



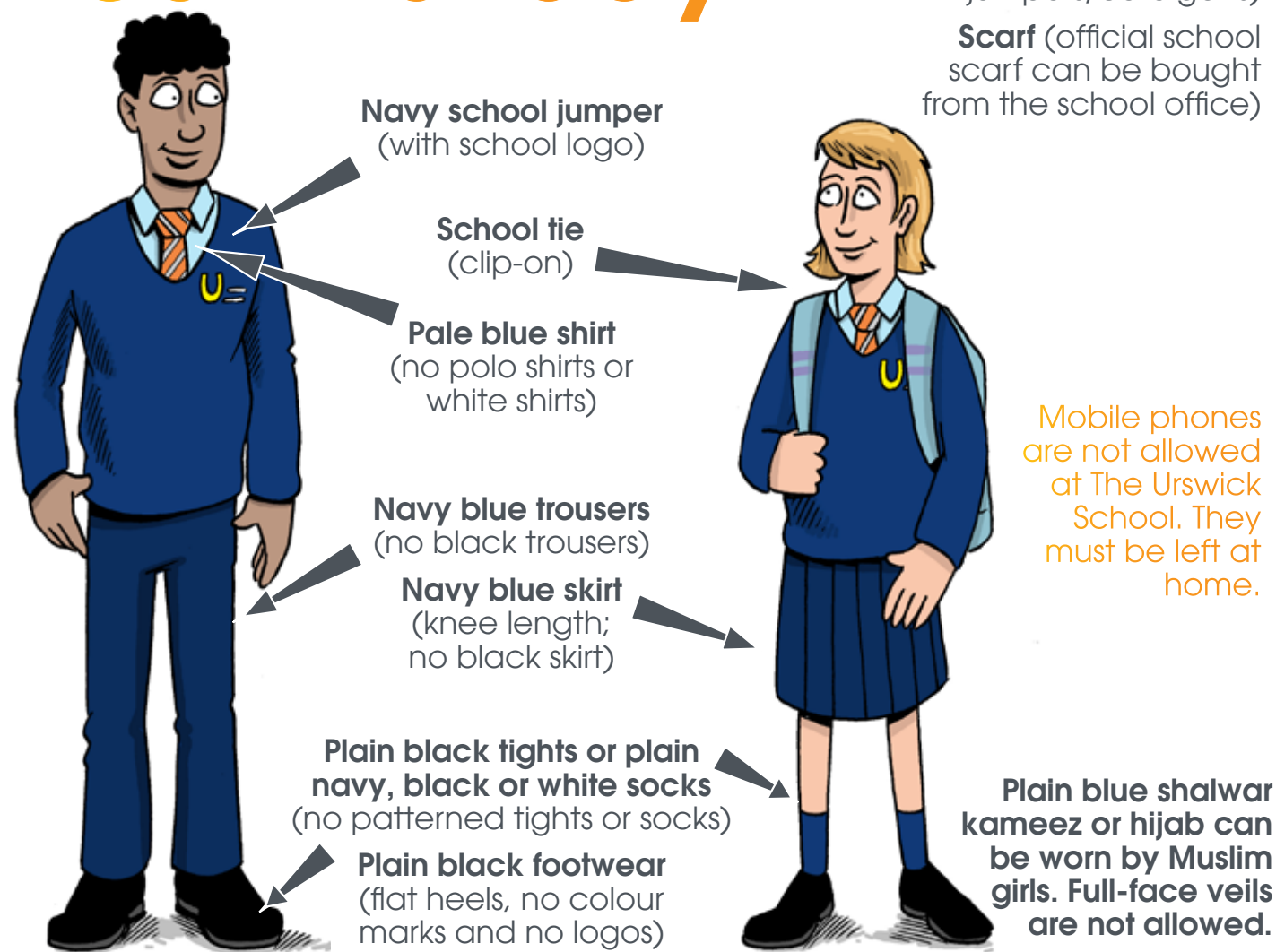
# Welcome to The Urswick School

Here is your guide to joining The Urswick School. It has all the information you will need to have a successful start and to settle in easily and confidently.



**believe** *and* **achieve**

# Your first day



# Settling in to secondary school

## Pastoral care

You will be a member of a 'Family Learning Group' with about 28 other Year 7s. Your group will be looked after by a teacher who is called an 'Urswick Parent'. We believe that this family atmosphere helps you to feel secure and achieve your full potential.

