my friends but when it's raining, I just play games on my phone because you can't play games outside. The canteen is open all break and lunch time. Outside when it is not raining there is another place where you can get pastries and sandwiches and that is called the pit stop which is located near the new P.E block.

My favourite lesson is DT where you get to make objects. Up until Christmas or a bit longer you get to make your very own pen. My other favourite lessons are P.E and Food tech. In Food tech you get lessons on what you are going to make. My favourite food that I have made is a Christmas log. You get to take the Christmas log home and it is really fun to make.

I found my way around the school by using google maps but that's only if you have a phone, but mostly stick to using the map that they give you.

At Reigate school the days are shorter because you get to finish at 3pm. In year 8 you get to go on school trips to different countries. There are loads of after school clubs to do such as Table Tennis, Railway club and Football club.

These are some top tips that you should follow

- Socialise
- Make new friends
- Don't be naughty
- Always be nice to your teachers
- Have a big bag to put your school work in
- And lastly have fun

Yours Sincerely

Max Handley

Hello Year 6 student,

I know you might be worried about secondary school especially not having an induction day. Honestly, I felt the same way, not knowing my way around, not seeing my friends, and even not knowing what to choose for lunch. But eventually you will get used to it and you'll feel right at home. I never would have thought I could make so many friends but I did and I'm sure you will too. You'll

get at least two people in your form and partner form that you know but you might get even more, it varies. I found all years to be helpful so if you get lost they have your back.

Top Tips

1. After lesson 3 you need to sprint to the lunch queue otherwise there is nothing left!
2. Try to make as many friends as possible (you'll need them).
3. Try out as many clubs as you can, you might even find them interesting.
4. The teachers don't want full marks from you they just want you to do your best (but if you can get full marks don't be afraid to go for it).
5. If you are worried about moving to secondary then channel all that emotion and turn it into confidence.

Lessons

There are around 17 subjects and all are great! My personal favourites are PE, Spanish and Science not only because the teachers are amazing but they make the learning fun too.

PE has lots of different sports such as netball, football, rounders and many more. Languages are fun but challenging at times. Reigate school has Spanish and French and both are amazing. Science is another fun lesson because you get to do practicals (experiments), in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Reigate school offers lots more subjects including: Geography, History, Maths, English, Drama, Design Technology, Food Tech, RE, Dance, Music and finally Computing. I'm sure you'll enjoy them all and if you need any help in any of those subjects just ask a teacher or older student. You'll do great!

From, Maya 7SA.

Dear year 6 Student,

I'm writing to tell you about moving up to secondary school. It may seem scary at the beginning but then you will realise it's almost like staying in primary, apart from the little kids and a few lessons.

The first day of secondary is really fun. You don't have to do any work. You do lots of fun activities and relax about everything. You

start at home, then you walk or take a bus to Reigate school and do some fun lessons!

You have assemblies on Monday and Friday, one in the gym and one in the main hall. Breaks will be 25mins and lunch will be 35mins you will also learn French and Spanish. There is a room for almost everything but it will only take a few weeks to know every room. You get a time table for lessons and room numbers. If you get lost feel free to ask someone if you see them.

Hope this helped!

Good luck on your first day!

From Roman

Dear Year 6 student,

On my first day I got put into my form group in the hall and were able to chat among ourselves. Then we went to our classroom and got put in our seats and chat while everybody else was coming in and meeting our form teacher. Secondly, we did taster lessons which were maths games and English which was a murder mystery which was really fun! Secondly, we went to the food hall and we got our finger print put on the system so we could get food.

When I first joined Reigate school my main worry was getting lost and the teachers said that you don't need to worry about that because it was our first few days and a top tip would be find a person who had the same lessons as you before the lesson ends so you can go together.

At break I mostly chat with my friends and what I like about break and lunch time is that you can sit anywhere even if it's raining then you can sit inside in the corridor. At Break and lunch most people go to the canteen or the pit stop to go get food or drinks which you can eat outside or inside!

One of my favourite lessons is maths and I really enjoyed the tasters sessions on the first day! My second favourite lesson is PE and I was really pleased that they had a netball team and a running team as well!

The thing that is different between junior school and secondary school is that when you are in secondary school is that you are preparing for your exams and more importantly GCSEs and much more school work!

From Sophia

Dear Year 6 pupil,

I understand that you won't get your induction day so hopefully this will help you understand the things you're worried or just interested about moving into year 7.

Firstly I know you must be worried about the bullies .Well don't be. In the beginning, everyone is really understanding that you are a bit nervous (we've all gone through it) .At lunch you will be allowed to go 10 minutes early to start with so you don't get stuck in the lunch queue crowd !Another worry is that you will get lost .Well in year 7 you do loads of scavenger hunts in PE (and they give you maps around the school that you can keep) so by the end of the first few weeks you will be able to go round the school with your eyes closed but its fine if you get lost- the teachers really don't mind you being late to start with and you can ask anyone for help especially the new year 8. You will get your own lockers and you will be able to put your PE kit in there, although I suggest you just carry your books in your bag as you don't want to keep going to your locker between lessons.

On your first day, when all of this is over, you meet your new teachers, play fun games and do relaxed lessons so don't worry they won't be teaching you really really hard stuff straight away! You're probably nervous about all the HOMEWORK but its ok at the start you only get Maths, English and Science then every half term 2 more lessons give you a little bit of homework. At break time we have 20 minutes and we just sit and chat with your new friends or go on our phones and you can get a snack (pretzel, cupcake, cookie or fruit) or you can have lunch at break the teachers don't mind. At lunch we have 30 minutes but you will start off with 40 minutes in year 7 you have the whole tennis courts to yourself so no older years can come in so you might go there!

My favourite lessons are PE and DT because you can be really creative (and they are the lessons you can normally talk the most in)! This is the end of the note but one big tip on making new friends is being confident because everyone is feeling shy so if you show confidence you will not only make new amazing friends you will make everyone else feel a lot more confident too. Thank you for reading this, mysterious year 6 nearly year 7 student hope it helped!

Yours sincerely Year 7 pupil,

Freya

Dear year 6 student,

I would first like to start by giving you a very warm welcome to the start of year 7 and hope for you to settle in comfortably. Reigate school is a great place full of facilities, fun activities, clubs, trips to look forward to, and of course brilliant learning. Here at Reigate school teachers are always here to help with any problems or issues that you may have, whether that's, homework, learning, home etc.

Starting secondary school can always be scary, nerve-wracking or even feel anxious, however before you know it you'll be making new friends, learning new things and getting used to everything around you. You also get given a timetable to help you get around easier and to remember what classes you have. The first day of school is mostly to get to know your teachers, explore the school and to just settle in. You can also attend a summer school (which is in the summer before you join year 7) summer school really helps you get that first step of meeting new people and making friends, you get breakfast, lunch and a wide range of different fun activities everyday for the week, some examples: Quad biking, obstacle courses, making your own film, indoor school clue hunts etc. Although I guess summer school won't be happening this year.

There are many more great things to get to know about the school on your induction day by the head teacher to talk through all the information you will need to know including finding out your form room and teachers. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Yours sincerely, Angelina (a Year 7 student)

Hello new Year 7 student,

I'm happy you're coming to Reigate School. It's a really great school in my opinion although I'm pretty sure everyone else would agree.

On your first day, you will get your tutor group and form tutor. The form tutor will lead you to your form room and explain some of the uniform and school rules. Then, she/he will show you where your last two classes will happen. There will be an assembly before then and then you will have break. After your break, you will be talked to more by your form tutor until lunch. (Packed lunches) before your last two classes of the day.

My favourite classes are probably Drama and English. Drama because the tasks are fun and nothing is a set task. There are basic guidelines but nothing specific. I also like English because it gives me a chance for creative writing which I personally love.

It's quite easy to find your way around Reigate School because there are blue signs pointing to the classrooms around the school. (The LRC or the Learning Resource Centre is the library). Look on your timetable and it will show you which classroom you're in.

During breaks and lunches, my personal favourite place to be is the library. Normally, the canteen isn't good because it's always full. So if you want to sit in there, might want to make it early.

Secondary school isn't very different to primary school except the classes are more advanced. The detentions are the same because in primary school they keep you in at break or lunch which is a nicer version of detention.

Top tips:

- ❖ Don't try to use the science corridor as a shortcut. Trust me, it never works.
- ❖ The nicer you are to the teachers as a class, the sooner you're let out for lunch or break.
- ❖ Don't try to play games on the school computers or search anything up. Believe me, the teachers can see what you're doing.
- ❖ Try to steer clear of the year 11s. You never know.

Hope this helps you survive Reigate School!
Eliana, Reigate School student.

Dear future Year 7 student,

I am writing this letter to tell you about your new school and what to expect. At first Reigate School may seem big and scary but it really isn't once you know your way around! I know that it only took me a couple of days to know where I was going but if you need help, the place to go is student services. Student services can be found if you turn left when entering the school. They can help you out with most things from lost property (I have a lot of experience with this!) to any other worries. You will also be given a map to help find your way around the school.

On my first day of school I was introduced to my new form (my new class.) We then had a short assembly where most of what we were going to do in the day was explained. We only did a small amount of work on the first day because the majority of what we were doing were fun activities and just getting to know each other.

I personally enjoy Spanish, Design technology and PE but there are loads more topics that you will be introduced to. Some of which are: Maths, English, French, Computing, Citizenship and more! There is also a lot more variety of what you are doing in lessons such as frequent science experiments, art projects and PE tournaments.

At lunch break, the cafeteria is open where a phenomenal range of foods can be bought. From a sandwich to pizza or chicken nuggets and chips, the cafeteria has it all. There is also the option to bring a packed lunch but why would you miss out on all the amazing food that you can buy. Make sure to put some money "on your finger" because to buy your lunch, your fingerprint gets scanned! If you are worried that you won't be able to see your friends, my tip is to arrange a place to meet up at break and lunch. That way you aren't looking for your friend all of lunch. On Tuesdays I go to Marvel club with my lunch and watch a film (one of the many perks of being in Reigate school!)

Basically, Reigate school is amazing and there is nothing to be scared of!
I hope this letter has helped reassure you that year 7 will be fine.

From Harry Lauder

Hi, Year 6.

I am writing this letter to help your transition to secondary school and to let you know what to do and what to expect. On my first day, I was very nervous while walking into school. We were taken to the hall and had a very reassuring assembly about what to do and explained some basic things about Reigate School. We were only in for half a day and had only one lesson which was very fun because afterwards we had a helpful scavenger hunt in our classes to help us know where some buildings were around the school. Breaks and Lunchtimes in secondary school are quite different. Even though you have less time outside, it is more than enough time to do what you need to do. You can do all sorts of things such as go to the library, eat in the lunch hall, chat with your friends and many more! My favourite lessons are English, PE and Science as they are very fun and you get to learn many new skills and techniques in them. At first, I had some trouble getting my way around school but luckily during the scavenger hunt, you receive a map around the school and you have the option to keep it if you would like.

Secondary school is quite different from primary school but you get used to the brand-new system very quickly. For example, each lesson is in a different class opposed to them being in the same room in your old school. You have more responsibilities but it is a good thing as you learn how to be more mature. My tips for any new Year 7 are to keep some great memories of the past but be ready to move one and make even more!

From Hassan

Dear year six student,

Congratulations on completing primary school! We would like to welcome you to secondary school! We think that you will really enjoy it.

Some of the best parts of entering secondary school from primary school is the fact that you now have a much greater options and subjects to study! For example you now study science (my personal favourite subject) in much more depth and delve into the amazing world of cells and chemicals! Or if your preference lies with history you can learn incredible things that never before crossed your mind!

I tend to spend my break time between lessons catching up with my friends who were not in one of my many lessons and preparing for my next lessons.

At lunch I buy a sandwich at the canteen and once a week I buy a biscuit for a treat.

At first it can be hard to navigate around but no matter how daunting it can feel there is always someone willing to help you find your way around. After only a few months most students are able to find their way but if you can't then don't worry, practice makes perfect!

On your first day you will meet all of your teachers for the first time and you will be given a basic guide around the school.

We hope that you enjoy your time here,

Jack and all the pupils of year 7 2020

Dear Year 6 Student,

I am writing to tell you about why you should be excited about coming to Reigate School in September.

When you arrive, you will go into the hall and sit with your tutor group and you will receive a warm welcome. Everybody is really friendly. Then you will spend some time with your tutor group in your form room and you will already start to make new friends.

When lunch time comes, you come back to the hall and tables will be laid out; you can either eat your own packed lunch or have a cooked meal from the canteen. The great thing about your first day is that there are no other students in school so this makes lunch time and finding your way around school easier. After lunch, you will be given your timetable and then you will have two lessons on the first day.

Don't worry about finding your way around the school because you will be given a tour and a map. And if you still get lost, ask another student or a teacher and they will happily help you.

The main difference between primary school and secondary school is homework; there is much more but you will start off slowly and will be given a small amount while you settle in. Another difference is that you will have lots more subjects and lots of different teachers. I'm sure that you will prefer some subjects more than others but there will definitely be something that you enjoy!

Finally, remember to enjoy yourself, work hard and make the most of the opportunities here at Reigate School

Best wishes

J. R. (a year 7 student)

Dear new year 7 student,

Welcome to year 7! The lessons are a bit different from primary school as you have a timetable and have to move to a different classroom each lesson. At first it can be hard to remember your way around, but there are signs all over the school, teachers and students you can ask for help. Also if you ever need help with anything else or are lost you can go to student services and they will be able to help you.

Year 7 is a fun year as it is your first year experiencing secondary school, and gives you the opportunity to meet new people. Your first day can be scary but also exciting. As you will start to learn about the school and meet some of your new teachers. However, it's also quite scary going to a new school, as it might look very big but you shouldn't worry too much. There are also lots of fun lessons and school trips that you will be able to experience. These include camp (I never went but heard from other years that it is a great trip) and Thorpe Park which you get to go to as a reward if you have full attendance.

One of my favorite lessons is food tech as you get to do all sorts of cooking and it's very fun. Most days of the week there are different clubs for you to try out. I recommend trying a club as it can be a good way to get used to the school and make new friends. The difference between primary and secondary school is that you have more responsibility, in remembering your timetable and being on time to lessons. Overall, year 7 is a great year and make sure to enjoy it.

From Pearl

June 2020

Dear Year 6 Student,

I am writing to let you know that Reigate School is one of the best schools I have ever been to. The fact that I have only been able to spend half a year in and attending the school and already have this opinion means that Reigate School has quickly given me an amazing impression to think of it so highly. You must have many questions and I will try to answer most of them based on what I was worried about.

1. **Are the teachers nice?** I was so worried about this but there is nothing to fear. On my induction day, I was the only one from my primary school and I was so shy. My form tutor was so nice, when I didn't have anyone to sit with at lunch, she found a lovely group of girls from my form to sit with. All my teachers (although strict sometimes) have been so nice and supportive. But if you ever have any problems, the teachers are amazingly supportive and helpful. Never be afraid to ask for help.
2. **Will you make friends?** I was completely terrified because I had no existing friends at this school so I had to start from scratch. If you are like me and will be moving to this school alone then it's understandable that you'd be nervous . But don't worry because I quickly made friends while still being extremely shy. If I can then surely you can too!
3. **How strict are the teachers?** Surprisingly the teachers rarely need to be strict and would never yell at you for no reason. The tip I have for you is to always listen to the teachers and respect them by behaving yourself. Follow the rules and keep silly behaviour on a low. Although sometimes a little silly behaviour is allowed, you just have got to keep an eye out for opportunities.
4. **How hard is the work?** I personally think that lessons are enjoyable if you work hard and follow the rules. Now I should inform you that I am a total bookworm and am a little nerdy because I know that some people find some subjects hard and will have a little trouble but I've found things pretty easy this year. I love all lessons but some do get tedious and it is perfectly fine to need help. **Homework.** Right, I know people stress about this but it is perfectly fine to stress because who wouldn't? Reigate School is amazing and they ease you in to homework starting with English and Maths for a few weeks and then gradually adding subjects.
5. **Will you get completely lost?** The short answer is yes. Yes, you will get lost at the start, everybody does. Soon though, the school grounds will become the easiest maze in the world and become a second home away from home. The corridors are busy during class changes but there is always another way and if you can work which way has less traffic, then you will be golden.

Ok, that is what I was most worried about when I first came but if you have any other queries then I am sure my list of tips and tricks will help.

My list of tips and tricks

- ORGANIZE!! Please organise your time maybe make a routine
- Keep a full water bottle at all times, you never know when it will come in handy
- Make sure you keep the essentials on you at all times (blue or black pen or both, pencil and rubber, ruler, green and purple pen)
- Use your locker, it may be small but it is still really useful
- Use time wise routes around the school
- Follow rules
- Have a glue even though they say you don't need one
- Spend your breaks having fun and hanging with your friends
- Always bring a smile to school and don't take it off the whole day
- Make smart choices
- Have an amazing first year

So now that you know my tips and tricks you are almost ready for Reigate School. I am so jealous that I have to leave year 7 and move on because it has been such an amazing but short time in year 7 that I never want to leave. Also year 7 are the only year lucky enough to get the whole tennis courts to themselves. Hold on to every moment in year 7 because it flashes by so fast that you won't know what happened. I hope you have the most amazing year 7, just as I did. Don't let your worries get the best of you, just let yourself have an amazing year with your newly made friends and your amazing, supportive form tutor. Wishing you the best.

Dear year 6,

Welcome to Reigate School. On your induction day you would have had a tour around the school, and a scavenger hunt for citizenship with a provided map from your citizenship teacher. Reigate School is a very nice school, and you will enjoy it very much. It will be a big change in your life moving from primary school to secondary school. It is a very big school (probably 10x bigger than your primary school). At this school there is a tonne more activities available at break and lunch - football on the tennis courts and the astro and a tonne more. Also, after school clubs are very different, you do not have to sign up for a space and there are different sports for girls and boys they even do a girls football club. During the school day you will have two lessons, break, one lesson, lunch and then two lessons in the afternoon. Break is at 11:00 and lunch is at 12:25. There are lots more different subjects for you to learn. At break and lunch the two canteens are available for everyone and there is a huge variety of food to choose from. For the first week or so at the school all year sevens will have the opportunity to come 10 minutes earlier at break and lunch time. The school is different in the way that you normally have one teacher to you having lots of different teachers every day; you do not stay in one classroom you have to walk around the school property to your next lesson. Everyone around the school will be happy to help you if you are lost or stuck and need to find your way around. Have a great time!

From a mystery year 7

Hi, my name is Evie and I am just finishing my first year at Reigate School. I have really liked it so far. I will be telling you about what I think about the school and some tips and information if you are feeling worried.

So, on my first day I was a bit scared as it all seemed very new to me, we were first sorted out into classes and then we had an assembly. After that, I got to know my form tutor and form. We also had a tour of the school by our prefects. After lunch we had a fun maths lesson but the best bit was when we did a scavenger hunt all around the school! You may be feeling a little scared about finding your way around the school, but don't worry it gets easier. I mainly found my way around the school by following signs and even other children! All the teachers are very friendly and will be happy to help you find your way so don't panic. There are also always loads of prefects and other students around that know their way.

Usually I spend my break/lunchtime in the canteen, talking, having fun with my friends and eating something. My favourite lesson is probably lunch!!! I really like art because we learn so many different techniques. I also like DT because it is really fun and you learn lots of new skills.

Secondary school is very different from primary school because for your lessons you move around and have different teachers for different subjects. Plus, you get to learn so many new subjects. Also, at break/lunch you can buy your food and go almost everywhere around the school. They have a massive variety of clubs. This really has been a new experience for me. Although it may seem really big and confusing, after a while you will get to know your way around the school as if it was your home! One more thing, don't get so scared by this new adventure, that you forget to have fun!

