

Moving Up to Thomas Adams, 2020



Frequently Asked Questions....

Thank you to those students who have asked questions – hopefully you will all find the responses below useful. See you soon, Mr Winter.

Q: How long are we in school for each day?

A: The timings of the school day will be very similar to your primary school – 8.40am until 3.20pm.

Q: When are break and lunch times?

A: Break is 11.10 – 11.30am. Lunch is 1.35-2.20pm.

Q: What if I get lost?

A: It normally takes 3-4 weeks to get used to where things are and ‘get your bearings’. There will be lots of people around and teachers will know that it takes time to find your way from lesson to lesson to start with. The important thing is to stay calm and ask someone for help.

Q: How many lessons are there each day?

A: There are five lessons each day. Each lesson is 1 hour. You will have two lessons before break, then two lessons before lunch and one lesson after lunch.

Q: What subjects will I study in Yr 7

A: The subjects are similar to those in primary school except you’ll have separate lessons/teachers/classrooms for each: English, maths, science, geography, history, RE, French, Art, Technology, Music, Drama and PE.

Q: What if another student is mean to me?

A: Well, hopefully they won’t be! However, your form tutor and Head or Year (Ms Holland) are there to support you so let them know of any issues.

Q: What happens if I am late to a lesson?

A: Your teachers will know that it is going to take a few weeks to get used to things so please don’t worry. As time goes on and you get used to things then you’ll be arriving on time to each lesson.

Q: What if I forget something?

A: This can happen! Firstly, don’t panic – let’s imagine that you have left your homework at home... go and see the teacher before the lesson and they will advise you. If it is something urgent/vital then you can phone home from Student Reception.

Q: How do I keep track of my homework set in different lessons?

A: The best way is to write your homework in your student planner. You'll be given your own planner on the first day. You can tick homework off when you finish it. Support is always available to help you with homework if you need it.

Q: What if I get a detention?

A: Well, we hope that you don't and as long as you do your best then you shouldn't get one. If you do get a detention, you will need to report to a certain room and teacher and you will need to follow instructions when you are there.

Q: What trips are there?

A: There are lots of trips that you can take part in. These include University visits, theatre trips, sporting fixtures and residentials, outdoor education trips (Arthog), a ski trip to Austria, subject field trips, a bushcraft residential and many, many more!

Q: Can we bring footballs in to play with?

A: You don't need to! School provides footballs to play with at break and lunch.

Q: Will we have a timetable to follow?

A: You will be given your timetable on the first morning in September. It takes a few weeks to learn where all the rooms are but you get used to things surprisingly quickly. If you lose your timetable you can get a replacement from Student Reception.

Q: Who will our teachers be?

A: Your teachers will be listed on your timetable and you will have different teachers for most subjects. They're looking forward to meeting you!

Q: Will I be with my friends?

A: Your Year 6 teachers have suggested some friends for your form groups so you will have some familiar faces. You'll also get to see friends at break and lunch.

Q: What can I do at break and lunch?

A: There are lots of things to do – at break the school canteen is open and obviously at lunch you need to eat too! Clubs and groups also take place at break and lunchtimes (as well as after school) including sports, music, chess, drama and science clubs. The library, drop-in ICT and learning support are open too! There are lots of things to do so be sure to get involved!

Q: What clubs/activities are there?

A: There is so much taking place at Thomas Adams! Have a look at the question above about clubs and activities.

Q: How many people will be in my class?

A: There will be about 30 people in your form group. For lessons, class sizes vary from five to 30 students.

Q: How much time do we have to get between classes?

A: There is at least 5 minutes to get between each lesson. In addition, between lesson 2-3 you have a 20 minute break and between lesson 4-5 you have lunch which is 45 minutes!

Q: Can we have a locker and will it be close to our friends?

A: Yes, you can have a locker. There is a £5 deposit for the key. We cannot guarantee it will be close to your friends locker but there are blocks of lockers in different places so it will be fine.

Q: Will we have lots of tests when we get there?

A: No! In the first few weeks you may have a short test in English and maths but you will be told when they will be. Don't worry there won't be lots of tests as soon as you arrive!

Q: How does lunch work?

A: You pay for lunch electronically – on the first day you will set up your thumbprint so you don't need to carry money around with you. Your account can be topped up by parents/carers on the internet or you can add money to your account in school outside the main hall if you need to.

When you go for lunch you line up before choosing what you want in the canteen. You then pay for it with your thumb and go into the main hall to sit down to eat!

Q: Where will the bus drop me off in school?

A: If you travel by bus, you will get dropped off directly outside the main hall. On the first day, you will go into the main hall for an assembly. At the end of the day you will return to the main hall and teachers will help you get on the correct bus to go home.

Q: What is the school uniform like?

A: The school uniform looks great and you can see photos of it in your Moving Up Booklet. All students wear a shirt, tie and blazer and full details can be found on the school website and in the Parent Guide.

Q: How will I know what PE kit to bring in?

A: You don't need to bring PE kit in for your first PE lesson as you will be told about how things happen and what to expect. You'll also be told what kit you need for your next lesson so you should be sorted after that!

Q: Can I bring my mobile phone in to school?

A: Our rule on mobile phones is very simple – you are allowed to bring your mobile phone in to school but it must stay turned off, in your bag and out of sight. It will be taken off you if a member of staff sees it. If you have a real emergency, you can go to pastoral and ask to use your phone but only with permission of a member of staff.

Q: Do I have to carry all of my belongings around with me?

A: Often your teacher will keep your book in the classroom so you don't have to take everything with you. You will need your pencil case and equipment in every lesson but you'll also have a locker (if you wish) to store PE kit etc in.

Q: How can we social distance in corridors?

A: We will have strict social distancing systems in place in line with government recommendations. This will all be explained to you at the induction day / on the first day.

Q: I've missed work at primary school due to Covid-19, will this matter?

A: This has been a very strange time and all students are in a similar situation. Please don't worry, all staff and students know there has been disruption and everything will be fine – we are all there to support you!

We hope that the answers to your questions above help you feel confident about your transition to Thomas Adams and we can't wait to see you!