Your Urswick Parent will oversee your progress in school. You will see them every day for Family Learning Time, Family Lunch or Assembly. They will look after your welfare, so they will get to know you and you will get to know them. They should be the first person you go to with any questions or concerns. They will also be in regular contact with your parents/carers to let them know how you are getting on.

## 'Stepping Stones'

You will see lessons on your timetable called 'Stepping Stones'. These lessons help you deal with the move into secondary school. There are different expectations for work, behaviour and independence when you move up, and Stepping Stones will help you with recognising the differences and 'stepping up' to new challenges. The lessons will also help you develop teamworking and communication skills.

Some of you may also be given a Year 10 Stepping Stones student mentor who will meet with you each week to help you settle in to the school and have a successful start to your learning.

## Independent learning skills

One of the challenges of secondary school is that you need to take more responsibility for your own learning. Your planner is designed to help you with this, making sure you remember all the right books and deadlines every day. You should also get into the habit of reviewing and revising all the work you do in lessons, to make sure you really understand what you are learning in the different subjects.

## Asking for help

Never worry about asking for help. The Urswick staff and fellow students are here to help you. Don't wait till something becomes a big problem; ask for help and we will sort it out.

## We expect you to come to school prepared and ready to learn

### Uniform

We ask that you wear the correct uniform from your first day. We have clear rules about what you should and should not wear. We are all proud of our school, so we expect you to be tidy, and wear your uniform with pride.

We will provide you with the school clip-on tie when you join us. Keep it safe. If you lose it, you will have to buy a new one from the school office.

### Equipment

You will be responsible for being prepared for your lessons, which means bringing a sturdy school bag with the correct equipment for lessons and your PE kit on days that you have PE.

Your equipment should include:

- Scientific calculator

- Pencil case with black pen, green pen, pencil, ruler and eraser
- Urswick School Planner
- Reading book

Your parents/carers will pay a small fee to us when you start school which we use to buy you some of the classroom equipment listed. The balance will go into a savings account for you, which you can use in school.

Keep all your equipment safe and labelled. If you lose anything or it breaks, you can buy replacements in the school office.

Pack your bag every night before school so you are prepared.

### Mobile phones and electronic devices

We do not allow students to bring mobile phones or devices into school. Having a mobile-free environment

allows you to concentrate on your lessons and activities.

### Get to school on time

Plan your route. Find out bus or train times so you have time and are not worried about being late. You can come into school anytime from 7.30am. Lots of our early students start the day off with breakfast in the canteen where they can have something great to eat with their friends. You could even join in with sporting activities in the sports hall from 7.30am until 8am to build up an appetite!

We recommend that you get here at the latest by 8.20am, ready for lessons starting at 8.30am. If you arrive late, you need to sign in at the school office and you will probably have a late detention from your Head of Learning.





# TIPS FOR SUCCESS



## Advice from Year 7s

The experts on Year 7 are our Year 7 students. They have lots of advice to help you make the best possible start at The Urswick School:

"There is no need to worry as the staff and students are very friendly. This school is safe, and the lessons are fun."

"Everyone looks after you and if you have problems you tell the teacher and they will sort it out. The school is very safe."

"All the staff and Year 11 Prefects support you with your learning and with anything that may worry you. The school lunches are tasty and free. Most of all the teachers are strict when they need to be, and fun when they need to, which is a good thing. I thought being strict was bad but then I came to this school and now I have a totally different perspective of the world."

"Dress smartly and follow the rules but also try to be yourself and don't be shy! You'll make lots of new friends and have lots of fun here."

"The reason why I like The Urswick School is because we get opportunities to enjoy new experiences which make me happy!"

"The Urswick School is a brilliant school and there are loads of people who can look after you and help you when you ask them. I remember the first day. I was nervous and excited at the same time but making friends was a lot easier than I thought. Being in this school is an opportunity for you because there are lots of new things to do and to learn!"



# Frequently asked questions and answers

It is quite normal to have worries about starting at a new school, and even more so when you are moving from primary to secondary. You are not alone, and lots of students will have the same questions and worries. Here are answers to the most common questions.



## What happens if I am unwell and cannot attend school?

If you cannot come to school, your parent/carer must phone the school office by 8.30am to let us know.



## What happens if I am unwell in school?

Let your teacher know or another adult on site. They will send you to the medical room. A qualified member of staff will see you and decide what needs to be done next.



## What happens if I am lost?

If you get lost, ask a member of staff or older student and they will help. Don't worry if everything seems big and confusing at first, as you will soon settle in.