Dear Year Six

I am writing to you on the matter of secondary school. I know it is a scary transition and even more so that you cannot have an induction day and this is why I am writing this letter.

The first matter I will be talking about is navigation this may be a worry but even with this fact there are still ways to get around efficiently. One of these ways is to explore your new environment at break but if this is not for you, you usually get a map on your first day to help you around.

Other things, may be the work load or how hard the work may be and I have to say it isn't that much harder and even on the first day you do very easy and simple maths. Additionally, on this topic you might have heard that the homework is really hard and is overwhelming and this isn't true at least for year 7 the homework is really easy and simple.

Also a top tip for secondary school: try and get to the lunch hall first, as after your first few weeks here you will not be the first to the halls and you will be mixed with all the years.

As well as this for football players the year sevens {only year sevens} have access to the tennis courts and no years above should be on if they are report them to a teacher.

I hope this letter was helpful

Yours faithfully

A year seven student

To Year 6 Student,

Because of the lockdown, you won't be able to have your induction day at Reigate School. So, I hope that this letter can tell you about what it would have been like if you had the chance.

I remember when I had my induction day at Reigate, which was almost a year ago at the time that I'm writing (I'm a Year 7)! Time has moved so quickly; I can't believe that I'm almost a Year 8! I feel like Reigate School was the right place to go, and I hope that you feel the same when you get here! I am going to try my best to fit as much as possible into this letter, so enjoy!

When I first walked into the school, I was with my friends from Primary School, and we all said to each other, we would never stop hanging out with one another. Everyone sat in a hall and we didn't have to sit on the floor (like we did in Primary School)! We had a much shorter assembly than usual (Thank goodness) and we were soon heading to our form rooms. My form (class) were extremely quiet at first, I think that we were all quite nervous! Now, almost a year on, we are all talking and we are almost too loud! We all stayed with the people that we knew already for the first few days, then we started making new friends and hanging out with different people at lunch and break. Lunch lasts 35 minutes and break lasts 25, so in total we have 1 hour of non-lesson time.

Classes here are so different from when I was in Year 6, they are fun and we get to do experiments and practicals so much more!

From Poppy

Dear Year 6

Hi, my name is Zac and I am in year 7. I hope you are well and are excited about joining our school in September. It is a real shame that you are not able to visit the school and have your induction day before September, I'm hoping that telling you about my experience might help you.

On my first day I went to my form classes and met my teacher and the rest of the class. I didn't know anyone in my form so found this a bit uncomfortable, but I quickly made some friends after a few days. The teacher explained how the day was going to be and we got on with our lessons for that day.

The main difference between my primary school and secondary is that you don't have all your lessons in one class, the school is much bigger, and it takes a bit of getting used to. Finding all the classes was a bit tricky you have a map and I made sure I was following someone from my form class so I didn't get lost. If you do get lost don't worry just ask someone and they will help. My favourite lesson is music I play the drums.

Lunchtime was good as I was able to meet up with friends from my old school, we played on the tennis courts which were a place just for year 7. Getting food was a bit difficult because it always seemed busy at the queue was always long, I took a packed lunch so that I had time to play with friends and then as my confidence grew I started using the canteen.

This Year has been good, and I was feeling more settled before the corona virus hit. My

top tip for year 7 whilst it has been great making new friends don't drop your old friends it's much easier having them in the beginning.

Good luck and welcome to Reigate school.

Zac

Dear year 6 student,

I am writing to you to talk about joining Reigate school in September. You may think that it is scary but believe me you will be completely used to it soon enough.

Orientating yourself around the school might be the thing that scares you the most and I felt that way as well but after about a half term you completely get used to it and it is second nature for you.

However, I would suggest using the map that the teachers give you until you get used to it.

Break time can be scary if you have nobody to talk to but there is still stuff to do. You can go to the tennis court (which is just for year 7's) or go to the football pitch to play with your friends. Also, you can join some clubs or just sit around and muck about with your friends.

On the first day of school it is a bit scary, but you have a really nice first day. First of all you will have a scavenger hunt to help familiarise yourself around school you will be able to buy lunch at the canteen for the first time. You will also have some lessons and get your timetable which is exciting. My personal favourite lessons are Maths, DT, Spanish and Food Tech, I like these lessons because at my primary school we didn't do many of these lessons and that makes it interesting to do.

The main differences between Primary and Secondary school are the fact that at primary school you will have one teacher for most of your lessons maybe not Maths and English whereas at Secondary school you have a form tutor and then other teachers for all of your other lessons.

Hope this helps you and have fun at Reigate School.

From,

Joe

Dear Year 6 Student.

I know some people may be scared about coming to Secondary School as it its completely different to what you are used to. I am just going to tell you some things about our school since you do not have an induction day this year due to the pandemic.

Your first day will be simple and mostly getting to know the school and where the classes are and who is in your form. Break time is at 11am and lunch time is around 12:25am. The best things to do at this time is to start making friends. Everyone goes to the tennis courts by the science block and only year 7s can go in there. Home time is a bit earlier than most Primary Schools it ends at 3pm. The work is harder but it gets harder the higher year you are in.

I hope you have a great time in Reigate School.

Best wishes Liam

Dear year 6 student,

My name is Nila and I am a Y7 student at Reigate school. I'm writing to you to inform you what you could expect on your fist day at Reigate school as a Y7 student. You may find that secondary school is different from primary school because firstly you will find a ton of extra subjects' e.g. Food technology, History, Geography, Spanish, Drama, Dance etc. Another major difference is that all secondary school students have timetables. This means that you have a structured day and you also have different teachers for each different subject. Last but definitely not least, you have a choice of bringing your own food or

2buy it from the canteen. Buying food can be done either by cash or using the fingerprint system.

On my first day I initially met my lovely form tutor and tutor group. After this, all year 7 students received a map of the school and then had a word hunt (using the map) inside the school. The whole

point of this hunt was to learn your way around school and most importantly, make new friends. Finding your way around school might be a little bit of a challenge. I remember that on my first day I was devastated because I couldn't find the classroom that I was supposed to be in. But luckily you won't have to worry because I have a few ideas. Firstly you could use the signs around the building to navigate your way around the school. Another way is to ask other students or teachers. You may think they're big and scary but if you ask them, I'm sure they will be happy to help. I have a few top tips that might help you when in Y7 which are as following; pack your bag the night before, be on time, do your homework on a daily basis so it doesn't mount up, ask student services if you get lost or need anything and most importantly be yourself! I look forward to seeing you at Reigate school in September 2020. Yours faithfully Nila

Introduction

Dear year 6s

Today im going to tell you about my amazing induction day to year 7.

When I woke up that morning I was so excited but a little nervous but that was natural for me to feel. I had arranged to meet up with 22 other people at the charcoal grill before we went to school. We had got there an hour early with my friends and we waited till it was time. I was at the front with my best friends when we were walking. My best friends were called Alfie, Liam and Harry (by the way my name is Harry). WE had finally arrived we all hoped we would be in the same side of year but knowing that we probably wont be on the same side of year let alone same form .We said our goodbyes not knowing what was about to happen.

I was first to be told what form I was in and my form was called 7SCN and my teacher was miss Callaghan. Next was my friend harry and he was on my side of year and he said do you know were 7SCN is I said that's this form and we were both really excited. Next was Liam and he said were is 7Scn and we went crazy 2 out of 3 of my best friends were in my form. We were now taken around the school by prefects and found out all about how amazing Reigate school is.

I hope you have fun reading this.

Yours sincerely

Harry Cunningham

Dear Year 6 student,

I am a current Year 7 student and I am here to welcome you to Reigate School! I know you may feel nervous and the school feels big but after a week or two you will be settled in, I guarantee.

When I started, I was so nervous about being late for class, getting lost, not making friends and more but after the first day I didn't know why I was scared. My advice would be to take a picture of your timetable on your phone or keep your time table in your bag just in

case. On my first day, we did treasure hunts to find our way around and we communicated with our form to get to know each other. The teachers and students were so nice like when my and my friends asked where something was, they just showed us where it was and the teachers understood if we got lost or we were late. So, there is nothing to worry about!

From,
Millie Dyke!

Dear year 6s soon to be year 7s

The time has come for you to start your secondary school adventure. I know you are missing your induction day due to covid-19 but there is no need to worry as a year ago I was in your shoes. Although I had my induction day, I still felt very nervous and worried but do not feel like you are on your own as everyone else will be feeling the same way.

First here are some top tips I think you should know when coming to secondary school. First, there is nothing to be afraid of especially the older years trust me your reading a letter from a person who just stuck with her friends avoiding them as best as we could but honestly, they aren't that bad. Secondly, do not forget your pe kit, I know that the school washes them, but they cannot do it every time someone wears it and just imagine how many sweaty bodies have done different sports in those clothes. Next if you decide you want food from the canteen at break and lunch get there quickly as if you do not you will be in the que for long time. Lastly make sure you pack your bag the night before, so you know you have all the right books and equipment for the day ahead. Doing this with make sure you have enough time to get ready in the mornings and if you are lucky get a lie in. However far away you live make sure you leave at a reasonable time to make sure you are not late to school.

Speaking from experience secondary school is not that much different from primary school. Some differences are that you have different teachers for different subjects, and you won't

need to stress about learning their names as in secondary school you usually call them sir and miss/Mrs. Some other differences are that you have a form which is basically your class, but you will be mixed with another form. There are also populations which the forms will get spit into. Your form is usually made up of 15 students. You will have a form tutor and a form room where you go at the start of the day and you will be with them for most of the subjects. You will have a joint form that will be in your class and in year 8 they will be in your form. Another difference you will face is that there are a lot more students than you used to as there is usually 250 or more students in a year and there are 5 years so round about 1250 students. Next is that you can have packed lunch or hot lunch whenever you want, unlike primary where you have to have hot lunch or packed lunch for a whole year.

You may be worried about finding your way around the school but do not be as when you have visited all your new classrooms you will soon get familiar with your surroundings. When I was new there, I was so worried about getting lost and being late to my classes but I soon realised it was not that hard to navigate my way around. At the start of the year you will be given a map and the teachers will be more lenient toward you and give you extra time to get to your classrooms as they know how it feels. This was also so we can get to know everyone else in our class that we might not know and a great team exercise. On my first day at Reigate I was super nervous but so excited, but you will probably be too so do not be embarrassed. We had a big assembly with the whole year group then we lined up and scanned our finger so we could later buy some food from the canteen. My class and I had citizenship and maths where we met some of our incredible kind teachers. In citizenship we did a scavenger hunt around the school to let us familiarise with the school grounds.

Some of my favourite lessons are maths and P.E. I like these subjects as it is always fun to let off some energy and be outside

after being stuck in a classroom. My favourite sport to play is netball, I go to netball club after school where I compete in tournaments and matches against other schools. Reigate provide lots of different clubs on different days of the school week and it is always good to try something new. There are even some clubs at lunch where you get to watch movies. Some think maths is just a boring lesson and all you do is solve equations but its not sometimes you get to play fun maths game and it is always fun to test your brain.

Your sincerely
Anonymous

Dear future reigate school pupil,

Moving from primary school to secondary school can seem like a big change, but let me tell you its a lot less scary than it seems. Hopefully this letter will help you through the changes of your big transition.

Secondary schools may seem dauntingly big at first glance but throughout as little as week most pupils know every route around it! However if you don't know your way and you get lost on the way to lessons at the start of the year the teaches will fully understand and there will be no punishment detentions given. Another way they help you learn your way around is orienteering and scavenger hunting activities, which is a fun way to get familiar with the school whilst getting to know your class mates.

On our first ever school day at Reigate School all the other years were not in so we had the whole school to ourselves, we did some of team building activities. When we first arrived, at the doors where prefects and teachers asking our names, then telling us our forms. Now because this is the first time you will hear your form name you would probably forget it (like i did) so you get to wear a lanyard saying your name and form. After being told our forms, we sat in the hall in our form groups and had a welcoming assemberly telling us all the facilities, rules and oppertunities this school has to offer.

followng on from that we went outside and had breaktime breaktime is usually 25 minutes so you will have enough time to do what you want, the tennis court is also specially reserved for year sevens at break and lunch so if you feel intimidated by the other years you can go and hang out or play football there. After break we went back to our form rooms and spent the next hour getting to know the teachers and pupils. We had prefects there as well if you needed any help. At lunch times for the first half-term, year sevens get to go 10 minutes early so you don't have to face the long lunch queues in the canteen. However after the first half term lunch begins to feel very short but that is becuase the quicker you have lunch the earlier you go home so don't feel upset, you get to go home half an hour before most schools! At lunch there are a few clubs you can join in with and you can sit almost anywhere to eat! When it came to the afternoon we went and did one proper lesson and then when our last lesson would have been we did orienteering to familiarise with the school and the pupils!

It may seem like a big difference between primary and secondary but over time you get used to it. Here are some of the differences: better lunch food, some new lessons, more organised day (work off timetable), slightly more homework and you get treated more maturely by teachers!

This may just be me but in my opinion Art, P.E and Computing are the best lessons! Partly because they have the best teachers but also I am interested in that sort of thing the most.

Lastly my top tips for anybody who is moving to year 7 are, don't let your homework pile up; you will only get more to do, do your very best to avoid detentions; this should be pretty easy if you follow the rules and do as you're told and also you make so many good friends and little time!

Now what I want to leave you thinking about is that if you get a good record and attendance you get to go to Thorpe Park at the end of the year!!!

Thank you and I can't wait to see you in September! Have fun :)
Emma

Letter to year 6 about secondary school **By Aydan Wright 8OEV**

Hi year 6 student, I'm Aydan Wright and I'm here to talk to you about secondary school and hoping to answer all of your questions you may have. Firstly I'm guessing the first question you may have is "I don't know anyone and it's going to be hard to make friends" and that was my biggest concern as well and my answer to that is don't worry just start to talk to people and start a conversation you think they would like to talk about and you will slowly become friends. Next question you might have, "how am I going to get around school?" I have an answer and it is Reigate School give you a map based on the school and if you're still not sure then you have a week to get to know where you are going which is really helpful as it doesn't matter if you are late to a lesson just you can't skip it. Now let's talk about lessons in my opinion I would say these lessons at Reigate School are better than primary and it makes me want to learn more which is a great thing to do in a secondary school where at the end you have your GCSE which helps you in life. Now I'm going to talk about the teachers, they are

all really nice and helpful and make sure you understand something when you might have not a clue on what they are talking about. But the best things i would say would be the activities you can do and the trips. Now the question you have been all waiting for... what about the food ? There is a canteen on the bottom floor and on the stage and the food you can get on the bottom floor are like snacks: pizza slices, sausage rolls, cakes, cookies and there is even fruit and salads. And make sure you have fun and want to learn because that will get you far in life.

To year 6 This year you have not been able to have your orientation day because of COVID-19 but this letter will help you at school and inform you. Finding your way around school can be difficult but you are giving a map to help you find your way around school but if you can not read it then you can ask a staff member or someone who is in a higher year. If you have a older sibling then they can help you. The netball court near the science department and only year 7s are allowed there. Homework can sometimes be annoying but don't leave everything to the last second because you can get flustered. Normally there is only 2 or 3 home works but some teachers might scare you with extra homework. Some teachers and subjects are nice because they set near to no homework. My favourite lessons are science, maths and drama because the drama teachers are fun loving. The math teachers are committed and you get to use real elements which are on the periodic table in class. One of my favourite lessons in science is where we used alkali metals which react with water which is in the air. If you are a P.E. type of person then you will be happy with 6 lessons a fortnight. Sincerely Ryan J. Williams

I know exactly how you are feeling scared, anxious, not ready but trust me secondary school is amazing you get new friends, new teachers, even new subjects.

Now you might be worrying about homework and getting loads all in one day but it is not like that teachers aren't mean and they don't give you no time to do anything else but school work you get one to two pieces from each subject per week if that.

You might even be worried about bullies picking on you because you are the youngest and in my two years of being at secondary school, I have not met one bully I know I was worried about that.

One more thing you might be worried about, detentions now when you think of detention you think of sitting in a room by yourself after school but no. first of all it is very hard to get a detention you really have to get on the teacher's nerves not that you should try. it starts off with a warning and if you carry on it goes to a behaviour point that stays on the system then a break time detention and so on until an after school with your head of population and head teacher

Now I have all of the things you might be worried about out of the way I should tell you about the stuff to be excited about. Firstly, you have a form tutor who looks after you and you have any problems, they will be the ones to sort it out. On top of that you have a head of population which is when your year (year 7) are split into three and have a sort of head teacher who looks after just a portion of you

Secondly, it's nice to have different teachers for different subjects with new settings and lunch is always great unlike primary school you get the main meal but you can also pick from a varied amount of different foods like pizza, burgers and things like that you can also get sweet treats. In the summer they do slushies which are very

popular one more thing if you have over 90% attendance and no behaviour points you get a trip to Thorpe park on a school day with your friends and this isn't just for year 7 it is every year

Some extra things:

On the first day you are not forced into having loads of homework and working you get to know your form and your joint form that makes your class you also get given a map around the school as it is very big compared to a primary school

My favourite lessons are food tec and design and technology mostly because I did not do these subjects in primary (these are the two subjects I took for my GCSE's) they are so fun

And remember all of you are going into year 7 together as one big team

From Noa year 8 student

Dear year 6 student.

Due to the current circumstances I'm afraid you are not going to be able to attend induction day. Instead this letter will help you understand what Reigate School is like and what's to come. I am a year eight student and will tell you that Reigate School is great. One you first day you would of come in and have and have a lesson which would help you understand what lessons where like. Speaking of lessons you will have a brand new schedule to follow. This will have rows down of five days each row has five lessons which you will follow thought the day. When lesson two and three (we call lessons periods) are over you will have your break and lunch. After lesson two you will have a twenty minute break. Here you can have a snack, socialize and go to a teacher for help. You can also go nearly everywhere around the school during these so you can find the right place for you and your friends. Then after period 3 you will have your lunch which is 45 minutes long. Here you can grab a bite to eat whether its form the canteen, pit stop or you can bring your own pack lunch. Here you can do all the things you did at break as well. Each period is 1 hour long and

you have 5 periods in a day and 5 day in a week your timetable consists of two weeks of the same timetable yet different lessons every day. Next you will have a locker key which will be given to you later on and here you can store whatever you need such as your PE kit or books or things that you can come back at the end of the day and take to bring home. Hopefully this has helped you with understanding what life at Reigate school is like. Although there is more to say I'm afraid that I cannot fit everything here.

Arvo Steins.

Dear year 6s,

On my first day I was very nervous. I knew nobody because I had just moved houses therefore I had to make new friends. Everyone looks more intimidating than they actually are. You just have to be confident and talk to lots of people, be kind.

Finding your way around the school is easier than it looks, follow the signs, or you can always ask a teacher or a student. Secondary school is very different to primary school, you have to be more mature and take the work you get taught/learn more seriously as it all contributes to your GCSEs. Although you won't have had your induction day to get a taste of secondary school I hope in September you have a great first day and make lots of new friends.

Although you won't have had your induction day to get a taste of secondary school I hope in September you have a great first day and make lots of new friends.

Dheyona

Dear Year 6,

You're probably very apprehensive about starting school without being here on your induction day but don't worry. You may be nervous about finding your way around school but it's not as big and confusing as you may think. What helped me find my way around when I first started was the maps they gave us, and also asking older students if they know where to go. Older students are actually quite helpful when it comes to getting to a new lesson. Secondary school is quite different from primary school as you go from being the oldest kids in the school to the youngest. You also have different style lessons and you will most likely be mixed up into new groups away from some of your friends. There are lots of places to go during break and lunch. Break lasts 20 minutes and lunch lasts for 35. You can go to the tennis courts which is year 7 only or just to the canteen. There are lots of places to sit outside with your friends as well. On my first day I was excited to meet new people but also nervous because of the change of surroundings. You start lessons like normal and get your timetables on the first day. You also get to meet your teachers for the first time, which is always exciting.

