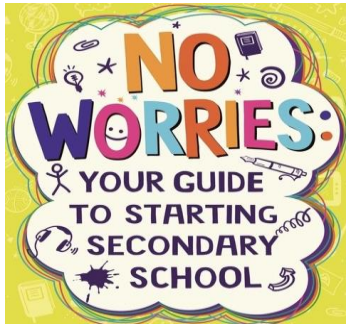




Special Needs and transition



Starting at Secondary school is a big step for anyone and in the current climate things will happen very differently. We at The Mosslands school in the Special Needs departments understand that and hope the information over the next few pages will help you as a family and answer questions and more importantly remove any worries.

Transitioning into year 7

Most transitioning students have fears about four areas of school life: making new friends, bullying, getting lost and coping with the work mainly homework.

1. Getting to know the layout of the school

On the school website we have a school virtual tour to allow you to see the school layout and get very familiar. Have a look at the tour a number of times as a family and even allow your child to look on there own.

2. Coping with the work and homework

Please don't worry about coping about work and homework this will be explained when you arrive and you will be supported by all staff in school.

Teachers will explain their expectations in lessons and answer lots of questions to ease worries. The SEND department will help as much as we can and you can come and see us anytime.

Organisation is the best trick to deal with work and homework; set up little routines and ask for help at anytime. The best tip would be to set aside a place and time solely directed to homework this could be at home or by joining a homework club, a way to contact their teachers if they are suck with all or some of the work.

Parents have a role to play as well checking in, helping with organisation ready for school plus competing homework, providing praise for their efforts put into their studies while they are doing their homework.

3. Making friends

Most of the boys will know each other from primary school, but will form new friends bonds with students in their classes or forms. Staff at school will support as much as possible especially the form tutor as this is an important part of their role.

Speak to your fellow students, get to know them, if you're nervous about meeting new people you have to remember they could be feeling the exact same way, and getting to know your fellow classmates and peers is a great way to settle into your new secondary school environment. Your teachers will probably have you doing lots of group work early on to help you get to know your colleagues, and these group sessions should be embraced.



A good way to make friends is by joining clubs or taking part in house competitions during school hours, this is when forms compete against each other.

4. Bullying

Mosslands take the job of caring for your child very seriously; Unfortunately sometimes incidents of bullying can happen. If you or your child are worrying about anything or a victim of any form of bullying please tell staff within school as soon as possible so we can deal with the incident sensitively and deal with it as needed. It's better to speak up, than to bear it in silence.

Statements about high school to help as Mosslands is different from your Primary school.

In order for your transition from primary to secondary school to be successful, there is some important information you should know. It is understandable that it can be a little scary and you may feel slightly anxious. There is no need to worry. Here are some valuable pieces of information you will need to know before beginning at Mosslands.

The first really crucial thing to understand is that it is important that if you're struggling to ask for help, whether this is with a topic you don't understand or just simply finding your way around the school, all our staff will be more than happy to help with any problems or concerns that you have.

Remember that your first impression can sometimes stick for a while so make sure you give a good one. Bring all the equipment you are asked to and also make sure your uniform is smart and adheres to Mosslands rules, this way you won't stand out for the wrong reasons.

1. Secondary school is different from primary school. But don't worry all the staff are friendly and helpful so don't be afraid to ask for assistance. There are many departments set up to help support students in their academic journey in addition to subject departments, such as SEND, HUB, Pupil services, and Pastoral including Form Teachers and House Offices. Mosslands tries to accommodate all the needs of its students, providing different provisions to help support their academic dreams.

2. The biggest and most obvious difference is that you don't stay in one classroom you move around to your different subjects and teachers.

Your form tutor will go through moving around the school, don't worry you are not on your own. Our school is likely to be bigger than your previous school, meaning more students, more teachers, more classrooms! It can take time to learn where you need to be and who you are going to be with, don't worry this is the same for everyone!

