

Year 7 student's reflections on their worries and first days at Church Stretton School May 2020

What were you most worried about and how were those worries overcome in the first weeks?

I was most worried about not finding my way to lessons and getting lost but some of the older students in your tutor will show you around and help you get to lessons for the first week or so. After those first few weeks I found it easy to get to lessons- and I never got lost!!!

Accelerated reading system!

The accelerated reader system allows you to read any book from home or school you like and then gives you a test on your book, every time you do a test you get a certain amount of points, your English teacher will set you a target and by getting the points you get to reach your target. Once you have reached your target you get a certificate and you are entered in a draw at the end of term. It's something I really enjoy and love doing!!!

The role of the tutor and tutor group in getting you settled.

Your tutor group is room where you go in the morning to get registered. There are 4 tutor groups per house and you usually are with at least one friend, your tutors are very helpful and if you have any problems don't be afraid to tell them. On the first day you will go to your tutor for about an hour to get to know people and you will be given your timetable which tells you what lessons you have and where you have it. Make sure to not lose your time table.!!

The use of Go 4 Schools in helping you to organize yourself

Go4 schools is an app that keeps a record of the homework you have, it also shows you how many house points you have (points that are awarded for good things) It allows you to tick off your homework and you are able to see some information from the teachers about the task you are set. This has really helped me as I love everything to be organised!!!!

Daisy (Hazler 2)

When I came up to secondary school I was most worried about getting to my classes on time and forgetting my equipment. I once did forget my pencil case and a very nice boy in year 10-in tutor-looked after me. Everyone is very welcoming and a lot of year 8's offered to show me where my classes were. I didn't think I would make any new friends from other primary schools but I have and I always got to my classes on time. I nearly didn't go to bush craft because I was really nervous about being with lots of people I didn't know but I did go and I had an amazing time.

Sophie (Hazler 1)

What was I most worried about and how were those worries overcome in the first weeks?

I wasn't really worried about anything very much but if I had to pick one it would probably be getting lost. This worry was overcome on the first day because I realised all the Year 11's were really helpful and would show you where to go without hesitation. We also got given a map with our timetable and that helped a great deal too.

What is the role of a tutor and how does the tutor group settle you in?

Your tutor group is a room with lots of people in all different year groups where you go before the first lesson of the day. In my tutor everybody is really friendly and very reassuring. On certain days, we do reading or just simply talking and on Friday we usually play Quick Draw on the interactive board. Your tutor is also who you speak to if something is wrong or you've lost something etc. The tutor has every different year group in it, so it isn't just year 7's or year 10's... I think this is a great idea as you get to know certain people a lot better. The people in your tutor are all in the same house as you and you all go to assembly together too.

What is Go4schools and how does it help you organise yourself?

Go4schools is a website online which has all your school information on it. Your timetable is on there as well as your house points, detentions (if you get any!!!), homework, attendance, target grades and grades you're working at. You can also see test results if your teacher puts them on there. Go4schools is very good and has helped me organise myself a lot (especially with homework). In class you don't need to write down what homework you need to do and when, you can just look on Go4schools and it will be there with all the information you need. You can also get the app on your phone so you don't need to get a laptop out to look at it.

Have you developed new friendships?

Yes, I have. I have developed lots of new friendships (both genders) and in all classes. I came from a primary school with two other people and I was good friends with them already. Lots of other people came with all the people in their primary school and some people came with none. I wouldn't worry about not getting friends because you're bound to make at least one friend out of 130 people! That's not the only reason you would make friends though, you will make friends because Church Stretton is a very friendly place and will try it's hardest for you.

Do you like the canteen and its food?

I do like the canteen and its food. To start with, the people serving you the food are very kind and friendly and the food is really nice. The prices are very good because you can get a full meal (meal, drink and pudding) for only £2.40. We are starting to use fingerprint payment methods but because we are not at school we have not been able to use them yet. There is lots of space to sit down and eat: in the hall and the canteen. A new addition to the canteen is the juice machine. This is my favourite part of the canteen because you can get a juice for only 50p and if you have your water bottle with you, you can fill it up for the same price.

Do you like being taught by different staff for different subjects?

I do like being taught by different teachers for different lessons. This is because I think it would get a bit boring having the same teacher every day for 5 hours, 5 days a week. Another advantage with this is that you have a different seating plan for every different lesson. If you sat next to the same person every day for 5 hours, it would be a bit boring as well.

Do you like the Accelerated Reading (AR) system and what is it?

The AR system is a system where you do tests after every book you read. At the start of the year, you do a Star Reading test which is a comprehension test the shows your reading standard. After that test, you have a target which you have to read at. In the library, on every book, there is a

number (e.g. 5.3). This number is your target. I like AR because if you reach your target you get certificates and it is constantly changing your target if you get your quizzes right.

Eleni (Ragleth 2)