Eleni

Dear Year 6 student,

I hope you are well and looking forward to starting Reigate school in September. Secondary school is very different to primary school and I'm sure you must be wondering what Reigate School will be like, especially since there is no induction day this year. So, I thought I would write some information and advice to you about secondary school life.

On your first day, you will come in about midday and go straight to assembly and find your form. Then you will spend some time with your form in your form room. After, you will have lunch and do two lessons in the afternoon. Remember to bring your P.E kit on the first day because you may have this lesson. You can use a map to find your way around the school or just ask another student or teacher.

What are the main differences between primary school and secondary school? Well, I would say that you get a lot more freedom in secondary school and you study a broader range of subjects. Your timetable may look complicated to start with but you'll get used to it. One handy piece of advice is to take a photo of your timetable and set it as your lock screen on your phone. If you're like me, you won't always be able to put your hand on the important pieces of paper you've been given but let's face it, most of us keep our phones handy.

So now on to homework. The good thing is that you don't get ANY homework ... sorry, just joking!! You do get quite a lot so my best advice is to do your homework as soon as you get it and that way you can stay on top of it (I try to follow my own good advice but sometimes don't manage it - whoops!)

My top tip for you would be to always bring a reading book to school as you will need this every day.

Don't feel nervous about starting Reigate School and enjoy your summer holiday.

Best wishes.

Sam

To a year six pupil,

You may be feeling a bit nervous about joining Reigate School, especially as you no longer have an induction day due to covid-19. But don't worry as I have got some good tips for Reigate school, and what my first day was like.

What did I do on my first day?

On my first day, we went to school a bit later than usual, we had an assembly to start off the day, before we went to lunch we went to our form rooms to meet the rest of our new forms. After we had lunch we did a few lessons and then we went home.

What do I usually do in my break and lunchtimes?

I usually spend my break and lunchtimes on a bench near the DT block with a group of friends. We sit outside as there is not many places to sit inside. If you are going to sit outside I suggest that you bring a coat with you every day as it can be quite cold and if it rains. Also, it can be helpful to keep a foldable umbrella in your bag just in case you forget to bring a coat or lose it.

How do you find your way around the school?

When I first joined Reigate school, the buildings felt very big (I came from a very small school which made it feel even bigger). When you join you will get a map of the school which is outdated and confusing, but don't worry because teachers and students will help you find your way around the school. By the time it is October half term you will know where everything is.

Top tips for Reigate school.

- Don't forget your food tech ingredients, the food tech teachers don't always appreciate it when you forget them, but if you do forget just tell them before school or a couple of hours before your lesson is due to start, so they can try and sort something out.
- Every day you must have at least a pen, pencil, and ruler. I suggest that you have a spare one of each in your locker in case you have forgotten to bring your pencil case to school. But teachers will happily lend you equipment if you ask before school.
- If you have trouble remembering where your locker is or you can't remember the number easily, you can always take a picture of your locker number so you can remember what it is.

I hope that you are looking forward to joining Reigate School and that you now know a bit more about what school is like and what it is going to be like.

Yours faithfully,
Thomas

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear year 6 pupils,

I'm writing this to let you know you have nothing to worry about and everyone at Reigate including staff members and pupils are all very helpful and kind. I remember being so nervous on my first day but once you get there and start knowing your way around, it's not bad at all.

My favourite lessons at Reigate school are art and dance. The teachers for these lessons are so nice and very helping. They're also both very fun and there's a lot of times where you can use your own ideas to create something rather than the teacher tell you exactly what to do.

At break and lunch, I find my friends and we go to the canteen for food and then go to the tennis courts where a lot more of our friends are too. I found my way around school by using a map and finding the classes with friends so that we could walk in together. Don't worry if you get lost; student services can always help.

Secondary school is different to primary school because there are more people walking around than there would have been in primary. Sometimes the corridors get quite full and busy, but you just need to be patient! There's a lot more discipline too, teachers will give behaviour points and detentions, so stay on their good side!

My top tip for you would be, talk to and make friends with as many people as you can in your form as it'll help make it less awkward.

I hope you have a great summer and a good time at Reigate!

Yours sincerely,

Eloise
Current year 8 student

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear year 6 student,

Although it may seem daunting at first, the change between primary school and secondary school is not that drastic. You just have more lessons in year 7 than year 6 so more pieces of homework. But once you get into a routine there isn't too much. Teachers will set homework on an app called Show My Homework where it is a to-do list of all the homework you must do for all your classes.

There are many new areas of learning like humanities, languages, performing arts and more. Humanities are history and geography; you must choose one of these for your GCSEs, but you can pick both if you want to. Languages include French and Spanish where you also must pick one for your GCSEs, but you can pick both if you want to. Performing arts include dance, drama and music where they are all optional.

On the first day of school, it may feel scary but by asking people for directions, you will find your way around in a few weeks. Each subject has their own part of the school, so one you remember where to go for that lesson you can remember it for the next time you go and have a lesson for that subject.

All the other year 7s are in the same position as you so you will be able to make friends easily; I was very worried about not making any friends but now I have met some of my closest friends here. When it comes to lunch, you can buy food at the cafeteria or you can bring a pack lunch. As for where you sit, you can sit inside, in the cafeteria or you go outside and play football or you could just sit and eat.

I hope this has helped with some of your worries.

Yours sincerely,

Emma
Current year 8 student

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear Year 6 student,

Hello! I am a year 8 student from Reigate School. I have been here for a little less than 2 years. I am guessing you have questions so I will try my best to answer them.

School starts at quarter to nine. You will go to your form room and wait until form time starts when the teacher and the rest of the class enter. The people in your form will be in most of your classes. Your friends may not be in your form but that doesn't mean they won't be in your lessons or that you can't see them at break/lunch.

The school might seem big when you first come in but you can find your way around pretty easily. If you get lost, there are signs around pointing to the different lessons. When you get to the lessons, you sit down (if you know the seating plan) and wait for the lesson to start. Your phone must be on silent or you might get it taken away.

You have five lessons a day on a 2 week timetable. You have form first, then two lessons, after that is break. Then another lesson and lunch. After that, you have two more lessons until you go home at 3 o'clock.

The school's canteen is not far from the building (the hall in front of you when you walk in will be filled with tables when you go there for break/lunch) There are two lunch queues, one down on the left of the hall, and the other at the top level. You can buy snacks and a meal there as long as you bring money. The food is really nice and well made so you don't need to worry about that. When you eat, you can eat anywhere. In the hall, in the canteen, outside on benches, anywhere you want! Which is nice because you can sit with whoever, wherever.

You will be set a lot more homework than you had before but that's OK. As long as you manage time well and you don't leave it until the last minute (which is NEVER a good idea) then you shouldn't have any trouble.

I hope you have a lovely summer and I am looking forward to seeing you in the school.

Yours sincerely,

Oscar
Current year 8 student

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear year six student,

As you may know moving to another school can be difficult and intimidating but I hope by knowing more about the school you will feel a little more comfortable going there. The

thing I found most intimidating about moving to Reigate school was the older kids going there and how big the would be but on your first day of school only the year sevens are there, giving you some time to enjoy and explore the school on your own.

The year sevens even have their own place where no other years are allowed to go, the tennis courts. These are a great place to have fun because you can play football on the courts and just outside you can chat with your friends. The tennis courts are located next to the PE changing rooms, near the Science corridor.

If it's raining and you have to come inside to the canteen, there is yummy food served and the tables are set so you can eat and chat with your friends. The canteen is open at break 11.05-11.25 and lunch 12.25-1.00 so when you have finished your food you can go to your next lesson. Your next lesson may be hard to find, but the school supplies you with a map to help you. The way I found my way around the school was to ask the teachers which you'll see walking around the school very often.

You may feel like you'll never remember where to go but in about two weeks you will know the school like the back of your hand.

I hope you enjoy your adventures at Reigate School!

Yours sincerely,

Nick

Current year 8 student

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear Year 6 student,

Hello, welcome to Reigate School! I'm a student in Year 8, and last year I entered Year 7 like you're about to do now. I know when I moved to Year 7 I had a lot of questions about Reigate School that helped me transition from Primary to Secondary, so I'll do my best to explain what it's like at Reigate School.

The school opens at eight, but form time doesn't begin until quarter to nine, although it's best to get there a few minutes prior. When you arrive, you should head to your form room where you'll have form time, or an assembly if it's a Monday or Friday. You will go to your first lesson after this,

and most lessons will be spent with the rest of your form, but a few lessons (like languages and maths) will have different groups. You will only have lessons with the people in your population, although you will still be able to see friends who may not be in your population during break or lunch time.

There's lots of things around the school to help you find your way, such as signs or 'landmarks' like the canteen or student services. It may seem hard to remember where everything is, but you pick it up faster than you'd think. You'll have two lessons, followed by a twenty-minute break that begins at 11:05. During break and/or lunch you will have access to the canteen and pitstop to buy your food. You will then have one more lesson before lunch at 12:25. You will only have two more lessons after this, beginning at one o'clock and ending at three o'clock, when the school day ends.

You will be given a two-week timetable that tells you what room and teacher you'll be having in the next lesson. It's important to know what lessons you have that day as you may be required to bring a PE bag to school or a piece of homework for example. However, you will have an app called 'Show My Homework' which will tell you what homework you have and when to give it in. As well as remembering homework, you need to remember to bring the proper stationery to school (e.g. a calculator, pencil, ruler, pen, reading book, etc.). This may seem like a lot, but after a while it becomes second nature, and getting in the habit of bringing these things early is helpful.

I hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to attending Reigate School.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica
Current year 8 student

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear year 6 pupil,

I am writing this letter to you to welcome you into Reigate School. Unfortunately, you missed your induction day so I am going to tell you a bit about the school!

On my first day of year 7, everyone, teachers and pupils, were very supportive and kind in welcoming us into the school. There is no need to worry about your first day as most of the lessons will be relaxed, fun activities to give you time to get to know your class and teachers. At break you can go to the tennis courts where only year 7's are allowed to go so you will be around all your friends.

I know one thing lots of new year 7 are worried about is getting lost around the school. Although, yes, Reigate School is probably a bit bigger than your primary school, you will be provided with a map to help find places while you get to know the layout of the school. However, you won't need your map for long as you will soon pick up how to get around.

Reigate school will be quite different to your primary school in lots of ways. Firstly, you are allowed a lot more independence at Reigate School; you can make your own choices and choose your own path. Whether that be down to the options you pick or the clubs you attend, there are so many ways you can customize your Reigate School journey. Secondly, there are a lot of new lessons you won't have done very much at primary school. This and Reigate School's great facilities will mean you can pick up lots of new skills and experiences. Personally, my favorite lesson is P.E as it is really fun to get outside and do some sports!

My top tip for secondary school would be to try and keep on top of your homework and don't leave it to the last minute! Don't worry, however, as you do not get as much homework as some people say!

Yours sincerely,

Matty
Current year 8 student

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear New Year 7s,

I wanted to write to tell you and welcome you to Reigate School; there is nothing to worry about! I remember my first day in year 7, it was good fun and I knew I would have a great few years here. I walked in the entrance with my friend from primary school and went to my form class where my form tutor and class were. I got to know my classmates and teacher, we all said something interesting about ourselves and had a form discussion. After, we had our first lesson, which was very excited about, we got to know our subject teachers and how the Reigate School lessons and overall day works.

I'm also going to tell you about break and lunch times as its meant to be a fun break from work and something you look forward to, but some new year 7s get worried about getting lost, not knowing where to play or not having people to play with. Well... to be honest I was exactly that Year 7.

At lunch and break there are lots of options, you can go on the big astroturf if you want to play football or run around, get something to eat at the canteen, go up into the library, where it's quiet, and play chess, read or do some homework on the computers. However, I went to the special Year 7 only court and as I love football. I played football with lots of other Year 7s and I made lots of new friends. I also sometimes just got something to eat and sat on my own as I like being in my own company sometimes which is perfectly fine; you do whatever you want.

Finally, here are some of my top tips for starting Reigate School: **1.** If, like me, you didn't know many people or have many friends then at break/lunch go meet new people with the same interests as you and you'll 100% make a new friend.

2. Work your hardest in most lessons and I bet you will enjoy school much more.

3. Don't be scared to ask a teacher or pupil any worries or questions you have.

I hope you have a lovely summer and I am looking forward to meeting you when school starts again!

Yours sincerely,

Callum

Current year 8 student

Reigate School
Pendleton Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7NT

4th June 2020

Dear year 6 student,

I would like to write to you and welcome you to Reigate school as you are not going to have an induction day. There will be nothing to worry about when you start school. On my first day, it did feel like a massive change and it was very different when I first walked in because it was a very big school compared to my primary school, but it's very easy to get used to.

I was very worried on my first day as I didn't know where to go, but around the school there are different teachers and older students that can help you find your way to your lessons including student services. To help find my way around the school I started to memorise where everything was and we also got given a map to see where the classrooms are and where the different blocks are. At break times and lunch times I like to sit on the astroturf and socialise with my friends before I go back to lessons to learn. My favourite lessons

are Art and Dance. The reason why I like these lessons is because they let me be really creative and make me happy.

I love Reigate school because it is a very creative and good school and all the teachers are welcoming and help you with all your needs. It is different from primary school but in a good way, as you make lots of new friends and learn lots of new things. When you come to Reigate school always try your hardest and never give up.
Always be positive and friendly to everyone. Good luck and have fun!

I hope you have a lovely summer and I will look forward to seeing you when school starts again.

Yours sincerely,

Alexa
Current Year 8 student

Dear year 6,

My name is Bennett-Luca and in this letter, I am going to tell you how Reigate school is the kindest and acceptable school in the world! First of all, due to the lockdown (as you have probably heard) there will be no introduction day and that means you are most likely worried of how year 7 will be in Reigate school. Let me tell you this, YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE WORRIED! As a six foot, 11-year-old from London that just moved to Reigate and that didn't know anyone I felt really welcomed and not nervous at all because the students and the teachers were very kind to me.

As you probably have tons and tons of questions, I will tell you about what you can do in break time? When is break time? And where can you eat? To answer the first question, what can you do in break time? the things you could do in break time is either got to the tennis courts(a small football pitch), go to the astro pitch or attend a club ,for example, marvel club where you watch superhero films.to answer the second question , when is break time? Break time is normally from 11 am to 11:25 am and lunch time is from 12:25pm to 1pm however for year sevens you get out early so you don't have to line up with the rest of the year.to answer the third and last question, where can you eat? The places

you can eat normally is the canteen, outside (make sure not to litter) however make sure you don't eat in the hallway otherwise you will get into trouble. I hope this helped you out!

Dear year 6,

Hi, I am Paige and I am in year 7 and due to lockdown, you will not be able to have your induction day, so I am here to tell you all about Reigate School.

Firstly, you should know where the toilets are just in case. Hopefully, you will get a tour but if not when you walk into the school you take a left and down the corridor until you see the toilets that is the easiest ones to go to. However, if you do get lost you can ask someone a bit older and they will show you where to go if you're a bit shy to ask an older student you can go and ask a teacher or student services.

On the first day, on your first day it is ok to be nervous I was nervous when I started year 7. It may be scary, but I promise that it will get so much easier after a few days. In a normal school day, we have 5 lessons and they all an hour long we start our day at 8:45 and we go home 3:00. In my opinion, my favorite lessons are English, drama and art. The best thing is that you do not have to be amazing at art to like the subject or any subject.

Now let us talk about every one's favorite time of the day- lunch and break. At lunch or break you can either bring your own lunch and snack or you could ask your parents or guardians to put some money in your school account. On your first day you will have to get your fingerprint and what I mean by that is instead of bringing money to school for lunch we use our fingerprints. We put them on a scanner and it scans our fingerprints and it shows our account on the screen then the dinner ladies tap on what you want to buy and the money comes out of your account- pretty cool right? At lunch or break you can go on the tennis courts, outside your next class, the AstroTurf, in the library or in the canteen. Also, one of the first things you find out are your form tutors and head population your form tutor is like your teacher and your form group is like your class but smaller. There are 3 populations and they split the year in populations to make lessons and teaching a bit easier.

When you do something good or if you have behaved for the lesson you will get achievement points when you get a certain amount you get a badge as a reward.

Finally, at Reigate School we are encouraged to do at least one club, but most people do more as there are so many to choose from- we have a club for everyone. Clubs are during lunchtime or after school if they are after school, they start straight after school unless told otherwise and end at 4:00 unless told otherwise.

Thank you for reading my letter and I hope you enjoy Reigate School and this letter has made it easier to understand.

Dear Year 6,

Welcome to Reigate school. Unfortunately, you can't come to an induction day this year so here is a letter to explain what Reigate school is like. Your first day can seem a bit scary but you don't need to worry. On your first day you have some time to get to know your classmates and you will get your timetable and a map. In the afternoon you start your lessons and if you can't find the classrooms you need older students will be happy to help.

After a few weeks back clubs will start which you don't need to sign up for and if you don't want to come back the next week it's ok. You can find a clubs list opposite student services. Some of the clubs are: Netball, football, dance, drama, cooking, choir, basketball, table tennis and a lot more. Also, every day after school you can go to the library for home work club.

Break time is from 11:05 to 11:25 and lunch is from 12:25 to 01:00 this doesn't sound long but it feels a lot longer than it really is. In year seven you have the opportunity to decide what you enjoy. Here are a few top tips for starting school.

- Pack your bag the night before
- Don't be afraid to try
- Take part in as much as possible
- Get your homework done as soon as possible
- Don't leave it until last minute

Good luck for starting school.

Evie

Dear Year 6 Student

Hello and welcome to Reigate School!

I'm in year 7 and I enjoy going to Reigate School every day with my friends.

On my induction day last year, we did a fun treasure hunt to help us know our way around the school. The school seems really big at first, but by the end of my first week I knew my way around.

We also had lunch in the canteen. The canteen uses finger recognition (really cool!) to pay for our food so the teachers took scans of our fingers. At the canteen there are many delicious things to get or you could bring a packed lunch. There is also a pit stop at the end of the playground where the big building is, it has very tasty pastries and bakes and other stuff.

We have only one assembly a week. You soon get used to following a timetable, and you will also study lots of new subjects like Spanish, DT, geography and citizenship. I really like PE. We get to play Capture the Flag.

Reigate School has lots of clubs you can go to. I go to Marvel club (you get to watch Marvel movies) and Warhammer which is a battle game. We paint figures and play against each other.

I made friends quickly with the new kids in my form. The school is divided into populations. It took me less than two months to know everyone in my population.

All the teachers are very nice and friendly. If you have any worries or problems, they will sort it out.

Have fun at the school!

From

Charlie

Hello, year 6.

Welcome to Reigate school you may feel nervous about starting year 6 and the building might seem really big but in time you'll find your way around and there is always someone to help.

Below you will find some useful information that might help your first days and weeks that little bit easier.

What time does the day start and finish?

School registration starts at 8:45am and classes start at 9:00am, school ends at 15:00pm

How long are break times?

Break times at Reigate are 25 minutes long starting at 11:00am and lunch break is at 12:25 until 13:00. You can bring your own lunch but there are also various types of food. These can be found at Pit Stop by the PE block aka The Astro and from the main canteen in the hall on the top and bottom of the hall it normally gets busy and crowded at 12:30PM so maybe best to get there before or after this time.

Where to go if I need help? What happens if I lose something?

Student Services is on the ground floor near the Spanish classrooms the ladies there can help you with your needs.

What can I do at break time?