For many SEND children this is the optimum set up as change is very difficult to embrace. For SEND boys the form teacher, the SEND office and 1:1 TAs are probably the three stable points which occur every day everything else varies as boys learn to cope with changing subjects, rooms and subject teachers. It is a good plan to focus on the three things that stay the same and when you couple those up with the breaks and lunchtime a lot of the day can be seen as stable.



New teachers and new subjects are very exciting, remember make a good first impression give your new teachers a chance. Remember they are getting used to lots of new people just the same as you some of them will be new to the school just like you. Sometimes it is not just a new teacher but a completely new subject which you didn't do at primary school. Be positive about it if you can because this can open a whole new world for you. You may take to the new subject like a duck to water and it will become your strength or it may be something that feels very strange. In this case give yourself time to adjust to it as long as a whole term or even a whole year.

Changing rooms every lesson I will agree from my own experience can be quite weird at first. Towards the end of your lesson have a little peak at your timetable and at which room and subject you are headed for. If you need to look at your map. Think about where you have chosen as your reference point eg the SEND office think about where you are now in reference to it and think about where you are next headed in reference to it. Stay calm and get your bearings. Often your whole group will move together or at least part of it so all you do then is tag onto the group. If you feel lost or overwhelmed just ask the teacher in the class you are already in. The chances are whilst you're new each teacher will check that you all know where you are going.

REMEMBER...

Everyone is in the same boat on the first day. It's normal to feel nervous!

3. My School bag; A big change at high school is not having your own desk or tray where you keep your things like you did at primary school. Your bag is now your primary school tray. It is important to remember that at primary school you didn't carry your tray around all day so it didn't matter what it weighed. You must think very carefully about what you really need each day. Have a pencil

case for pens, pencils, rubber, ruler etc. Don't have these floating around in your big bag. If you don't own a pencil case a small plastic bag can be used to keep them together. Each night at home empty the bag and throw away rubbish as this will accumulate and make the bag heavier and heavier as time goes by. Each night look at tomorrow's timetable and make sure you have everything for your lessons the next day. Check your pencil case. Have you lost anything? Tell

your parent if you have. Taking charge of your own possessions is part of growing up. The better you become at it the more successful you will be at school and throughout your life.

4. You will find that the school building itself will be considerably bigger compared to your primary school. This is because there are a lot more children in the school, which means that there are more classrooms and teachers. If you get lost, do not worry. There are always teachers and students on the corridors in between lesson time who will be happy to help you find where you need to be. It might be an idea to pair up with somebody in your classes and together, you can find your classroom.

The building is an 'L' shape with three floors and divided into blocks A, B, C, and D, with additional building AXC connected through the A block. There are stair wells in each of the blocks to help you navigate the floors as well as a lift in C block opposition the SEND office.

The lift can only be accessed with a pass that all staff have, and students can obtain with permission off the SEND office and the main office.



Mosslands has over 1000 students, in year groups from year 7 to year 13(sixth form), so corridors do get a bit crowded when moving to and from different classrooms. If this is a concern please feel free to talk with the SEND department as passes are available to allow you out the class early to remove any worries.

When you get your map of the school really take some time to study it. When I was new at Mosslands I kept getting lost so I used the SEND office as a point of reference and asked everyone for help. I knew where the office was physically and on the map so I would track my movements from the SEND office. Take a picture of the school plan on your phone then when you are away from school you can look at it from time to time. You will find your way around quickly and by the end of the first week or two what seemed like a huge building will have shrunk right down in your mind and you will laugh at yourself that you ever got lost.

However if by the end of the first two weeks you feel that you are struggling to speak to other boys then take yourself to the SEND office and tell an adult who will give you help. Please do not leave this to the point where you are very unhappy at school.

5. Lunchtime will be different at secondary school to primary school but please don't worry as all staff within Mosslands will support you and help you settle in.

Lunchtime is after lesson 4 at 12.40pm and you get 50 minutes to eat your lunch and socialise with your friends on the playground.

