

Letters from our current Year 7s

Our Year 7s know how it feels to change from primary to secondary school. They have written to you with some friendly words of support and advice. Please scroll down to read their letters.

Year 7 Students
The Priory School
Dorking



Year 6 Pupils

Hey Year 6,

I'm Elizabeth. I used to go to Surrey Hills primary school and now I go to The Priory. Last year, it was around now when I had my induction days at Priory but because of Coronavirus, you don't get to have them. So you might be quite nervous because you don't really know anyone other than the people who go to your primary school... or you might not be nervous. You could be really excited and brave. I remember I was really eager to get to the Priory but then when it came to the first day, I got really nervous! If you have a sibling at your secondary school then you are probably a bit more familiar with it too.

Surrey Hills is quite a small school and there weren't very many students there which made it seem like a massive change when I got to Priory. Also, we didn't have to go to our lessons in primary school as we stayed in the same classroom for most lessons. At secondary school, you get your own timetable telling you where to go and when and what teacher you have. You may be scared that you won't get the same lessons as your friends... or the same tutor group, but only 2 of my close friends from Surrey Hills went to Priory with me and I met so many new friends too. If you are in the same tutor group as your friends then the chances are, you will have mostly the same lessons.

After only a few weeks, I already knew my way around school and I only got lost 2 or 3 times. If you do get lost, then there are plenty of people around to help you and don't be scared to ask. My favourite subject at school is History and my history lesson is right next to the canteen which means I can get food quickly! I way prefer the food at Priory as there is more to choose from and you can just get snacks at break time. Also, it is nice to use fingerprint ID but not so nice when you have to ask your parents to fill it up when you spend all your money too quickly!

Overall, if you are nervous, then don't be! Everyone is really nice and you will probably settle in really quickly.

Best wishes, Elizabeth

ELIZABETH

Hi, I'm Luca (A Priory student in Y7),

LUCA

I am writing to you about how I felt when I first joined this wonderful school - The Priory. I didn't go to any of the schools near The Priory. I went to a school far away from the school because I just moved house to Brokham, a small village near Dorking. I felt quite nervous at first but thrilled to finally be moving to secondary school to learn new subjects and topics.

There are many differences and similarities between primary and secondary school. Let's start with the similarities, firstly both schools have roughly the same looking classrooms e.g. they have posters on the wall about the subjects that you are learning. Secondly the timetables are indistinguishable e.g. two lessons, then first break, then another two lessons, lunch, tutor time, and then to finish off the day just one more lesson then it will be time to go home.

There are many differences between the two schools, but don't worry they are not major differences, only slight ones e.g. You won't have one teacher for every lesson, there will be different teachers for different lessons. The second contrast is of course the school is a lot bigger than most primary schools (you saw that coming). But I can guarantee you that you will know your way around the school in a week, maybe even 2 days.

Meeting new people wasn't a problem, everyone was kind and welcoming. If you were stuck on where to go you could go to a student or a teacher and they would help you with no hesitation at all. My favourite subjects are food tech, PE and maths. Food tech is one of my favorites because it's fascinating to cook food that we have been eating all our lives and finally get to know what actually goes in it. PE is one of the best because in the winter it is really cold, but on the bright side Priory owns a Dome that is a lot warmer and drier. Plus we also have a heated pool where we can swim and host competitions for the borough. Finally Maths, maths is just generally really fun. We do fun competitions around the class.

I hope you enjoy your secondary school experience at The Priory. Good Luck.

Dear year 6,

LUCY

My name is Lucy. I am from The Priory. I am writing to you to tell you not to be nervous and to tell you how great The Priory will be.

The main difference which you will firstly notice is that the school is a lot bigger than your old primary school. Another difference which you will also notice is that you don't just stay in one classroom and have the same teacher for every subject. Instead you will move around to different classrooms and have different teachers. Another big thing is that there will be alot more students around the school. You will also notice that you will be given a timetable. The timetable includes your lessons, what time they are, what day they are and if they are week A or week B. At first they can look very confusing but don't worry it isn't as difficult as it looks and there will be students and teachers around to help you and to guide you through the school. You may be worried and nervous about meeting new people but I can assure you that people at The Priory are very kind, respectful and helpful. Also you may make some new friends along the way too!