The library is always open where you can borrow books and even DVDs, or you can just spend quiet time doing homework and photo-shop on the computers. You cannot bring any mobile phones or food/ drinks into the library as this is not allowed.

Do you enjoy after school and lunchtime clubs?

Well you're in luck!! Reigate has all sorts of clubs from Computing, Art, Drama, music and various sports! There is so much to do you'll love it!

Yours Sincerely,

Ethan

Dear new year 7,

Welcome to Reigate School!

I am sure you are feeling a bit nervous about starting Reigate School in September, but don't worry, I felt that way too.

The school may seem big and daunting at first, but you will get used to it in no time. You will be given a map on your first day and it will show you where everything is, so please don't worry.

On your first day, you meet your teacher and your form group and will spend most of the day with them, so you will have plenty of time to make new friends.

You will also be given your time table, showing all of your interesting lessons. My favourites are art, history, English and computing. You get 2 breaks a day, one is 20 minutes and lunch is 35 minutes. At break, you can either hang out in the canteen, playground or library. At lunchtime you can get food from the canteen, some of the yummy food they serve

includes mashed potato, pasta pots, muffins, croissants and my favourite pain au chocolate. In the library you can use the computers, read or even hire out DVDs to watch at home.

Secondary school is quite different to Primary school. You have to change classes for every lesson (this can be tiring at first), you can use your lockers to store your PE kit, books etc.

There are lots of interesting lunchtime and afterschool clubs, some examples are gymnastics, Marvel club, drama and dance clubs. I go to Manga club.

Before you start Reigate School, I'd like to give you a few tips to help you.

- It is perfectly natural to feel nervous, everyone else will feel the same, even the teachers!
- Ask anyone if you need help, we are all friendly
- Try and have fun
- If feel worried or lost, tell someone, don't bottle it up

I hope this letter has helped you,

Kind regards

Matilda

Dear year 6,

As you are unable to visit Reigate school this year, I am writing this letter to help understand more about secondary school.

First of all, if you are nervous about moving to secondary, don't be. All the staff here are all really nice and helpful, so if you ever get lost just ask a nearby teacher or go to student services, they will always be happy to help.

You're probably wondering what happens at lunch, well for your first few weeks you get a longer lunch. LUCKY. Lunch is also very different from primary, there are so many options from a croissant to a roast dinner.

What will happen on your first day of school? Well, first you will go into the hall and meet your form tutor and the headmaster. Then you will go to your form room this is where you will go every day before lessons. Now you and your form will get to know each other (you may know some people from your old school). After this you will have break and get to meet some new friends. After this you will get to know your way around the school by doing a treasure hunt.

Now, what I love about secondary school is the wide variety of lessons, not just English, maths and the odd French lesson. Every day you have different lessons.

If you are worried about homework, don't be for the first term you will only get English, maths and science. As I said earlier all the staff here are all really nice, and always happy to help. So, all I have to say is just don't worry.

I hope to see you soon,

Dylan

Hi current year 6's

My name is Declan, I am currently in year 7. I just wanted to let you know a bit about life at Reigate School.

On my first day we had a group assembly to welcome us. We were then taken to our new form rooms where we met our Tutor. The first day was very overwhelming because the school is so much bigger than I thought it would be, but after a few days I got used to it and it only took a couple of weeks before I knew my way around the school without any help. Everyone is very helpful, so if you ever lost, just ask and you will be helped.

My favourite part of lunchtimes is the biometric scanning canteen. You choose what food you want and you pay for it by putting your fingerprint onto the screen and this is linked to your account. Our lunch break is 30min long. During your lunchtime you can chat with your friends, you can play some sport or you can go to the library. The year 7's have their own lunch break area which is kind of cool!

We have a lot more subjects in year 7 compared to year 6, I like this as you learning more and it's not as repetitive.

I'm sure you will enjoy coming to Reigate School, and will settle in quickly!

From

Declan

Dear year 6

My name is Livvy and although the sound of starting year 7 in secondary school seems scary-it really isn't, and I wanted to tell you a bit about my experience which will hopefully put your mind at ease.

Firstly, I just wanted to talk about what I did on my first day, so that you have an idea of what you will be doing. we spent the day getting to know our form and finding our way round the school, we also tried out a few lessons but didn't go into our full timetable until the next day. on the first day only year sevens and the teachers are at school which means you basically have it to yourself! The teachers are so supportive and caring throughout the whole year which makes your first year at secondary school a whole lot easier.

Usually I spend my break and lunchtimes chatting to my friends and eating! Our breaktimes are 25 minutes long and our lunch times are 35 minutes, it seems like a short amount of time, but it doesn't feel like it! Those breaks are a really nice time to relax with your friends.

When I moved to secondary school, I didn't know what it was going to be like and how different it was going to be to primary school. I feel that our school gives you much more independence and the lesson structure is very different. Some of your classes are with your form but some are also with other people from your population. This means that you get to meet a range of people. Personally, my favourite lessons are PE because we get to try out lots of different sports and be active and drama as it is a good way to bond as a class and try lots of new things. I also enjoy RE because we get to learn about other ways of living and I find that very fascinating! At first the school seems bigger than it really is. It is amazing how quickly you learn your way around. There are lots of people in the school to guide you to where you want to be. The school is separated into blocks which makes it much easier to get your head around!

All I can say is do not panic because there is so many people to support you and help you settle in. if you are worried just remember that everyone is in the exact same position as you and you are all doing this move together.

I hope you are enjoying yourself in lockdown and that you really enjoy year 7! You are going to have a lot of fun. Reigate school is a great place to be!

Livvy

Welcome to year 7, this is probably your first day I can't really remember my first day, so I had to ask my friend what happened (I did still write this by myself). You might be thinking about how big the school is but don't worry it's not as big as it looks.

Lessons are not torture like films will tell you and you won't have to write page long essays in two days. In my opinion the best lessons are food tech: because even though I couldn't cook to save my life its really fun and English because for some reason I like writing lots.

The main difference between primary and secondary school is that 1: you actually learn things, 2: you can actually choose what you want for lunch, 3: you won't miss half the year due to a pandemic.

You might be wondering how you find your way around the school? Well student services are trusty and reliable while the reliability of older students is questionable. During lunch and break you will probably spend your time talking to people or eating lunch and food make sure your early to the lunch que because if your late there won't be any good food.

Have fun in year 7

Kira

Dear Year 6's,

Are you excited about year 7? You should be!!

On your first day you will make your way down to school. When you arrive, you will wait to meet Mr Alexander, the Headteacher. He is really nice and lovely like all the other teachers- make sure you watch out for Mr Harvey in assembly, he is very funny!

You will then meet your Head of Population in the gyms depending on what band you have been put in. There is either R, S or T band, but don't worry all of the Heads of Population are lovely! You will then meet your form tutor and they will take you to your form room, where every morning you will make your way to school and be in your form room by 8:45.

Your first couple of weeks the teachers will not mind if you are late but will tell you to try not to be late for your next lesson. It won't be long before you can find your way around really easily – you get given a map and after a few days you probably won't need it anymore. Everyone is very helpful if you get lost. Just ask for help. Student Services are also great if you have any questions or aren't sure about anything.

It's really good having lots of different lessons with lots of different teachers. The only annoying thing is having to carry your bag with you everywhere so pick a good one! I recommend a backpack.

Enjoy it. Its great!

Poppy

Dear Year 6 student,

As you know the current lockdown and coronavirus pandemic mean that you can't come and visit Reigate School for your induction day. One main thing that comes up a lot, is about getting lost around school. When you first arrive there

for the first time, you will probably recognise a lot of it from when you may have visited in Year 5. The School may seem big in the first place but trust me when you've had a solid week there you will easily remember where everything is. The hardest place to remember are probably which set of stairs you need to go up for the room you need. But you really don't need to worry as it's really easy to remember where everything is when you get used to it and even if you do get lost, you never really are because the if you follow your footsteps backwards you'll easily end up at a place you know. Also don't forget that there are signs to show where everything is and what it is round every corridor.

The next thing I would like to mention is about the first days and weeks at Reigate School. One of the best about being in year 7 at the start of the year is that during most of the first term, year 7's get to go to lunch earlier than all the other years to avoid the big queues at the main hall canteens and the pitstop opposite the astro pitch. All areas where you can buy food are open at all times except during lessons. Break is 20 minutes and lunch is 35. This may not sound long but it feels like enough.

On the other hand, lessons for the first week are nice because you're eased into the actual learning and not thrown straight in the deep end. You get to meet your teachers (they won't give you behaviour points or detentions for being a little late for class in the first few weeks) and friends and really get used to the school before you really start learning. Another thing you may want to is what the best lessons are, personally my favourites are: PE, science and English but it's up to you do decide which ones you come to like. Hopefully, you enjoy your time at Reigate when it comes and remember to stay positive it's a great place.

From, Oli

Dear - Year 7

Welcome to Reigate school, I am Aaron Newsam and I will give you some tips for the first day of school. For the first day of school you will be the only year group there and shown all your different teachers and what subject they teach too, you will also get shown your form and your form teacher which is just a fun meet up with your class before you go to your first subject. On Mondays you will have assemblies with your year and on Fridays you will have population assembly. Populations are 3 groups led by 1 teacher for each group. Whilst in a lesson you might get an achievement point for doing something good like helping out or working hard, and when you have several points you will get a badge but be careful bad attitude or forgetting homework will get you a behaviour point.

After your first 2 lessons you will have breaktime which will allow you to eat and play with friends and you can also do that at lunch time too. If you do not want to go where the rest of the school is as you're a bit intimidated or you want to hangout with your year group, you can go to the tennis court where only year 7 are aloud. Or if you want to spend your lunchtime or breaktime in a quiet area, you can go to the library above the art block. When you first join the school you will also get given a map to navigate your way around school and you also get a five-minutes duration to get to a class. As a tip from me if you ever get lost in school or you forget what lesson you have next all you need to do is go to student services and they will help you find your class.

Hope you have a good first day and don't worry we don't bite.

Yours sincerest
Aaron

Dear Year 6,

We all know that coming into secondary school can be very daunting and quite scary.

On the first day I tried to make friends with the people that I had been put into a form with, but you will most likely be put into a form with at least one of your old friends which is very reassuring. My favourite lessons are PE and DT, I like PE because we play a lot of team games and always try out new fun sports, also in DT we have the chance to design and make something every term. At break and lunch I like to chat with my friends and also play football on the astro. I found my way around school with that map that was given to me by a teacher and I asked children from older years. I think a top tip would be that food in the canteen is gone in minutes so get there fast and don't make your teacher keep you in for lunch.

Kind regards,

Zane

Dear year 6 student/new year 7,

I hope that you are well and surviving this strange time of lockdown. I am writing to tell you all about Reigate School so that you feel well prepared when you start in September. When you arrive at Reigate School, on the first day there will only be year 7s there. Hopefully, you'll know your form teacher and fingers crossed you'll know one or two people in your class. However, don't worry if you don't know anyone. I only knew one person and I now have lots of great new friends. On your first day you will spend the morning with your form teacher and the afternoon with some of your subject teachers.

On your second day, the rest of the school will be in so it might seem a lot busier. To help you with lunch times, you will go to lunch a bit earlier for the first few weeks. This is great because it means that you get to be at the front of the queue!

There is a lot of choice at the canteen so it's very different from primary school. Instead of only one or two options of a meal, you can choose what you want! There is almost anything including pasta, burgers, pizza, paninis, meal of the day, hot or cold food and more.

You may be worried that you will get lost at school or overwhelmed by the size of the school but don't worry it's not as big as it may seem. You will soon get used to it. There are plenty of signs to point you in the right direction and the teachers will help you out if you can't find your way around. Also, if you are a bit late for the first couple of weeks because you are lost, the teachers won't tell you off – they understand that you are new and it's very different from your previous school.

Secondary school is quite different to primary school. At primary school you have one teacher for mainly all your subjects but at secondary school you have a different teacher for all your subjects. Also, there are a lot of new subjects that you don't do at primary – some of them are great fun such as DT and food tech.

Break time is from 11:05 to 11:25 and lunch is from 12:25 to 1:00 so you probably don't have as long as you did at your old school but it is long enough to have your lunch and some free time. You can spend break and lunch anywhere except some classrooms. You can go to the library to do some homework or read a book/have some quiet time and you can go to the astro turf if you want to play football. There are tables in the hall by the canteen that you can sit have lunch on if you want to. There is an area that is mainly for year 7. It is quite a big space and there is a tennis court that you can play sport in.

Remember if you have any questions or queries, then just speak to a teacher. Don't be afraid to ask!

I hope you enjoy your time at Reigate school, it is a very good school!

From,

Anna – year 8.

Dear Year 6 student,

I'm Izzie and I am currently a Year 8 at Reigate School. I hope you are well and looking forward to starting Reigate School in September. You may be wondering what it will be like when you start so I thought I would write to give you some useful information and advice. I am sure your both nervous and excited to begin secondary school – I know I was. Although, you might be worried about somethings there are always lots of people to help. For example, if you're worried about getting lost, your form tutor will give you a map and the older students are always happy to help you find your way to classes. There will also be some new classes like dance, drama and DT, these are just a few of them and they are all lots of fun. Things can be quite different from your primary school, for example there will be lots of new people that you have never met before, but everyone wants to make friends so don't

worry. At Reigate School we have 25 minutes for break and 35 for lunch, you can get food from the canteen and bring some from home. There are tables in the canteen so you can eat there. You can go to the tennis courts or astro if you want to do sport – there can be a lot of older students on the astro, though. You can eat outside and there are quite a few benches around the school, however you are not allowed to eat in the corridors. The toilets are down the MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) corridor. Unfortunately, you will miss your induction day due to the current lock down circumstances, but I hope I have been able to help. Enjoy your summer holidays and don't feel nervous – Reigate School is great.

Best wishes,
Izzie

Dear Year 6 Student,

Welcome to Reigate School; it must really be a traumatic experience to move to a new school, but I guarantee that all the changes are for the best! For a start no matter how much you hate school, coming here will make you change mind. In other words, there is no reason to be afraid and this is your guide to why not...

For a start there are a lot of new lessons to be taught, and trust me when I tell you that those lessons are fun. For a start, science reaches many new heights! Not only do you get to learn things that you never knew you wanted to learn, but you also get to experience science in its truest form, in a laboratory! This sentence alone is enough to get our young scientists hooked, but if science isn't your passion, then let's move on to the purest field of study, maths.

Mathematics will teach you the secrets behind formulae, theorems, numbers, equations and more. Maths will be like a puzzle you will be looking forward to solve, but if like neither science, nor the amazing world of mathematics than maybe be you are a person of sports. PE will open a door to many activities and sports. You'll get to sport, like never before, and you will not only become a professional at the sports you enjoy, but you will also become an expert at tons of new sports.

If football or hockey isn't what you mean by activity, then get ready to welcome the new subject, dance. From break-dancing and hip hop to a waltz or ballet, dance will almost always meet your expectations.

If non of these subjects match your strengths than say 'hello' to history and geography. It does not matter how much you know about the two humanities, you'll know several times as much history

and geography as you ever have known! From the Normans in the dark ages, to the bombs from world war two, and from the mountains and rivers in geography, to the development of rich and poor nations, you will be thriving with the knowledge which will make you succeed.

If not, then learn about the techniques used and the literature written in English. You'll learn about Shakespeare's greatest works, or why 'Scrooge' is considered an allusion. Bonus points if you are also a fan of history, as you'll learn about poetry written by Wilfred Owen and Jessie Pope, and other great poets of the first world war. If English is too familiar, then fly out of your comfort zone, into the secrets of the foreign languages, most notably French and Spanish!

In Reigate School you can experience all this, and much, much more, so there is no reason to be afraid! You'll have a break, and even lunch. If you feel ill, then student services will watch your back. You will also feel the comfort of assemblies, and will hang out with your friends. You will meet many new people, and you will learn to enjoy learning, all in Reigate School!

Have fun, learn more, meet new people, enjoy your holidays, and most importantly, stay safe!

-Ivaylo 'Ivo' G. Angelov, a Year 8 Student.

To Year six student,

Hello! Hopefully you are excited about joining Reigate school, but you may be a bit apprehensive as it is a new and different, so hopefully my letter helps you feel slightly less nervous.

To start of with, when you join the school in September, your first day is mainly getting to know your new tutor group (which is normally around fifteen people) and finding your way around the school. You may also have two lessons with your new teachers from your timetable as well. Also, on your first afternoon there aren't any older kids so you have the school to yourself! Even though it seems like a big building in the beginning, it doesn't take very long to find your way around and you will probably know where your lessons are after your first two weeks or so. But even if you do get a bit lost, you are given maps on your first day, which are very helpful.

At school we have a twenty-minute break from 11.05 to 11.25 and then we have thirty-five minute lunch break from 12:25 until one o'clock. These are the times where the school cafeteria is open and you can buy food. There is also a place where you can buy food called the "pit stop" which is near the PE block outside. At break and lunch you are allowed to play football on the AstroTurf as well.

A big difference between primary and secondary school is that secondary school has a lot more variety of lessons which means you learn a lot more about things that you don't in primary school. For example one of my favorite lessons is science because we do lots of interesting experiments on a range of topics.

Enjoy your summer and look forward to coming to Reigate school!

Best wishes,
Lizzie – year eight.

Letter to Year 6 students

Hello, Year 6!

My name is Luke and I am Year 8 at Reigate School. Due to the lockdown situation, you will not be having your induction day this year. That is why I am writing to you, giving you a taster of what goes on here at Reigate and some tips and tricks to help you in your first few weeks.

Now, some people might be anxious or nervous starting secondary school and you might be one of them. But don't worry. If you have any problems, you can talk to your Form Tutor in the mornings, or find your Head of Population at some time in the day. And if you can't find either, there is Student Services, a little office in the MFL Department where you can find out what lesson you have next, who its with, and even where the room is.

Now, when I arrived at Reigate, I found some neat little tips and things that could be helpful to you. For example, there are two separate canteens, the top canteen and the bottom canteen. The top canteen sells your classic school dinner meals, as well as sandwiches. Whereas the bottom canteen sells fast-food, such as burgers, pizza, chicken nuggets, pasta, etc. In my opinion, I tend to go to the bottom canteen because despite the fact that both queues are very long, the bottom canteen is by far shorter.

I shall see you at Reigate soon!

Kind regards,

Luke Stone

Dear year 6,

I have been asked to write a letter to you as a home learning task and I hope this will be a great guide to help you when you first join Reigate school. You may be wondering how do you get your way around school, well in fact you do get given a map on your first day but it

may be a bit confusing, don't be shy to ask someone to help the students here are wonderful and will help you with any of your worries or problems.

On our first day we had the whole school to ourselves as we were new and the staff didn't want us to be surrounded by older children and so we could make our way around school easier. At lunch and break times you can hang out with friends go to the muga (multi use grass area) also known as the tennis courts, as a year seven you will have the muga all to your selves as a year group, no older years-nothing. Lunch lasts about 40 mins and break 20 mins and you can also go to the library. In secondary school there are lots of different classes like food tech, Spanish, design technology and textiles. Personally my favourite lessons are PE and art and of course English.

Lastly, the transition from primary school to secondary school, it is a big change for some, you get a lot more homework than the usual weekly maths, reading and spelling in primary school, you get sent pieces daily for some subjects but for others it is weekly this shouldn't scare you, you do get help if need, and there are lots for clubs such as homework club for the people who don't have the right equipment to do the work at home or just to get on track with all of your work.

I hope this makes you feel a lot better about joining Reigate school.

