



Greenbank High School

Year 6 Transition

Frequently Asked Questions



The change from Primary to Secondary school is an exciting process, but it is also normal to feel uncertain and nervous about the changes ahead. This is very normal and we would expect all of our Y6 students coming to Greenbank High in September to feel a bit nervous especially under the unusual circumstances of lockdown.

Here are a list of questions that we are frequently asked. You may find it useful to go through them

Do I visit the school for a transition day?

Unfortunately due to the current Covid 19 measures we are not able to invite Y6 students into school at the moment. We will, however, make sure that all Y6 students are able to experience time in school, getting to know the routines and school building, before being joined by students from other year groups. We will update this information as more advice is made available.

I may need extra help or support?

Inclusion is a core value at Greenbank High School and we have very high expectations of all our students, whatever their additional needs. Our SENCO and Head of Year will talk with your primary school and parents to make sure that we understand your individual needs and to plan for any support that needs to be put in place

I have heard that you are very strict about school uniform. Is this true?

Yes! Students at Greenbank must look smart and professional at all times. This means we check uniform at the start of every day. Students may wear one pair of plain small gold or silver stud earrings and a watch. - **No other jewellery is allowed.** Nail varnish and visible make-up are not allowed. Trainers or trainer-style shoes are also not allowed.

Can I bring my bike to school?

Yes. We encourage students to walk or cycle to school to stay healthy. Students may lock their bikes up in our bike rack, using a traditional bike lock. Students may not cycle on the school premises and should observe safe cycling rules on the roads as they approach and leave school.

How do my family contact the school to speak to a member of staff?

Ring 01704 567591 and ask for the staff member you wish to speak to or leave a message with our office team or use our general enquires email. enquiries@greenbank.co.uk

What is the ethos of the school?

Our Motto is "INSPIRE CARE ACHIEVE". Education at Greenbank provides much more than exam excellence. It aims to develop and nurture all students to take their place as caring and confident young women in the outside world.

Do we have assemblies?

Yes. Assembly for Year 7 takes place every Monday. Assemblies provide a fantastic opportunity to build a strong sense of community and for students to consider spiritual and moral issues to develop community spirit and reinforce positive attitudes.

What is a form group?

Every student at Greenbank has a form group. You will spend the first part of each day with your form group. There will be around 30 students in your form and you will have a form tutor. Their role is to help you with your work and they are the first person you should go to if you are worried about anything. You will also do PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education) in your form group every fortnight.

Will I be in the same form group as my friends?

Starting high school means you have the opportunity to meet and make new friends, it's all part of growing up. But we don't want you to feel isolated so we try to put students in a form group with a friend or pupils from the same primary school.

What if I am the only person from my Primary School that is going to Greenbank?

This often happens. What we try to do is to put children who come to us as the only person from their Primary School together. We find that children quickly make new friends at school and your form tutor will look after you and check that everything is going well for you.

Is the work really difficult?

The work at secondary school is a continuation of what you have been learning at Primary. Some of the learning will be a recap of work you have already done at Primary. The teachers have planned the

curriculum to build upon your learning at Primary so that it is both accessible but also gives you the right level of challenge.

How do I know which bus to catch and where to get on and off?

There will be a bus stop close to where you live where you will get on the bus each morning. If you are not sure where your nearest bus stop is then you can ask at your school. When you arrive at school each morning there are members of staff who will help direct you where you need to go. After the last lesson of each day, you will go to the bus park on school grounds and there are lots of staff on hand to help you get to the correct bus. If you are not sure you just need to ask. In the very unlikely event that you miss your school bus we will make sure that you are looked after and that you are able to get home safely.

What happens if you are late to school or are late to a lesson?

If you are walking to school you will need to be organised so that you are not late to school. You could try timing how long it takes from your house to school. Many students arrange to meet friends on route. If you are taking the bus or train, you do not need to worry if the bus or train is late – this is not your fault and you will not be punished if your bus or train is late. Being late to lessons may happen sometimes in your first couple of weeks as you get used to finding your way around the school buildings. If you get lost then other staff or older students will only be too happy to help you find your way. After a couple of weeks, we will expect you to be used to the school and you will need to be on time for your lessons.

What happens if you get lost when you first arrive at Greenbank?

The school will seem a lot bigger than your primary school but you will soon get used to it and will be able to find your way around. Your school planner contains a map which will help you find your way around and classroom numbers are sign posted all around the school. Don't worry just ask!

