

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS YEAR 7 TRANSITION

General Information

How many students attend Rushey Mead Academy?

- There are roughly 1700 children who attend Rushey Mead Academy and all years are over-subscribed.

Is the kitchen a halal / vegetarian kitchen?

- No. The kitchen is not a halal kitchen however there are halal and vegetarian options daily. If you are unsure, please ask kitchen staff what is in the food.

I am allergic to can I still have dinners?

- If you are allergic to something, please speak to the kitchen staff about what is safe for you to eat.

I have asthma (or other medical condition) will I still be expected to take part in PE.

- Yes. However, depending on how severe your medical condition is, they may ask you to take on another role such as refereeing, timing or another support role.

Do you have lockers for me to keep my things in?

- No. Unfortunately we do not physically have space for students to be given lockers. It is important that students only bring the things they need each day, not all books for the week. This means being organised and checking your timetable each night and getting your bag ready.

What is an ID card?

- Your ID card is an important part of your uniform and something which will be given to you in your first week at Rushey Mead academy.

Why is my ID card so important?

- Your ID card belongs to the school and needs to be respected. It is used for buying dinners, accessing the library and printing. You will be expected to have it with you every day and your form tutors will check every morning to make sure you have it with you.

I have additional needs e.g. dyslexia, autism etc. how will I be helped?

- We are meeting with your Primary teachers to discuss what you need to learn best. Some students may need more support than others inside or outside of the classroom. Our SEND department, our SENDCo (Ms Shaunak) and our teaching assistants are here to support students to achieve their very best. If you feel you need further support, speak to Ms Shaunak, your form tutor, Mr Furniss, Mr Siddiq or Ms Measom.

How can my parents contact the school?

- Parents can either ring or email the school. Contact details can be found in the “A Guide to Rushey Mead Academy”. Parents can also meet with staff by prior arrangement.

Transition

How will I know where to go on my first day at Rushey Mead Academy?

- When you come into the main gates, staff will guide you and tell where you need to go. You will first line up in your form groups on the playground.

When will I get my timetable?

- You will get your timetable during your first day which will be with your tutor.

Will I have normal lessons on the first day?

- No. You will have a special day to help you get to know the school and staff members. Ask questions and start to make friends.

Will there be anyone to help me on my first day?

- The Year 7 starter buddies (certain Year 10 and Year 11 students) will be there to help you in your first few weeks at the school. They will take you between lessons and to your break and lunch times. You can also ask them any questions you have.
Your tutor, Mr Saddiq, Mr Furniss and Ms. Measom can also help you if you need. Feel free to speak to them if you want help.

Uniform

Do I have to wear uniform?

- Yes

What is the uniform?

- A full guide to the uniform can be found in the “A guide To Rushey Mead Academy.”
 - The Grey Blazer and trousers / skirt need to be purchased from Uniform direct. Students are not allowed to wear trousers / Skirts purchased from other shops.
 - Uniform cannot be altered to make it “skinny fit” or personalised in other ways.
 - White shirts can be short sleeved or long sleeved, they can be purchased from any suitable supplier.
 - The PE kit must be purchased from Uniform direct.
 - Shoes need to be all black and not have logos and/or names in other colours. This includes the visible part of the sole. Please see the “A guide To Rushey Mead Academy.”
 - PE trainers can be any colour.

- **All uniform must have the student's name in it. If it does not, it will not be returned and will be taken to lost property.**

What happens if I am not in uniform?

- If you are not in uniform then you will either be asked to use some of the school spare uniform or parents will be requested to bring appropriate uniform for you. On occasions there may be incidents which mean you don't have uniform. If this is the case, ask your parents to write a note explaining why you are not.

My shoes got wet yesterday when I was walking in the rain, can I just wear my trainers today?

- No. You will be asked to change into the spare shoes which school provides. If you need to dry your shoes, fill them with old newspaper and leave them on a radiator and replace the newspaper twice an hour after you put the last newspaper in.

Do I need to learn to tie a tie?

- Yes, you will be expected to learn to tie your own tie. This is something you can do over summer and there are several tutorials on our website and YouTube to help.

Do I need a bag?

- Yes, you will need a suitable school bag to hold your equipment and books. You will be moving between lessons and buildings regularly so **make sure it's comfy and has your name in it.**

Travelling to School

Who will take me to school?

- You can go to school by whatever mode of transport which is safest and easiest for you. You can walk with friends or family, cycle, take the bus or be dropped off in the car.

Are there places to store my bike safely?

- The school has bike sheds where you can lock your bike. Please bring your own lock to secure your bike as the school does not provide these and the bike is your own responsibility. The school will not take responsibility for your bike being lost, stolen or damaged.

Do you have a school bus?

- No. The school does not operate a school bus.

Can parents drop me off at the school gates in the car?

