



## Year 6 Transition to Dover Grammar School for Boys

### Frequently Asked Questions

In the absence of our usual Year 6 Transition Information Evening for parents, please find below a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). This document forms part of the transition support resources alongside the PowerPoint slides and the video presentations by Mr Horstrup, Mr Platts and Mr Wakefield. All these resources are available on the "Transition" section of the school's website [www.dgsb.co.uk](http://www.dgsb.co.uk).

Tutor Groups and Houses	
a) How are students placed in to tutor groups?	We consider a range of factors when allocating students to each of the five tutor groups. This includes trying to give students their first choice of modern foreign language. Healthy competition is encouraged between tutor groups and houses so information from primary schools is used to try to ensure groups are equally balanced.
b) Will students be placed in tutor groups with friends from primary school?	Existing friendships are not used to determine how students are placed in tutor groups. We encourage students to make new friends as well as keep existing ones.
c) When will I be told which tutor group my son is in?	Normally we try to give students an indication of their tutor group and house when they come in to school for their Induction day in July. It might be different this year, but we will keep in touch with you about how we will manage this.
d) How will I know what colour house top to buy?	Don't worry about that for now (see above). Normally students have their house tops for PE in September but if there is a delay in knowing what to buy then any sports top will be fine at the start of term.
e) Are Year 7s put in sets for subjects and will the tutor group be taught together?	At the moment, only Maths is set in Y7. Tutor groups do mix for some subjects and are taught together in others.

## Transition Process and Induction Sessions

<p>a) Will primary school visits take place as usual this year?</p>	<p>If schools reopen in term 6 and if we are able to do so, we would like to visit children in their primary school. If not, we will endeavour to put 'virtual visits' in place.</p>
<p>b) Will the Year 6 Induction Day go ahead at DGSB in July?</p>	<p>If schools are allowed to open, then we would like to. There may be complicating factors such as social distancing, but we will consider ways to try to support the induction process safely.</p>
<p>c) Will the summer school sports camp take place?</p>	<p>At this stage we do not know. We will update you once we have any new information.</p>
<p>d) How will SEN support information be shared for my son?</p>	<p>Our SENCo, Mrs White, will be in touch with the SENCos from all the feeder primary schools to arrange the transfer of relevant information. If you have any concerns about your son's transition to DGSB then you may wish to initially discuss that with your son's primary school SENCo so that they are aware and can pass on relevant advice and details. You are also welcome to contact Mrs White directly if you wish to.</p>
<p>e) My son gets very anxious. Will he be able to visit the school before he starts in Year 7?</p>	<p>We hope so. We normally run a special day for vulnerable or anxious children so that they can get a tour of the school without too many people here. Primary school SENCos advise us as to the students to invite so it is important that you keep in touch with your SENCo in primary school.</p> <p>We will update you once we have news about how schools will be allowed to reopen.</p>
<p>f) What pastoral support is available?</p>	<p>We are incredibly lucky at DGSB to have a Director of Key Stage 3, Mr Platts, who works with two non-teaching colleagues, Mrs McClellan, the student support manager and Mr Leece, the student welfare officer. In addition, our students also have a form tutor whom they see twice a day. Students also have access to trained counsellors.</p>

<b>Starting at DGSB</b>	
a) When is the first day for Year 7 students?	<p>The first day of term is set for Thursday 3rd September and Year 7 students are expected to arrive for 8.40am on this day. Older students start later that day to allow Year 7 to tour the school and settle in.</p> <p>As with other events, this is dependent upon the school being open. We will post any updates to our website.</p>
b) What can we do to help our son make a good start to the school?	<p>Mr Horstrup sent out to all Year 6 students a list of suggested academic activities to support the preparation for transition to DGSB. Encouraging reading and a love of learning is especially important.</p>
c) What is the uniform policy? Are trainers or facial piercings allowed?	<p>Students at DGSB look smart and take pride in their uniform. They do not wear trainers around school (lunchtime on the sports field is fine). No piercings are allowed. Parents of DGSB students are incredibly supportive and ensure their children follow these rules. Please refer to the uniform policy on the website for further details.</p>
d) Is my son allowed to bring a phone to school?	<p>Yes, but the school does not take responsibility should it be lost or stolen. Students do not use them in lessons (unless they have been given permission for a research task for example) or when in the corridors though. They can be used in the canteen or outside at breaktime and lunchtime.</p>
e) Will my son be given homework?	<p>Yes. The type and amount vary between subjects but typically boys can expect some homework each day. More information will be shared in September.</p>
f) What is "This Is Who We Are"?	<p>In 2018, Mr Horstrup worked with a group of students to develop a new, positive behaviour charter which we now call "This Is Who We Are". It contains 10 positive behaviours and characteristics and three times every year there is a special celebration to reward students who go above and beyond to show these qualities in their daily life inside and/or outside of school.</p>

g) What rewards are there?	In year 7 students are given achievement points for a range of positive elements including homework, extra-curricular achievements, and hard work in class. The school also runs the “ <b>Fiat Lux Programme</b> ” which aims to inspire students to make the very most of their time at DGSB. At the end of Year 7 there will be about 20 Year 7 students who will become “Fiat Lux Scholars” with a special tie and lapel badge.
h) What sanctions are there?	Students may be given a detention for matters relating to poor conduct or work. In serious cases sanctions can include various degrees of exclusion.
i) Are school lunches available?	<p>The canteen is popular and serves a good range of food. It operates a cashless system and all students are given a card belonging to an account that parents can top up electronically. For students entitled to free school meals, their account is automatically credited each day.</p> <p>Students can also bring in their own packed lunch.</p>
j) Will my son get a locker?	There is a limited number of lockers available and these are normally allocated at the start of term 1.
k) When will bus passes be received?	KCC work in partnership with the bus company and usually ask the school to issue the bus passes at the start of term. In recent years there has been a two-week grace period to allow students to travel without a pass at the start of term.
l) Are there clubs and activities after school and at lunchtime?	Yes. Music, sport, and art along with many other activities are available and open to Y7 students. From Y8 many of our students also join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) that is based on site.