Is it true that secondary school teachers are really strict?

We have high standards at Greenbank and expect students to behave really well and wear their uniform correctly. However, we want you to do well and we won't be any stricter than your primary teachers were. The main difference at secondary school is that you will have a lot more teachers because you have specialist teachers for each subject. You will find that we have the same high expectations for behaviour, attitude and work.

How much homework will you get?

This really depends on the teacher and the subject. Your teachers know the appropriate amount to set you in Year 7.

What are the timings of the school day?

08:35 – 9:00 Form Time
9:00 – 10:00 Lesson 1
10:00 – 11.00 Lesson 2
11.00 – 11:25 Break
11:25 – 12:25 Lesson 3
12:25 – 13:10 Lunch
13:10 – 14:10 Lesson 4
14:10 – 15:10 Lesson 5

What are detentions given for?

Sometimes things go wrong. Detentions are given for people that do not follow the rules within school and they take place after school. The vast majority of our students do not get detentions and visitors to Greenbank often comment on how well behaved students are within school.

Are there bullying issues at Greenbank?

Every school has to deal with bullying of some form or another and we would be wrong to say it never happens. However, bullying is very rare at Greenbank and is mostly to do with fallings out and friendship groups. Nevertheless, Greenbank takes bullying very seriously and always deals and resolves issues that take place. We encourage other students who see it to speak out and inform a member of Staff. We instil in our students the importance of speaking out if they both experience or see bullying. We also have a Help request set up on our computer system, called FIREFLY.

Who do I go to if I have a problem at Greenbank?

Your form tutor is the first person you should speak to if you have any issues at school. You also have a Head of Year who is solely responsible for your year group, **Mrs Collins-Murphy**. We also have members of staff responsible for safeguarding in school who are able to help you with your worries, concerns or moments of crisis and **Mrs Howe** is in charge of our study support team. **Mrs Counce** supports our Young Carers here at Greenbank and we have an excellent mentor team, **Mrs Stansfield, Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Alston and Mrs Pardoe**.

What is the school uniform?

You can find details of the school uniform and requirements on our web page <https://greenbankhigh.co.uk/school-uniform/>

Are the older students scary?

Not at all. It can get crowded in the corridors and you will meet lots of different students. The older students will seem quite big as you were used to being the oldest children at primary school. However, you will soon get used to them and some of you will already have older sisters in school. Our older students are very welcoming to our younger students. In fact, we Year 10 students train to be part of the **ANGELS** scheme which stands for **A New Girls Easy Listening Service**. We also have older students help our Year 7 students with their reading when they come into school.

What's important is that you treat everyone politely and respectfully and if you do that you should find you get the same treatment yourself.

Are there lots of extra-curricular clubs?

Absolutely! We think it's really important that children have lots of extra-curricular opportunities. This makes break times and lunchtime a fun and interesting part of the day. We run many clubs after school, for example sports, cookery, music, performing arts and many more.

How can I stay organised to keep on top of all my work?

When you go to secondary school you have to be quite organised to remember to pack the right books, remember your PE kit and bring the correct equipment. Your form tutor will help you with organising this. You will have a planner to help you record homework deadlines and make notes about things you need to remember!

Make sure you get into good habits early on such as packing your bag the night before and making sure you have looked at your timetable. You will also get access to a locker where you can store your books, coat, equipment and PE kit.

Do you need to bring in lunch money every day?

Children all have an account and parents will pre-load this account with credit so you don't need money to buy your school lunch. You pay for your school lunch through this account either through your fingerprint or putting in a pin code. You will be shown how all of this works as part of your induction into the school.

What are the food choices in the canteen?

There is a weekly food menu that changes regularly. Each day there is a variety of sandwiches, cold salads and hot meals. There is always a vegetarian option.

How will our parents know how we are getting on?

Similar to Primary school we have parents evening and school reports. We ask parents to sign your school planner at the end of the week so they are up to date with what has been happening in your school day. We also give out rewards for students who get lots of positive comments, gone the extra mile or have participated in clubs or school events – we call these achievement points. You will get badges when you have reached certain amounts of points.

Is there a house system?

Your form will be linked to a school house and there are various inter-house sporting competitions, events and charity work. The seven houses are named after inspirational Women, *Emily Bronte-Marie Curie-Audrey Hepburn-Helen Keller-Mary Seacole- Emily Pankhurst-Christiana Hartley*