

Welcome to Oastlers School

SAFE, SECURE AND SUCCESSFUL

Here is your guide to life at Oastlers School with all the information you will need to help you feel safe, secure and successful!



What do I need for my first day?

Uniform

We have simple rules about our school uniform and will give your parents or carers all of the information that they need so that you are ready for your first day.

You will also need a black bag or rucksack to carry anything you bring to school or take home.

What equipment will I need?

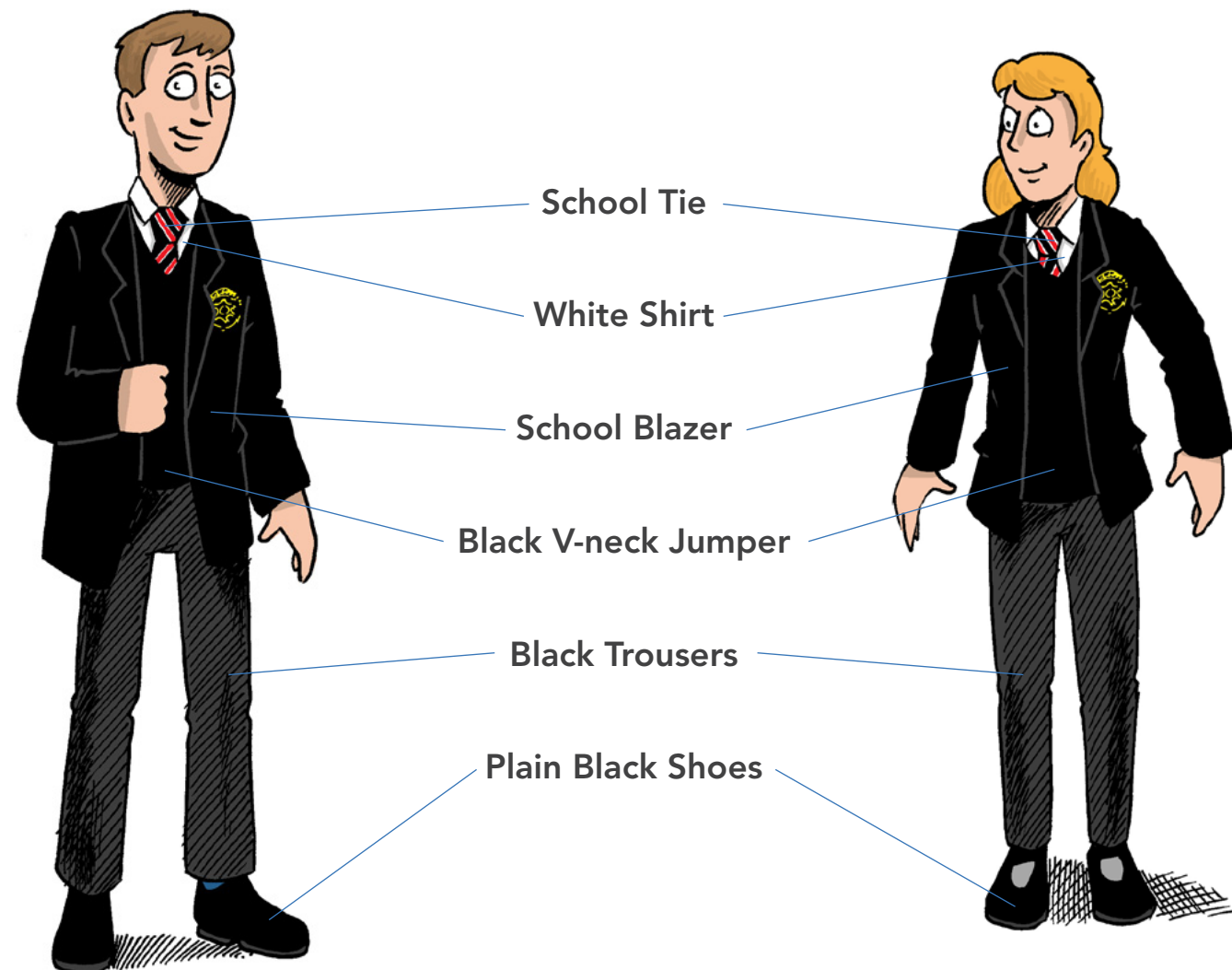
We will provide you with all of the equipment you need when you join us. Just remember to look after anything we give you.

What about getting to school?

Learners come from a wide area and most of you will come via taxi. Coming to school this way is very easy. Your taxi driver will collect you from your home and take you directly to school.

If you live nearby, some of you will walk in and may want to walk in independently. This may be the first time you will walk to school by yourself, so we will give you lots of help with this so that you feel confident.

