



Dear year 6's,

We know that moving from primary to secondary school can be a little scary so we have put together some letters of advice from our current year 7's!

Soraya

'If you're worried about teachers being mean don't worry they are not they are so welcoming especially your head of year. Starting year 7 is not as scary as you might think. All the students have been in year 7 so we all know how it feels so you're not alone.'

Yayhe

'Some advice I would give is to be organized. Make sure that you are writing your homework down in your in your planner so won't get detention when the homework is due. My second piece of advice is don't be afraid to ask people for help because if you can't ask schoolmates for help how are you going to ask your colleagues at work questions? My third piece of advice is to put all effort into schoolwork and homework because it will all when you choose your GCSE's. Find out what your good at and what you're not good at.'

Beatrice

'If you can find a lunch time club that you enjoy it's a good way to spend your lunch time. Keeping an up to date planner will help you stay organised. The day before check your planner to see what you'll need the next day and what homework you'll need to hand in. Always double check that you have your clear pencil case and your planner the evening before school and in the morning.'

Reanna

Going from Primary to Secondary school is a big jump, which could make you nervous. When you're on your way to secondary school, a lot will be going through your mind, you might feel worried but your friends and the teachers at Ark Acton Academy will support you throughout your experience here. If you are afraid or worried, don't hold back your thoughts and feelings. Speak up and tell a teacher, they can help you. The teachers at Ark Acton will listen and show understanding.

There is no need to be frightened of the older kids because they might be taller than you but they're nice. If you think you're not going to do well in a subject or anything else, don't think that. You will never know unless you try your absolute best. Everyone is good at something in their own way. I was a bit scared when I first got here but when I realised everyone is here for you, you're safe and you always will be. All of this hard work and listening will pay off in the future.



Ark Acton Academy

If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make a change...

John

'It's hard when you leave your old school friends, but I found you soon meets lots of new friends at Ark Acton!'

Yuri

'The food at secondary school is waaay better!'

Dear future Year 7,

Starting High School may turn out to be quite difficult for the majority of you. New people, new faces and more names to learn but there is nothing to worry about. Yes, you may be the youngest and smallest in the school with the year 10's and 11's towering over you but like I said at the beginning, there is nothing to worry about. You have the safeguarding team, teachers, parents and friends to talk about your worries to. Most importantly, remember to strive for excellence as Year 7 is pretty tough. Remember to not stress about classwork and exams so prepare beforehand. That is my best piece of advice to you. Look forward into the future and learn from the past so you don't repeat the same mistakes again because not everybody is perfect and there will be times where you do make mistakes. Do your best because you only get one chance at life but you have an abundance of decisions to make within life so choose the right path to achieve your dream goal.

Harun

Wilkie

Ark Acton Academy is a good school there is nothing to be afraid of. When I started, I was slightly afraid, but it turned out to be a really nice experience meeting new people and trying new things. The school is very helpful there are a ton of clubs that are free to participate in that are a lot of fun. If you're worried about work, it's easy to manage and keep track of they don't pile it on you by giving you tons or anything. My overall time at the school has been great as well all the teachers are very friendly as long as you follow the rules!



Messages of advice from Year 7 to Year 6 students

Dear Year 6,

My name is Daisy and I'm in Year 7. The past few months have been very strange and different for everyone and it is easy to become overwhelmed with the prospect of starting secondary school in September.

When I first arrived at Ark Acton last September I was very nervous about almost everything. I loved my years of primary school; it always seemed so familiar and secure - and the thought of starting at a new school with students much older than me seemed very scary. I'm sure many of you are feeling anxious too. Secondary school is very different to primary but 'different' isn't always a bad thing.

This time last year, I was very worried about not making friends. However, on my first day I got talking to some other kids in my year and I have now got a group of great friends that I can rely on. Everyone in your year will be in the same situation as you are so you are not the only one feeling apprehensive about taking the next step in your education. There will be many more students in your year at secondary school than at primary so there will always be someone that you get along with.

When I first came around the school with my parents before joining, I was struck by how big the school was and I was certain that I would never be able to find my way around! I did get lost a few times, but all my teachers were very understanding and helped me remember where to go.

There are many routines here that are different to primary, for example, in the morning we have 'silent line up'. To me, this seemed rather strange at first, but I soon got used to it and I now see it as a calm start to the school day and it helps me focus for the day ahead.

I have always known what subjects I love, for me, my great love was English. At secondary school, I have been able to build on the subjects I enjoy, and I've learnt how to be resilient and carry on with the subjects that I'm not so good at. There are many new opportunities that you will get. For instance, we have great facilities like recording studios where some students write and sing their own original songs, a gym that students can use on designated days and very cool DT workshops where we can make almost everything. For those who are interested in science, we have engaging lessons with regular experiments.

There have been many exciting opportunities this year for me. There have been netball fixtures against other local teams, numerous debating competitions, spelling bees and a University trip to St Mary's in Twickenham. We have very fun afterschool clubs too: netball, lacrosse, trampolining, chess, football, drama club and many, many more. My personal favourite club is debating. It has really helped with my confidence and I have got to know many of the older kids and they're not as scary as I initially thought! There is a full list of extra-curricular activities on the Ark Acton Academy website.

I hope that this letter has helped with some of your pre-high school nerves...

We are all looking to welcoming you in September.

Best of luck,

Daisy Pullen-Milne



Ark Acton Academy

John Butler

Welcome to Year 7 at Ark Acton Academy. Whatever school you are coming from I am sure you will feel welcome. You might like our library with an endless amount of books. I found it a lot larger and a bigger variation than at my old Primary School. The number of clubs you can go to has got a lot bigger as well.

Lexi Cartlidge

Dear Future Year 7s,

When I first started at Ark Acton Academy I was very nervous. However, I soon learnt that I had nothing to worry about! I was very anxious about meeting new friends as I can imagine you will be too. Not many people came to Ark from my Primary School, but it was very easy to make new friends as we were all feeling the same. Another thing I was anxious about was finding my way around the school! From the outside the school looks very big and intimidating so you think it's going to be really hard to find your way around, but it isn't! It's a lot easier than you expect and everything leads off the main staircase.

I wish that before I started someone would have told me that even though it's very strange at the start everything begins to feel normal after a few weeks.

Our school has so many extracurricular activities! Such as after school clubs and lunch time clubs! The clubs I do are: Netball, Trampolining, Debating and Eco-club but there are also clubs such as: Football, French club, Table tennis and more! Ark Acton Academy also has a gym so on certain days you can go to the gym after school and go on the treadmills, cycling machine, cross trainer and loads more!

I hope this puts your mind at rest and I look forward to seeing you later this year!!