

Welcome to Waterhead Academy

Responsibility · Determination · Success

This is your guide to joining Waterhead Academy. It's packed with all the information you need to feel happy and confident when you join our fantastic school.



How will you help me settle in?

“HELLO! My name is Mr Hardy, and I am Head of Year 7 and Transition. I have the best job in the Academy, if not the world! Each year, the Waterhead team have the pleasure of welcoming our new cohort of students and their wonderful families to our Academy.

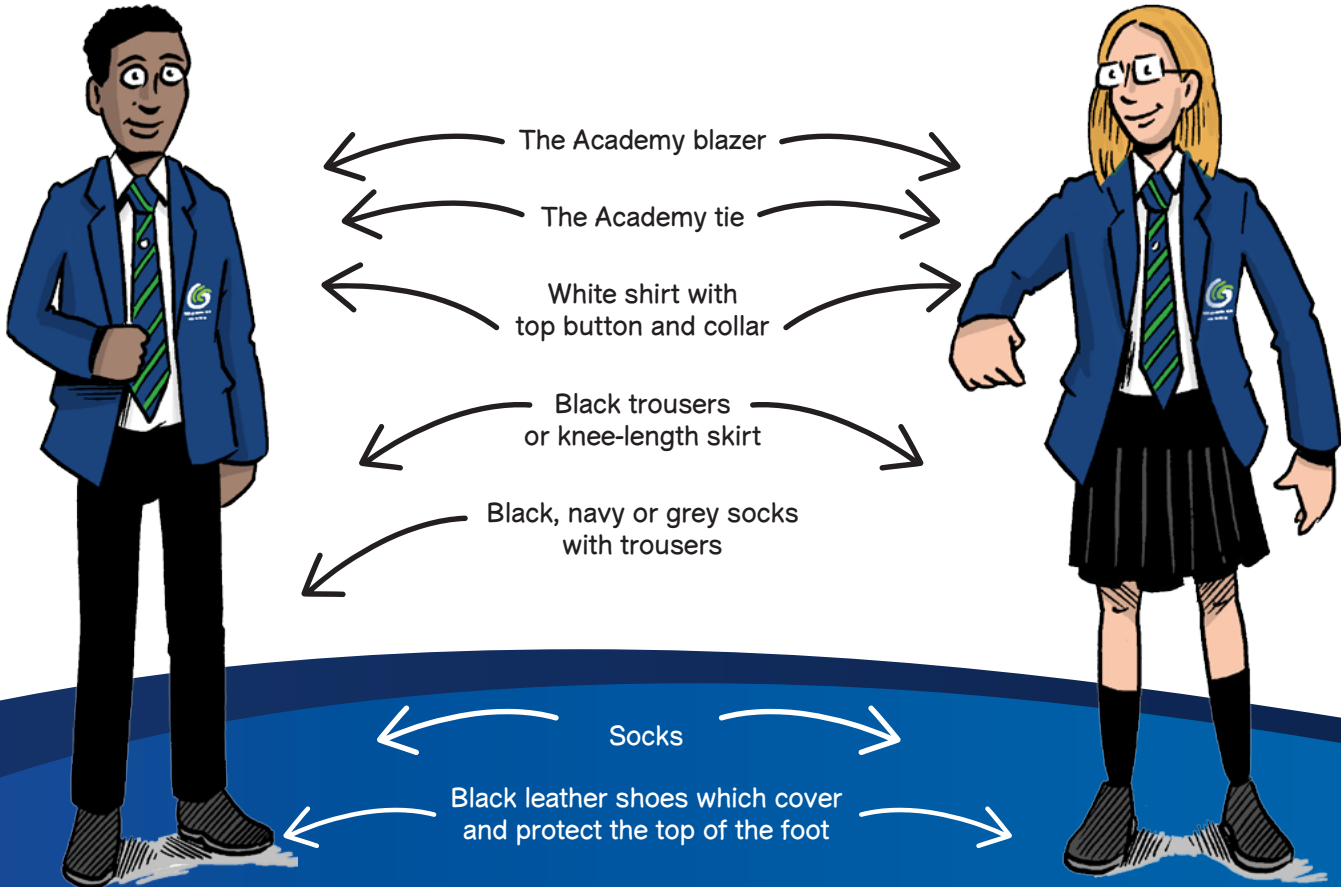
Our core values underpin everything we do here: we ask students to take Responsibility for being prepared each day with the correct equipment, to show Determination when new challenges and tasks require additional thought and to celebrate Success in all areas of Academy life from winning sports teams to achieving your personal best in the classroom.