When you move up to secondary school it is a big milestone in your life but don't look at the negative side look at the positive side. Here are some positives: you will make new friends, meet new people, try new things, join new exciting clubs, do subjects that you have never done before, do fun experiments, learn new things. The list could go on an on and on.

Faithfully

Lucy

Dear Y6 student,

How are you? I am currently a student in year 7 at The Priory secondary school.

SUZIE

I am writing to ease your fear or anxiety to come.

It may be hard at first, but becomes enjoyable and interesting. It isn't that different from primary school but there are some larger differences like, new building which eventually you will know exactly where your next class is; new people which is an opportunity to meet and make new friends; and new teachers who will teach you their assigned subject.

I found surprising but clever that the Y7-Y9 all eat in one cafeteria meanwhile the Y10-Y12 all eat in the Take 5, which stop overcrowding.

I have enjoyed meeting new people and diving deeper into subjects which primary never really touched on for example; Biology; Physics; and Chemistry.

I have encountered many challenges at my time. From rushing not to miss my next lesson after PE or hard pieces of work. But eventually this will ease.

I like all the teachers (some stricter than others). But I don't like all the subjects, as I struggle with some and I need a bit more assistance on, which the teachers can handle.

I'm sure you will enjoy your time at The Priory secondary school.

From
Suzie

Dear year 6,

Hello, I would like to introduce myself as a student of The Priory School. My name is Ben and I am in year seven. I am writing to tell you about how I came to fit in to will give you some advice. I came to the priory school in 2019 and I was feeling very nervous about it all. Was I going to be laughed at? Would the teachers like me? Would I keep up with the work? Would I make friends? I can tell you all these worries and questions were unnecessary and a waste of time.

BEN

The Priory and I

There are some big differences between your school and The Priory but again, these are nothing to worry about. The main obvious difference is size, when you first enter the building it appears massive; 60 staff, 44 classrooms, endless teachers offices, hundreds of lockers, 4 floors. But trust me, after a couple of weeks the endless labyrinth of corridors will be easy to navigate through and you won't be lost again. Another big difference is the fact that you have to change classrooms and teachers every lesson. You will get used to this after a while as it is just moving to a different lesson. One more big difference is that breaks and lunches are shorter. For example breaks are usually half an hour in primary school but only twenty minutes in secondary school and lunches are an hour in primary but only 40 minutes in secondary. This is another thing that time will make you used to.

I settled into The Priory by at first sticking with my friends from primary school and then slowly became friends with other people and I also tried to make a good first impression. I then I tried to learn as much as possible whilst still having a bit of fun and enjoying it. My favourite subjects, which I really enjoy are DT, Geography, Drama and Science (especially when it is an experiment)

My main pieces of advice is to enjoy your self, be prepared, do your homework and have fun. My main positives are the lessons I enjoy, having my friends with me and people being kind. Just enjoy yourself.

Ben :)

Dear year 6,

I am writing to you from The Priory School to talk about the change from primary school to secondary school. I only came to this school around a year ago and I remember how scary it was so I hope this could make it sound like a nice thing not a scary thing.

RAYMOND

First of all you do have to remember where all of your classrooms are and you need to try to memorise your timetable. You might think that it is impossible to memorise the school yes it is a massive school but after like a week or two you probably would have memorised it. Just remember Science is always on the third floor Maths is on the second and third and English and the canteen are on the first floor up along with the library. Last but not least Art and Computing is on the ground floor and Textiles is outside and DT is near the third set of stairs.

You might think that in the canteen you choose from 3 meals like you do in some primary schools but no you can get fizzy drinks, milkshakes, orange and apple juice, you could get baguettes, sandwiches, cookies, pretzels, cakes, donuts, fruit pots, jelly and popcorn and crisps. But you have to have money on your finger which gets added on by your parents. You could bring your pack lunch in if you want. A rule for the library is if you are not a library assistant you can't take food into there or drinks so remember that. A cool thing in the canteen is that on the last weeks before and after summer you could get a slushy for 80p and sometimes you could get hotdogs for celebrations, roast dinner near Christmas time. So if you eat at the canteen you get a lot of choice for food.