- Your parents cannot drop you off outside of the school gates by car as this is unsafe. Your parents can drop you off at a safe place near to school and there are safe crossings for students to use.

Can parents wait for me at the school gates?

- Yes. Parents can wait for you outside of the school main gates.

Buildings

How many buildings are there?

- There are 6 buildings A, B, C, D, E and F block. Each building has a label on it to help you know which building it is.

Which subjects are in which buildings?

- Lessons for specific subjects are in the table below. However, lesson locations may be changed.

Subject	Block	Subject	Block
Science	D and F Block	Math	C block
History	C Block	French / Gujarati	B Block
Geography	F Block	Art / Design	A Block
English	B Block	Computing	A Block
RE	C / F Block	Music / Drama	A /B Block

Behaviour and Expectations

What is expected of me at Rushey Mead Academy?

- The expectations at Rushey Mead Academy are high. However, they will be similar to that at your primary school. We expect students to be well behaved, respectful to each other and staff, be kind and caring, be hardworking and stay motivated. We expect students to take part in as many opportunities as possible during their time at Rushey.

What is Rushey 1-2-3?

Rushey 1-2-3 refers to what we expect students to follow at all times, both at in and out of school:

- **Rushey 1:** Be kind to others and yourself;
- **Rushey 2:** Work hard and do your best;
- **Rushey 3:** Develop your whole self by attending clubs and taking part in activities and competitions inside and outside of school. There are lots of activities you can do such as sports, art, singing, dancing, reading. The list is endless!

What is "Behaviour for Learning"

- "Behaviour for Learning" is our behaviour system. Students need to behave in a way which allows them to get the most from their learning. When students behave in a way which stops others from learning, or are rude, unkind, dis-respectful or show dangerous behaviour, they will receive a consequence. These consequences are called a C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5.

What is a C1, C2, C3?

- A C1 (CHANCE) it is a first verbal warning and reminds a student that their behaviour, attitude, or organisation has not met expectations and that they have a chance to put things right.
- A C2 (CHOICE) is a second verbal warning. The student will be reminded that they are choosing to behave badly.
- A C3 (CONSEQUENCE) is an hour detention after school. Students are usually warned prior to C3's being issued but there are times when staff will issue a C3 straight away. This could be student's chewing gum, swearing, dropping litter or being unkind to each other.

What is a C4 and C5?

- If a student is involved in a serious incident or their behaviour continues to or causes significant disruption to lessons and others are unable to work the teacher may ask for the child to be removed to another classroom or the PLUS room. They will still be expected to complete work in these circumstances. C5 is the school's alternative provision and alternative to excluding students. It is very rare that students are required to attend the PLUS room or C5.

What is the PLUS room?

- The Pupil Learning Under Supervision (PLUS) room is an area in which students can reflect about their behaviour and complete work under supervision.

What do people get the most consequences for?

- Homework and organisation. Make sure you check ShowMyHomework every day and are completing your homework on time and have what you need when you need it.

Am I allowed chewing gum?

- No. Chewing gum will result in a C3 detention.

Someone has done something that has upset me, what do I do?

- Speak to a member of staff. If you are in lesson this should be the teacher so they can resolve the situation as soon as possible. If it is at break time or lunch time, online or after school speak to your form tutor, Mr Siddiq, Mr Furniss or Ms Measom.

What will I be rewarded for?

- Students can be rewarded for a range of actions and activities linked to the Rushey 1-2-3. This could be helping someone else, being kind, and completing excellent work and getting involved in extracurricular activities.
A **R1** is received for showing kindness for example, polite and respectful to staff or students supporting a new student.
A **R2** is received for working hard. This could be inside or outside of the classroom and could include excellent contribution in lessons or clubs and going beyond expectations.
A **R3** is issued for developing your whole self. This could be by taking part in clubs, performances, being a school councillor and other opportunities.

What do we get as a reward?

- Students receive certificates, vouchers to use in the canteen, lunch queue jump passes to allow them access to the canteen without queuing and have their names put into a prize pool to win other fantastic prizes.

How else am I going to be rewarded?

- Students may receive points towards their Rushey Passport (see Rushey Passport section) for taking on additional responsibility, showing commitment to activities and clubs.
- Verbal praise – one of the most common ways in which you will be rewarded is teachers and staff verbally praising you and thanking you.

Form Groups

What is a form group or tutor group?

- A form group and a tutor group are the same thing. It is like your class in primary. You will have several lessons as a form group in years 7,8 and 9. This includes History, Geography, Drama / Music. In other lessons you will not be with them and will be mixed with students from other form groups, for example, Math, Science, English Languages and PE. This gives plenty of opportunities to make new friends.

What is a form tutor / co-tutor?

