

Dear Year 6,

Starting secondary school can be quite scary but everyone is really supportive and kind to you. Everybody in year 7 is new as well so you don't have to be frightened about going up to people and making friends or sitting with new people at lunch. All the teachers are supportive and if you get lost around school then they will help you find your way to your classroom.

There are lots of differences between primary and secondary school but you don't need to worry about any of them.

There will be more people in your year but that doesn't matter because that means that there are more opportunities to make friends.

It's bigger but that doesn't matter because after about a week you will know your way around like everyone else.

Lunch is different because there are more options of food to eat and you can sit with anybody who you like.

Some classes you may not be with your form, but soon you will get to know everyone and everyone will get to know you..

I was looking forward to coming to Cockermonth School when I was in year 6 but I was also nervous. Some people said that Cockermonth School was like a maze and it was huge and hard to find your way around. In the first 2 weeks, the teachers took you to your lessons and then after that, if you did get lost then there were lots of helpful teachers who would help you get to your class. The teachers understood that some people were nervous in their first few weeks of school and they helped everyone to settle in really well.

At Cockermonth School there is a variety of clubs that you can go to and try out. There are sports you can play such as football, cross country, rugby, netball, hockey, dance and lots more. For people who are interested in acting or singing then there is choir on Fridays and every year the school does a play which you can audition to be in. If you are musical then there are music lessons for most instruments including your voice. At lunch, one of the art rooms is open and you can draw and paint with your friends. If you have any questions for the art teachers then they can help you. There are also other clubs such as Bee keeping club, QM club, Green planet, Amnesty International club, Spellbinding and other activities and opportunities. Clubs are also a really good opportunity to make friends and get to know students in other year groups.

How much homework is there?

A lot of people are worried that there is a lot of homework but there isn't that much. There is more than there is at primary school but that is because you have more subjects and more teachers. In year 7 you are settling in to life at Cockermonth School and the teachers understand that so they don't overwhelm you with stacks of homework. Usually you get 1 piece of homework for each subject each week and the homework is well explained by the teacher and if you don't understand it then the teacher can help you. It is well spread out and the teachers understand if you don't get it in on time if you have a valid reason.

How do you find your way around school?

In the first 2 weeks, teachers take you to your lesson. After that, you can make your own way to your lessons but don't worry because if you get lost then there are teachers and students who will help you find your way and direct you to your classroom. All the teachers you have will understand if you are late at the start of the year because you are still finding your way around the school and you don't have to worry about time because you have 5 minutes to get between lessons. After a few weeks you will be an expert like everyone else.

How do the older students treat you?

The older students treat you fine because they understand that you are new to the school and can remember when they were. Everybody above you was once a year 7 student like you and they will remember that at first it was a bit scary.

Two people from each form are voted by the rest of their form to be a form rep and then you can be on the school council. The school council is great; you are there to be listened to and your ideas count. The older students run the school council and each half term you have a meeting with them to discuss your ideas and thoughts. Being on the school council is an amazing opportunity and a fun thing to do because you represent your form and year group.

So in conclusion, there is nothing to be worried about at Cockermouth School. All the other people in Year 7 are just like you and are nervous too. You shouldn't be afraid of going up to people and making friends because they are new too. All the teachers are supportive, kind and helpful in the move up the Secondary School and they support you every step of the way. The teachers understand that you are nervous and they will help you settle in.

Mrs Fox and Mr Routledge are part of the year 7 team and they will talk to you about any of your problems or worries. Their job is to look after year 7 and help people move up to secondary school and they are very good at it. You shouldn't be worried about anything because it is a fun experience and you learn more and there are countless opportunities.

When you start at Cockermouth School, things may be slightly different due to the current situation but don't worry, it will be new and different for all of the students and teachers. The teachers will help you every step of the way.

Myrtle Ashworth

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