## When can I use the toilets?

You are not allowed to go to the toilet during lesson time as this disrupts lessons. Make sure you use the toilets during break and lunchtimes. We know that sometimes there are emergencies, so if you really need to go, ask your teacher and they will write you a note in the correct permission page of your planner.



## What happens if I have a dental or other medical appointment in school time?

It is best if appointments can be made outside of school hours, but we know that sometimes it is unavoidable. If you have a medical appointment during the school day, give your Urswick Parent a note from home, stating where you are going. Or, your parents can email the main office. You must sign out at the main office before leaving the school site.

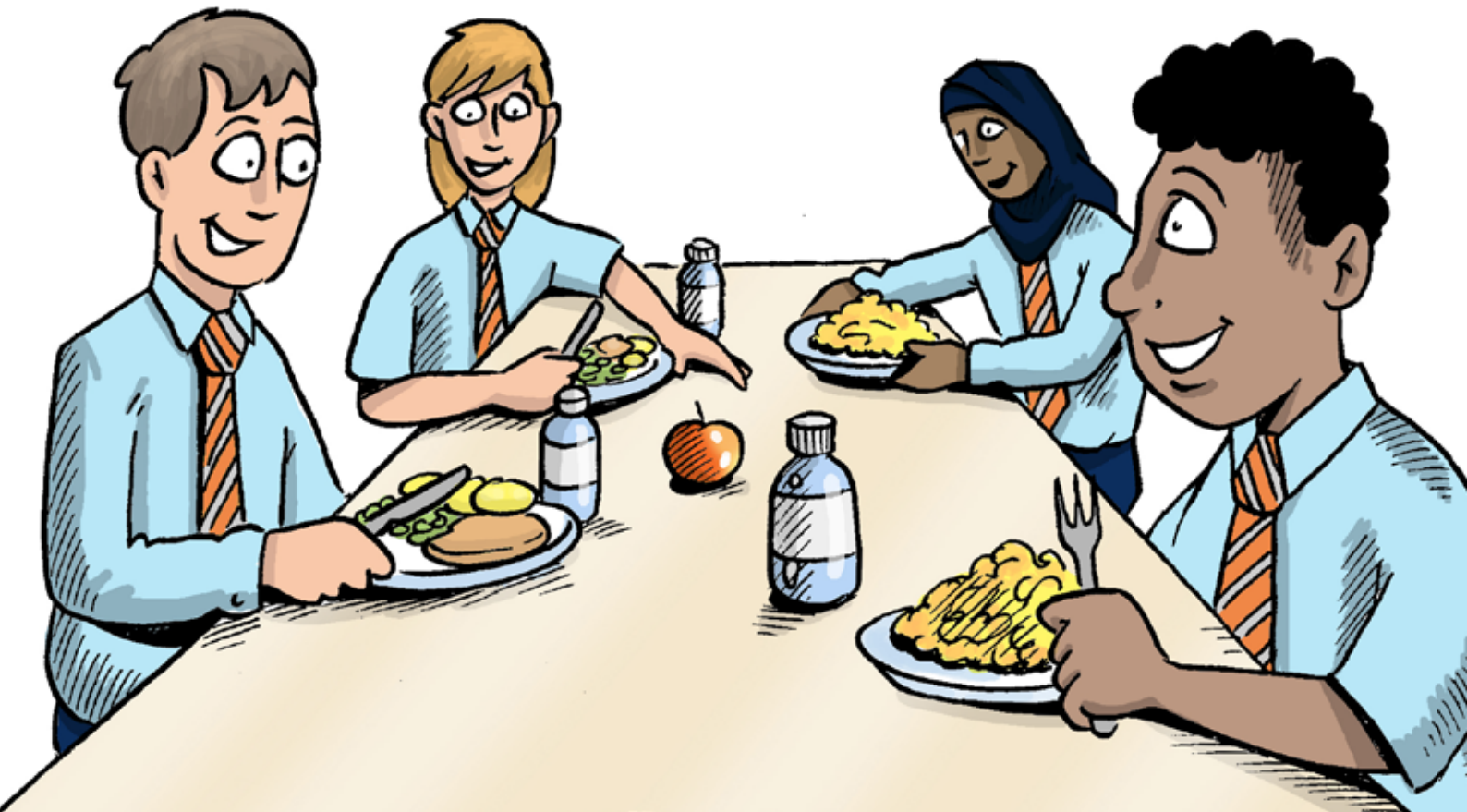


## What can I do if I am bullied or I know that someone is being bullied?

**We do not tolerate bullying at all!**

If you are being bullied or you know that someone else is being bullied, tell your Urswick Parent or another member of staff. Let us know straightaway. We promise to listen to you and to take action. If you are worried about approaching someone, you can bring a friend with you.