Also there are different times for lunch and break here at the priory first break starts at five to eleven and lunch starts at quarter past one also we leave school for summer a few days after you but we get an extra day of summer. At the priory school ends not at quarter past three but at twenty five past three so you need to get used to that and also you need to learn the way to school in case you have to walk. You might think that you have one teacher for all the classes but you don't every class you have different teacher unless the teacher you normally have is doing something else or isn't in but then you still would do you normal work you would do every lesson. There is a lesson you have once every 2 weeks which is LRC lesson which is basically English but instead of going to your normal room you go to the library for a lesson there. So that is all you need to know before going to secondary school.

Sincerely Raymond.

Dear year 6,

I am writing to you to tell you how The Priory really is, I went to Leatherhead Trinity,

ELLIAH

I was probably like how you are now and I was very anxious because school has been a struggle for me in the past.

It is very different from primary. You will get given a time table and you won't always be in one classroom for more than an hour. You'll have different different classes such as dt ft ts.and the lessons are much harder.

I've settled in so well they don't make you feel like some little year 7 they make you like a Priory kid. I was very worried about meeting new people because I was worried about what they would think about me. My fav subject is text stiles. The only bad thing is the work is a bit more difficult than primary is .

You should be excited that the school is a really really good school and there is so much to do. It may be small but it is the best! Be excited because you don't know what is about to hit you.

Elliah.

Hey reader!

ANNABEL

I'm Annabel and I go to the Priory School; I'm writing to tell you about what you're going to expect at the Priory and how I felt coming here. I came from The Weald School, you might not have heard of it, that is because it was a small school and hardly anyone went there. I felt nervous about coming here but you should not be nervous, The Priory is a great school with nice teachers that will show you around for the first two weeks.

The differences between my old school and this school is that this school is bigger than my old school and has more classes and more teachers. You get a timetable for yourself and your class have the same. There are five lessons in a day, you will have two lessons then break, another two lessons then lunch then one lesson to end the day. The timings are also different, break is at 10:55 till 11:15 and lunch is at 1:05 till 1:55.

It took me a while, but I settled into The Priory and it felt almost normal.

None of my views changed about The Priory, it is still a great school. I felt nervous about meeting new people, but I got along well with them. My

favorite subjects are Art, English and Drama. The good points are the teachers, how big our field is, and the facilities. The bad points are that you

do get a lot of homework but less than the Ashcombe.

I feel like you should look forward to meeting new people and The Priory do lots of activities such as the walk to Leith Hill castle, house competitions

and bake offs. A word of advice would be to just be yourself and be confident, and do not fight with older children (aka year 9 and upwards!)

Yours sincerely

Annabel

An old year seven

Hello,

It's very strange and different when you start secondary school but it's also very exciting and fun. It's normal to feel anxious but there is nothing to be worried about.

AXTON

There is quite a difference between Primary school and Secondary school. You will have different teachers for each subject, bigger classrooms, more facilities and a lot more fun.

For my first day I had to wake up early in the morning to get the bus to school. The bus leaves the station at 7:20 in the morning and the journey takes 50 minutes. Inside I felt nervous but very excited. I only knew 1 person from my Primary school but I soon made friends. When I arrived at school the corridors felt like a never-ending maze crammed with people and classrooms. The first lessons sped past and it was already break time so the teacher led us to the canteen, which was way better than Primary school with more variety of different foods. Before I knew it was time to go home and everybody was flooding out the gates like a swarm of bees.

You will soon learn where all the classrooms and facilities are so you don't need to worry about getting lost. Also, it's very exciting when you receive your timetable for the first time because you can see all your lessons. Compared to Primary school, homework wasn't that different. I felt that I had less homework than at Primary and you always have a good amount of time to complete your homework but there are no excuses for handing it in late.