Yours sincerely,
Maddy Friday, year 8

Dear year 6,

I just want to start off by saying, at the start of Year 7, I was quite worried and scared, but at the same excited to make new friends and meet new people. Within the first week, I had a whole group of friends, and there is no doubt you will too. There were other people in my class that were worried about secondary school, and that is what gathered us together to be friends and I know you will find yourself in that position too. I am currently 13 years old and I am in year 8. I am friends with almost everyone in my class, and I am looking forward to the years ahead in Reigate school. By the time you are at the stage that I am at, you would be the most confident you have ever been, and you will be proud to be supported by all your friends and teachers , that have enjoyed being there for you.

I want to let you know that none of the lessons at Reigate School are boring. The teachers at this school, try to make every lesson they have with you and your class, fun and enjoyable, and trust me they are! I look forward to every lesson, and I am excited to learn new things! In year 7 my friends were not always in the same class as I was, but that did not bother me that much, as I made more, new friends. In year 8 you will be conjoined with your joint form and you'll become one form altogether,

but in year 7 your normally in classes with your joint form anyway, so you will have already made friends with your joint form, when it comes to year 8. My favourite lesson in year 7, was drama. Still now in year 8, my favourite lesson is drama, and that is why I chose to take it for my GCSE options. But choosing your options is still a long way away, and your teachers will tell you all about it nearer the time. In drama, it is mostly practical work. Sometimes you do theory work, which is like an evaluation. This is the same for Design Technology (DT), science, art, music, dance, and physical education (PE). With the academic subjects like maths, English, geography, history, languages (Spanish and French), Religious Education, (RE) and ICT, there is no practical work, it is all academic.

In year 7 you can go to any afterschool clubs, and there all free! There is a whole variety of clubs and there is a club sheet that you will get given when you join. At the end of year 7, you will get the opportunity to go to the year 7 camp! I loved it, am I sure you will too! On the last day we got to eat cake for breakfast! In year 8 you will get to go to Newquay which is located in - Cornwall, and you get to learn all kinds of beach related activities. You also get to go on form trips at the end of each year! (your form tutor will tell you all about it!)

I hope you have the best time at Reigate School!

From Priya.

Dear Year 6 Student

I am sure you may be feeling a little unsettled or even bit lost about heading into Secondary School, especially with not being able to do an induction. Don't panic, let me give you some good pointers as to what to expect.

My worry was not being able to find my way around a new school especially as you must move classrooms for each subject. However, Reigate has this sorted with a map and super friendly students helping you along the way. Don't worry we all got lost but actually it was fine and a good laugh in no time you will know you way around.

Lunch time Year 7s get to go to the canteen 10 minuets before the rest of the school, this is a real privilege as you get to stand in a smaller que and get a better selection of food available. My best canteen meal is the chicken nuggets, burgers, and wraps. The cool part is you get to use your fingerprint to buy whatever you choose, yes even chocolates and crisps.

During break time years 7's is given the PE block and the tennis courts to hang out with your friends. This was a nice privilege an made me feel a lot more settled.

All the teachers are friendly, and my favourite lesson was PE. Mr Hughes made the lesson fun and interesting and we laughed a lot.

I hope these pointers have been helpful. Enjoy your summer holidays and don't worry Reigate school is great!

Best wishes

Tristyn

To Year 6-er,

I'm sure you may be rather nervous about moving up to Secondary School. After all, I definitely was! I remember thinking that I would never be able to navigate the winding corridors. Everything made me feel small and nervous. But not to fear! I soon figured out that this school isn't half as scary as it first seems.

Once you get to know your way about, to whichever classes you need to attend, the corridors are easy to navigate and after a few weeks you'll be good enough to show the year 11s around!

Now, there are *lots* of people at this school - around 1,200 and that might seem like a massive number but you probably won't even see all of them in your time at the school. There are also various teachers and staff on-duty to help if you have a problem. Student services is where you go for most issues - injury, lost equipment, etc. This is the best place to go for assistance. Everyone's here to help.

The teachers are lovely - after all, they're here to help you get better opportunities in life, so they are always trying to do what's best for you. You can trust them to help.

So don't fret, Yr 6-er - Because this school may seem huge at first, but in the end, but it's far friendlier than it may seem.

Tom.

Dear year 6 student,

I hope you're excited for starting year 7 at Reigate school in September imagine it would be quite stressful with the virus and not being able to get an induction day. So in this letter I've written some advice and information which I hope you find useful.

When you do start school you might think it's quite big and there's no way you're going to remember where everything is however you will be given a map and if not there's student services where you can go to for help. On your timetable there will be your lessons, teacher's name (in case you do forget) and room number where your lesson will be.

With our timetable we have five periods (five lessons a day) with two lessons then a half an hour break, then one lesson than half an hour for lunch with two lessons then the end of the day. During break and lunch you can go anywhere most people usually sit and eat in the cafeteria or the benches outside and if weather is bad and we have permission we can sit inside our form room and eat this happens rarely though.

On induction day we did our fingerprints in the cafeteria so we can buy food if needed or you bring packed lunch. We also have lockers where you can store stuff like your PE kit and coat you will get given a key at the start of school.

Hope this helped,

Zara

Dear year 6 student,

I hope you are excited to start Reigate school in September. You may feel nervous to start Reigate school, so I am writing this letter to reassure you and hopefully give you some useful advice and information.

When I started Reigate school, I felt excited but also very nervous, but when I got there and got to know everyone, I soon realised that there was no need to be nervous. The teachers there are very welcoming and are always there to help. Firstly, I will give you some useful information, on what it will be like in Reigate school. There is quite a big difference between primary and secondary school; it is much more independent. You are expected to find your way to class, you get more homework and classes are taught much more independently. This may seem overwhelming, but it is nice being more independent and the teachers are always there to help with stuff like finding your way around the school and helping you in class. Another thing that is different, is that there are more selections for food. You have an account (which you or your parents put money on), and you use your fingerprint to pay for food.

Now I am going to give you some helpful advice. To find your way around school, you can ask teachers and use your map. Do not be shy to ask teachers, they are happy to help. Make sure you get to the canteen quickly, because the good food runs out quickly and you do not want to be stuck in the queue for ages. Luckily for you, the first two weeks of school

year 7 get to go to lunch early! Never leave your homework to the last minute. If you let it build up, it can get stressful, but if you space it out it is not that bad. Usually, I spend my break and lunch times indoors, talking to my friends. If you are more into sports, or like to be outside, you can go to the astro-turf, the seats outside and there is a lot of outside space. On my first day, I went to my form first and got to know everyone. Then, I went to my lessons and spent lunchtime getting to know people.

Have a great summer holidays and do not be nervous- Reigate school is fantastic!
Best wishes
Abbi.

Hi,

I know you must be feeling quite overwhelmed now knowing that you will not have an induction day, that is why I am here to make sure you know everything you need to for Year 7.

I remember starting Year 7 not knowing anyone except my twin brother; you might have a whole friendship group but try to extend your group with new people as well. There will be lots of different people who you can talk to about your worries and they will be pointed out to you on your first day.

You will meet 15 people who will be in your form and you will stay with them from Year 7 to 8 which I found really helpful and now some of my best friends are in my form. Your form tutor will be open to answer any questions you have. The older students may seem scary, they are not as bad as they seem.

Lunch times are one of the most intimidating times but Year 7s have their own areas inside and out. This is where no older years are allowed so it is your safe place. To make lunch easier, for the first couple of weeks in Year 7 you get to go to lunch 5-10 minutes early so you can get ahead of the crowd.

If you need anything, ask Student Services or don't be afraid to ask any of the older students😊😊😊

Amelia

Dear Year 6 student,

I hope you're feeling excited to join Reigate School in September. Since you didn't have an induction day due to COVID-19 and social distancing rules, I thought I would write a letter containing advice and information that you will hopefully find useful.

Assuming that the format hasn't changed, you as a year 7 will attend school one day before the rest of the students; this day will be a half day and you will start the day on period 3 (the third lesson of the day). The first lesson usually consists of the teachers learning everybody's names, and everyone filling in a sheet with facts about themselves. This lesson is always really chilled out, and you can use the time to get used to the new environment and see who's sitting next to you.

After the lesson is over, it's already lunch time. The food served at Secondary school is famous for being ten million times better than Primary school food; so, if you usually have a packed lunch, you might want to try eating the school food, you'll probably love it. Another thing that changes when you go to Secondary school is the location of your classrooms; instead of only having one classroom, you now have one for each lesson, and they all have different names (T4, A2, M5, etc.). If you get lost, don't worry. First of all, your teachers aren't going to tell you off for being late on your first day; second of all, you can use your map and timetable to help find your way around the school. Your timetable includes what lessons you will have, the teachers who will teach them and the classroom names. Your map will help you figure out where each classroom is within the school. Don't be afraid to ask a teacher to help you as well.

At lunchtime you can hang out with your friends almost anywhere within the school, and you can use your phone as well! You can also use lunchtime to go around the school and try to figure out where everything is, so you can have the upper hand when it comes to finding classes.

The last two lessons of the day go by in a flash, they are usually quite similar to the first, and are also very relaxed. After that, you can go home! My favourite part of my first day was this great feeling of independence I got when I was leaving to go home; there was no lining up in front of the classroom door, no following my teacher down the corridor, just me, my bag and the exit.

Anyway, you still have a while before you need to go to school again, so enjoy the summer holidays, and don't stress out about your first day.

Good luck,

Charlie

Dear year 6

Welcome to Reigate school!!!

On your first day of school you will only real be meeting your new teachers and getting to know them.

If you are to get lost on your way around the school feel free to ask any students or teachers, the way around (it is a big school you have nothing to worry about).

At brake and lunch there are places dedicated to year sevens such as the tennis courts.

This is were most year sevens went when I was you age as it is a good place to make new friends and have a kickabout.

The main difference between primary and secondary school is that there a lot more lessons and teachers. As for each lesson you will have a different teacher.

The best lessons I think are PE, DT and Art these are the best lessons as they are more creative and fun lessons.

Tips that I would give you is to not be shy if you are really shy then you probably wont end up finding you way around school because you are too scared. Were as if you are confident and poised then you will have no problem with secondary school.

Another tip is to get into as many clubs as possible, some of the best are marvel; which is where you just watch marvel movies or read comics, basketball and table tennis.

Another grate thing is that if there no clubs you like then you can set up your own club all you have to do is ask a teacher then if there are enough students willing to join then you have made a new club.

Enjoy Reigate school!!

From

Luke

To year 6,

I know that moving into a new school can be very scary experience but everyone and Reigate school is very welcoming and friendly. On my first day I met my new form teacher and form. I also met the other form group that would be our joint form/class. In year 7 you can play games in the tennis courts at lunch and break if you want but you can also spend your time eating and chatting somewhere else if you want. I spend my lunch/break times in the canteen with friends from mine and other classes.

Some of us get food from the canteen but some of us have packed lunches.

We usually just eat, chat and play on our phones at lunch. Secondary school is quite different from primary school because there are different teachers for every subject and every subject is in a different place but you will soon know where everything is very quickly. Another thing that is different from primary school is the subjects. There will be new subjects that you will have never done properly before like food tech, DT, drama, dance and some others.

These new subjects might become your new favourite subject. My favourite subject is probably PE because we get to have fun playing sports we might

not already know how to play and we get to learn new indoor and outdoor sports. At the start of year 7 me and my new friends found our way around the school by asking teachers, other older years and using the signs that are placed all around the school to help people get around that are new or lost. My top tip for a new year 7 is to make lots of friends in every class so you will always have someone to talk to in each class you are in.

From Sarah Tames

Dear year 6 Student,

I hope you are well and looking forward to starting Reigate School in September. You may be wondering what it will be like when you start so I thought I would write to you to give you some useful information and advice.

I'm going to start with my favourite thing about secondary school. You have a lot more freedom of movement as you move from one classroom to another for your lessons. You get to have different teachers and a lot more subjects to get involved with. I liked this because if you find a lesson hard you know you are moving onto a new topic for your next lesson. You also get a natural visual break walking to your next class which can help refresh the brain.

I love sport, so I joined Reigate Schools sports clubs, which I thoroughly enjoy and get a lot of recognition for. But you don't have to be just sporty, there are many after school and lunch time clubs you can get involved with from arts to languages and other fun stuff. I recommend you just give clubs ago, turn up to something you haven't done before and see if you like it, there's no pressure and it's a great way to get to know the school.

The canteen is awesome! You have a great choice of foods and snacks and you don't have someone over your shoulder telling you what to eat. It is more grown up and the choices now become your own. Independence is definitely a new skill you will learn and enjoy at Reigate school but don't worry, the school is full of nice people and they will show you the way to support you to become independent.

I know a lot of year 6 will worry about the size of the school and getting lost. I feel this is very natural and this was felt by every student that has walked through our doors. My advice would be to try not to worry, be yourself and ask for help, you will also get a map but asking is easier. You will find your way around in no time!!!

On your first day you are greeted by students and teachers by the school gates, who will help you find your form tutor and your new class mates.

Enjoy your summer holiday and don't feel nervous - Reigate School is great!

Dear Year 6 Student,

I know you will be feeling anxious, but don't worry, it will be fine. When I first joined the school, I did not know anyone apart from my twin sister. You may have a whole friendship group but still try to make other friends because often you will not be in lessons with your friends.

The school may seem vast at first but you will get used to it very quickly. If you ever get lost then there are always teachers around ready to help and point you in the right direction. You could also ask students from the older years, they are not as scary as they seem.

When you start in year 7 you will be in a form group of 15 people, your tutor will be there every morning to help you with anything you need, you will stay in this form in year 8.

Lunchtime can be very daunting, but to help you will be let out 5-10 minutes early so you miss the rush. There is a large variety of food at the canteen, from paninis to pasta. There is also a pit stop where you can get fast food, like burgers or slushies in the summer.

I've really enjoyed my first two years at Reigate School and I think you will have lots of fun too.

Best wishes and good luck,
Spencer

Hi Year 6,

I'm a year 7 student and I started last year. At the beginning of the summer holidays I was scared to start school because it was going to be very different from the primary school life I was used to. But when I started all the teachers were so nice and caring that it made me feel very welcome. On the first day, only year 7s will be in school, so you don't have to worry about any of the scary older years! When you first go in you will go to the main hall for an assembly where your head of year will introduce themselves and you will meet your form tutors! Then they will give you a tour of the school and the rest of the day will be about getting to know your form (and joint form/class) and playing games to get you used to the school.

In form you take the register and do games, quizzes and other things with your form group! It's very fun, I love form! You have a set form room and form tutor who is always there in the morning at 8:45.

Secondary is very different to primary! You have new lessons like Food tech and Dance, loads of new teachers and lots of classrooms. You go to lessons with your joint form (another form that you pair with for classes) and you have different sets for maths, Spanish and French. The people in your set classes are people in your population. You will learn more about your population on the first day.

Lunch and break are always the best part of the school day! We have a 25-minute break and a 35-minute lunch. I love lunch and break because I get a chance to hang out with other people who aren't in my form.

Secondary school is a big jump, make sure to ask your parents or maybe you have a friend already in secondary school!

From,
Jesse

Dear year 6,

This letter is all about tips and information about being a new student at Reigate school.

On the first day of Reigate School you will start a day early and only year 7's will be there. Although you might not want to start early, the day is very helpful because you get all your information and you are given things like a timetable (showing when your lessons are). You also get to meet your form and your form tutor. At first I didn't know anyone except a few people from my year, but now I have made some great friends. Remember to not feel like you're on your own with your worries I bet everyone feels the same.

I know you might feel worried about the amount of homework you will be getting but there is nothing to be worried about. Because you don't get all the work at once you start off by having maths, English and science and then you move on to your other subjects. An app called Show My Homework shows the homework you have been set and when it needs to be in.

For the first few weeks it might be difficult to find your way around the school but you find your way around it really fast! Teachers know you might struggle finding your way around, so for the first few weeks they will let you be 5-10 minutes late if you are lost.

At break and lunch you can either go in the canteen or you can go outside, and if you like to play football at break and lunch you can play on the Astroturf. Break lasts 25 minutes and lunch lasts 30 minutes which is enough time to get food and meet up with your friends. School ends at 3:00 and lessons start at 9:00 however, we have form time which is basically having some time with your form before lessons start.

We do have behaviour points and detentions. Behaviour points are points that show when your behaviour has been bad. Detentions are when students are very bad and they need to stay in during break, lunch and even after school. If your behaviour has been very good and your report is good you will earn points and you will be able to go on a trip at the end of the year to Thorpe Park!

I hope this helped,

From Libby

Hello year 6,

I hope you are excited to become a participant at Reigate school next year. If you are nervous, that is totally understandable (I was very nervous too) – however, we feel nerves because a substance called adrenalin rushes around in our blood – this is the same feeling we experience when we are excited. So, turn those nerves into excitement... because trust me, Reigate school is full of fun and excitement.

Homework

If any of you are feeling how I was feeling, then you are probably worrying about homework. But do not stress about it...HONESTLY! During the first week, you will get given a sheet with your log-in details for a homework app (called show my homework – or for short, SMHW). This app is so helpful with homework and keeps me on top of my work – especially through this time of lockdown and home-schooling. It orders your homework, with the homework due most recent at the top, down to the one due later on at the bottom. You can also message all of your teachers with your questions and queries, so that you are never confused. On a final note for homework, when I went for my induction day, I always thought that there was shed loads of homework per day but actually, it is not much at all. At the start of year 7, you only get English and maths homework and only about one or two pieces to complete per week. After a while, you can get set homework from all subjects, but it still is not too much.

Breaks and lunches

When I started at Reigate school, I was very curious of the timings of breaktimes and lunchtimes. So, when year six join and fully become year sevens, they get 5-10 minutes of extra break time (so they can be the first to the canteen) and then for lunch times, year 7's get to have just under an hour of lunchtime (all the other years get half an hour). But over time, the breaks and lunches for year 7's will become the same as the older years. But that still gives you plenty of time to have a break away from work and spend time with your friends.

I hope that when you join Reigate school in September, you will love it because I certainly did!

Yours sincerely,
Sophie O'Connell

Dear Year 6,

Hello Year 6 because of the state that we are in you would have missed your induction day which is very important for you so the school decided that a year 7 like me will write a letter to you to substitute induction day. Now, I will answer some questions you might be asking.

What do we do on the first day?

On the first day our lessons are easier than normal I would strongly suggest to make a **good first impression** because it is the most important.

How to find your way around school?

they should give you a map and if you just don't know where to go. Ask **anyone** and they will help you with any questions. I would also suggest to go with your class because if you all arrive at the same time as the majority of the class you will not get in trouble unless you are really late.

How to spend break and lunch times?

I would spend break and lunch times exploring around the school to know your way around the school as well meet new friends I will tell you it's harder to make new friends later on.

How are some lessons different?

Some lessons will be different and it can also depend on the teacher you are with. The lessons first of all will be harder. Be **well behaved** and the lessons will be more fun. Be efficient and if you have time and was well behaved you might to a fun thing (only when the all the class follows this)

How is secondary different form primary school?

First of all, it will be harder. Another point is that you have to move around the school to get to your lessons your break and lunch times might be shorter. You do not have to sign up for clubs just show up make sure to **show up quick on the first time so you will get more chance of getting in to the club** because every club has a cap (max amount of people).

Tops tips?

I gave you top tips along the way. they will be **highlighted** I will give you now some other top tips make sure to follow the top tips and stay safe. I hope this will all go away and you have a pleasant Year 7.

Kind regards,

Tym

Dear year 6's

Hi, my name is Freddie I am going into year 9 at Reigate school and from my previous experience at the school I have had a great time, I have had the opportunity to make new friends and everyone in general are friendly and great to be around. Don't fear the teachers either they are just trying to help and are very helpful to talk to so if you are having trouble with subjects don't feel like you cannot ask for help. The canteen here is great, it can sometimes be a long wait but you have a wide range of choices and can get hot and cold food and drinks, you may be aware but you use your thumbprint to do this and is fun to do at first.

