



## Year 6

### Transition Newsletter

### Number Five

Hello again!

Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned their 'About Me' leaflet and the PE and Music information sheets—I've never had so much post before!

I have very much enjoyed starting to get to know you and it has really helped me find out about the worries and questions you still have...



I have had a go at answering your questions and I've also been through your worries to see if I can help with these too. It is quite natural to worry when starting something new.

Have a look for your worry (if you had one) on the next page - how many others are worrying about the same sort of thing? I think you will find that you are all very similar, because you are all coming to the end of Year 6 and will all be starting at a new High School in September!

#### NEWS FLASH:

From the middle of this week, we will start to phone home so we can chat to your parents/carers, and to you, to find out if there is anything you still want to know about or are worrying about. We will also be asking if any of you have any allergies or medical needs too.

Please can you tell your parents/carers about this—thank you! They should already know because we have sent out a separate message too. If they are working and it would be better for us to phone between 4pm and 6.30pm, they can contact the school office and let us know.

I have answered your questions as honestly as I can, but for some of them it is a bit difficult, because we don't yet know exactly how things will work in September, so there may well be some changes.

The most important thing, of course, is that we will look after you!

Best wishes

Mrs Holmes

#### Have a guess!

1. How many of you are worried about getting lost?

(answers are on the next page!)

# Our Worries...

Being scared to join a new school

It's a very big school

Everything is new

I don't feel prepared

Not knowing what to do

How I pay for my lunch

All the people!

Meeting new teachers and friends

Making a bad impression on people

Being judged

Being laughed at in class

Getting an easy maths question wrong

Doing rubbishly in a maths test

Not being as successful as I would want to be

Being too shy to ask/say something (2)

Being too shy to do voices in Drama

Not knowing anyone in my year (3)

Barely knowing anyone

Not knowing many people

Being alone and having no friends

Not having many friends

Nobody liking me apart from one friend

Not fitting in

Making new friends (2)

Not making friends (4)

Not being with my friends in my form or classes (5)

Friendship issues

Finding my way around school to lessons (2)

Getting lost (39)

I might not be on time for classes (7)

Forgetting which class to go to

Knowing where the classrooms are (2)

Walking into the wrong classroom

Being in trouble for not being on time (2)

Travelling on the bus

Bus line-ups

Getting the bus (2)

Older children

Being bullied (6)

Lessons I haven't done before

Finding subjects more difficult

Doing GCSEs

I won't be good at the subjects

Needing help with my reading and writing

About being in bottom sets because of dyslexia

Not getting in good sets and grades

Doing MFL because of dyslexia

Swimming

Forgetting my books

Getting detention

More homework

The homework

Not having my homework in time

# Questions and Answers!

Will you look after us?

YES! Absolutely. From the moment you get to school we will show you where to go and tell you what you need to do. There will be people ready and happy to help you and look after you!

Will it be different because of Covid-19?

This is such a good question and thank you for asking. The best answer I can give you is that there will be some differences. I'm afraid I can't tell you how it will be different at the moment, though.

Is being a student at Hobart High School hard or stressful at any points?

Yes—but if you found everything was easy and straightforward, I think school life would soon become boring and predictable! You will have days when you find the work more challenging than usual and days when you might just want to give up and not try — but your teachers will be there to help and encourage you to get through it and succeed. Then you can feel really proud of what you have managed to do!!

If you are feeling really stressed out about anything at all, your form tutor is a good person to share your worries and stresses with. Miss Dawson, who works in the Head of Year office, is a really good listener too, so there is always someone around who will be able to help you. Remember — we are all in this together!

How many people are at Hobart?

Who is everybody?!

Where is everything in the school?

How to get around the school?

What do we need?

There will be over 660 students and over 80 members of staff at Hobart in September.

You will be getting a list of all the staff and what they do, so you can get to know us! As soon as you start at Hobart you will start to find out who all the other Year 7 students are.

There was a map included in Newsletter Two. You will get your own copy of this to use. Don't forget you can ask anyone in school for help too!

I will make sure you get a list of everything you need to bring and what you need to have in your pencil case. Your parents/carers will have this list too.

Can we use the computers and library after school?

What lunchtime and after school clubs do you have? (2)

Can we have lots of after school clubs?

How many clubs are there in the whole school?

Is there a Drama club at Hobart and if yes, how do I join?

I'm sorry, but we don't yet know how after school clubs will run, because of COVID—19.

The lunchtime clubs we have change each year, so I can't tell you this exactly either, and again there may well be changes. There are normally lots though! Teachers run lunchtime clubs voluntarily and they decide this at the start of September so you will find out more then!

Will I get lost?

Would I get in trouble for being late to class if I couldn't find my way around?

Will someone help the new students find their way around the school?

Where do I go on the first day?

How am I to find my way around the school?

If I get lost what will I do and where will I go?

So 39 of you put getting lost as a worry!

I don't think it would be fair if we didn't help you with this, so NO — you won't get into trouble for being late because you went the wrong way. That's a promise!

On your first day, other students and staff will show you where to go — we normally start off in the hall but it will be different this year due to COVID—19.

You will be given a map to help you but if you really got stuck, just ask the nearest student and they will take you to where you need to go.

When will I find out about my form? (3)

Who is my form tutor? (4)

Will I have the same form tutor every year?

Will I have a locker? (3)

You will find out which form you are in and who your form tutor is in September!

We always aim for your form tutor to be the same person from Year 7 through to Year 11, but sometimes staff do leave and changes need to be made.

