

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the queues like at lunch time?

There are two lunch times at Great Baddow. The first one is for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 11. The second one is for Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form. This means you won't be queueing with the whole school. In the first few weeks Year 7 are allowed to go to lunch 10 minutes early to get you used to the queueing system and how the Diner works. Also, when you are queueing, there are ladies from the Diner supervising the queue and monitoring everyone's behaviour/conduct. The queues can get quite long but they move very quickly. If you join a lunchtime club, you will sometimes be given a queue jump pass so you can jump the queue and be the first in line for food so you can get to your club on time.

2. Will I get pushed by the older students in the corridors, on the stairs, in a queue?

When everyone is moving around the school, it can get quite busy. We have recently changed the stair system so there are, 'Up' stairs and 'Down' stairs. This has successfully reduced the amount of people on the stairs and there's no bumping into someone who is trying to go the other way. There are also a few one-way systems, like in the Diner, to help with the flow of people at break and lunchtimes. As the smallest students in the school, there will be a lot of students who are bigger than you, but the vast majority of older students are focused on what they are doing, not on Year 7. Lots will look after you and keep an eye out for you. If something does happen it is really important to tell your form tutor, Mrs Coffey or Miss Corfield.

3. What if I can't do the work?

Your teachers will be very aware that, as new Year 7s, you are worried about all of the different subjects, tasks, and homework that you may be asked to do. If you find something too tricky, then please talk to your teacher. Your teachers are there to help you learn and progress. If you are stuck, it's really important that you try and tackle the task in front of you and try to complete it, rather than giving up. If you are nervous or worried about the work in a particular lesson but you don't feel like you can talk to the teacher, then speak to your form tutor; they may be able to help. And remember, you will not be on your own, other people in the class may be feeling the same as you.

4. What if I find it hard to make friends?

At Great Baddow we are really confident that you will make friends! There are over 250 students in the year group, and they have all come from over 40 different primary schools. We are confident that you will be able to make firm friendships in the first few days and weeks. One of the best ways to make friends is to join a club, as you will find people who enjoy the same things as you. Also, get talking to people in your classes, in your form group, even other Year 7s on the bus! Make sure you have ways of keeping in touch outside of school too, so you can help each other with homework, play games and socialise. If you do have trouble making friends, then we are here to help! Come and speak to your form tutor, Mrs Coffey or Miss Corfield. We can guarantee that you won't be alone in how you feel, and we can help you find other people to socialise with.

5. Do you get a lot of homework?

It is very likely that you will be getting more homework than you did at primary school. However, your teachers are aware that you will have a lot of new subjects and new expectations to try and understand. With this in mind, you will have realistic homework deadlines (so you will have time to complete each task), and tasks should not take you hours and hours. Ideally, a homework task will take you between 30 - 45 minutes. For core subjects (English, Maths, Science) you will have one piece of homework a week. For everything else, one piece of homework a fortnight.

6. How do I keep up with the homework?

We would recommend getting into good habits as soon as you can. A good homework routine is the key to keeping to your homework deadlines. If you can, try and make a start on homework on the day it is set. When you get home from school, try and do 45-60 minutes of homework so you can tick some tasks off the list on Show My Homework. Show My Homework lists homework by the deadline so doing it on the day set is the best way to make sure that you don't end up with lots of simultaneous deadlines. If you let homework tasks pile up, you may start to worry. If you struggle to do homework at home, there is a Homework Club which runs at a lunchtime, so you can get your work done during school time. You can also use the library before school, at break time, lunch time and most nights afterschool too! If you are finding a homework task hard and need help, then ask your specific subject teacher before the deadline. Don't leave it until the deadline to tell them you've not done it!

7. What if I forget a log-in or password?

When you join Great Baddow you will likely have to remember some usernames and passwords for different things. The main ones will be to log in to the school computers, and for Show My Homework. These details are posted home; keep them in a safe place so you know where to find them if you forget them! When you are in school, you can go and find the Network Managers who will be able to tell you your log-in details. If you forget your log-in for something subject-specific, e.g. Mathswatch, then go and speak to the specific teacher for that subject, they will be able to help you remember it or reset it.