However you get to school, you will be welcomed by adults at our school when you arrive and they will show you where to go and help you find your way there.



What advice and tips can you give me about Year 7?

Moving up to secondary school is a big step. We know that you will have lots of questions and some of you will have worries. Here are some tips and advice from current Year 7s:

You will do some fun activities when you start:

'I really like the treasure hunt my teacher did on the first day.'
(Perry 7MG)

Don't worry, you will soon feel at home:

'I was nervous starting but now I'm not!'
(Liam 7MG)

Our school is calm, friendly and fun:

'It's smooth, it's calm, and it is relaxing.'
(Junaaid 7MT)

'I like all of it.'
(Matthew 7MG)

'Really fun!' (Liam 7MG)

'Lots of fun with friends and staff.' (Cawley 7MT)

'It is good to be with my friends.' (Year 7 learner)

You will have new lessons and find things you love doing:

'I like having PE four times a week.' (Harlem 7MG)

'I like science and PE.'
(Year 7 learner)

Our year 7s talk about kindness, friendship, working hard and reaching their goals:

'Stay smart, stay calm and stay kind.' (Junaaid 7MT)

'Get on with your work, make a couple of friends, make a trust circle. Use your strength for helping you work hard and reach your goals.' (Kass 7MT)

'Be kind.' (Ethan 7MT)

'Make friends.' (Harlem 7MG)

'Be good!' (Matthew 7MG)

We are all friendly and welcoming at Oastlers. We remember what it felt like to be a new Year 7 and we will all help you settle in.

After a few weeks, you will know where everything is and be getting to know your new classmates and teachers and feel at home!



I have got some worries about coming to Oastlers. Can you help?

Here are answers to some of the questions that we are asked the most.

What happens if I am late or get lost?

Please don't worry. We know that taxis sometimes get stuck in traffic, or things crop up which make you late. Even if you are late, there should always be someone waiting to welcome you into school.

If you are very late, come to the office so we can register you and send you to your lesson.

When you join us we will give you a map and lots of help finding your way. Our older learners and teachers will be happy to help you if you are lost too. **Just ask!**

How will you help me settle in?

We will help you get to know your teachers and your classmates:

- Before you join us, you will visit us with your parents or carers for a welcome meeting.
- You will also come for a transition day, where you can start getting to know Oastlers.
- We have an 'All About Me' programme which helps us get to know you and helps you get to know us.
- You will take part in a treasure hunt around the school to help you find your way around.
- You will be in a very small class with no more than eight learners, so you will all get to know each other very well.

If you are having problems making friends or settling in, let your teacher know and they will help.

When can I use the toilets?

Try to go only during break times so you can concentrate on your lessons. But we understand that from time to time you may need to go during a lesson, so just let your teacher know.

What about food?

Our meals are cooked on site and there is always a great selection.

We recommend you start your day at Oastlers with a FREE breakfast. As well as having a filling breakfast, which will set you up for your day, you can catch up with your friends before your lessons start.

At lunch you can have a healthy, tasty hot meal (with vegetarian choice), salad, jacket potato or soup and finish with dessert, fruit or yoghurt.

What happens if I am bullied or I know that a friend is being bullied?

Oastlers is a warm, friendly place with a brilliant family atmosphere. **We do not tolerate bullying at all.** We do not expect you to put up with it either. If it happens to you or you see it happening, don't wait until it happens again. Speak to your teacher or any adult at school straightaway, **and they will help.**

What about homework?

We do not expect you to complete any homework.

We give you lots of individual attention at school so we can check on how you are getting on with your learning without giving you work to do at home.

We also know that some of you may spend some time during your day just travelling to and from school.

We appreciate that you will also need time after school to relax and do hobbies, sports or any other activities.

Some of you will want to carry on studying at home, so we will give homework to any learners who ask.

What will I study?

You will follow the GCSE curriculum and we will work with you as an individual to challenge you in areas where you are doing well and support you when you need more help.

Your teachers will give you lots of one-to-one help to identify any learning that you have missed out on and help you catch up.

You will study a wide range of subjects including:

English, mathematics, science, citizenship, physical education, relationships and sex education, art, design technology, food & cookery, ICT, music, music technology, photography and sport.

You will also study more practical-based subjects including Forest School, construction and motor vehicle maintenance.

You will also go swimming regularly.

What does the school day look like?

