



Year 6 into 7 FAQs

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Mrs Raku & Miss York's
guide to starting
The Ferrers School
(TFS)

A useful student friendly guide to starting life at TFS

Chapter One

Any changes in your life take a bit of getting used to and joining TFS is no different. Some of the concerns that year 7 have every year are answered below:

- **‘Will the teachers shout at me for being late if I get lost?’**

It normally takes no more than 2-3 weeks to get your bearings. There will be lots of people willing to help you because they know what it feels like when you first join TFS. The most important thing is to try to keep as calm as possible and ask when you are not sure about something, however silly you think it might seem.

- **‘What if I am not with all my friends for some lessons?’**

In the first term you will get to meet lots of students with similar interests and sense of humour as you. It does not take long for friendship groups to join up and before you know it your circle of friends gets bigger and bigger. There is always break and lunchtime to catch up with your friends if you are not in lessons with them.

- **‘What happens if I do not understand some of the work?’**

The teachers at TFS will be more than happy to help you if you need some extra explanation about something you are studying. It is **really important** that you speak to your subject teacher or form tutor if you are worried about any aspect of your learning. If it is homework that is causing stress, then ask your parents/carers to contact your subject teacher or form tutor via their e-mail address. Don't sit and struggle in silence. We are all here to help.

Note to Parents Carers

From our experience the major worries that your child may have starting Year 7 relate mainly to social concerns. We have plenty of pastoral support here at TFS and it is vital that you or your child speak to his/her form tutor if you are worried about anything.

Any concerns that need immediate attention can be flagged by contacting your child's tutor via their e-mail address. E-mail is preferable and all staff will try to respond as soon as they can & usually within 48 hours. Staff are not required to check emails out of work hours and may not respond immediately. All form tutors have a teaching role so cannot guarantee being able to come to the phone if you are phoning during the school day. You can also get support and advice from the house office and the student support advisors & we have extensive information on our school website www.theferrers.org

Chapter Two

Ready to Learn: Lessons & Learning

Unlike at primary school you will have subject teachers and each subject is in a different part of the school. You could have up to 5 different teachers a day! Normally it takes a few weeks to remember teachers' names and which classrooms you have on your timetable, but don't worry, this is normal when you start secondary school. You will need to bring the correct books and equipment every day, arrive promptly, unpack what you need for the lesson, settle down quickly and be ready to start learning.

We ask all our students to 'Aspire, Achieve and Acclaim' every day they attend TFS and we do that by following the Ferrers Framework.