# The school day



## Your timetable

8.20	Arrive at School
8.30	Lesson 1
9.30	Lesson 2
10.30	Break
10.45	Lesson 3
11.45	Lesson 4
12.45	Family Learning Time/ Family Lunch/Assembly
1.00	Lunch
1.40	Lesson 5
2.45	End of School
3.00	Out of Hours Learning

## The day is divided into five lessons

A bell will ring after each lesson and you will move between classrooms. This means that you will need to have everything in your bag that you require for your lessons.

You will be in school all day and you cannot leave at break or lunchtime.

At break and lunchtime, you can meet your friends in the Watson playground. At lunchtime, you can also visit the library, play sport or join a club.

## Food

You will receive a free school lunch every day at The Urswick School. This is one of the things that makes our school unique. Our lunches are delicious and there is always a choice of hot vegetarian and meat options, with sandwiches and dishes from around the world too.

Our canteen is also open for breakfast and at breaktime... but you will need to pay for this using your payment card! We will provide you with a card and explain how to use it when you join us in September.

We encourage all students to bring a bottle of water with them every day and you can top this up at the water fountains.

Apart from water, you must not bring any other food or snacks into school, including chewing gum. This helps keep our brilliant school building clean and litter free.



# Your lessons

You will study a range of subjects. This is the number of lessons per week you will study for each subject:

Subject	No. of lessons per week
Art	1
Drama	1
English	3
Geography	1
History	2
ICT and Computing	1
Languages or Extended English	2
Maths and Numeracy	4
Music	1
PE	2
RE	1
Science	3
Stepping Stones	1
Technology	2



Here is some more information about each subject. Our Year 7s have also told us about their favourites subjects and why they enjoy them so much.

## Art

"I love Art because I can draw. My family is proud of me and my teachers help me improve."

In Art, you will explore visual, tactile and other sensory experiences to communicate ideas and meanings. You will develop an appreciation of art, craft and design, and its role in the creative and cultural industries that can enrich our lives. You will have the chance to work with traditional and new media, developing confidence, competence, imagination and creativity. You will learn to appreciate and value images and artefacts across times and cultures, and to understand the contexts in which they were made.

## Drama

In Drama, you will improvise and perform in role. You will devise, script and perform in plays as well as discussing and reviewing your own and others' performances. Drama involves lots of practical work in groups. You will develop skills such as appropriate facial expressions, body language, gestures and use of voice. You will be encouraged to reflect critically on your own and other people's work. You will learn about the creative devices employed by playwrights, actors and directors and judge quality, value and meaning.

## English

"My favourite subject is English because I love writing and reading."

English is vital for communicating with others in school and in the wider world. English is fundamental to successful learning in all curriculum subjects. Through studying English, you will develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing that you will need to participate successfully in society and employment. You will study a wide range of texts from different genres, authors and times. You will learn to express yourselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others confidently and effectively.

## Extended English

If you aren't as confident as you'd like to be with reading and/or writing, we can help! You may have struggled a little in primary school and be worried about the work you'll be doing in secondary school. You don't need to worry. You'll be specially selected to join in Extended English lessons to build up your confidence and improve your skills. The Extended English curriculum focuses on building reading comprehension skills. Your abilities will be enhanced so that you can access the curriculum in all subjects. Your confidence will be increased as you understand and decode a wide variety of written texts.

## Geography

"My favourite lessons are Geography and History because they are fun, and you do lots of activities."

Geography stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about places. It will help you to make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world.

In Geography, you will learn a number of exciting things about where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected. This will build on your own experiences to investigate places at all scales, from the personal to the global.

## History

History fires your curiosity and imagination, moving and inspiring you with the dilemmas, choices and beliefs of people in the past.

Through studying History, you will consider your own identity through an understanding of history at personal, local, national and international levels. History helps you to ask and answer questions of the present by engaging with the past.

## ICT and Computing

ICT and Computing will equip you to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with other subjects, such as Maths, Science and Technology. You will learn the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming.

ICT capability is fundamental to participation and engagement in modern society. As well as learning about how computers work, you will, therefore, learn how to apply ICT skills purposefully, safely and responsibly.

## Languages

"My favourite subjects are Spanish and Mandarin because I like learning a new language and our teachers are nice and funny."