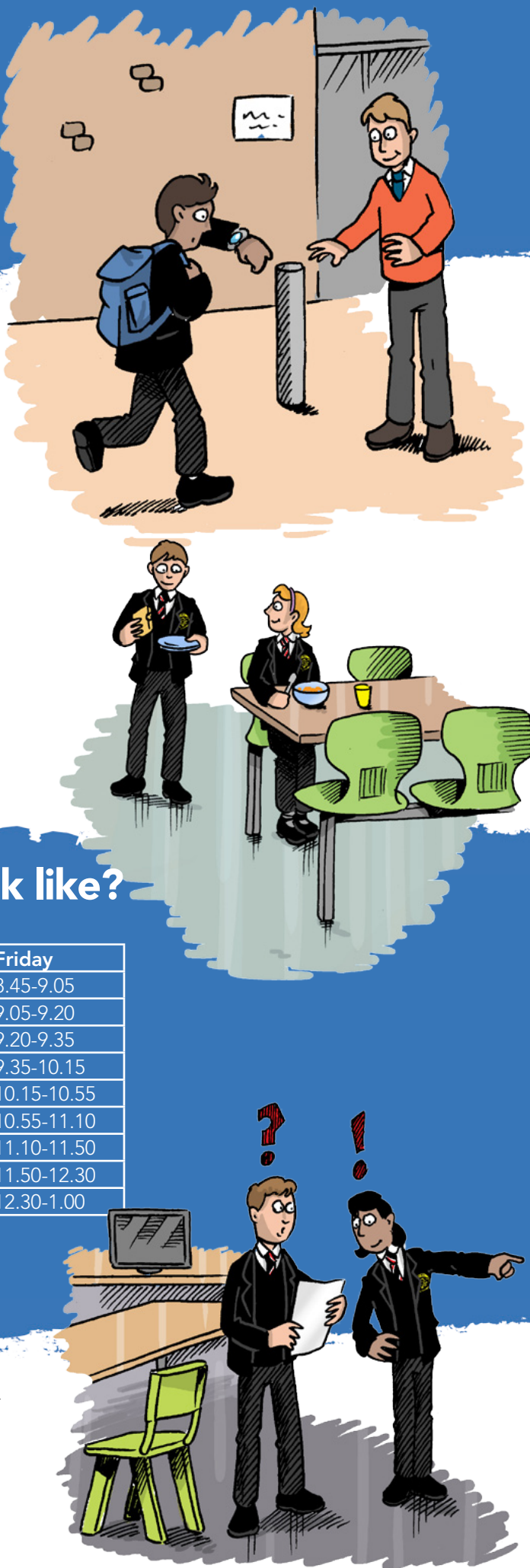
Your school day looks like this:

Lesson	Monday-Thursday	Friday
Form time, including breakfast	8.45-9.05	8.45-9.05
D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read)	9.05-9.20	9.05-9.20
Assembly	9.20-9.35	9.20-9.35
Lesson 1	9.35-10.15	9.35-10.15
Lesson 2	10.15-10.55	10.15-10.55
Break	10.55-11.10	10.55-11.10
Lesson 3	11.10-11.50	11.10-11.50
Lesson 4	11.50-12.30	11.50-12.30
Lunch	12.30-1.30	12.30-1.00
Lesson 5	1.30-2.15	
Lesson 6	2.15-2.55	
Form	2.55-3.00	

You will have a regular reading time each day in 'D.E.A.R.' (Drop Everything and Read) where you follow a reading programme for 15 minutes.

Classrooms

You will have the same teacher for subjects such as English and mathematics and stay in the same classroom. You will also use specialised classrooms for subjects such as design technology.



What other activities can I do?