When you first join here you will be given a timetable which will have a list of your subjects and what days they are on with the teachers name and the room you have to go to, everyone will find it hard to get round the school at first but don't feel like you can't ask other students as it happens every year and you won't get in trouble as the teachers will understand this.

For the first two weeks you will be able to go out for lunch 5 to 10 minutes earlier than other students this will give you the chance to try get a bearing of the school premises and get food before the other students arrive.

You will have a form group and you may recognise some of your old friends but you will have the chance to meet everyone and you will get familiar with these people as

you have the same form group for 5 years and you mainly go to form 8:30 till 9am before your lessons.

More importantly have fun!

Good luck,
Freddie

Dear new member of Reigate school,

In this letter I am going to give you some tips for starting here and some useful things you might want to know. Finding your way around may be hard to start with but you will get there eventually. To start with when you first come you will be given a map and I would recommend you make some extra copies they are easily torn and lost. Another thing to remember is don't be afraid to ask people where things are because people will help you. One thing that might be useful to you is that on your first few days your teacher won't be mad at you if you are a couple of minutes late learning your way around takes time. It might be a while before you find your way around but don't be intimidated by the big walls and tall people you will find your place and know where you fit in.

Lunch time, when you have some time away from lessons to eat and talk to your friends. Here at Reigate School we finish at three o'clock meaning we have shorter break and lunch periods. Break is around a quarter of an hour long and lunch half an hour long and I know what your thinking that is no where near long enough I thought that too but after a while you will realise that it's not that bad, honestly it has really helped my time management skills knowing I only have a certain time to do the things I want to do. One thing that is so cool about being a year seven is that you are the only ones allowed on the tennis courts at break and lunch most of the time the boys just play football but there are also lots of benches and picnic tables you can hangout around. Lastly I want to mention the canteen. If you are going to buy food from the canteen it is always good to get there early but that is not always possible different teacher will let you out at different times. The queue is never nice especially when there is a group of hungry year ten boys messing around in it. There will be pushing but at the end of the day your going to be fine. I also recommend buying your lunch at break when it is less busy.

Yours sincerely
Madeleine Powell
Year eight

Dear new year 7,

If you are feeling worried that is normal, Reigate school is much bigger than the school you're at currently. Most people on their first day worry about how they are going to navigate their way around school, so all you need to is that the students and teachers are usually willing to give you directions to your next class as long as they're not late to a meeting or to their class. Another thing to remember is that in the first half term if you are late it doesn't matter as they know you were just lost.

Also, they have signs all over the school saying what where so you have no need to be worried about that. On my first day it was both worrying but super exciting. What I decided to do with my first day is what most people do with their first day is get to know the people in your form and make friendships, these people are going to be in your class for 5 years.

As I went to primary I don't know what the lessons were like in other schools I know that in primary they didn't do proper lessons for things like R.E, Art, D.T, and food technology. They also do lessons that you wouldn't have even done at your old school like dance lessons. Secondary is very different from your old school but I hope when you get here you enjoy your time at Reigate school.

Many thanks,
Evie

Dear future year 7's!

I'm sure you are all feeling a little bit nervous and apprehensive about beginning secondary school in September, so I'm writing this letter so I can inform you all of what to expect! I was quite nervous on my first day but my fears were completely unfounded and everyone was great and very helpful.

On the first day, I looked around the buildings and tried to make new friends. Some faces were already familiar as I knew them from junior school which was

nice. The main buildings look a bit daunting at first but you'll get a tour around them which makes it really easy.

There are all kinds of unique lessons added to your timetable, such as Design Technology, Food Technology (cooking), and foreign languages of French and Spanish. When it comes to food at break and lunch, there are a variety of options to choose from in the large canteen, such as burgers, chicken nuggets and chips. There are plenty of vegetarian options as well so there's something for everyone, no matter how fussy an eater you may be!

My last piece of advice is to try and have as much fun as you can, work hard and meet new people!

All the best,
Ben

Hello year 6,

As you will be starting secondary school soon, I will tell you some tips, information and more about Reigate school and what you will be expecting when you enter secondary school. Even though I can't remember my induction day and my first day clearly, I will try my best to help you at least a bit. I understand some will be nervous while some are completely fine, I was super nervous myself. Honestly, there is nothing to be nervous of, you will be fine and you will get used to it quickly!

Curriculum

One thing you might be curious of is how lessons work. It is very different to primary school but in my opinion, I prefer the secondary school curriculum. At the start of the day, you need to be in your form room at 8:45; you will have to wait for your form tutor before coming into class. In form time, your tutor will be taking the register then either you will be doing things your tutor prepared for you or going to assembly. You have assembly once a week with your whole year and once a week with your population. Once form time or assembly finishes, you will be having 2 lessons. Then it's break time at 11:05 and ends at 11:25. To buy food you will be having your finger print taken so that every time you want food you just have to scan your finger (your parents will be putting money into your fingerprint so you can pay for it). The places you can eat food is the hall (ground floor and stage) and pit stop (next to the second, new changing rooms). After break time, you have a one lesson then its lunch time which starts at 12:25-30 (I think) and finishes at 12:55. Then you have 2 more lessons then you are free to go home at 15:00 or you can stay to attend a club (they are many clubs and are free). That's the day! If it's a half day you leave at around 20-30 minutes into your 3rd lesson (before lunch).

Tips

Now I will tell you some things I experienced during my first secondary school year and some tips. You may be feeling the same things I was feeling so this might be helpful:

- At the start I was terrified to make new friends- I didn't understand how. 2 of my closest friends that went to Reigate school where in different populations to me. I still talk to one and

I even made friends with her friends. Even though most of my friends are in a different population, not long after that I made friends with people in my class and now I'm comfortable to talk to others. Some of you will make friends quickly and others will take a while but everyone will eventually make a friend. You will gain some friends and you will lose some friends.

- Because the school may be bigger than your old school, maybe it will be tricky for you to find your class. The best tip I can give you is that ask older students or teachers. I recommend you to ask people or look at the signs around the area rather than use the map you will be given (it's quite hard to follow).
- Just have fun in your first year. You will be having more subjects than in your old school but just try and enjoy them. Your first year is the stress free year (unlike me who will be starting my GCSE work)

School System

Your whole year group has 3 populations. Populations are just a group of people that you will be having your lessons with. Each population has a head of population and 6 form tutor. Your form class is consisted of 15 people and one form tutor. Your lessons will be with your form and another form but not always. Each form class has their own room to have their form time in (in year 7 my form room was the library). We have Achievement points and behaviour points. You will get achievement points for putting your hand up, helping out and other things but behaviour points are for bad behaviour and sometimes your head of population teacher will talk to you about it. Once you have good attendance, reports and achievement points you will be able to go to 'Thorpe Park' in June. Also you will have a camping trip for 4 days in June, it was a very fun experience (it's similar to 'High Ashurst' but better).

I hope this helps you a bit! Enjoy your first year in secondary school. Hope you have a great day...
From,
Nina

Hi year 6...

Welcome to year 7 at Reigate School!

First try to memorise the map of the school so you're not late for your lessons.

Next I think you should try to stay away from older kids until your use to the school.

Also listen and try to join in with lessons as much as possible so you get a good first impression from the teachers.

Best of luck,
Tom

I am sure you are very excited and nervous to come to Reigate School next year, that's why as a year 8 I would like to give some advise to have a great year.

Try and keep up with all you're homework , try some after school activities , there are very fun activities you can try.

Be your self and be positive.

I'm sure you will have a great year!

Hope this helps.

Alba

Dear Year 6,

On your first day you will be given a map to learn your way around the school. If at any time you get confused with the map be sure to ask a teacher or an older year to help find the way to your next lesson or the shortest journey to the lunch hall. Talking about lunch, you can either bring your own or go to the canteen with a thumb print which can be topped up by you or a parent or guardian. There is all sorts in the canteen from veggie burgers to flavour-filled chicken raps. Personally my favourite lesson is PE because its day to day exercise with a great range of activities. From the beginning to the end I think Reigate school will be the place for you. Why I say this is, Reigate school will help you until you are the best person you can be so you can become whatever you want when you are older. In year 7 you will have the tennis court all to yourself to chill or play sports or you can go on the astro with most of the other years will go.

All the best,

Archie 😊

Dear year 6 person

Your coming to your end of year 6 and if you think this is the right school to come to. You came to me (kind of) the school is big so it might be hard to find your way around look at your time table ask your class mates if you're in their class if they aren't and you can't find your class ask a teacher or a year 9 or year 10 soon you'll find your way around. I recommend to try to make some friends because even though lunch is only 30 minutes it feels way longer! Also be organised and don't get behaviour points teacher look at it and you might get told off. Hand in your homework on time because it will stop the stress and its helps sorry if I sound a lot like a teacher. If you're stuck it's good to ask a teacher for me, it helps a lot and I feel better every day and some lessons really fun like PE because sometimes you might get to play dodgeball. Science is really fun and you do a lot of practical lessons and its really fun there probably others that you may like English IT food tech drama languages dance (ok) the teachers are really nice by the way

By: year 8 person

Dear year six,

In this letter I will tell you the differences about transitioning from primary school to secondary school. The first day might be a bit frightening because you used to be top of your school but now you're at the bottom in a larger and more daunting school, meaning this is a big change for you. Also you might find yourself lost a few times as you haven't been in the school long but I assure you it will get easier. On my first day I met some of the teachers I would normally have on that day and I had lessons with them. After the first two lessons you will have a break at 11:05 for 25 minutes, after your break you will have another lesson, you will have lunch at 12:25 for 35 minutes which allows you to get your lunch from the canteen with a wide range of foods that are available. After lunch you will have a further two lessons and finish school at 3pm. I don't know about you but this is 30 minutes earlier than my previous school.

Personally my favourite lessons are P.E and DT because they don't just make you sit down for the whole lesson and you can move around. I found my way round the school by using the map as a guide which they will give you on your first and there will also be teachers that will be happy to help you find your way round. The difference between primary and secondary school is that in secondary school you go into different classes for every lesson, this allows you to meet new people and form new friendships, your year is split in three sections and you would have six forms per section so there are a lot more groups compared to primary school.

I hoped my letter helped you with your time in Reigate School.

Yours sincerely,
Reece YR 8

Dear Year Six student,

I understand how hard it may be for you not having an induction day, so I am going to give you a few pointers in how it is different and what to do and hopefully reassure you.

Firstly, at secondary school you will find the lessons a bit different because unlike primary school you will have to change classrooms every lesson. which is usually every hour. This means that you will need to know your way around the school. To help you find the way around the school it is a good idea to take a picture of your *Timetable* so you know what lesson you have got next and in which room.

Another point is at break time and lunchtime you can get your lunch and/or a snack / drink. There are two places where you can get your food; they are called the canteen and pit stop. The food is more varied because there are more choices of food such as burgers,

pizzas and salads. You can also have them at break time as well as lunch and you will get your finger print done at the beginning of the year and use this to pay.

At break time and lunch time when I started I went to the Astro and the year seven area where only year sevens are allowed. This is good because it can help you make more friends and you will have more space to play and also eat there.

My favourite lessons are PE and Maths. In secondary school you need to take things more seriously because it is down to you to learn more independently but if you need help then you can ask a teacher. The teachers are there to help you.

I hope you enjoy Reigate school Good luck!

Dear Year 6 pupil,

So due to lockdown you will know that you won't be having your induction day which may leave you to worry or have questions.

So, what I did on my first day in Year 7 is just hang around with my friends from primary then slowly make new friends from different populations or even year groups

You may want to know if the lessons are different, well they are many more lessons that you may not have been taught before like Spanish, French, Citizenship and Maybe drama

If you have a sporty personality you would most likely go to the astro or the Year 7 designated area which has astro turf and football goals but you will need to bring your own football or even basketball if your friends don't have one.

If you are not sporty you may want to hang around in the canteen or you may well have a lunch break club such as French and Spanish club and marvel club which you watch marvel all of break.

Also, if you don't know the times you will need to be at school by 8:45 and go straight to your form room. And your first lesson starts at 9:05. In the whole school day, you will have 5 lessons which is 1 hour each and have a 25 minute break and a 35 minute lunch break which tallies up to 1 hour of break

From a Year 8 pupil

Hello, year 6s

I know that becoming a secondary student is a very big change to all of you and some of you may be looking forward to school and some of you may be afraid and that's totally ok. I'm going to tell you about school and some of my favorite lessons.

One thing you guys may be worried about is how big the school is going to be compared to your primary school. I will admit it's a very large school but after a few weeks you know your way around. All the staff are extremely helpful if you get lost. In addition, there are many more classes in secondary school than in primary school which means more homework. There is an app that teachers put your homework on so you can always keep track of what has been set and when it's due.

For classes you will probably be with different people which is perfect for making new friends. As well as classes you get forms which are classes of around 12, you will be together most of the time so that may feel like a comforting reassurance that the whole structure has not changed from having a primary school classes.

Break and lunch may also feel a lot different because they are probably a lot shorter than in primary school. At Reigate School we have two canteens and a hall to eat in so there will always be a place to grab lunch.

One of my favorite subjects is maths because they have different sets that cater to your skillset. I also like math because it is challenging and fun at the same time.

I hope this has helped you if you were nervous,

A Year 8 Student

To,

I have heard that you are a Year 6 who would quite like to know what it is like to be a Year 7 in Reigate School. I happen to be someone with first hand experience of being a Reigate School Year 7 student. I am going to tell you about my first experiences in Reigate School, and while it is likely you already know a lot as they prepare you a lot for secondary, some of the concepts might be completely alien to you.

When you go into secondary school it is likely there will be people you know, but the chances of being put in a class with your friends are incredibly low, so you will want to make good friends with those closest to you (in your form and class). You want to weave your social web across the school! There are lots of clubs to help you meet other students with the same interests.

There is a lot more work to do including homework. My favourite subjects are maths, history and science which are fun. The teachers are friendly and welcoming.

Perhaps one of the largest changes you will witness is most likely the difference in the way the canteen works. You pay for the food up front (there is a different value for each food item), with a fingerprint scanner and spending limit. You also have a bank account which your parents put money on. You can eat at break, but on Fridays I do not do this so I can buy more chicken nuggets!

So anyway, I hope this letter helps you through the years at Reigate School and I hope you enjoy that rest of your time as a Year 6 and look forward to seeing you next year!

Yours sincerely,

Henry Bourke

Dear Year 6 Student,

I would like to talk to you about Secondary School. It may be a very worrying thing but it is alright. On my first day everyone went in their own clothes so nobody would know who came from where. Then we had to find our names on our chairs where it said our form was. Next, we were taken in a small group to go and meet our form tutor. There are lots of different lessons at secondary and they are all much more exciting and advanced.

My favourite subjects are Art, DT, Dance and the science experiments. I really like all of the other subjects but they are my favourite. At break and lunch time there are lots of places to spend your time. There is a library to go and pick a book or read a book, you could play on the astro or the tennis court to do football, join a lunch club to meet more people, hang out with friends or go to the canteen or the pitstop for a refreshment.

Secondary school is a big change but I found it easier than I thought as there were lots of teachers and older students standing around the school telling you where to go or they could give you a map if that is easier. Primary is very different from secondary because the school itself is a lot bigger but also you are constantly moving for each lesson. There is also a big increase in homework but Reigate have been very kind and eased the subjects in by a little amount to start with which helps to cope with the workload. Another thing, you are given more responsibility and treated more like adults and have more opportunities.

Some top tips for you is if it is possible, try signing up for the summer club. It helps you familiarise your self with the school and helps you make more friends. I know that due to the different circumstances we are in at the moment the Club may not run but if it does it is definitely worth doing. If you do go back to Primary before the end of the summer try and ask your current year 6 teacher as many questions as possible. But the main thing about secondary is not to be shy and say hello to as many people as you can and try and start a conversation.

Don't forget everyone is in the same situation as you. I came from a very small primary school with only 200 students to a very large secondary and I thought I would get lost but it only took me 2 weeks to know where I was going. I hope everything goes well with secondary and remember everyone is feeling nervous like you but it is a fantastic change. Good luck!

From Claudia

Dear Year 6 student,

My name is Charlotte and I am going to tell you a bit about changing from primary to secondary school. A crucial part of the big transition that is moving to secondary school is to have a little preview yet due to the current situation that is quite hard for you to achieve. So here I am. I will tell you basically anything you need to know about what it is like because remember it is not just you that is going through this. I mean you might be super chill about it all or you might be petrified but you need to know that it will all work out fine in the end.

Now I don't know about you, but my favourite subjects are P.E and Art because they are both really fun and I can express creativity however you might love maths or computing. Whether you are good or bad the teachers are always happy to help if you get stuck or need a helping hand.

One of the questions that pop up the most is "What if I get lost?" Now the school may look huge and confusing when you first join but eventually you get used to it. It **is** ok for you to ask teachers or students around the school to point you to your next classroom. If you are still convinced that you will get lost, then you can get a map of the school which makes it easier to find your way around.

Secondary school is a lot different from primary school in many ways. At primary school they are quite controlling but secondary is more independent. All of the teachers expect you to take a lot more responsibility for your actions. There is more homework than at primary school which might come as a bit of a shock at first but all you must do is keep up to date with all of your tasks and hand them in on time. It is **way** more fun and exciting!

Initially, I was terrified until I found out I was in a form with my two best friends which was amazing. If I were you, I wouldn't worry about it. Even if you are not with your friends you can always make new ones. The first day is the day that you want to make good impressions on your classmates as later they could become the person you spend the rest of your life with.

There is a huge range of things to do at lunch or break such as; you could go to the library and do some homework, there are a huge amount of clubs you could commit to, you could buy some delicious food at the canteen, you could walk around the school or you could just sit and chat with your friends. And finally, do I have any top tips for you? Well yes, as a matter of fact I do. If I were you, I would try to be the first in the queues in either of the canteens because it can get very **very** cramped and busy. Also **never** forget your equipment because some of the teachers can get quite feisty and tend to shout so just check you have everything the night before. And finally try not to be late or you will get a late mark and possibly a detention. Good luck 😊

Yours sincerely Charlotte

Dear year 6

I hope that your transition to Reigate school is easy and all your worries will be put aside after reading this letter. If you're worried about the size of the school as it is probably a lot bigger than your primary school just think about when you were transitioning from nursery to primary school. You were able to find your way around the school in about a week which is the same as Reigate. If you need any help just ask. If you're worried about homework don't be as for the first couple of terms you only get a little bit and even after that it's still quite easy.

But now on the good side: the food is 10 times better than any primary school food. Being the youngest year isn't that bad as year sevens are only allowed in the tennis courts. If you've got any worries you can just speak to your head and population or your form tutor.

At break, you can go up to the library and complete homework just in case you forgot, also the library is open before school, after school, lunchtime and break times.

And if you don't have any money on your fingerprint to have lunch if you forgot or something then you can just go to the reception and they will give you a card which allows you to get food and then you can tell your parents when you go home to top up your card.

If you get over 96 percent non absent days you can go to Thorpe Park and on your first year you can go to camp where you do all sort of fun things and there are hundreds a fun and exciting clubs such as dance club Marvel club manga club and many more.

Good luck!

From Sidney

Dear Year 6 Student

REIGATE SCHOOL – WELCOME LETTER

I hope you and your are family well? I'm sorry you were unable to have your induction day at Reigate School but don't worry, you'll soon get the hang of life here!

In September, on your first day you'll meet the teachers and be shown your new classroom. Mr Alexander, our headmaster, will invite you to a Year 7 assembly where he will introduce you to our amazing school and teachers.

