



# Bishop David Brown School

## Vision Statement

*"To be an outstanding school, providing a stimulating educational environment enabling students to achieve their full potential."*

Dear Future Year 7's,

My first few weeks of Secondary School were interesting and fun. The teachers are really kind, helpful and welcoming. As a result, I settled into year 7 easily. One of my worries at the beginning of school was that the teachers were going to be too strict however they proved me wrong. As I said before the teachers are really caring and are always there to help anyone whenever they needed it.

In secondary school I was rather looking forward to changing to go to different classes on my own however, due to Covid-19 we were unable to do that. Another thing that I like about Secondary School are the Science Experiments in the Lab.

The main difference between Secondary and Primary school is that you get this sense of maturity when starting Secondary School and become more independent.

Overall, Secondary School is great, and you'll probably have a lot of fun here. Good Luck for your new School year!

Amina

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Dear Future Year 7's,

Sometimes in the beginning things can be stressful but things do get better. My first few weeks were kind of stressful and I was confused in a lot of my lessons, but now that I have learnt the way BDB works, things aren't as hard.

When I started school on the 9th of March 2021, I had a lot of worries; like not fitting in and not being able to catch on to the way things are done, but the teachers and students really helped me and I have made amazing friends. The teachers were really nice and understanding and with the students, you just have to be yourself and the right friends will come around.

Secondary school isn't that much different to primary school but at times things are more stressful and you need to be a little bit more mature.

I like secondary school because it just makes me feel good about myself because it makes me realize that I am growing into a woman. Secondary school also gives you the opportunity to make new friends. I am so happy that I have made friends with the people I have because they are just so nice and are such wholesome people.

Overall BDB is such a good school and there is nothing to be afraid about when you start, they will make you feel super comfortable and make sure that you are doing okay. They will make you feel welcome! I hope that you have amazing years at BDB and just remember be yourself and don't let anyone put you down. "Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible" - Audrey Hepburn. Have fun and work hard.

Lucy-Jane



Unity Schools Trust

*'Excellence through collaboration'*

Bishop David Brown School is operated by the Unity Schools Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07692130. The Registered Office is at Thorpe Road Staines-upon-Thames TW18 3HJ.

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Dear new Year 7 students,

Welcome to BDB! I have been asked to tell you about my experiences when I first started Year 7. Luckily, I didn't find it very different from primary school, however this was because of Covid restrictions. Just like primary school, we had to stay in one classroom, which was our tutor base. The subjects were pretty similar, except for food tech and you can also take DT, which I didn't have in my old school. When the restrictions are lifted, we will be moving around to different classrooms which I am looking forward to.

I have enjoyed my start at secondary school as it gave me a chance to make new friends, meet new teachers and enjoy different subjects. I was a little bit anxious about starting at BDB, but everyone was very welcoming and the teachers were all helpful. Unfortunately, we didn't get the usual pupil guides to help us when we moved around, but the teachers collected us and showed us where to go. You will be fortunate enough to have pupil guides to help you navigate the school for the first few weeks. This will help you feel a part of the school community.

So even if you are feeling a bit nervous about starting your new school journey, just be yourself and have fun!

Tristan

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To new Year 7,

I know the transition from primary school to secondary school can be scary but trust me, it gets a lot better. In your first few weeks you might be scared about making friends, finding your class or what your teachers will be like, but you don't need to worry. You will make friends in the first few days like I did. You might have trouble at the very beginning finding your way around but soon enough you will know the place like the back of your hand. And the teachers always will be so helpful, kind, and generous.

Now, personally, I love secondary school but my favourite part of BDB is the community. Since our year groups are small you know at least everyone's name and you feel a sense of community. It is like a school version of a neighbourhood.

It is quite different to primary school since there are so many more practices like in DT or Science. You move around the school to all the different subjects but, like I said you will know the place like the back of your hand in a week. It is a lot of fun in subjects like music playing keyboards, making a truck in DT, or setting your hands on fire (safely) with bubbles in science. In my first few weeks I was quite scared about making friends but luckily, I found some really good friends. I was worried about how nice or kind teachers were but, every teacher I have met is very nice and kind.

I hope reading this gave you a boost of confidence about going to secondary school, start the year with a bang.

George



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### **Q1. Are the teachers strict?**

*A. Some of them can be, but if you do what you are told and do your homework then they are really friendly.*

### **Q2. Are the older students nice to year 7's?**

*A. Most of them are. The ones that talk to you are nice.*

### **Q3. What are the classes like?**

*A. Most of the lessons are very fun and interesting. In some lessons you might do practical's as well as written lessons. For example, in Science, you will do a mixture of writing and experiments.*

### **Q4. How much homework do you get?**

*A. We have a homework timetable. This tells you when you will get homework for each lesson. Some lessons you will get homework once a week, some once a fortnight.*

### **Q5. How long did it take to learn your way around the school?**

*A. For me it didn't take very long. It isn't a huge school and all the classes are in specific corridors. For example, the English classes are all together, the Science classes are together and so on. It will take time, though - just make sure you read your timetable carefully.*

### **Q6. What do you do during tutor time?**

*A. Each day we did something different. Sometimes we read in silence, or we do different activities from booklets and sometimes we do PSHE lessons.*

### **Q7. What are APs?**

*A. APs stand for 'Assessment Points'. They are tests that we do every term. They test your knowledge and see how much you have learnt in that term. You do a total of 3 APs a year.*

### **Q8. Are the APs difficult?**

*A. It depends whether you have paid attention in class! The APs are full of the things you learnt in that term. If you paid attention and worked hard, you will do very well and shouldn't find it too hard.*

### **Q9. What is food in the canteen like and what is there?**

*A. In my opinion the food is really tasty, much better than primary school dinners. There is a selection of hot snacks such as hash browns, chicken wraps, pizza, chicken wings, nachos and loads more. There are also some other foods like muffins, cookies, brownies, fruit, sandwiches. For meals you can get things like burgers, fish and hot dogs. It is also not very expensive.*

### **Q10. What can you do at break times?**

*A. At break there are lots of things you can do or places you can go. You can go into the canteen and sit in there. You can go to the study centre where you can read or catch up on homework. You can also stay in the playground and hang out with your friends. You can eat food at either break 1 or 2 and you are allowed to eat on the playground or in the canteen. You are even allowed to buy food from the canteen and eat it outside.*



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