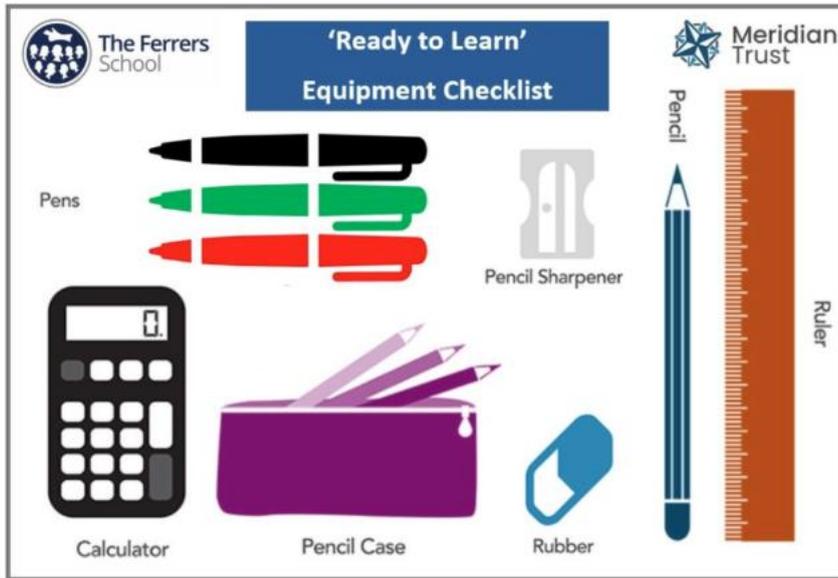
The Ferrers Framework

The Ferrers School

STUDENTS COMMUNICATION	STUDENTS PARTICIPATION	STUDENTS CHALLENGE	STUDENTS PRIDE	STUDENTS INDEPENDENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand what is expected of them, in lessons and in the wider school community.Ask for help when needed.Understand how to seek feedback.Can explain what they are learning and why.Recognise the importance of reading, writing, speaking and listening in their daily lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Know how to join in and take part, in lessons and in extra-curricular activities.Are motivated by experiencing success early on in lessons.Respond to instruction, opting in and taking an active approach to learning.Can expect to be praised for their contribution and effort.Understand that getting it wrong is an integral part of the learning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Are intellectually curious and enjoy being challenged.Expect learning to become increasingly challenging over time.Recognise that other learners have different challenges to them.Understand that they will make progress by thinking hard and pushing themselves.Take responsibility for their contribution, in lessons and extra-curricular activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Arrive to lessons on time.Feel a sense of pride when they try hard and show excellence in their work.Enjoy receiving acclaim from peers, teachers, parents and members of the community.Respect the learning environment, in classrooms and around the school site.Are proud to represent the school through student voice, leadership and community events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recognise the need to move from teacher instruction to mastery and independence.Understand the steps they are taking in their learning.Can think about the learning process, setting goals and making adaptations for themselves as required.Can work independently for sustained periods of time, in a lesson and at home.Extend the boundaries of learning by taking opportunities to develop their character and experience outside the classroom.

ASPIRE • ACHIEVE • ACCLAIM

We expect all students to have a pencil case with the basics in. This will be checked during tutor time.



Calm Corridors	
Ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right place, right time, right thing • Ready to learn - pencil cases, books, equipment • Dressed for the occasion – uniform/PE/dance kit • Mobile phones and headphones off and away all day
Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow adult instructions first time, every time • Positive interactions • Respectful language and volume • Care for our environment • Use toilet facilities appropriately, at the right time
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow one-way systems during transitions • Use correct entrances and exits • Walk with pace and purpose • Hands to ourselves • Report concerns or issues to an adult • Right place, right time, right thing
<p>Feeling anxious or unsafe? Speak to your House team, any adult or email: worried@theferrers.org</p>	

We are also very proud of our calm corridors. This allows students to travel around the school between lessons and at break and lunchtime calmly and carefully.

Note to Parents/Carers

Learning is affected if books and basic equipment are forgotten. It is important that your child has writing pens (and spares), pencils, colouring pens/pencils and specialist equipment for lessons such as maths or ingredients for food tech.

Failure to be appropriately equipped will not only lead to students getting frustrated and upset, they will be unable to produce work that reflects their ability.

PE kit should only be brought in on days when PE takes place. PE kit cannot be left on site all week and we do not have the space to offer a locker system.

TOP TIP: *Have a copy of your child's timetable displayed where they do their homework. Until they are used to the new routine it may help to unpack your child's school bag each night with them and pack only what they need for the following day.*

The TFS Day

We believe that daily morning contact with your tutor is key to helping you settle into your day & we take punctuality to school and to lessons very seriously.

Times of the School Day	
TIME	ACTIVITY
8.15 am	Breakfast Club
8.33 am	Warning Bell for registration /External gates close
8.35 – 9.00 am	Tutor Time & AM Registration
9.00 - 10.00 am	Lesson 1
10.00 – 11.00 am	Lesson 2
11.00 – 11.20 am	Break time
11.20 – 12.20 pm	Lesson 3
12.20 – 1.20 pm	Lesson 4 & PM Registration
1.20 – 2.00 pm	Lunch time
2.00 – 3.05pm	Lesson 5
3.05 pm	End of School Day
3.10 pm – 4.15pm	Session 6*

Achievement & Rewards

If you consistently work hard in lessons or produce outstanding work, you will be rewarded with achievement points. If you work hard throughout the year and consistently show pride & effort in your work, you could be nominated for special recognition at the end of the academic year. We celebrate success weekly through our House Assembly & House Competitions.

Homework & Independent Learning

Homework is an important part of learning. You should make sure that your homework is fully understood before you leave the lesson. If you are not sure then ask, and don't leave it until the day it is due before getting help. Take pride in your homework and complete it to the best of your ability. Do not try to do it whilst doing other things. Make sure it is handed in on time. TFS has homework club in the Learning Centre every day during session 6, where you can get help and support. So there really are NO excuses! You will learn in the first few weeks about where and how your homework is set on Microsoft Teams and where you can access all your work. Our parent platform is called MCAS (My Child at School) and you will have more information on how to access this when your child joins us.

TFS Homework Online

Homework set by teachers will be recorded online. You will be shown how to see your homework when you join us.