We have a contactless system in school to pay for your items in the school canteen and this allows you to add money onto your finger to pay for your food and drinks. This will be all explained when you arrive and your form tutor will answer all your questions. So don't worry.

6. Mosslands has a very good pastoral team. This means that there are members of staff whose jobs are dedicated to make you feel safe. We have three different houses: Grenfell, Ruskin and Faraday. You will be assigned to a specific house and if you have any problems, you can report to your house office. We also have a pastoral hub. Mosslands will not tolerate bullying or bad behaviour from any student.

Like the students the staff are split into the three houses, they can be identified by the colour of the lanyards red, green and yellow. Other lanyards colours you will see are purple for the SEND department, orange for the HUB and SLT (senior leadership team), and blue the general Mosslands colour.



7. If you struggle to socialise with others and you are finding it hard to make friends or do not like large crowds at break and lunch times, do not worry. We have a safe space outside the SEND office where there are a small group of friendly students that socialise together and make each other feel safe. The large table outside of the SEND office is really is a readymade set of friends. This is an amazing safe haven if you are feeling overwhelmed when you are new. You may want to use the canteen or go out on the yard this is your choice if you want it.

You will be more than welcome to join this group if you are feeling anxious at any point.

If you are the kind of person that just enjoys your own company and would like to spend some time alone away from everybody else during your break and lunch times, then the library is the place for you. Mosslands allows students to spend break times in the library where you are allowed to take yourself into your own space and simply just read a book or complete any homework that you have been set in your classes.

If you are the type of student that needs to run off some energy, then the PE department offer some fantastic lunch time and after school sports clubs. Mosslands offer some very exciting clubs, allowing you to compete for the school. This is even a great way to socialise and make some new friends. You will be given all of the information when you join in year 7

Knowledge of what
is possible is the
beginning of Happiness

- George Santayana

Extra support for the family in these unique times.

1. Supporting Primary to High School transition.

Schudio TV is a website that has lots of courses to support education and the course below is free for a limited time and can be accessed on the below link to support you and your child with transitioning to The Mosslands school.

<https://www.schudio.tv/courses/take/supporting-primary-to-high-school-transition-for-parents-students/texts/12383903-how-to-use-this-course>

Supporting Primary to High School Transition

for parents & students

For most children and parents, the transition from primary to secondary school is a worrying time. This short free course provides proven techniques for making the transition easier for both parents and children.

Sign up as a school leader and then share this page with your parents.

Enrol for Free



What you'll learn on this course

Recommended to share with parents of students moving from Year 6 to Year 7, or those moving school. This short, free course will reassure and advise on key, practical steps to supporting transition.

2. As always BBC Bitesize has lots of information and guidance for families and currently has the below webpage with lots of activities to support pupils making the big jump

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zh4wy9q/starting-secondary-school/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/transitioning-to-secondary-school/zkc9pg8>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/find-your-feet-transitioning-to-secondary-school/>

I hope these tips are helpful and will settle any nerves in starting your new life at Mosslands School.

- Be patient, practice, make mistakes, try again. **Succeed.**
- Uniform is important, look smart, learn smart!

Motivation
Opportunity
Standards
Support
Learning
Actions
Nurturing
Determination
Success



We look forward to meeting you all when you arrive at Mosslands.

Mrs Treanor and all The Teaching Assistants.

SEND Department -

<p>Nicola Treanor - SENDCO/Head of Learning Support nicolatreanor@mosslands.wirral.sch.uk</p>		<p>Joanne Kewin - Teaching Assistant L3</p>	
<p>Margaret Oldfield - Teaching Assistant L3</p>		<p>Laura O'Toole - Teaching Assistant L2</p>	
<p>Tom Ward - Teaching Assistant L2</p>		<p>Sam Platt - Teaching Assistant L2</p>	
<p>Sophie Everson - Teaching Assistant L2</p>		<p>Paula Keating - Teaching Assistant L2</p>	
<p>Denise Moran - Teaching Assistant L2</p>	Awaiting image	<p>Anna Safadi - Teaching Assistant L2</p>	