There are so many new subjects to learn and to be excited about. Have you ever used Bunsen burner? Watch out for your eyebrows! You mustn't forget your trainers either, as we have PE at least twice a week.

At break and lunch Year 7's have use of their own area on the tennis courts. Here you'll be able to meet up with friends from your junior school and friends you haven't seen for a while and obviously make new friends too.

It's really important that you keep your timetable on you or somewhere safe. Our timetables differ, plus, they consist of vital information e.g. classroom location and teachers. If for any reason you misplace yours, go to Student Services and they'll be able to help you – they are all very friendly.

Over the first few weeks you'll have to remember lots of new information. Do make a note of all new logins / passwords etc and maybe keep a copy at home as well, just in case.

If for any reason you get lost or don't know which way to go there are signs pointing you in the right direction. Do feel free to ask your fellow students, we're all very happy to help.

Stay safe & healthy and we look forward to welcoming you in September.

Best wishes

Lucy

Dear year six,

It is very nerve-racking starting secondary school but I just wanted to let you know you have nothing to worry about!

When you first go into school you feel like you are going to get lost straight away! But it only took me a couple of days to find my way around the school. Also, if you are really worried about getting lost, you can get a map of the school or ask your form teacher to take you there.

When people ask me, Do I miss primary school? The answer I always so is NO!!! Secondary school is such a fun experience and I never really think about primary. if you didn't have a very nice time in primary school, most of the people in your class and form don't know you so it's a good way to start over and make some new friends. When I started school, I was so worried I would not be in the same form as my best friends from primary school (I wasn't!) but it was ok because I made so many new friends but I still speak to my old friends.

At lunch and break time, the year 7s get to go to lunch earlier, and I think that is really important because first you get the good food choice but also you won't feel worried that you might not get lunch or you might get pushed by the older kids.

From a year 7

Letter To a Yr. 6

Dear yr. 6 pupil

I am in year. 7 I would like to share top tips and information that will help you when you start yr. 7 in September.

Breaks and lunchtimes:

Your year group will be able to leave lessons early to get your lunch before the other years. Lunch normally starts at 12:25 but you will start 10 minutes before everyone else and lunch finishes at 1:00. You can eat your lunch at break or lunch with a £6 limit (try and spend under 6 pounds). You can eat inside or outside but not in classrooms or in the hallways. And you pay using your fingerprint.

First Day:

On your first day no other years will be in school so you can get around easier and get used to the school. You will be given a tour of the school by older students. You will get your fingerprint for school meals sorted. You will also be given a free school meal if you aren't having a packed lunch.

How is it different from primary school?

In year 7 you are in a form of 15 you will have a join up form which, you will join up with in yr.8. At the start of normal school days, you will have a form time which lasts 20 minutes long you might play quizzes or your form tutor will give out information. After that you will go to your lessons but don't go back to your form for registration after break or lunch as your subject teacher will do your registration. In Reigate school you get achievement points for good behaviour, good work, attending clubs and more. But you will be awarded behaviour points for bad behaviour, disrupting lessons, not doing your homework and wrong equipment. Be careful because behaviour points lead to detentions but teachers normally go easy on yr.7s.

Top Tips:

Stick close to classmates or friends so you don't get lost. Once you are given your map and timetable colour co-ordinate your timetable and map for example if you colour math's blue on your timetable colour the math's block on your map blue.

I hope have a great first year at Reigate school and your form tutor will let you know more.

Kind Regards

Harry

To Year 6,

I know coronavirus has turned the whole world upside down, and this means that the next time you will be in Reigate School is the first day of term. Year 7 and 8 have been asked to write to you and tell you what Secondary is like.

The first day begins with an assembly at 11 o'clock, where you are welcomed to the school. The next part is where you get to spend about half an hour with your form, before having lunch. Keep in mind that year 7 is the only class in today. After lunch you will have your two afternoon lessons. During one of these you will be given a map, to help you around school. You will be surprised by how small it actually is and how quickly you will come to know where places are.

If you have any questions, it's best to ask your form tutor or student services, but the majority of students and teachers will help you out too. The lessons are a bit different to primary, you have a different teacher for each lesson and a different classroom too. I personally prefer this as you get to move around more. When it comes to break and lunch, the canteen is always open, as well as the pitstop cafe outside the changing rooms. You can take food anywhere you like also, except the tennis court and astro-turf, which are open if you like sport. Phones are allowed too.

Another big change is the amount of homework you get. Eventually, you will have it every day, but in the first half term, you only get science, english and maths. The rest of the subjects gradually fade in, but you will soon get used to it. Also, when you have free time, go to clubs. They have one for just about everything, and you can get achievement points for going.

In summary, there is not a lot to worry about, and you get used to it very quickly.

Good luck,

Joe

To New Year Sevens,

The jump to Secondary School is a big jump and it may seem daunting since majority of you have been in smaller schools to Reigate school and of course, Reigate is massive. And that may seem bad at first and believe me – I was scared and so were pretty much all of my classmates. And because Reigate school is so huge it took me a while to find my way around the place. But it's okay, within at least four weeks you'll know your way around the school and won't be daunted by the gigantic building. Trust me, it sounds strange, but the building is really easy to get around once you're used to it.

Having and making friends is a really good way to get used to the school and all the people in it. The good thing about Reigate school being so big is that there's going to definitely be a person out there with the same interests as you so making friends won't be a problem. If you are going in with a friend (or friends) then don't be reluctant to make new friends as well, since you may still find people you like a lot.

There is so much to do at Reigate school so don't be shy to try new things. For example, I have gotten into Basketball and Warhammer which were things I didn't really do at my old school. All of the subjects are unique and fun and have great teachers making learning more exciting. The school grounds are very wide, and I suggest you do get a locker if possible, since carrying your P.E kit around all day isn't too fun.

There are much older kids in Reigate school who may look like hairy monkeys but it's okay they're friendly just I recommend not calling them hairy monkeys since that will annoy them quite a bit.

The food in Reigate school in my opinion is pretty good. Though the fast food bit is nice – do try to go for the main meal if you don't want to develop a large stomach. You can sit on tables with your friends or go outside to eat – it's up to you.

As good as Reigate school is, they have some bizarre rules such as; You have to ask to take your jumper off, no coats in the dining hall at all, and plenty of other weird rules that will sneak up on you when you least expect them.

But overall, you will love Reigate school – and take that from a person who found it difficult at first. It may take you a long time to get used to the school as it took me too. I came from the Priory and I

thought that school was big, but I got used to it the same I got used to this school. There is nothing to worry about. Secondary school isn't the same it looks in the movies, there's no big bully that will destroy every single day of your life, there's no horrible teacher that puts you to shame and most importantly there is no singing on top of lunch tables (sorry to crush your High School Musical dreams).

You will be very welcomed at Reigate school and we can't wait to see your lovely faces.

See you when we start school ☺

Henry

To year 7 student,

I hope you are well and looking forward to starting at Reigate school in September! You might be feeling nervous and have a lot of questions so I thought I'd write to you and give you some useful advice and information.

On the first day of school you will meet your new form and form tutor. Every day you will spend the morning with these people and they will be in most of your classes. I'm sure you will meet lots of new people and make new friends!

One of my favourite things about Reigate school is that there are so many different and new subjects from primary school. There is everything from design technology to dance, PE to art. There is something for everyone to enjoy. As well as new lessons, there are also lots of clubs to enjoy before school, during breaks and lunch times and also after school.

One of the main things people are worried about starting secondary school is getting lost. Honestly, it's not as bad as it seems! You will get given a map and a timetable on your first day so you will know where to go for your lessons. If you are stuck with where to go, you can always ask one of your new classmates or I'm sure if you ask an older pupil they will be happy to help. If you are nervous about forgetting things for school, then I would recommend packing your bag the night before school so that you are all ready and organized for the morning.

At lunchtimes and break times you can go to the canteen where you can buy a nice hot lunch or sandwiches and snacks. After you have had your lunch you could go to the tennis courts which is a place for only year 7s but if not there are many others spots around the school for you to hang out with your friends!

I hope you have a great summer holidays and don't feel nervous- Reigate school is great!!

Dear Year 6 student,

I hope you are coping well in lockdown and looking forward to starting at Reigate School in September. You may be wondering what it will be like to start Reigate school In September, so I thought I would write to you and talk you through it and try to reassure you.

When you first start Reigate School, it seems really overwhelming and it can seem like you don't have your friends with you (as everyone gets split up), but you can meet up with your old friends at lunch and break. If you are kind and a good person to everyone you will really easily make friends. Another thing that I worried about (and you are probably worried about too) is homework. But don't worry. When you first start, you will start off with only English, Maths and Science homework. And then in the following terms/ half terms you will gradually get more and more. There are also lots of different clubs for you to choose from.

You are also probably a bit worried about getting lost. But it doesn't matter; you will get to know where everything is very quickly. I can remember in my first week at Reigate School, I was always getting lost and asking for directions, but by week 2, I had it sussed! If you get lost, the teachers are really kind about it and you won't get in trouble. You can also just ask any of the students or staff at Reigate school as they are all really friendly and will probably take time out of their day to help you get where you need to go. If you do get lost with no one to help you, just carry on walking because Reigate school is effectively just a big square!

Enjoy your summer holidays and don't be nervous!

Best wishes,

Dominic

Dear year 6 student,

I know this must be really tough and annoying time right now, not being able to have your last day of primary school or even have your induction day at Reigate school, so I hope this letter will help you for when you do come and so you ,hopefully, won't get lost.

Starting year seven can be very scary because it's a new school. But don't be afraid to talk to new people and make new friends instead of always hanging out with people from your old school and you might even make some new best friends.

Don't be worried about getting to your classes straight on time to start with, just stay calm if you get lost. You could also ask an older student or someone at student services to help you.

In year 7, for the first couple of weeks only your year will be let out a little early at lunch to get to the queue because it can get very busy. But that is nothing to worry about because you will get used to the line.

What you really want to do at Reigate school is earn achievement points. Achievement points are points you get for say handing in a very good piece of homework or helping out a teacher and many more. You will want to get as many as you can. The best bit is when you reach 150 you get a badge with one star on it. And the more you get the higher badges you will get. But you will want to avoid behaviour points. You get these when you have done something bad and if you get lots you could get a detention. But that is also nothing to worry about.

Reigate school is an amazing school with so many clubs and I hope you don't find it too hard to setting in.

Good luck in September!

Ella

Dear _____,

Moving into a new school is a big change but we are all here to help. Everyone has been through the same change so don't be afraid to ask where something is or directions. On my first day, it was a little bit confusing getting around but we all got given a map to help us know where to go and you will too. The teachers won't get mad if you are a little late in the first week so don't panic.

Finding your way around at first can be confusing and you may get lost but you get to know the school pretty well within about a week or so. You will be able to ask anybody the directions as well as following signs on the walls. You will have different teachers for each lesson and will have to walk to your next class after every lesson, however you will get used to this. Don't forget your bags!

In addition, break is 15 minutes long and lunch time is 45 minutes long. The lunch queues are always quite long however there are 3 different places to get food from: the top canteen, the bottom canteen and the pit stop. You can get drinks, healthy food, treats and meals. There are many places to sit both inside and outside. We have a shelter area outside called the Pagoda, with a lot of benches underneath, for when it's raining or you just want shade. There is a lot of seats in the canteen as well.

I hope you enjoy Reigate School.

Kind regards,

Amber, yr 7.

Dear Year Sixes,

I'm writing to you because you are about to start at Reigate School, and you aren't going to have the chance to have an induction day. I am going to tell you about what Reigate School is like and my experiences of my first week.

Your first day at the school will be nerve wracking but at the same time you will hopefully be excited. First, you'll get introduced to your form tutor and the other students in your form. There are roughly fifteen children in each form. I didn't really talk that much to anybody at first because I was a bit nervous, so I did a lot of listening on that first day.

On the first day, our tutor gave us our timetables for our lessons. It is different from primary school because every lesson had a different teacher and every lesson was in a different room. Also, you won't have the same lessons every day. I thought that it was going to take a while to learn where to go and I had to look at it all the time to find out where I supposed to go. The school day at Reigate School is shorter than at primary school and what we finish at 3pm.

After the meeting with your tutor, you will go to your first lesson and meet up with another fifteen children who will be in your classes for the rest of the year. At the beginning of each lesson, you will get introduced to the teacher and do some fun activities with the class. In one of these lessons, I was put onto a random table and there was a bag with various objects in it, and as a group we had to discuss what kind of person this bag belonged to. It meant that we all had to talk to each other, and we started to get to know each other.

My favourite lessons at school are PE, Food Technology and (of course) English. I love PE because there is a great range of sports to try at school, including: table tennis, handball, football, gymnastics, tag rugby, hockey, netball, basketball, bench ball and several others. Food Tech is really good because you learn how to make different recipes and different types of food and then you can eat them when they're ready! I have included English as one of my favourite lessons because I know my English teacher will be reading this letter.

Break and lunchtimes are a chance to talk to your friends. At break time you can either play football or chat to your friends. You can also go on your phone at this time. There are also clubs that you can do. At lunchtime you can either bring a packed lunch or buy food in the canteen. The food there is really tasty, and they offer a wide range of foods: pizza, curry, pasta, sausage rolls, salad, wraps, and lots more. The canteen offers a different main meal every day. There is also a pit-stop place outside by the football pitch where you can also buy food. They sell cookie, cakes, chicken subs, sausage rolls, croissants, pain au chocolate, and lots more. You use your fingerprint on a scanner to pay for your food. Your parents can put money into your account and there are machines in the canteen that you can top up your account with cash.

For the first week or two, you won't know where you are going, and it might have some difficulty finding your lessons. There are usually teachers and children from the older years who are willing to help you.

My top three tips for anyone starting in year seven at Reigate School are:

- 1) Always behave yourself in lessons, because you can get detentions, which means that you miss break or lunch or must stay after school.
- 2) Try to keep up your attendance so that you can go to Thorpe park at the end of the year.
- 3) Don't worry if you don't make friends immediately, you're going to be with these kids for a long time so you will make friends eventually.

I hope that this letter helps you feel more confident about starting year seven.

See you soon,

Noah

Dear Year 6/ Year 7,

I hope you're well and I'm sorry you won't be able to have an induction day at Reigate School.

It may all seem big and complicated but you'll get used to it after the first week. To start of, you'll get your timetable and a map of the school, which will help you to find your classes.

When you start you'll be with your form and you can all help each other. Because there are a lot of pupils, all Year 7 are split in 3 populations. When you do something well or good behaviour, you get rewarded with an achievement point by your teacher. This is really cool! And if you get 150 points, you get a 1 star badge; 300 points and you get a 2 star badge; and 750 you get a 3 start badge. They're really easy to get and your parents and head of population will be able to see your score at any time. If you have a high enough attendance, at the end of the year, you get to Thorpe Park although we will be missing out on it this year.

It might seem that you will have a lot of homework but in fact, it's only a few pieces of homework to do throughout the week so it's all good. You don't actually get given the homework – you do everything through an app, which is useful.

Lessons are fun; for example in science, you actually get to do experiments! The food is great and you have a wide selection of clubs that you can attend.

I was nervous too when I joined but it's honestly a great school and I am enjoying my time here. Before you know it, it will feel comfortable and familiar.
I wish you a very nice summer.
All the best,
Elliott

Dear New Year 7,

I'm going to give you a couple of reasons why you shouldn't worry about secondary school. First things first, you shouldn't be worried about the work you do or the homework you get, because the first couple of weeks are quite easy. On the first day, the school seems really big but it won't take you that long to get used to it. You will be given a map, and if you get lost you can ask the older students and they will help you find your way. Everyone is really kind and friendly!
The Year 7's have their own place to play sports, and it's also a great place to make new friends. You get to go to lunch early to begin with, so you can get used to the lunchtime routine and you don't have to queue for so long!! The canteen is so different to primary school, and you get to choose from lots of options such as, sausage rolls, salads, burgers, roast dinner, and many other things. You can also choose to bring a packed lunch if you prefer.
Lessons are more varied than primary school. You have a set timetable and move around the school to each lesson. Lessons include, Food Tech, Design Technology, PE, IT and Art to name a few!
There are a wide variety of clubs to choose from at school. Some are during lunch time, but the majority are after school, such as, football, netball, gymnastics, rounders, hockey, trampolining, Marvel club, games club, maths club and homework club plus loads more! Again, this is a great way to make new friends.

I really hope you enjoy your time at Reigate School,

From a current year 7 student.

Last year I was in the same place as you...

- Worried

- Anxious
- Excited
- Curious
- Confused

I was worried that I wouldn't be able to find my way around the school; I was anxious about making new friends; I was excited about all of the new lessons we have; I was curious to see what new clubs I could join and I was confused about how the timetable would work. Turns out I wasn't the first person to start year 7 and the teachers knew how to help us. With the help of new friends and the teachers I realized that what was potentially a scary few weeks were actually good fun. Reigate School is amazing! It's full of amazing, interesting, bubbly people who are there to help you. Lessons are so much fun and there are a quite a few lessons most primary schools don't have for example we have a dance lesson in our dance studio once a fortnight which is so much fun! As well as that we have Drama once a fortnight where you get to make up your own little skits which is always hilarious! In music you get to learn the piano! In science you get to do experiments! That makes things go fizz, bang and splosh. In food tech you make yummy muffins! In English you get to write amazing stories! And that's just a few of the amazing subjects we have!

On the first day you will get a timetable (your timetable is for two weeks; week one and week two. Once you have completed both weeks you go back to week one). It shows you when your lessons are, what teacher is teaching it and where it is. I remember being super confused to start with but I know you will start to pick it up quickly! To you the school seems massive but trust me it's pretty easy to get round after a while but don't worry you will get a map to help you.

Break time is at 11:05-11:25 and lunch is at 12:25-13:00 but since you're new to the school you get to go 5 minutes early which seriously is so, so, so lucky! We have a bottom canteen and a top canteen which are both open at break and lunch time so you can have your lunch whenever! The bottom canteen has mainly warm food like pizza, burgers, salad, pasta and soup (which you can eat in the canteen or take outside) whereas the top has hot food like fish and chips and roast which you have to eat in the canteen. By the AstroTurf there is a pit stop which sells drinks, sausage rolls and panini's ! There is a tennis court which at lunch and break is just for year 7s so you have somewhere that's just yours.

I've done my first year at Reigate and I know feel more independent from when I was in Year 6. There are good days and not so good days, but everyone is there to help you and if you need anything, you just have to ask.

Can't wait to see you next year!
Scarlett.

Dear new Year 7 student,

I hope you've been OK during this weird year so far. It's a shame you haven't been able to spend your last term with your friends and say goodbye to your school and teachers.

I want to reassure you that secondary school is not a scary place most of the time, but can be a bit overwhelming in the first few weeks.

When you start, hopefully in September, you will meet loads of new people, you will mostly be with your form apart from the few lessons that you are put in a 'set' for. Finding your way around the school might be tricky at first but it will get easier and there are lots of people around to help you and point you in the right direction.

Lunch times can be a bit crazy and crowded, try to stay with a group of other year 7's so you can figure it out together. Make sure you've got money on your finger print to pay. There are lots of different options for lunch, like – burgers, Paninis, a salad bar, sandwiches and a hot set meal if you prefer. You can eat outside or in the hall.

Lessons are more interesting than at primary school as you focus on individual subjects in more detail. This gives you a much better idea for what you might like to take for your exams. There is a lot of homework but as long as you keep on top of it it's not too hard.

I've loved all the extra activities I've been able to get involved with such as Dance, Drama and Choir. There are loads of lunch time clubs too.

Good luck, I'm sure you will settle in easily and make lots of new friends.

Best wishes

From a year 7, 2019/2020

Dear year 6,

Unfortunately, due to corona virus, you can't visit Reigate school this summer for your induction day. So, this is a letter to tell you about the fun things you will do in year 7, enjoy.