- A form tutor / co-tutor is the teacher who will see you every morning, take your register and ensure you are ready for school. They are one of the first people you will meet and the first person you should speak to if you have any problems during your time at Rushey Mead Academy. If they cannot solve your problem, they will tell you who to speak for further help.

How long are we in our form, do we get new ones each year?

- Form groups do not change, sometimes students may join the school and be placed in a form group. It is very rare that students will move form groups. It is important that you get to know not only your form but also your form tutor to ensure you make the most of your time at Rushey Mead Academy.

Will all my friends be in my form group?

- No. We try to ensure that all students have a friend or someone they know in their form. Some students will be coming from schools on their own.

When will I know what form I am in?

- We will send out form cards when we have completed the form sorting. Before we can sort you into forms, we must speak to the teachers of every student to make sure we know where best to place each of you.

I am worried that I will not make any friends!

- A lot of people feel this way when there are changes in their life. Whether it's moving from Year 6 into Year 7 or going to university. Be confident, speak to the people in your form, get

involved in the clubs. If you do not think it is going well, speak to your form tutor, Mr Siddiq Mr Furniss, Ms Measom, and we will do whatever we can to help.

Lessons

How many different subjects are there and what are they?

- You will learn 13 different subjects in Year 7: French/ Gujarati, English, Math, History, RE, Geography, PE, Music, Drama, Science, Art, Design and Computing.

How many lessons will I have a day?

- You will have 5 lessons a day.

Where will my lessons be?

- Your lessons will be in different buildings depending on the subject. This will mean you will be moving around the school a lot more than in primary. You could have 14 different rooms. It sounds difficult, but with your timetable and the friendly and helpful people around, it will take about two weeks for most students to comfortably know their way around the school.

What is a timetable?

- A timetable is a chart showing you where you need to be and when and will be given to you when you arrive. A picture is given as an example below.

AMon	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri
AMon:1 Geography JCK F106	ATue:1 French MDE B132	AWed:1 French MDE B132	AThu:1 Rel Studie ADE F101	AFri:1 English MPA B144
AMon:2 Maths VBA C107	ATue:2 Rel Studie ADE F101	AWed:2 Science Double SMS F004	AThu:2 Science Double SKA F004	AFri:2 French MDE B132
AMon:3 Physical E JAC	ATue:3 Science Double SMS F004	AWed:3 English MPA B144	AThu:3 Maths VBA C107	AFri:3 Physical E JAC
AMon:4+L English MPA B144	ATue:4+L Maths VBA C107	AWed:4+L Computer Scien LWH A118	AThu:4+L Computer Scien LWH A118	AFri:4+L Maths VBA C107
AMon:5 Science Double SMS F004	ATue:5 Computer Scien LWH A118	AWed:5 Geography JCK F106	AThu:5 English MPA B144	AFri:5 Science Double SKA F004

What happens if I get lost?

- Don't panic, everyone gets lost at first! Follow these steps:
 - Look at your timetable and see if you can see the block label you need to be in. If you cannot find it, ask someone to show you where you need to go.
 - No one to ask? No problem - go to student support which is next to the gates where you come into school. They will help.

What will I need for my lessons?

- Unlike primary school, students are expected to carry most of the equipment they need in school. While teachers may have spares, you will receive a consequence if you do not have what you need to complete your work. A list can be found in the “A guide To Rushey Mead Academy.”

Is there school bell?

- There is a school bell which signals the end of some lessons and lunch. However, for lessons, the bell is a signal for teachers, and they will tell you when the lesson has finished and when you can leave the classroom.
We recommend that you have a watch to help you be on time.

How much time do I have to get to the next lesson?

- There is no allocated time for changeover of lessons. Students are expected to get there as soon as possible after their previous lesson, lunch or break.

How will I know when school has finished for the day?

- At the end of the last lesson of the day, your teacher will tell you when you can leave, and you will leave from the school main gates.

I am worried I won't be able to remember my teachers' names, what will happen if I get it wrong?

- Nothing, teachers will not tell you off if you cannot remember their name. You can always address them as Miss or Sir until you are confident you know them.

Will boys and girls do PE together?

- For most lessons, students are split into boys and girls. However, on occasions they may take lessons together.

Where do we get changed for PE?

- There are specific changing rooms for boys and girls and for each class. Your PE teachers will tell you where to go.

What will we study in PE?

- Athletics, gymnastics, football, netball, badminton, table tennis, rugby, using the gym, Warm-up routines / healthy diet, nutrition and much more.

I am injured so cannot do PE. Do I still need to bring my kit?

- Yes. Unless your PE teacher specifically tells you not to. While you may not be able to take part in all activities, they may ask you to take part in supporting the lesson.

What if I do not understand something in lesson?

- You are in school to learn so you will not understand everything. The important thing is you ask your teacher and do not leave the lesson until you have understood what is being taught. Just as in primary school, simply put your hand up and wait for the teacher to speak to you or see them after the lesson. Do not be afraid of what others think or being told off!