I loved my new uniform with my blazer and tie and my experience of Secondary school was great!

Regards,

Axton

Hi,

my name is Joe and I am in year 7 now.

JOE

When I first came to The Priory it was a way bigger school than my primary and was hard to find my way round the school for the first couple of days but then no problem - I did get lost a few times!!! I found I settled in quickly and made new friends straight away as only a few from my primary moved to The Priory. I found it all quite interesting and an easy transition. The only thing that was strange for me was getting the bus early in the morning to be exact 7.25 which is early for me!!!

I did not find anything scary as all the teachers were very helpful and made it very easy for us to settle in. I did find it strange wearing a tie as we did not have to in primary school but I do think it makes us look smart.

I think I settled in very well and I think it was exactly how I thought it would be. My favourite subjects are maths, history, design and technology. I also enjoy swimming and football. I also enjoyed starting cooking lessons! I am not sure what your hobbies are but there is a lot to do within the school and I am sure you will find some of the activities interesting.

It has been a strange time for my year to start high school as we have missed so much of the year due to the corona virus so we have not had so much school days sadly, However, I can assure you that it is a good experience joining the Priory and I am sure you will enjoy the school and not to worry about anything as the school is very welcoming. I was very pleased to be given a chance to join Do not spend time worrying about what could happen as the staff are always on hand and will help and resolve any situation that comes up.

Yours sincerely,

Joe

Hey new year sixes,

I am writing to you so hopefully you can settle into secondary school.

KRYSTYNA

I went to St John's primary school and they provided a lot of help for us to move up to year seven.

I felt nervous but ready to go to year seven as I would be new and the youngest again.

There are a few main differences between primary and secondary that I think you should be aware of:

The starting and finishing times there is not much of a difference but it will be hard to reset the times you wake up.

The size at first it will seem huge but then you will get used to it probably in the same week as you start or the week after (somebody takes you round for the first few days).

Lunch and break times can vary because of which school you came from but for me break is shorter and lunch is longer, but it's not much of a difference.

Lesson times: you will have hour long lessons and a thirty minute tutor time. You have two lessons, break, two more lessons, lunch, tutor, then one last lesson for the day (there are lunch and break clubs).

I settled into priory very fast apart from where some lessons were but it was easier to find everything after your first week. Meeting new people was fun but I am not too good at making new friends so I mainly stuck with the people I already knew but soon enough basically my whole tutor. My favourite subjects are:

Modern languages (I do german at the moment) I've been told I'm really good at german

English as I like to write stories and most of the time it is fun and interesting, History because I've always loved it geography as I love studying places and finding facts. Pe as I love sport the best one so far has to be rugby.

The good points are it is an amazing school and the people are amazing but the bad points are we have to wake up pretty early.

You should look forward to it and not be nervous about it its really fun and good. There are play competitions clubs which are amazing totally better than primary school. We have trampolines for clubs and pe that is so fun. and you can have so much fun in class even in class. hope you get on well.

Best wishes

Krystyna

Hello year six student

FLO

My name is Flo and I joined The Priory last year, I am writing this letter to explain more about the Priory. I went to Surrey Hills All Saints Primary school and before I came to secondary school I was excited and nervous at the same time but on my first day there I was really glad that I chose the Priory because there are so many opportunities and lots of enjoyable things to do.

There are quite a lot of differences between Primary and Secondary school, although you get used to it quite quickly. One of the differences is that in my Primary school that I went to we had most of our lessons in the same classroom but at the Priory we have every lesson in a different classroom. Most days at school would go like this, first period, second period, morning break, third period, fourth period, Lunch, Tutor / assembly and then fifth period.

Another difference is that in primary you would just get a meal for lunch or have packed lunch; whereas in Priory on your first few days you get an account using your finger print and you can put your money on your account which you then use in the canteen or you can bring your own food.