On your first day of secondary, you and your year group will have the school to yourselves so you can get used to a new environment. As well, you will be put into your form groups and be given your personalised time-table with all of your very fun lessons and times on. I know this may sound frightening but you will settle in and make new friends whilst keeping your ones from primary.

Personally, some of my favourite lessons include Art, Drama, P.E, and English. I like these because the teachers are nice and they make the lessons fun. In Reigate school, there are so many fun lessons that are quite different to primary.

Break time lasts for 25 minutes and lunch lasts for 35 minutes. During these times you can eat your snack, buy lunch from the canteen, sit with your friends, play sport and go to the toilet.

One main difference between primary and secondary is the diversity of lessons. You get to do many different lessons that you wouldn't have done in your previous school. As well as this, you have the opportunity to play in sports events and represent us in various games. You can also bring your phones into school and use them at break and lunch.

Here are some top tips for settling into year 7:

- . Don't feel nervous as you will settle in quickly.
- . Try not to be late to class
- . Try to get as many achievement points as possible
- . behaviour points may result as a detention

Have a great summer!

Sidney

Dear

My name is Zaine and I am currently a year 7 student at Reigate School. I bet you are nervous about starting? I was very scared but also very excited about my new adventure. I am very happy at school and now I wonder why I was so scared! Everyone at school are so friendly and helpful and always around to assist you if you get lost. There are so many different activities to do during lunch break and after school. I do a different club everyday!

My favourite lessons are PE and science. In science there are always cool experiments to do which are good fun. In PE there are so many different sports to play some of which I've never played before. I am part of the year 7 football team where I have made some really good friends.

I enjoy reading a lot and our school library is amazing and there is always someone there to help you chose the right book for you. We also do lots of quizzes to see how well we are getting on with our reading which I like as I am able to see how many words I have read.

I hope this has helped you feel a bit more confident about coming to Reigate school. It is a really fun place to be.

From Zaine

Hello future year 7 student!

I can't wait until you join Reigate School (you'll definitely create some life long memories here) my favourite subject is food tech because you get to make delicious food! Please don't panic about finding your way around the school because you will be given a map that is easy to follow and you can ask anyone around the school- teachers *and* students! Also, you will find your way around in no time!

You will be given a timetable with the lessons, the names of your teachers, and what room they're in on them.

At break and lunch you can go to the canteen to buy some food and drink and you can play football on the astroturf. If football isn't for you there are lots of clubs that are available at lunchtime too.

In addition, at the beginning of Year 7 you go to lunch early so you can get in the lunch queues first! There are lots of differences between secondary school and primary school such as here, you have to walk to each class in between your lessons as each subject is in a different room and you are given more responsibilities here as well. Also in secondary school when you arrive at school you go to your form room and do some activities with your form tutor before starting your lessons!

Top tip- make a friend as soon as possible, everyone who is moving into secondary school is nervous just like you :)

Hope this helped!- from Beth

Year six,

Because you won't get an induction day due to lockdown, I am going to share some of my first experiences of year seven and some tips to settling into Reigate school.

On our first day, the older years were not in the school just to make sure we could get used to the school. We had a welcome assembly where the head teacher talked to us about the school and what

we were going to be doing. We met our form tutors who gave us a tour of the school. We also got given our timetables and maps to help us get around.

My favourite lessons are dance, drama and PE because I love to be creative and active. In secondary school you get a lot more freedom and opportunities than in primary such as being allowed your phone in school and having a wider range of subjects.

When you join Reigate school, don't be afraid to ask teachers or older years for help because they have probably been in your situation and will help you out. Be nice to everyone as it will be easier to make friends and settle in. And lastly, always try your best.

We look forward to seeing you and we wish you the best for year seven.

Dear year 6(soon to be year 7)

Although this may seem like a big jump from school to school it is not that bad. Maybe you are wondering things like "how am I going to get around the school and remember the way to each classroom?".

In this letter I would hope to answer any queries you have and give you some top tips on how to spend the first days. Firstly, I would just like to say that if you're worried about getting around the place don't worry, most of the other older students will be happy to help you find the way to your class.

I would hope to think that you would very much enjoy your first day as I did mine. On my first day, after a short assembly, we went to our new form room and did some of those introductory activities as you normally would do if you went to some form of new activity. After that we went on a small tour of the school to try and get to know how to get around the school then we were shown where our lockers were.

Now for some tips; I would recommend if you are getting a locker to try and leave some of your schoolbooks in the locker because your bag can get very heavy and you feel like you're going to collapse under the weight on the way home; also you should never be afraid to ask your teacher for extra help if you are stuck on something they said in the lesson.

I am hoping that you will have a great summer holiday, and you are ready and excited to come to Reigate school in September

Best wishes

Year 7 student

Dear year 6 student,

I am writing this letter to give you some advice about what life will be like at Reigate school .I can remember my first day at Reigate school and I hope I can answer some of your questions for you.

One of the biggest questions is will I find my around the school? Don't worry; there are some helpful things you can use to help you. Two of the things I found most helpful was a map they gave you at the start of year 7and also there are some helpful prefects which can show you the way.

Another big question is. How do you think secondary is different from primary school? Well there's loads like you can go outside, you can go in the library you can do anything you want. My personal favourite is going to the canteen, whereas, if you were at primary school you would only be allowed outside.

One thing I did find a bit difficult was getting to my lessons on time. One thing I would recommend is giving yourself plenty of time but once you know the way it is as easy as pie.

Finally, here are some top tips

1. don't worry
2. enjoy your time
3. be with your friends
4. don't be afraid to ask for help
5. be organised by getting ready the night before

from Ella

Dear year 6 student,

I am writing this letter to give you some advice about what life will be like at Reigate school .I can remember my first day at Reigate school and I hope I can answer some of your questions for you.

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5. be organised by getting ready the night before

from Ella

Dear Year 6 (Future year 7)

Reigate school is a great school, I have enjoyed my first year so much! So as you may know you are missing induction day, hopefully missing it won't cause much of a hassle. At Reigate school you will make lots of new friends and make unforgettable memories with them, you will be set into a group of 15, that is half a Form. Your form is a mix of girls and boys and your form teacher who you'll meet every morning for registration. Later on in the year, your form group will combine with another, creating a full form.

The school is quite big! When you first join you will struggle to find your way around a bit, if you get lost, ask other people in the school to help you, that is what I did on my first day. Once you get used to the layout it will be a breeze to get around, you will know where almost everything is. Sometimes children in primary school complain about the lunch food, I assure you Reigate school has the best food and if you are a vegetarian like me, don't worry they do tons of amazing vegetarian food. The school also is helping the environment by using reusable cups/pots. To pay for your food you will have to use your fingerprint, which seems a bit weird at first.

I love Reigate school, I have made so many great friends and many memories, when I first came to the school I was scared and I was a little worried about making new friends and bonding with my new class, but after a week or 2 I was so happy. You just need to be yourself and don't be shy! I was glad to have made so many new friends and got to know everybody in my class. At weekends me and my friends love going shopping and walking to Starbucks.

Sometimes at school you might get a detention if you break the rules, but don't be worried about that you probably won't ever get one. Only around 2 people get one on average in your year do. If you get 98% Attendance you also get to go on a trip to Thorpe park but it was canceled this year due to the Corona virus.

At Reigate school your year will get assemblies set on various days around 2 times a week (E.g it could be on a Monday and Friday). You need to be in your form at 8:45 in the morning or otherwise you will be marked 'absent' and your attendance will go down. If you are worried about time, leave earlier and try out different times to see what works best. I usually leave at 8:00 to go to school and I have around 20 minutes in my form to finish and help people with some of their work.

I hope you enjoyed this brief letter and enjoy your time at Reigate school! :)

By Eve Green, Year 7, hope you have a great summer!

Top Tips:

Tip 1) Try and get a locker, it is easier to store your PE bag in rather than carrying it around.

Tip 2) Don't rush in the hallways or you will probably get knocked to the ground.

Tip 3) Lunch is very short, you only have time to eat your food so try and get to lunch fast or otherwise you will be at the back of the queue and there may not be any food left.

.Secondary School.

Dear year 6 student,

I am writing this letter to give you some reassurance and advice about what life will be like at Reigate School, I remember my first few days in year 7, I had loads of questions and I this letter will make your time starting more enjoyable.

On your first day at Reigate School you will be introduced to all your new classmates and your form teacher and everybody in new joint form. Your teacher will give you your weekly timetable. My favourite lessons are PE, science, food technology, design technology if you don't know what design technology is it is basically where you get to make and design cool products for example a board game.

I spend most of my luncheon break in either the lunch Hall where I eat and talk to my friends or on the Astro turf where I play football with my friends the school has a cashless paying system where you have money loaded onto your fingerprint, this is good as it means you are less likely to lose any money.

If you ever get lost trying to find your way to class then try and ask a friend or teacher will guide you.

My main top tip for when you start secondary school would to be to take a photo of your timetable and have it as your screensaver.

I hope this letter has made things a bit clearer for you and I hope you have a wonderful time at Reigate School and I hope your staying safe at the moment.

Best wishes,

Fred 😊

Year 6 to Year 7

Hello! Hope you are doing well and I hope this letter may make you feel better about going into secondary school.

Especially with what's going on in the world it may seem a bit scary as you won't have an induction day and you will be jumping straight into a new environment. I am writing this to tell you about my experience in year 7.

On my first day, we were the only year group at school and we came in at 11am! We got time in form getting to know each other better and starting to talk to each other (all of us were quite quiet though!) If you are worried about making friends, don't because everyone is in the same boat and everyone wants to make friends!

During break and lunch you can sit really wherever you would like, outside, canteen, P.E block! On the first day it may seem scary about looking for who to sit with, but you can sit with your primary friends or people from your new class! Or, you could even go and play football on the astro turf.

My personal favourite lessons are dance, art and drama. The teachers are great and plan really fun lessons, for every type of student. There are so many lessons at Reigate School that you probably didn't have at your primary school!

Finding your way around school may seem daunting at first, but in reality, it gets a lot easier. After maybe even just a week you will know your way around, and everyone is willing to help you so don't worry.

If you're wondering if secondary is better, it is by far. You have a lot more independence and it is more exciting.

I'm looking forward to meeting you in September, good luck!

From Kiki ☺

Dear year 6 student,

I hope you are well and are looking forwards to starting at Reigate School in September. I know it can be a bit worrying and nerve racking at first but once you get to know everyone it becomes a lot more fun. I am writing to give you some advice and information about what it is like at Reigate School.

On the first day I met my form and my form tutor. I was extremely nervous and so was everyone else but once you get to know people it is a lot more reassuring. We were also taken on a tour and were given maps of the school and that helped me find my way around and get to the wright lessons. Although sometimes the map was confusing, so I asked a teacher that was walking past.

Secondary school is a massive step up from primary school because it is a lot bigger and there are lots more people. You go from the oldest in the school to the youngest and that can be quite worrying but soon after that there will be new year 7's and you won't be the youngest. For me, year 7 went so quickly and it felt like I had only just started!

When you move there, you meet lots of nice people. I made some amazing friends quickly and we get on so well. You will also meet lots of extremely nice teachers who make lessons a lot more fun. I don't like some lessons, but it is the teacher that makes me not hate it.

At lunch time you can sit wherever you want, outside, in the canteen, in the gym area, in the corridors. But if you have food you can't sit in the corridors. Usually at lunch I sit with my friends in the gym area or outside on benches, but you can play football on the astro or go on the tennis courts (the tennis courts is only for year7's).

I hope that I have made you feel a little less nervous and ready to start school. Enjoy your summer holidays and be excited, Reigate School is great.

Best wishes

Holly

Letter to a year 6

Moving from primary school to secondary school can seem like a massive change, but actually when you have spent your first week it feels fine and it seems like walking up the stairs. Hopefully this letter will help you through the transition from primary to secondary.

Secondary school may seem dauntingly big at first glance but to most students know the way around the school in a week or less. However if you get lost on the way to lessons just either ask someone in the same class as you or ask another pupil that is passing you. If you get lost and are late to class for the first part of the year there will be no detentions or punishments. Another way the help you learn the way around the school is orienteering and scavenger hunt which are fun ways to learn the school and your classmates.

On your first day the only people in the school are teachers and year 7 you get to do team building with your form tutor and your class to get to know each other and for your tutor to know some things about you and your form. Also you might forget your form name (like I did) but that's fine. You need to remember either people in your class, your form room or your form tutor.

Following on from that break is usually 25 minutes (depending on what teacher you had) and lunch is usually 45 minutes you still get enough time to get your food from the canteen or pitstop and have enough time to eat it and talk to friends.

Although it's a big jump you do get used to it and you also get used to the size of the school.

I hope this helped you and I hope to see you starting in September

Dear year six student,

I have been asked to write you a letter about Reigate School. It may seem big [which of course, it is] but you will get used to it. Change is one of life's many guarantees so it's good to get used to it now. Changes are usually for the better and this is one of those times [I hope you will agree].

Here are some top-tips to help you when you arrive. When you come to sit down at ANY table, don't put your hand underneath it. Gum is not something you want on your hands on your first day, or your second, or any time of your life really! You will make new friends really fast, and if you want to play with your old friends, lunch and break are the best times for that. Canteen queues are generally quite long so be quick if you want to get to lunch! Luckily, in the first half term year sevens are let out ten minutes early for lunch because teachers do understand this sort of thing. Most teachers are really nice and know how to have fun. They are teachers though, so don't completely mess around.

At this school, we do loads of really fun school trips and clubs. We are given the opportunity to attend a school trip to Thorpe Park at a time where almost no-one is there. This means that we can get on the rides with virtually NO queues at all. Our clubs are also really good too and range from debates to sports to films and models.

It's a really good school with great classes, teachers and trips to focus on. The range of subjects is also much better than in junior school.

Best wishes for this big change ahead,

Owen

Dear year 6,

I am writing to you to tell you what it is like in year 7. I am in year 7 at the moment and I want to give some top tips about year 7.

On my first day, I met my form tutor (Mr Lyle) and made some good friends. A good tip to find your way around the school, is when you are in form, find one of your friends, and ask them to see if you have the same lesson.

Here at Reigate school we have different sets in maths, French and Spanish. The lessons are much harder in secondary school.

Here at Reigate School we use fingerprints, which has your money on, to get your lunch. Also, within your lunch and break times you can go to the astro, tennis courts or the gym to exercise, but if you are not sporty you can sit around the tennis courts or the gyms. You can go to canteen or pit stop to be able to get your lunch.

Yours sincerely Derren year 7

Dear year 6 student,

I am writing to assure you that year 7 is not hard to get used to, and that it will be fine in September.

On a normal day, you will go to your form room and meet up with the people in your form. During this time, you can talk with your friends, play on your phone, do homework, or ask your form teacher a question.

At 9:00, you will be sent to your first lesson. This means you have to look at the time table you have been given then find your way to that lesson. If you get lost, you can ask a teacher or student where to go. There are 5 lessons per day.

At break and lunch, you could explore, play on your phone, get something to eat, or play football on the tennis courts. You can get lunch at the pasta bar or canteen.

The day officially starts at 9:00 and ends at 3:00, so that means you are at school for half an hour less. In my personal opinion, secondary school is better in every way apart from homework, which is kind of obvious: it's secondary school. But you WILL get used to it.

School clubs are my personal favourite thing about this school. they can be at lunch or the end of the day, they are free, and you do not have to go every time the club is on. 2 clubs I would recommend are: Magic the gathering (strategic card game), and Warhammer (strategic battles using models which you can paint). But those are just the ones i enjoy going to! it's totally up to you what you go to.

Have a great time at Reigate School!

Best wishes Thomas

Dear year six student

I am sure you're really looking forward to your first day so I am here give you some information and to answer your questions.

First of all, I know everyone says 'don't worry you'll learn your way around' but you seriously don't need to worry about being lost because there are teachers always there to help and asking friends or class mates is what I did. On the first couple of weeks you might be a bit late for classes but so will many other.

At the start of year 7, homework is phased out so you won't get it all at the start first you will only get pieces for 3 classes then a bit more until you have your normal amount. Homework that you have to do overnight won't get set, most homework you have a week to complete but it will vary between subjects and the type of homework.

The lunches at reigate school are delicious there are loads of choices for everybody including vegetarians and vegans. There are three different places to get food: (lunch boxes also aloud) the top canteen, where all the hot food is served; the bottom canteen, where the pizza, nuggets, burgers, sandwiches and more food like that is served and the pitstop that sells mostly the same things as the bottom canteen apart from that they sell pasties. The cues get quite big but for the first couple of weeks you get to go earlier to lunch to avoid them. A top tip is to check your account so you don't run out of money at lunch however if this happens you can go to student services and get a pink slip so you can get some lunch.

I hope I answered at least some of your questions. I love it here at reigate school I am sure you will to! Enjoy your summer holidays.

Yours sincerely

Daisy Wells

Dear Year 6

You are probably a bit worried about going to secondary in September. I just want to share with you how I felt when I started last year.

On my first day I was worried about finding my way around as the school is a lot bigger than my junior school and has a lot more students.

When I arrived at school I went straight into the hall and sat with my tutor group. I was given a map and a timetable so I knew where I needed to be for each lesson. There were people in the corridors helping us find our way around and we had the whole school to ourselves so it was less scary.

I can't remember much about my first day but I remember having a science lesson.

On my second day I had dance, english, maths, science and PE. We had already been put into our sets.

In my school the year 7's get to use the tennis courts during break and lunch and no other years are allowed on there. It makes us feel less worried about the big year 11's! My advice is to not speak to them!

I like secondary school better than junior school as I feel more independent and the day is broken up more by moving round from class to class.

During break and lunch I eat my lunch and play football. I sometimes go to the canteen or pit stop but there are always long queues.

Not many of my friends moved to my school so I have had to make new friends. It was easy to make new friends by talking to the people in my class. Also, a couple of the people in my class go to my martial arts group so I knew them already.

Don't worry if you go to a different school to your friends. I still talk to all of my old friends.

If you are scared about going to secondary school, don't worry. By the third day I knew where all my classes were and I had started to enjoy it and I hope you will too.

Good luck in September.

Kind regards

Zac Brown

Dear Year Six Student,

I am writing this letter to you to answer some of the questions you might be thinking about and to reassure you that everything is going to be alright when you join secondary school. You might be worried about getting finding your way around school, but don't worry. All of the students are extremely nice and will show you around.

On your first day at school, you will be taken to your tutor and tutor group. Your tutor will help you with any problems you have and answer any unanswered questions you have. You will be given a timetable to show you which lessons you have that day, and by the end of the month, I'm sure you'll know the lessons you have each day!

Around the school, we have certain areas for certain lessons, for example, if you like sports, well you're in luck because we have lots of space for you to play football at break time, or basketball indoors. Not very far from the entrance is student services and it is a place where you can ask for help with anything.

At lunch time, you can go to the canteen or the pit stop (which is outside) and we have a variety of meals to choose from. Lessons each last an hour and believe me, they are fun! We play games like Kahoot, and they leave you feeling happy and like you've achieved something.

Don't worry about getting lost because, speaking from personal experience, the students here are very nice, and as I said at the beginning of the letter, the students and teachers and staff will show you the way to where you want to go and give you directions.

Of course, secondary school is very different to primary and it's for the better. You are given more freedom and space to stand on your own two feet and hope you'll enjoy the change of pace.

Some of my favorite lessons here are Art, English, History, Geography and Design technology. Of course, there are many other lessons which are extremely fun and I think you will enjoy.

There are so many fun and exciting things to do here like clubs and the Thorpe Park Attendance trip towards the end of the year.

I look forward to seeing you when school begins!

Yours Sincerely,

Afua