Enjoy your last few months at primary school – I’m counting down the days until I get to meet you all in person.”

Before you join Waterhead Academy, you’ll have the chance to visit us and do some fun and challenging activities. You will also be able to meet your new teachers, the pastoral teams and venture around the building. You will visit us on:

Wed 29th June & Thurs 30th June for Transition Days

Mon 25th July & Tues 26th July for Summer Camp



What will I need on my first day?

You should wear your full school uniform from your first day.

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all Waterhead Academy students. Wearing the Waterhead Academy uniform creates a positive school identity. It also provides all students with a sense of belonging and identifies them as ambassadors for our Academy.

Equipment

You will need to bring a pencil case containing:

- 2 black pens
- A red pen
- A pencil
- A plastic ruler

You must bring your school bag with you every day. It should be big enough to fit an A4 file inside without the need to fold it.

It is a good idea to pack your bag the night before. Doing this makes you less likely to forget something, and you won't be rushing around before school. When you pack your school bag, remember to bring a book that you will enjoy reading in school. You will need to pack it every day with your equipment and you will also need to bring your PE kit.

What advice can current Year 7s give me?

Our current Year 7s were looking forward just as much as you are to starting Waterhead Academy. They have provided you with some advice and their very own top tips.

Here are their tips to help you make an **OUTSTANDING** start with us here at Waterhead Academy.

“My Form Tutor was epic! We all made friends with each other in my form, and I didn't have to worry about not knowing anyone or seeing anyone from my primary school.”

“Join an After-School Club – I made loads of friends in the science club, and we got to do some cool experiments.”

“Be excited about starting a new year in secondary school and meeting new friends and teachers, as well as being ready for new adventures and opportunities.”

“Pack your bag the night before with all your books, equipment and homework. I had an occasion when I was halfway to school and I had to run back for something I had forgotten. It wasn't a good feeling.”

“Just be yourself. I was so scared I would make a mistake. My best tip is to make good friends in your form, and you will soon realise you're not the only one feeling these emotions.”

“If you want to feel relaxed at the start of the year, you have to make sure you are ready and have all your equipment and that you behave properly. If you do all of this, you will love Year 7.”

“I was really worried that I would get lost. By the end of my first week, I had memorised my timetable and was confident that I knew the way to each of the lessons and the atrium for break and lunchtimes. It's an easy building to move around once you get used to it.”

“Don't worry about being separated from your friends from primary because you can still spend plenty of time with them at break and lunch. I was even put in a form group with two people from my primary school.”

“Give other students and your teachers respect, and you will get plenty of respect back. This will help you settle in well and give you a good reputation.”

“Don't be afraid to ask others if you have forgotten something or need help – we all help each other at Waterhead Academy. Just ask.”

“Be confident; everyone is feeling the same way you will be. Make new friends as well as keeping your old friends. If you get lost on your way to a lesson, just ask someone in another year for help.”

Frequently asked questions

It's normal to have lots of questions and worries about joining a new school. Check out Mr Hardy's answers to some of the most frequently asked questions in Year 7.

What happens at breaktime?

We have a 20-minute morning break – this allows you to get some breakfast from the canteen or to enjoy a healthy snack brought from home. It's a time to come together and see new and old friends in the atrium or the playground, not forgetting to use the toilet.

