

Year 7 Transition: Parent FAQ Guide

Class of 2031 – Stoke Damerel Community College



1. Starting the School Day

1 What time does school start and finish?



Year 7 students should arrive by 8.35am. Doors open at 8.25am, gates lock at 8.38am, school starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.00pm, Monday to Friday.

2 Is breakfast available?



Yes. Free breakfast is available from 7.45am to 8.20am each day. Sports and homework club are also available at this time.

3 What happens at break and lunchtime?



Year 7 and Year 8 have their own area, canteen and playground. Students can buy food using MCAS or bring food from home. Bring a water bottle. Fizzy drinks and tin cans are not allowed.



2. Support and Settling In

4 Who should I contact if I have a question or concern?



Your child's tutor is usually the first point of contact. Email is the quickest way to contact staff. Some concerns may be passed to a subject teacher, subject leader or the Year Team.

5 Will my child be with friends from primary school?



Students are mixed from different primary schools, but the College tries to keep a small number of friends together in tutor groups where possible. Teaching groups may be organised differently and can change over time.

6 What information does the College already have?



Staff liaise with primary schools to gather important information such as strengths, areas for development and teacher assessments.

7 What support is there if my child feels anxious?



The Year Team supports students with worries throughout the year. Parents/carers can email the tutor, and sixth form peer listeners are available during break time.

8 Will my child be able to make friends?



Yes. Year 7 students are given opportunities to build friendships during the first half term. Extra support is available for social skills, friendship issues and self-esteem if needed.



3. Learning and Homework

9 How much homework will my child get?



Homework is completed online. English, Maths and Science use Sparx and are due on Friday at 4.00pm. Other subjects use Carousel across the week. Homework Club runs Monday to Thursday before and after school, with extra help at breaktimes.

10 How is learning assessed?



Students are assessed through regular formative and summative methods. There are two internal assessments each year.

11 How often will I receive information about progress?



Progress reports are sent home twice a year, and parents/carers are invited to one Parents' Subject Evening each year.



Top tip:

Talk positively about secondary school over the summer and encourage your child to ask questions.



Year 7 Transition: Parent FAQ Guide

Class of 2031 – Stoke Damerel Community College



1. Expectations and Conduct

11 What are the main lesson expectations?



Students line up quietly, enter lessons calmly, begin the low-stakes quiz, listen carefully, raise a hand to contribute and work hard without disrupting others. The College uses S.L.A.N.T, S.H.A.P.E and S.T.E.P.S to support consistent expectations.

12 What happens if a student disrupts learning?



Students receive a warning first. If disruption continues, they may be sent to the Recovery Centre, receive a same-day detention and miss breaktimes during their time in the centre. Some Year 7 students may need reasonable adjustments while adapting to routines.



2. Uniform and Daily Essentials

13 What uniform items are branded?



The branded items are the school tie, school blazer, school trousers or skirt, and the school PE top.

14 Where can uniform be purchased?



Uniform can be purchased from Kitworld Ltd, 319–320 Faraday Road, Cattedown, Plymouth, PL4 0ST. Orders can be collected or delivered to your home.

15 Is there guidance on choosing the correct size?



Yes. Order to fit the largest body measurement and allow room for growth. For shirts, you should be able to fit two fingers inside the fastened collar.

16 What equipment does my child need?



Students should bring a suitable school bag and equipment each day. A full pencil case is provided on day one. Replacements can be bought from the school shop.

17 Are mobile phones allowed?



Phones, tablets and headphones may be brought for the journey to and from school, but must remain switched off and in bags during the school day. If a device is seen, or heard, it may be confiscated and returned to parents/carers only.



3. Clubs and Character

19 Can my child join clubs and enrichment activities?



Yes. The College offers a wide range of clubs including sport, art, music, drama and computing. Year 7 students are encouraged to attend at least one after-school club each week.

20 What is the Character Curriculum?



The Character Curriculum helps students build confidence, resilience, employability and wider personal skills. It links to the values *Aspire, Achieve and Thrive* and includes areas such as leadership, literacy, commitment, community and dealing with setbacks.



Top tip:

Label all uniform and help your child practise packing their school bag before September.



Year 7 Transition: Parent FAQ Guide

Class of 2031 – Stoke Damerel Community College



1. Starting the School Day

1 What time does school start and finish?



Year 7 students should arrive by 8.35am. Doors open at 8.25am, gates lock at 8.38am, school starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.00pm, Monday to Friday.

2 Is breakfast available?



Yes. Free breakfast is available from 7.45am to 8.20am each day. Sports and homework club are also available at this time.

3 What happens at break and lunchtime?



Year 7 and Year 8 have their own area, canteen and playground. Students can buy food using MCAS or bring food from home. Bring a water bottle. Fizzy drinks and tin cans are not allowed.



2. Support and Settling In

4 Who should I contact if I have a question or concern?



Your child's tutor is usually the first point of contact. Email is the quickest way to contact staff. Some concerns may be passed to a subject teacher, subject leader or the Year Team.

5 Will my child be with friends from primary school?



Students are mixed from different primary schools, but the College tries to keep a small number of friends together in tutor groups where possible. Teaching groups may be organised differently and can change over time.

6 What information does the College already have?



Staff liaise with primary schools to gather important information such as strengths, areas for development and teacher assessments.

7 What support is there if my child feels anxious?



The Year Team supports students with worries throughout the year. Parents/carers can email the tutor, and sixth form peer listeners are available during break time.

8 Will my child be able to make friends?



Yes. Year 7 students are given opportunities to build friendships during the first half term. Extra support is available for social skills, friendship issues and self-esteem if needed.



3. Learning and Homework

9 How much homework will my child get?



Homework is completed online. English, Maths and Science use Sparx and are due on Friday at 4.00pm. Other subjects use Carousel across the week. Homework Club runs Monday to Thursday before and after school, with extra help at breaktimes.

10 How is learning assessed?



Students are assessed through regular formative and summative methods. There are two internal assessments each year.

11 How often will I receive information about progress?



Progress reports are sent home twice a year, and parents/carers are invited to one Parents' Subject Evening each year.



Top tip:

Talk positively about secondary school over the summer and encourage your child to ask questions.

