

Starting school: frequently asked questions.

The following is a list of questions that many of the students joining us at the school have asked in the past. We hope you find these helpful in preparing for joining the school also.

When does the school day start?

The school day starts with tutor time at 8:45am. However, you will need to arrive at school slightly earlier than this so you can prepare yourself for the day and make sure that you are in your tutor room on time.

What is the correct school uniform?

All the information that you need about the correct school uniform, including required uniform for PE, can be found by clicking [here](#).

I will be coming to school by car, where should my parents/carers park?

The traffic on Spinney Hill Road can become very busy in the morning and even more so at the end of school. It would be best for your parents/carers to drop you off at the 'turning circle' located in front of the school on Spinney Hill Road so they can effectively turn around. It would be a good idea to practise this during the summer holidays so both your parents and you are aware of where this is located. Alternatively, your parents/carers could drop you off at Morrisons' car park which is only a short walk away from the school. Many of our parents/carers choose to do this because of the congestion on Spinney Hill Road. This means that many of our students will also be walking from this direction.

Where do I go when I get to school?

When you arrive at the school site, there are two entrances that you can use. One is located on Spinney Hill Road and the other on Highlands Avenue. Once inside you should make your way straight to your tutor base. You will receive information about the location of your tutor base before you join the school. There are lots of signs throughout the school to also guide you. Importantly, you will not be able to leave the site once you have entered, so please ensure that you have everything you need with you.

What will happen on my first day?

On your first day at NSG you will have a welcome assembly and be introduced to your tutors. From there, your tutor will guide you to your form room where you will have an extended tutor time to be able to get to know your tutor group and your tutor, and more information about the school will be shared with you.

What happens if I do not know anyone or I am nervous?

Firstly, do not worry! Everyone around you is in the same situation and probably is as nervous as you - we like to think that the nerves will be accompanied by the excitement of joining a new school. We are certainly very excited to meet you all! You will have plenty of time to get to know your tutor group and begin to build friendships. Also, your tutor will be there to help you with any questions or concerns you may have.

What do I do about lunch?

Eating a healthy and balanced lunch is very important. You can bring a packed lunch or buy food from the restaurant or serveries in Elm and Oak. Your parents/carers will be sent login details for the cashless catering system just before the start of term, along with full instructions about how to use this and put money onto your account. Due to the current restrictions that we are operating at school, you will not be able to pay by cash or use the machines in school to put money on your account. However, please do not worry, we do not want anyone to go without lunch and will support you with what you need.

Will I need my PE kit for my first day?

No, if you have PE on your first day you will be engaging in activities that would be suitable for your new uniform. Once you receive your timetable in the morning you will now when to bring your PE kit in the future.

What about school books?

During the first week or two, your teachers will give you your exercise books and as well as the textbooks you will need. You will then need to make sure that you bring the right books for your lessons each day. You should bring a school bag to carry these and your other equipment in. At the moment, due to the restrictions of COVID 19, we are not using lockers, though this is likely to change in the future.

Can I bring my mobile phone?

We recommend that you **do not** bring a mobile into school unless absolutely necessary. If you do have to phone home you can do this from Student Services. Your tutor will be able to explain the process for this during your first few days with us. If you do bring a mobile phone into school, it is at your own risk and it must not be seen or used in school under any circumstances.

What happens if I get lost finding my way round the school?

We are a very large site but with the help and support that your tutors, and other staff, offer you on the first few days with us it will not take you long to find your way around. There are also lots of signs throughout the school to guide you and plenty of students and staff to help you; so do not worry, all you need to do is ask and you will have the support you need from those around you.

What happens after the first day?

During your first day with us at NSG, your tutor will talk you through your timetable and explain the routines of the day. From that point, it will be normal lessons from now on; so, you will need to remember to check your timetable every evening with your parents/carers and put everything you need for the next day in your bag ready before you go to bed. This will help to make sure you are as prepared as possible for maximising your learning.

Who can I talk to if I am worried?

If you are worried on your first day, you can talk to any member of staff, including your tutor. All staff at the school will listen to you carefully and do everything they can to support you with anything you are concerned about.