How do I pay for food?

You will use your student ID card to pay for this. Your parents can add money to your account through ParentPay, or you can add money to your account in school if you bring money in. You will receive your student ID in the first week.

Are school meals nice?

We have a fantastic selection of food on offer at break and lunchtime. We have a daily range of fresh sandwiches and pasta pots, not to mention the hot food counter. The food available changes daily. We have it all, from beef/chicken/fish burgers, roast dinners and fish & chips to curries. Our canteen team provides Halal food and vegetarian options too.

How long is lunchtime?

We have 30 minutes for lunchtime.

When can I use the toilet?

As part of our excellent routines in Year 7, we can use the toilets before form time, at break and at lunchtimes. Only in emergencies would your class teacher allow you to leave the classroom with a note to use the toilet during lesson time.

Do we get homework?

Yes, in Year 7 you will be provided with homework. This is to allow you to revisit what you have learnt in class or to prepare you for the next lesson. All homework is timebound and achievable and can easily be built into your daily routine.

What happens if I forget something?

Be honest, we are all human. We have the most amazing form tutors and year team and, most times, we can find a solution by working together.

What should I do if I get lost?

Our teachers are really friendly – they either stand at their classroom door, at certain points in the corridors or they will be transitioning just like you to their next lesson. They are always willing to help, especially for our Year 7 students, so just ask for directions.

How do I make new friends?

It's important to have friends who accept you for who you are – don't try to be someone you're not. Be yourself and, most importantly, be positive. We have lots of fun and exciting activities planned for your transition days, so working with your Form Tutors will really help you meet new people.

What if I get bullied?

If you feel you are getting bullied, or see something that isn't right, try to stay calm and tell someone straight away. This can be your Year Team, Form Tutor, a teacher or a friend. It takes courage to stand up to bullying, and you will not be on your own. We will act immediately once we know, so the sooner you tell a member of our Year 7 community, the faster we can eliminate it.



What will my school day look like?

The school gates open at 8:15am, and form time starts at 8:30am. You will get a timetable, which will show you your lessons and breaks. The school day ends at 3pm.

The day starts with form time, and this is a chance to speak with your Form Tutor if you have any questions or worries.

What will I study?

- Art
- Drama
- English
- Ethics
- Food
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Music
- PE
- PSCE
- Science
- Spanish

What may I study in the future?

As you move up Waterhead Academy, you will have opportunities to study other exciting subjects, such as:

- Chinese
- Computer Science
- Construction
- Enterprise and Business
- Graphics
- Health and Beauty
- Photography
- Urdu

Which House will I be in?

You will become a member of one of three Houses — Dovestones, Hartshead and Strinesdale, named after local parks.

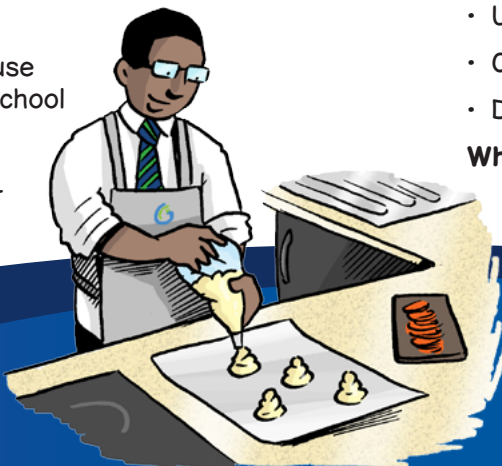
You will participate in many exciting competitions and events to earn achievement points. The House with the most points will win the coveted House Cup at the end of the school year.

To keep track of competition results, upcoming fixtures and achievement points, check the House scoreboard in the atrium.

Each House is led by a House Captain who recruits students from their House to participate in events. They also address their fellow House members during half termly House assemblies.