At first you may find it hard to find your way around the priory and you may get lost a few times, but after a few weeks you should probably mostly know where most things are in the school and if you're ever not sure where something is you could just ask another student or teacher and they will happily show you where to go. What also helped me to settle in is that I already had an older sister at the priory so I was more familiar with the school before I came there. So if you have anyone who you know that already goes to the priory you could talk to them and it helps you to settle in. There's also a lot of interesting subjects such as dt, drama, cooking, and languages. Don't be worried if you don't really know anyone else who is going there because there are lots of opportunities to meet new people and make new friends.

Best wishes

Flo

Hey Year 6,

I am a Year 7 student at the Priory and I'm writing to tell you what happens when you start. At first I was quite worried about going to the Priory as my primary school was really small and it was weird to think I'm suddenly going to a school like this.

NOAH

Compared to your primary school there are a lot of differences. Firstly, there are a lot more subjects. To name some there is DT, Food Tech and Textiles. Secondly the school is a lot bigger than what you're probably used to and you need to concentrate more on which way you go at first because a lot of corridors can look the same. Thirdly, you have to switch class for each different lesson. This can be hard at first because you only have five minutes between each lesson so you have to be quick. Luckily in the first week at school in Year 7 you get a teacher to help you get to your lessons and skip the lunch queue. Finally, it has a Swimming Pool.

The first day is always the hardest, after that it's easy. As soon as I knew what I was doing I wasn't worried and eventually it will become normal to you. No one from my primary school came to the Priory so it feels good when you meet friends. Even if you already have friends going to the Priory the teachers will pair you up in a lesson with someone you don't know most of the time. PE is a lot more fun as there are loads of new facilities like trampolines and the Swimming Pool. There are only 2 bad things about the school really. Firstly the corridors get so busy sometimes you're really late but the first one in the class. Secondly, the Year 11's who kick your Football over the fence.

The Priory is a great school and the teachers are quite nice. Don't be nervous coming here (and watch your back when playing Football for anyone sneaking up to kick it over).

Best wishes,

Noah

Dear year 6,

Hello, I am a year 7 student at The Priory school I am writing to give you some details to help you settle in at The Priory.

ABBIE

When I first joined, I was a bit worried that I would not know where anything was and would not be with my friends, but at The Priory you don't have to worry as the year eights help you to settle in and you will make lots of new friends. As well as that, there are lots of different lessons. I went to Surrey Hills and it is very different to the Priory it was a lot smaller and we only had one teacher for all of our lessons, but you will settle in pretty quickly and will enjoy it a lot more.

The main differences between primary and secondary:

You have so many more lessons at secondary that help you to learn new skills and knowledge.

You gain lots of new friends and different teachers all that specialise in the subject they are teaching.

We also have many apps that we can look at to get our homework, this is good because we do most of it online this makes it more interesting.

The school also has some different apps for if you are worried you can anonymously talk to someone to make your problems go away.

The timetables are also different because you have 5 lessons a day 1hr each and different lessons each week.

It was quite easy to settle into The Priory because everyone was so welcoming. I felt a bit concerned about meeting new people, but they were so nice. There are lots of lessons I enjoy but my favourite is P.E because you get to do lots of different sports.

When you come to the Priory there are so many things you can look forward to:

- The canteen you can get lots of different foods
- You have different lessons
- You can go to lots of activities after school and at lunch
- You can go to the library

Good luck coming to The Priory hope to see you soon

Yours faithfully,

Abbie

Dear former year 6 students,

Welcome to The Priory! I know you will be feeling rather anxious but trust me you will be fine.

LEILA

There are many teachers you can talk to if you have any worries or concerns.

One of the lessons I particularly enjoy is science, this is because you do lots of fun experiments as well as using the Bunsen burners which are really fun. During lessons you will have a learning support assistant (LSA) they are always there to support and help you.

The canteen is my favourite thing at The Priory, this is full of different food and drinks and all affordable prices, the roast dinner is delicious, you top up your canteen with a machine in school it's pretty straight forward to use and takes your thumb print so nobody has access to your account other than you .

Always on a Monday is whole school assembly this is nice as we all get to sit together and the topic is always quite interesting .One day a week we have a year group assembly also.

I really enjoy being a pupil at the Priory and look forward to seeing you in September.

See you soon,

Leila