Note to Parents / Carers

We use a parent platform called My Child At School (MCAS). You can view all school related information at the touch of a button. E.g.attendance, achievements/behaviour/homework. Once your child has started with us you will be sent an invitation by email. If you have any concerns about homework, please contact the subject teacher concerned as soon as possible.

Chapter Three

Ready to learn: Uniform

Uniform is currently being discussed with parents and students. Once decisions have been made, we will share that with all families.

Jewellery & Hair & Make Up

You may wear a watch to make sure you are not arriving late to lessons. TFS also allows a pair of earrings and a ring. No other piercings, necklaces or bracelets are allowed. You should also have a natural hair colour and no extreme hairstyles. At TFS we allow discreet, natural looking make up only. Not acceptable: Nail varnish or bright lipstick. False nails or false eyelashes.

Note to Parents / Carers.

Please support the school in adhering to these simple health and safety rules. It also helps minimise the risk of items being lost or misplaced.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in TFS. If you must bring a mobile, it should be turned off and placed in your bag as soon as you enter the school gate. If you have a mobile phone and it is seen or heard by a member of staff, it will be confiscated, and your name recorded. Parents/carers will be asked to make an appointment to collect your phone if it is confiscated regularly. Easiest way to remember: if we see it or hear it, we take it!

Note to Parents / Carers

TFS is particularly strict about confiscating mobile phones. Not only could they affect lessons if they go off in class, but they could also lead to distress if damaged or lost. We also firmly believe that having a 'no phone zone' during the school day helps with mental health and wellbeing of young people and 'digital downtime' is very important. TFS accepts no responsibility for a phone which is lost, stolen or damaged on site. If we 'see it, hear it, we take it'.

Chapter Four

Lost Belongings

This is common for Year 7 students and potentially very expensive & frustrating for parents/carers! If it becomes a persistent problem, please sit down with your form tutor to work out how to look after your belongings more carefully. If an item does go missing, go to your house office or main reception at break or lunchtime to see if someone has handed it in. If it is named, we are more likely to be able to get your items back to you.

Chapter Five

Canteen Opening Times

The canteen is open at breakfast, lunch and at breaktime.

You can use the canteen ONLY during these times. If you bring a packed lunch, you can eat it in various areas of the school, but please be mindful of your litter, especially as we have Rosie, our school dog on site. If you use the canteen you may have to be patient when you queue up for your food - (remember TFS is a LOT bigger than your primary school and we have a lot of students who love the food!)

TFS canteen uses a cashless system. Parents/carers can pay money into an account for you, through an on-line system (MCAS).

Note to Parents / Carers

You will need to set up the MCAS app to activate online payments. On this system you can also pay for trips and visits. You can track and monitor what is being purchased too!

Chapter Six

Parents/Tutor Evenings

The exact dates for all parents' evenings are published at the start of the academic year on the TFS website. Appointments are made online to ensure parents/carers are able to see your subject teachers.

Note to Parents / Carers

Although Parents Evenings are an important way to check your child's progress, don't wait until then if you have any immediate concerns. Appointments are made through an online booking system; we will provide information when your child starts with us. Through our Academic Mentoring Scheme, you will have additional feedback about progress via the form tutor. There is also other face to face evenings, so there is plenty of chance to speak to us. We also have an active Parent Forum which you will be invited to be part of. There are 6 meetings across the year, 1 per half term. You can find out more about this on our website.

Chapter Seven: First Few Weeks Wobbles

First it is difficult for parents/carers to know how to get the balance right between giving too much or not enough support in the first few weeks of secondary school. The most important thing in the first few weeks is to put aside at least ten minutes each night to discuss how the day has gone and make sure that homework is completed for each subject. If you are struggling in school, there is ALWAYS someone that can help. Don't suffer in silence.

Note to Parents / Carers

You know your children better than anyone and if after the first few days you are concerned about your child's behaviour or they are struggling with resolving issues it is best to contact your child's Tutor. Please allow them some time to readjust to a brand-new way of working. It is possibly the biggest change and therefore the biggest challenge they have encountered so far.

In Conclusion

We hope this information has been reassuring and helped to answer some of the many questions you may have at this time. It is very important to remember that this is a big step in your life - for you *and* your parents/carers. It is important to express how you feel every day to someone to ensure that concerns are sorted out as soon as possible. In no time at all you will know your way around TFS and even be able to show next year's Year 6 students and their parents/carers around the Open Evening. We look forward to meeting you all on Move Up night and starting with us in September.



Mrs Clare Raku
Principal



Miss Kerry York
Assistant Principal