8. What if I forget a piece of homework?

Go and speak to the teacher who set the work as soon as you realise. If your lesson is after lunch, go and find them during lunch time and tell them; this is a much better option than leaving it until the lesson. If you remember early enough, then go to Student Admin and they could phone someone at home to bring it in. If you do forget your homework then your teacher will likely ask you to bring it to them the next day. In the first few weeks, your teachers will be lenient with you as they know you are getting used to lots of new things and may not be 100% organised 100% of the time. We would also recommend packing your school bag the night before so you know you have everything you need. This way, if you have forgotten to do a piece of homework, you will still have time.

9. Where do I go if I feel sick?

You will need to go to see Mrs Enever in Student Admin. This is located in Main building, near the Diner and the lockers. If you are in a lesson and feel sick, then tell your teacher and they can send you to Student Admin with a friend so you don't get lost.

10. Who do I tell if something bad has happened?

If you are in a lesson, then tell the class teacher. If you are in tutor time, then tell your form tutor. If it is at break time or lunch time, then you can tell any member of staff who is on duty, the Diner staff, the staff in Student Admin, or come and find Mrs Coffey or Miss Corfield. The quicker we know about something, the quicker we can deal with it. It is much better to come and tell us straight away rather than telling someone at home first and then getting them to call us. If we know about it immediately, we can deal with whatever the problem is immediately.

11. Will my teacher let me go to the toilet?

In the first few weeks, your teachers will understand that you are getting used to a new school day routine and going to the toilet won't be a problem. However, you should really only need to go to the toilet before school, at break time, lunch time, and at the end of the school day. It may take you a little while to get used to a new school day but certainly after October half term, your teachers may start to be a little more strict. If you have a medical issue, then you may be entitled to a red 'medical pass' which allows you to leave the classroom to go to the toilet, or to take medication. These are put together by Mrs Enever and your parents will need to provide some medical evidence to the school office.

12. What happens if I lose my locker key?

If you lose your locker key, you will need to go to the main Reception, before Registration, and inform them of the loss. They will arrange for you to collect a master key which you must ask your parent to use to get more keys cut, at your expense. You must then return the master key to main Reception. We recommend you keep it very safe, maybe with your house keys or your bike lock key so it's not on its own.

13. What happens if I get lost?

You might get lost in your first few weeks although you'll be surprised how quickly you get to know your way around. If you do get lost then the best thing to do is ask someone! You won't get in trouble for getting lost.

14. What happens if I get a detention?

If you get a detention for poor behaviour you will receive a slip of paper telling you when your detention is. It is usually after school the next day. On the day of the detention your parents will get a text letting them know that you have a detention.

15. What happens if I forget a book/equipment?

If you forget a book or equipment you will get a strike on your expectation card. Six strikes equals a detention so make sure you get your bag organised the night before school.

16. Do I have to carry my bags with me all day/can I leave things in my locker/do I need a locker?

You don't have to get a locker, but if you want one you must get your parents to purchase one before September. You won't be able to visit your locker in between lessons (unless it's break or lunchtime) so you will still need to carry some books around with you.

17. Do I have to learn German/Spanish?

If you are in B band you will learn Spanish, if you are in G band you will learn German. You will find out in September which band you are in.

18. What is an expectation card?

You will be given an expectation card in September. Teachers can strike your card if you forget something or if your uniform is not correct. You can get 6 strikes before you get a detention.

19. What happens if I lose or forget my Diner card?

You can get a temporary card from the reprographics office which is in the Diner or you can buy a replacement. The reprographics office will strike your expectations card when they give you a temporary card.

20. What happens if I arrive late to school?

You must sign in at Student Admin. You may be given a half hour late detention.

21. What happens if I miss the school bus?

You must call your parents to let them know. If you miss the school bus there is no other way of you getting to school.

22. What happens if something happens on the bus?

You must let teachers know if something happens on the bus that you are unhappy with. Usually there are older students on the bus who will act as bus monitors and will help you but it is important that you also tell us.

23. What are the queues like at lunch time?

We have a split lunchtime at GBHS so you will have lunch with Year 8 and Year 11 students. The queue can sometimes be long but it does tend to move quickly. Remember, you can bring a packed lunch if you'd rather not queue.

24. Does bullying happen at GBHS?

Fortunately bullying doesn't happen often at GBHS, however, sometimes people are mean to each other. The most important thing is that should someone be mean to you, or should you witness something that you are unhappy about that you report it to an adult. Above all, be kind to people and treat them the way you would want to be treated.