The House Cup sits in the school trophy cabinet, adorned with ribbons in the colour of the current cup holders.

You can also receive House points for doing well at school or being super kind, and you could be invited to join the Vice Principal for Hot Chocolate Friday.



What after-school activities can I do?

Our exciting programme of extra-curricular activities allows you to follow your interests or try something new. These fantastic activities include:

- Art Club
- Books and Films
- Boys' Football
- Boys' Rugby
- Chess
- Craft
- Creative Writing
- Dance Club
- Drama Club
- Eco-Club
- Enterprise
- Film Club
- Forest School
- French
- Geography
- German
- Girls' football
- Graphics Club
- Knitting for Neo-Nates
- Religious Studies
- Science Club
- Table tennis

We also offer opportunities for students to work alongside our senior leaders to:

- Help plan, organise and deliver a range of events, activities and displays.
- Get involved with the recruitment of staff.

They can also join the Student Leadership Team or become Subject Ambassadors or House Captains. They will wear a special badge as part of their uniform.

Will I go on school trips?

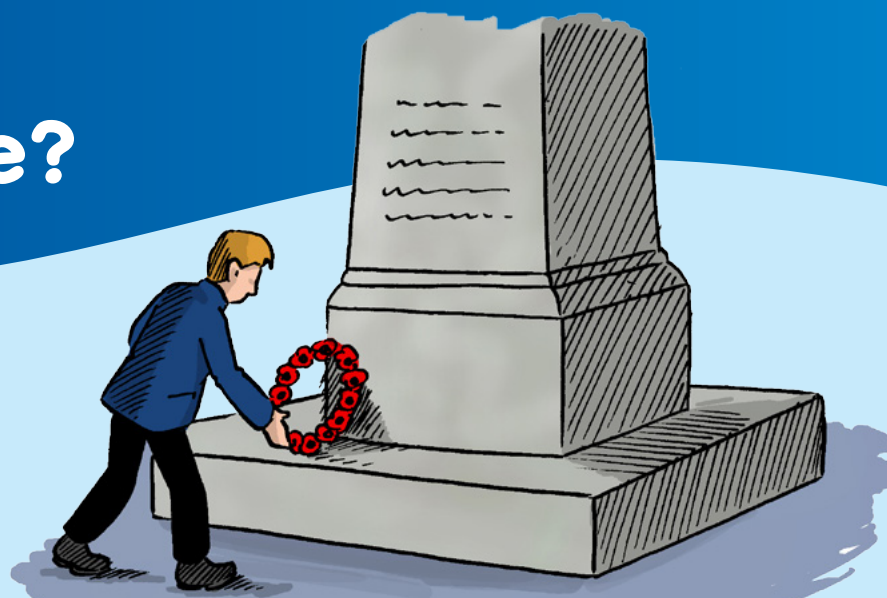
Our Year 7s can enjoy a range of educational trips. Some link to the curriculum, and other trips are rewards for doing well at school. In the past, these have included visits to:

- The pantomime
- Manchester United Football Club
- Universities, including Manchester and Oxford
- Chester Zoo
- Dovestones to do nature walks

Where will you be visiting in Year 7?



What is expected of me?



These values underpin everything we do.

RESPONSIBILITY

Ready to learn – Do the right thing – Respect others

DETERMINATION

Try hard – Be positive – Use feedback

SUCCESS

Quality work – Pride in presentation – Know your goal

Under the value of Responsibility, we have added Respect. Treating other people the way you want to be treated (with respect) will help build positive working relationships. These relationships will allow you to achieve your personal best.

As valued members of our community, we expect you to wear your uniform with pride and practise high standards of behaviour, both inside and outside our Academy.