Everyone has a locker which is either inside or near to their form room. They are big enough to store your PE kit and your coat in.

Will I be with my friends in lessons?

I would really love to be with my friends, would you be able to do that?

If there are two others that I would really like in my form, is it likely they will, or will I only have the two I wrote?

There are lots of worries about friends and friendships every year and this is really important.

If you have read the Harry Potter books, or seen the films, you will know that when he arrives at Hogwarts, he puts on the Sorting Hat and he goes into Gryffindor House. Well I am like the Sorting Hat for Hobart!

When I sort out your forms I am very careful to try and make sure you are with at least one of your friends. You might find that there are more of you in the same form. This year, 14 of you are coming to Hobart on your own. I have made sure you are in a form with someone else who is also the only person from their Junior / Primary School.

You will have some lessons in your form group and for other lessons you will be with students from other forms.

What teachers have I got?

Can I please have a timetable?

When will we get our timetable?

How much homework will we get per week?

You will be given your timetable and find out which teachers you have on your first day.

I'm afraid I can't tell you exactly what homework you will get every week, because I don't know! You will probably have a bit more than you have been getting in Year 6 — but don't worry. We will show you how all this works and start helping you to get organised!

How do lunchtimes work?

Do we all have lunch at the same time?

Do the years have sections to eat in the lunch hall?

What food do you have in the canteen?

How many choices at lunchtime do we get for food?

Are we allowed to have packed lunch?

Will I have my lunch and break time with my cousin who will be in Year 8?

**Right. Food is VERY IMPORTANT!**

In fact, food is so important that I am going to save answering these questions and do a separate newsletter all about this... I will make sure your questions are answered then!

What is the best way of fitting in at a new school?

What kind of help and support would be available to me if I struggle in classes or feel bullied by people?

**Two great questions!**

I think the best way of fitting in is to try as many new clubs as you can. You will get to meet lots of different people and very quickly find new friends.

If you find things tough (and we all do, from time to time) then talk to your form tutor, or any other member of staff, and they will help you to work things out.

We don't have a lot of bullying at Hobart, but if you are worried that you are being bullied, or that someone else is being bullied, there is a form in the Pupil Zone on our school website that you can use to report this. Your message would be emailed straight to me and then I can start to help sort things out for you.

Where does the bus pick us up?

Do you have to pay to go on the bus?

**We have lots of buses that bring students to Hobart, from all over the place!**

**You will find out which bus you will be on, where and when it will pick you up and drop you off during the Summer Holidays. This information will be sent out with your bus pass (don't lose it!) by Norfolk County Council.**

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/home-to-school-transport>

**Some students travel on the X22 service bus and pay for this and we also have a 'private' bus which comes from Lowestoft/Blundeston.**

Do I bring my phone to school?

**You can do. If you choose to bring your phone, we have very strict rules and you normally hand your phone in at reception when you get to school and collect it again at the end of the day. You will find out more about this soon!**

How do you have to wear your hair? Are you allowed accessories in your hair and things like jewellery?

Can I wear shorts?

**Your hair should be worn in a sensible and safe style. You can wear a hair grip or hair band, but nothing that is too big. Have a look at Newsletter 4 — there is more information about uniform and jewellery in there.**

**We don't wear shorts at Hobart — sorry!**



P.E. Related Questions: answered by Mr Stone.

It is really difficult to answer your questions, as PE will be very different to 'normal' in September. At present we are not able to play contact sports, so our lunchtime and after school clubs and fixtures are in doubt for the foreseeable future.



Do I need to bring my PE kit everyday as I would like to go to lunchtime clubs?

You will have a locker that you can leave your PE kit in during the week. Please remember to take it home so it can be washed at the weekend though!

How often do we have swimming lessons and if there is a club for it, what day will it be on?

Do you have a swimming team?

All students normally get a 12 week block of swimming lessons each year. There is usually a lunchtime swimming club too.

We used to have a swimming team, but unfortunately High School swimming galas were stopped. Hobart won the last Norfolk Schools gala at the UEA about 4 years ago. We do have an annual inter-form swimming gala for each year group, when students get to represent their form though.

How often do girls play basketball in PE?

All students normally get a block of PE lessons in basketball each year. If students can attend the lunchtime club, they will obviously get more opportunities to play.

Can I 1 v 1 the Table Tennis coach because I'd enjoy the challenge?

Students do normally get a chance to play the PE staff. If you are able to attend the lunchtime club, you will get the opportunity to play older students, right up to Y11.

Do you have weight-lifting facilities there?

We have free weights (dumb bells and kettle weights). We also have resistance bands and fit balls. We do a lot of fitness work in our curriculum with lots of different training methods. Weights are not used in the lower years.

Do you have a girls football team?

Have you got a football team, if so do you need to do a trial? How often do you play away from school and is it a thing for each year or the whole school?

Yes—we have girls teams, right up to Y11. The girls are entered into a 5-a-side Norfolk league as well as an 11-a-side cup competition. All girls are welcome to play for the boys teams and this year we have had girls in both the Y7 and Y8 boys teams. There is also normally a girls lunchtime football practice.

All years normally have their individual teams that play in a league and also in a cup competition. There is normally a lunchtime practice each week and the teams get selected from the students who attend the lunchtime clubs. There are no trials. You just have to turn up to the club and even if you are not selected for a match you are very welcome to continue to attend the club and you can still get selected for future games.