At The Urswick School, we teach French, Spanish and Mandarin within our Modern Foreign Languages department. Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work. Learning new languages contributes to your understanding of the world. By learning a new language, you will gain personal fulfilment and also have an understanding of a sense of global citizenship. You will learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people. By making comparisons, you will gain insight into our own culture and society. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in the UK and throughout the world.

## Maths and Numeracy

"My best subject is Maths because it's nice and challenging."

Mathematical thinking is important for all members of modern society. You will use the skills you learn in Maths and Numeracy in the workplace, in business and finance and for personal decision-making. In your lessons, you will learn how to develop your problem-solving abilities. You will take part in fun investigations which will build your numeracy skills. Maths and Numeracy is fundamental in providing tools for understanding many different subject areas, including Science, Geography, Technology and Economics. Numbers are also lots of fun!

## Music

Music is a unique form of communication that can change the way you feel, think and act. Music forms part of an individual's identity, and positive interaction with music can develop your competence as learners and increase your self-esteem. Music brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture (both past and present), music helps us to understand ourselves, relate to others and develop our cultural understanding, forging important links between home, school and the wider world.





## PE

"My favourite subject is PE because we do fun stuff together. We are learning tennis and cricket at the moment."

Physical Education (PE) develops your competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities. These activities, leading to overall physical fitness, should become a central part of your life, both in and out of school. PE enables you to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity. You will develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. When you are performing, you will think about what you are doing, analyse the situation and make decisions. You will also reflect on your own and others' performances and find ways to improve.

## RE

Religion and beliefs inform our values and are reflected in what we say and how we behave. Religious Education (RE) is an important subject in itself, developing your knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs which form part of contemporary society. RE provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. It develops your knowledge and understanding of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam and Sikhism as well as of other world views such as these that offer answers to questions.

## Science

Science will fire your curiosity about phenomena in the world around us and offers opportunities to find explanations. Lessons will engage you on many levels, linking direct practical experience with scientific ideas.

We will use experimentation and modelling to develop and evaluate explanations, encouraging critical and creative thought. You will trace the development of science worldwide and recognise the cultural and historical significance of scientific change.

You will learn how knowledge and understanding in science are rooted in evidence. You will discover how scientific ideas contribute to technological change - affecting industry, business and medicine and improving our quality of life. You will learn to question and discuss issues that may affect your life, the directions of societies and the very future of the world.

## Technology

"My favourite subject is Technology - you get to make things that you can take home and share."

In Technology, you will combine practical and technological skills with creative thinking to design and make products and systems that meet human needs. You will use different resistant materials. You will learn to use current technologies and consider the impact of future technological developments. You will learn to think creatively and intervene to improve the quality of life, solving problems as individuals and members of a team.

# Clubs and activities at The Urswick School

We want you to develop as a fully rounded person so as well as the full curriculum, we offer a fantastic range of clubs, before and after school and during lunchtimes, including:

- African Drumming
- Art and Technology
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Chess Club
- Computing Club
- Dodgeball
- Drama Club
- Football (boys and girls)
- Gardening
- Handball
- History Club
- Homework Club
- Instrument lessons
- Library sessions
- Roller skating
- STEM science club
- Street Dance
- Table Tennis
- Tchoukball

