

## UPDATED - Frequently Asked Questions – Student

Q. I'm a bit worried about catching the school bus? What happens if I'm late?

A. It's natural to be nervous about something that you haven't experienced before so try not to worry! Watch the 'How to... Use the School Bus' video which you can find in the Transition Video section. You can also watch a video made by the bus company by clicking [here](#). If you arrive late for school, come to Main Reception and a member of staff will sign you in.

Q. Will I need PE kit on my first day?

A. No, you won't need to bring your PE kit on the first day in September.

Q. What trainers do I need for PE?

A. Trainers can be any colour. They must be a 'sporty' trainer with laces, and not a fashion trainer (this includes Converse).

Q. What time does school start and finish?

A. You need to be in school (at your Form room or Assembly) by 8.55am. At the end of the day the bell rings at 3.05pm.

Q. What happens if I arrive late to school?

A. The gate to the service road is locked at 8.55am. If you arrive late you will need to go to Main Reception and sign in.

Q. Can I bring my bike to school?

A. Yes, walk down the service road with your bike and park it in the bike store at the bottom.

Q. I have to get a school bus, how will I know where to go at the end of the day?

A. There will be lots of staff to help you find the correct school bus at the end of the day. You need to know which bus number you need to catch and we can direct you to the bus stop. (There will be an information video about the school buses in the Video section soon!)

Q. What happens if I miss the bus to go home at 3.05pm?

A. If you miss the bus, come back into school through Main Reception. We will help you to get home safely.

Q. Where do you eat your lunch?

A. In the Dining Hall, you are not allowed to eat your lunch outside (even if it is a packed lunch).

Q. How long is lunch?

A. The lunch break is 45 minutes long.

Q. How do I pay for my lunch?

A. When you start in September you will either have your thumb print scanned or will be given a Personal Identification Number (PIN). To have your thumb print scanned we will need permission from your parents or carers. When using the Dining Hall you will choose your food then go to a till to pay, you'll either put your thumb on the scanner or tell the dining hall staff your PIN number.

Q. My friends are having a school dinner but I have packed lunches – am I allowed to sit with them?

A. Yes! You will queue up with them to go into the Dining Hall and can choose where to sit inside.

Q. Are there any clubs on at lunchtime?

A. Yes, staff who run the different clubs will let Form tutors know when and where they are in September.

Q. Where are the toilets?

A. The main student toilets are found by the Dining Hall and just outside the English department in the 3 storey block.

Q. Where will my form room be?

A. You'll find this out in September when you meet your Form tutor. You won't be expected to find it yourself on the first day!

Q. I'm really worried about getting lost – what can I do to help myself?

A. Firstly, try not to worry about it. We will be adding a Map Activity into the resources area that you can use if you'd like to. As soon as you have started at STM you will soon be able to find your way around.

Q. Will I be in classes with my friends?

A. Your primary teachers have passed on information about who you would like to be in a form group with. We try to make sure everyone is with at least one friend. Remember, secondary school is a great opportunity to meet new people and make new friends too!

Q. When will I get my timetable?

A. Your Form tutor will give it to you on your first day in September.

Q. Are subjects taught in sets?

A. For most lessons you will be taught in form groups. Maths is taught in sets. For practical subjects such as Design Technology and Food Technology you will be taught in smaller groups.

Q. Am I allowed to bring my phone to school?

A. Yes. You are allowed to use your phone at break and lunch times, outside on the yard or in the Dining Hall. If you use it anywhere else in the buildings or during lessons it will be confiscated.

Q. Can I wear jewellery?

A. You are allowed to wear one pair of small, plain studs in the ear lobes (these need to be removed for PE). You are also allowed a wrist watch. No other jewellery is allowed.

Q. Am I allowed to wear make-up?

A. No, pupils in Years 7, 8 & 9 are not allowed to wear any make up (this includes nail polish and false nails).

Q. Can I colour my hair?

A. Hair must be a natural colour. No bright or artificial colours are allowed.

Q. Do I need a water bottle for school?

A. Yes, we do not sell bottles of water in the Dining Hall but you can refill a bottle from one of the water coolers. Make sure your water bottle is labelled with your name.

Q. Where are the changing rooms?

A. There are 2 sets of changing rooms. Your PE teacher will tell you which one you will use for your PE lessons.

Q. What happens if I can't do PE?

A. If you forget your PE kit the PE department will usually be able to loan you the kit you need for the lesson. If you are injured or unwell you should bring a note from your parent or carer. You should still bring your PE kit to get changed as you will be given another role in the lesson, e.g. coach or referee.

Q. I need to take medication during the school day. What should I do?

A. Your parents or carers need to contact school to let us know that you need to take medication when at school. We have a member of staff called Mrs Jones who supports students with medication needs and she is based in the Medical Room.

Q. What do I do if I lose something?

A. Try to retrace your steps and go back to the different places you have been since you last had the item. If you cannot find it you need to ask at Pastoral and at Main Reception as it may have been handed in. We suggest that you don't bring anything expensive to school.

**If you have any questions that haven't been answered either here, in the Parent Handbook or in the videos please email me at [transition@stmacademy.org.uk](mailto:transition@stmacademy.org.uk). Each week I will update the FAQ's with any new questions I receive.**