

New Year 7 'Meet and Greet': Frequently Asked Questions

How will we know where to go on the first day?

Dr Ceska, Mrs Nuttycombe and Miss Jolly will be at the front gate on Induction Day to welcome you. Staff members will then guide you to your form room.

What do we need to bring to school on Induction Day (Thursday 3rd September)?

Please bring your pencil case, including a pencil, a black and/or blue pen, a green pen, a ruler and a calculator. You will also need to pack a water bottle, a snack for break time and a packed lunch. Ideally, this should all be in a sturdy backpack.

What will we learn at Newlands in September?

There are no restrictions to your curriculum under the 'Autumn Plan'. This means that as well as English, maths and science, you will have lessons in art, design and technology, drama, music, history, geography, RE, PE, French, Spanish and German.

Will homework be set in the first week? How much on average is set per day?

On Friday 4th September when you will attend your first lessons, you *may* be set homework. No tasks will be set on Induction Day.

We will give you a homework timetable to help you manage your time effectively. You will likely receive 3 to 4 pieces per day, with most designed to take around 20 minutes to complete.

Will we be in our form rooms all day?

Under the 'Autumn Plan', you will be taught the majority of lessons in your form base, with your subject specialist teachers coming to you. Within your room, you may sit in different places during the day as many of your teachers will set up a seating plan. PE lessons will take place outside, or in one of our dedicated indoor spaces if the weather is bad. You will also have a computing lesson in an ICT suite once per fortnight.

Will we have to socially distance from other Year 7 students?

No. The whole of Year 7 are one 'bubble'. You will have a designated outside space, which you can use during break and lunch time to socialise with new, and old, friends.

Do we need to buy a scientific calculator?

A scientific calculator is a good investment and will last you throughout your time at secondary school. Buying one now will also give you the chance to practise using it!

If you are unsure about which items to buy, you can purchase a calculator and geometry set from the Newlands' Maths department once you start in September.

Can the summer dress be worn in the first term?

Weather permitting, you are most welcome to wear the summer uniform. Please remember that the dress must sit well below the knee and that you also need to wear your blazer.

Do we have to wear our blazers all the time?

You will need to wear your blazer as you move around the school. While in lessons, you may remove it once you have asked for your teacher's permission.

On days when we have PE, can we wear our skorts? Do we have to wear our blazers over our PE kit? Do we need to buy sports equipment?

On days when you have PE lessons, you should come to school dressed in your kit. You can wear your skort, but you may wish to wear your jogging bottoms too to keep you warm.

You do not need to wear your blazer over you PE kit.

To begin with, you will be participating in a range of games and activities. You are not required to buy hockey sticks or football boots.

When will our sQuid account be set up? Will we be able to use the canteen?

On Induction Day, we will set you up on our biometric system and give you a letter to take home. This will contain instructions for setting up your sQuid account.

From 4th September, you will be able to pre-order items from the canteen to be delivered to your form base. More information about this will be provided soon.

Will we be buddied with a student in Year 10?

At Newlands we have a scheme called 'Big Sister, Little Sister', where we partner Year 7 students with a Year 10 'buddy'. This is an excellent opportunity for our younger girls to talk to older pupils about their experience of Newlands and ask any questions they may have. We will give you more information about this programme before we start it later in the academic year.

Will I be able to arrive at school earlier than 8.45am?

Unfortunately, under the 'Autumn Plan' you will not be able to arrive at school before 8.45 am.

Is there somewhere I can store my bike at school?

Yes. We have a covered shelter, where you can lock your bike safely. Cycling to school is a great idea!

Will we get lockers and will we need a padlock?

Lockers will not be used under the 'Autumn Plan'; however, you will be allocated one once restrictions are lifted. At this point, a padlock will be required. We recommend you purchase one with a combination code, rather than a key, as keys are easily lost.

If there is another school closure what platform will school use to contact and teach students?

On Induction Day you will attend an ICT session, where we will help you to set up your Newlands' email account. This will also give you access to Microsoft Teams, which is what will be used for interactive sessions if another lockdown is enforced.