**Try something new. You may find something you will love for the rest of your life and make new friends.**

### Tchoukball



### Chess Club



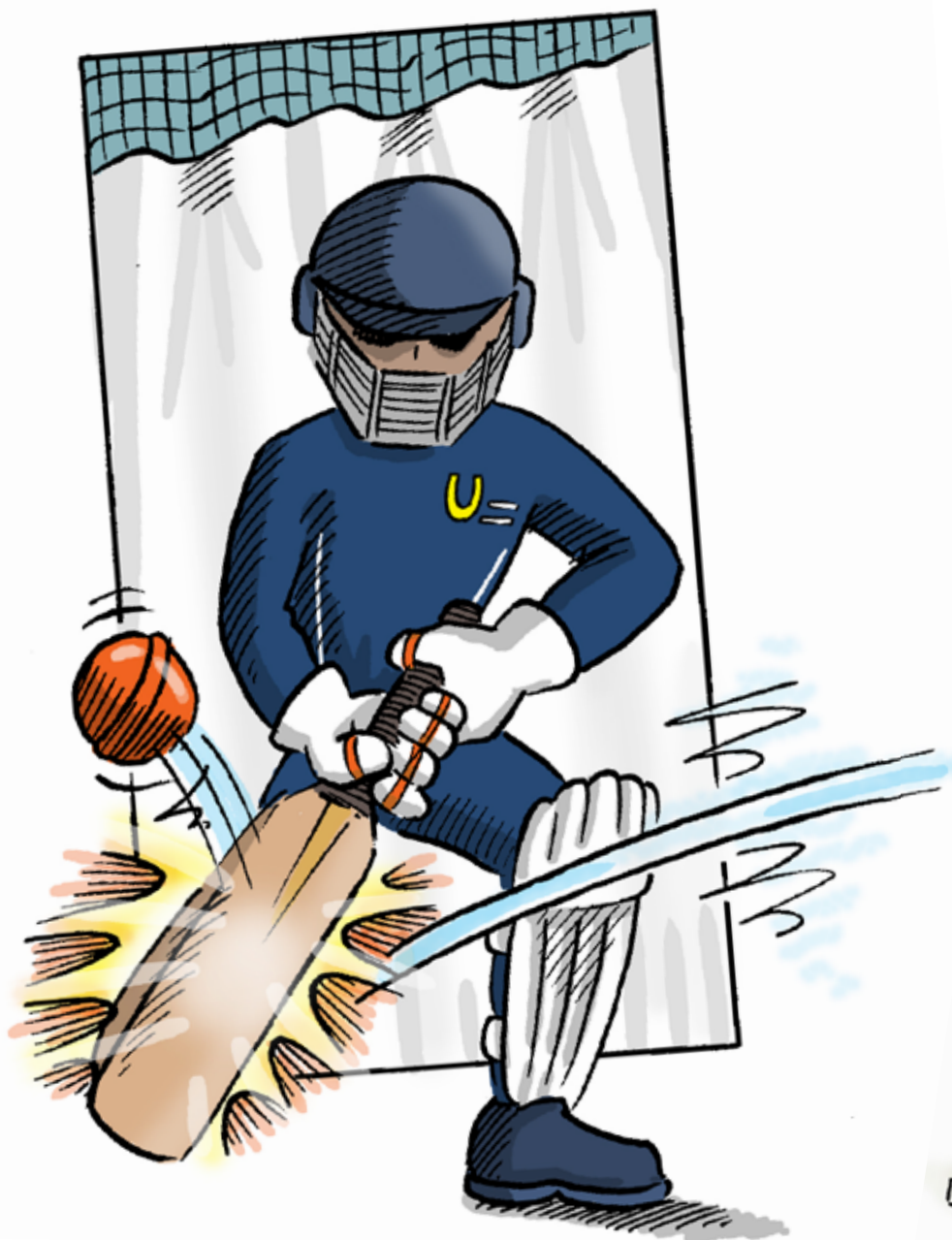
### Gardening



### Art and Technology



### Computing Club





## Getting ready to join The Urswick School

There are two important events to attend before you start at The Urswick School in September 2019. The first of these is Transition Day for all our Year 6 students. This is on Thursday, 4th July 2019. You will get to know lots of the other members of your new year group on that day and take part in activities and lessons that will prepare you for starting at The Urswick School.

Transition Evening is the second important event. This is a meeting for your parents/carers so they can hear more about the school and meet key members of staff. This is at 5pm on Thursday, 11th July 2019.

We will also give you a homework booklet on your Transition Day. You will work on this over the summer holidays. Students who produce the best results work on this book gradually over the break rather than rushing it.

## Rewards

We know how important it is to reward you when you have done well. You can be rewarded for good effort and hard work as well as excellent performance. You will collect credits in your planner and will be rewarded at the end of each term for how many you have earned. At the end of the year, if you have more than 120 credits, you win the fantastic prize of 'Tea with the Head' – an amazing afternoon of treats and music with Executive Headteacher Mr Brown. You will also have a termly Rewards Assembly where all students receive certificates from their teachers and some are awarded special prizes, for subjects or for excellence in other areas. If you receive a monetary reward, it will be paid into your Urswick bank account.

## Moving on from Urswick

It may seem like a long way in the future, but we will help you to think about what you want to do after you move on from The Urswick School and achieve your ambitions. We will support you in moving into apprenticeships, work or further study. Our Sixth Form students have fantastic success at 'A' level and in BTECs. Students have gone on to study subjects such as Law, History, Science, Psychology, Biomedical Science, Media and Culture, and much more. They have gained places at Cambridge, King's College London, Birmingham, Manchester and many other universities.

We are very proud of our students and we can't wait to work with you and see what you will achieve.



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