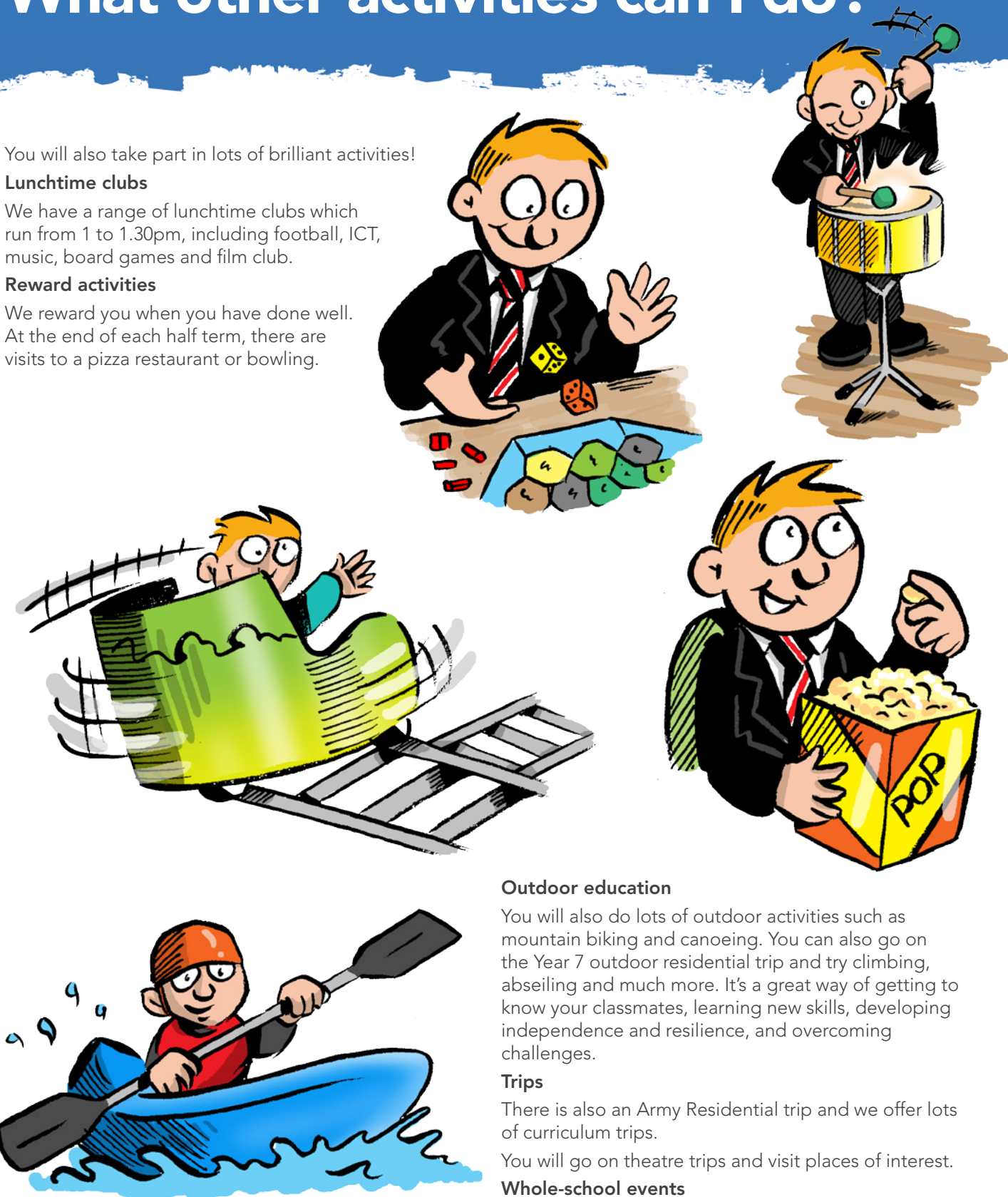
You will also take part in lots of brilliant activities!

Lunchtime clubs

We have a range of lunchtime clubs which run from 1 to 1.30pm, including football, ICT, music, board games and film club.

Reward activities

We reward you when you have done well. At the end of each half term, there are visits to a pizza restaurant or bowling.



Outdoor education

You will also do lots of outdoor activities such as mountain biking and canoeing. You can also go on the Year 7 outdoor residential trip and try climbing, abseiling and much more. It's a great way of getting to know your classmates, learning new skills, developing independence and resilience, and overcoming challenges.

Trips

There is also an Army Residential trip and we offer lots of curriculum trips.

You will go on theatre trips and visit places of interest.

Whole-school events

We hold a whole-school fun day each year, with bouncy castles, slides or a visit to Flamingo Land!

What if I need help?

We all work together at Oastlers to make it a kind and safe space. But we know everyone has problems or worries from time to time.

You will get to know your teachers very well and they will get to know you. So you will feel comfortable letting them know if you need help.

You can also speak to any adult at the school if you are worried about anything at school, at home or anywhere else.

All of our staff have had lots of training in helping learners. They will listen to what you say and they will help. You will have access to Therapies such as Rebound, Mindfulness, Hypnotherapy, Animal Assisted Therapy, Relaxation, Counselling and 'Time to Talk'.

During your lessons you will also have support including a Literacy & Numeracy Workshop and Assertive Mentoring.

Assertive Mentoring and Sanctuary

To help you reach your full potential, we use an approach called 'Assertive Mentoring'. We work with you and your parents or carers to develop a plan for you with targets for your time with us. We will have regular meetings with you and your parents or carers to talk about how you are doing. We will celebrate when you are doing well and work on solutions when you need extra help to keep on track.

If you are having problems coping within your class, you may visit our Sanctuary Space. The Sanctuary gives learners time out from the rest of school, to get help, talk about their feelings and develop coping skills to help them start afresh in their class.

We hope we have answered all of the questions you may have, but please get in touch if you need any more information or want to talk to anyone.

Who can I contact if I need to ask any questions?

You can speak to any member of staff and they will help or point you in the right direction.



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