Lunch and break times

How long is lunch and break?

- Lunch is 45 minutes long and break is 20 minutes long.

Why are there three different lunch times?

- There are three different lunches to ensure that you have enough time to get food and have enough space to really enjoy your lunch and break times without it being too crowded.

Will all of Year 7 be on lunch at the same time?

- No. Different bands and classes have their lunch at different times. This means that Year 7 will not always be on lunch together.

Where can we eat?

- There are multiple places you can eat. The main canteen (B/C block), the second canteen (F block), the sports café (E block) and the snack shack (outside D block)

I bring my own packed lunch; can I eat where and when I want?

- You will still need to eat in a designated eating area, but you will often be able to go straight into the eating area rather than queuing up first. This also means you can eat with your friends if they do not bring their own packed lunch.

What can we do during lunch?

- Students are encouraged to bring sport equipment to use and enjoy during their lunch times. Footballs are permitted on the field when it is open and basketballs on the courtyards throughout the year. We also have table tennis tables for students to use. Equipment for these can be borrowed from staff however it is recommended that you bring your own if you can. The library is also open.
- The time can be spent chatting with your friends and talking about your favourite learning or your best piece of work.
- Try and avoid staring at your mobile phone.

Are there water fountains?

- Students are asked to bring water bottles to fill at the water taps throughout the school. Students can drink water during most lessons excluding science and computing.

Am I allowed to bring in fizzy drinks or energy drinks?

- No, fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not allowed in school. They will be confiscated and thrown away as they are very unhealthy for you and full of sugar.

Phones and mobile devices

Am I allowed to bring my phone into school?

- You are allowed to keep your phone in school as long as it is turned off or on silent and kept in a secure pocket on you or in your bag. The school will not take any responsibility for phones or tablets being lost, broken or stolen.

Am I allowed to use my phone?

- Students must not use a mobile device or headphones anywhere in school during the school day, except under the specific direction of a teacher, and in designated areas and times set aside for social use. Designated areas and times are as follows:
 - Outside - lunch and break time only.

Clubs and After-school Activities

What happens after school?

- After school, there are clubs for a variety of subjects and interests. These include a range of musical clubs, sports clubs, and academic clubs. This includes Piano/Keyboard club, Drum club, Football club, Netball club, Art club, Coding club, History club, Debate club, Green Force club and many, many more. There are also other opportunities to support and develop your whole self by supporting in the library and taking part in school productions and more.

How will I know what is going on?

- Your form tutor will make regular announcements about what clubs are on and what opportunities there are. Also check SMH and your email. If you are unsure what opportunities there are, ask your form tutor or a member of the Year 7 team.

The Rushey Passport

What is the Rushey Passport?

- To ensure students are rewarded for their efforts outside of the classroom we have the Rushey Passport. Students can receive points for taking part in clubs, activities, team events, positions of responsibility and many other ways. These points are accumulated over the year and students graduate at the end of the year.

Why is the passport important?

- At Rushey Mead Academy students are encouraged to develop their whole selves to ensure that they have more than just academic excellence, but all also have the experience and life skills needed to live successful, healthy and fulfilling lives.

What do you mean by 'graduate'?

- Students receive a certificate based on how many points they accumulated during the year. There are three levels of certification; lower second-class, upper second-class and first class. Those achieving first class and upper second-class certification take part in a graduation evening and ceremony to celebrate their success and commitment to developing their whole selves.

Homework

How much homework will I get?

- Year 7 students will get between one and a half and 2 and a half hours of homework a week.

What is Show My Homework (SMH)?

- SMH is an app which acts as a diary telling you when your homework has been set and is due. You can check off when it has been completed, download resources and links. You can also contact staff if you do not understand it and access your timetable should you need to. Parents can also access it and see what homework you have been set.

How can I access Show My Homework (SMH)?

- All students and parents are given access details to use SMH within the first two weeks of starting at Rushey Mead Academy. It can be accessed via computer, phones and tablets.

What happens if I do not understand my homework?

- Just like if you were in lesson, staff will expect you to ask if you need help. This could be via SMH or email or going to see them in person. It is important that you check you understand your homework in advance. Teachers will not accept "I did not understand it" as a reason for not completing the homework if you have not spoken to them, asked for help or been to homework club.

Where and what are homework clubs?

- Homework clubs are there to support students with completing homework. All subjects offer support to students to ensure they can complete it. The best thing to do is ask your teacher when the homework club is for that subject.

What happens if I do not do the homework?

- If you fail to hand homework in on time you will receive a C1 warning and be given a new hand in date. If you fail to hand it in on this date you will be expected to attend the faculty homework club. Failure to attend will result in an after-school detention and parents being informed.