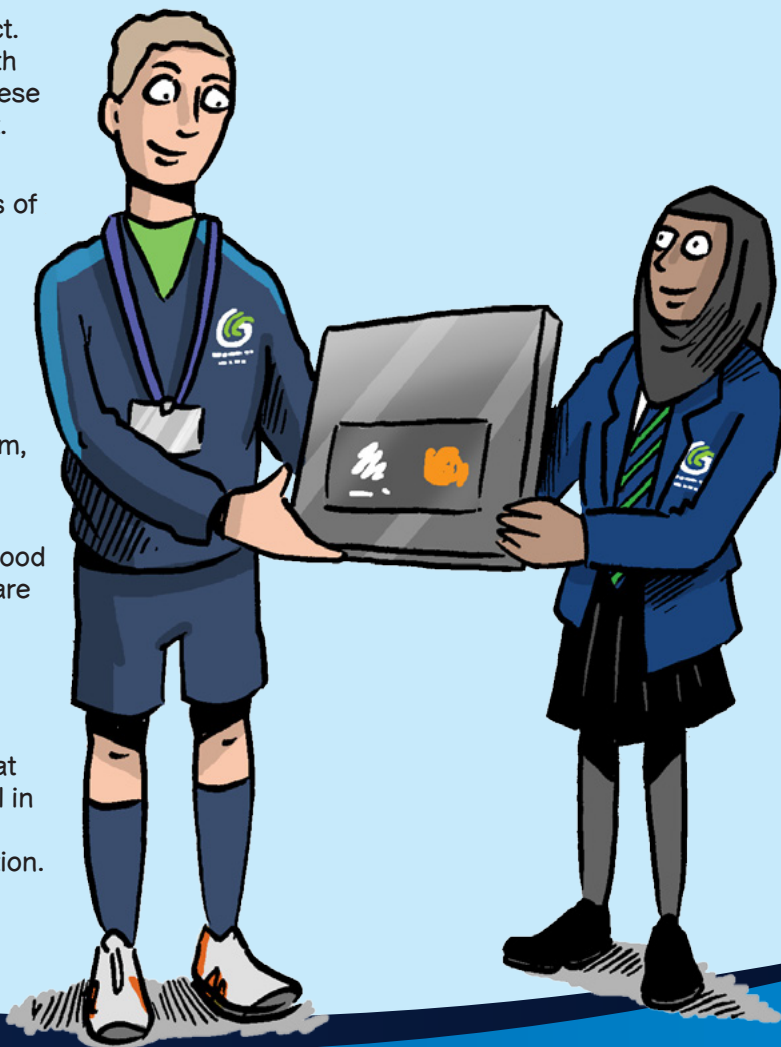
What if I am worried or upset?

Sometimes at school things may be difficult or may go wrong. If you are worried about anything, you don't need to keep it to yourself. There are many people who can listen and help you. These are your Form Tutor, Year Team, Education Welfare Officers, Student Services and our Safeguarding Team.

So, if you're worried about something or need help, it's good to talk. Speak with a member of the above teams and share your concern. They really do want to help.

Awards at Waterhead Academy

Do you fancy a trip to Old Trafford? The Manchester United Foundation plays a key role in inspiring students at Waterhead Academy to do their best. Students who excel in their studies, take part in Academy life or are good all-round students can receive rewards from the Foundation. These include trips to Old Trafford.





Hello, my name is Mr Lyon, and I am the Principal of Waterhead Academy. I hope that you are as excited about joining us as we are to meet you.

Over the coming years, we will offer you some amazing opportunities, and we want you to get involved across all aspects of Academy life. Our teachers are all passionate about their subjects and will help you to do your very best.

We are very sporty, and there will be plenty of opportunities to participate in lots of different sports and even represent the Academy against other schools. Exciting trips and visits will give you the opportunity to see new places with your friends, and you may even have the chance to go abroad. You may also perform in one of our concerts or musical productions or produce some amazing art that will hang in our Academy for everyone to see.

Moving to secondary school is a significant event, and I want you to really enjoy coming to Waterhead.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mr Lyon



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