

Transition FAQs

Getting Settled

Will my child be in a tutor group with their friends from primary school?

If your child is coming to us with other children from the same primary school then we always look at whether it is possible to pair them up with someone they know but would never limit them to being only with children from their previous school – and if they are the only one joining us from their primary, that's no problem at all as there are plenty of activities in the first weeks to help everyone make new friends.

When will my child know their tutor group and form tutor?

Your child will find out which House and which tutor group they are in on the first day of term in September.

When will I first meet my child's Form Tutor?

You would normally meet your child's Form Tutor on Transition Day and all parents have an opportunity to meet their child's tutor for a review meeting before the end of the first term.

Do you operate a setting or banding system?

Yes. From September 2020, when our PAN increases to 120 we anticipate implementing a setting system in each of our core subjects (English, Maths, Science). In light of current circumstances, students will be taught in mixed ability classes for the first half term. Thereafter, setting will be decided based upon a combination of data from primaries and baseline assessments.

Will my child have to sit tests when they start in year 7?

Your child will not sit any tests on their first day of school but will complete assessed tasks in their subjects during the first term and we anticipate that they will complete Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) during the first half term.

How will missing SATs affect my child starting secondary school?

We are working closely with our primary colleagues to minimise the impact of school closures and will delay setting of students in Year 7 until the end of the first half term (October) in order that we can develop a clear picture of the group(s) that will best meet your child's needs.

My child has additional needs, what will be in place to give them the extra help they need?

The Suthers School has a team of Teaching Assistants led by a SENDCO who will make sure that the needs of all children are being met. This includes support in developing emotional literacy as well as addressing any other specific learning needs. Our SENDCO will be in touch as part of the transition process to make sure we fully understand your child's needs before they start in September.

What equipment do I need to provide for my child?

You'll find a full list of the equipment your child needs in our Parent Handbook. This includes essential stationery items, a mini dictionary & thesaurus and a reading book. You can also view a copy of our uniform and essential equipment list by clicking [here](#)

How will my child know their way around the school building?

All new starters will be provided with a map and with plenty of opportunities to get to know their way around as part of our transition programme and during the first weeks of term. Staff and other students will always be on hand to help point your child in the right direction.

When will my child receive their timetable?

School timetables are likely to be affected by COVID-19 but your child will be issued with their timetable during the first week of term. They will spend time with their Form Tutor getting to know this and understanding how it will work day-to-day.

What are the term dates for 2020-2021?

Our term dates match those of other Nova Education Trust schools. Please note that this will not necessarily be the same as Nottinghamshire County Council. To view dates for 2020-21 and beyond, please click [here](#) or visit the [information for parents](#) section of our website.

When will my child receive their bus pass and how will they know where to catch it from and at what time?

A complete guide to transport, including how to apply for a bus pass, bus routes and drop-off/pick up times is available [here](#).

Is there anything I can do to prepare my child for starting at secondary school?

Encourage them to complete the transition challenges we publish, read something from our recommended reading list and join our virtual transition event on Wednesday 8 July – and look forward to starting at The Suthers School at a milestone moment in its history when everyone starting back in September will be starting a brand new school!

What's the food in the canteen like? Can my child bring a packed lunch?

We are really excited about the food that will be on offer to our students. It's absolutely fine to bring a packed lunch but when we move into our brand new building, all our meals will be provided by Aspens – a specialist catering company who work with all schools in the Nova Education Trust. You can take a look at a [sample Aspens menu](#) here and find out more about the company by visiting their [website](#).

How do I get in touch if I need to speak to someone about my child?

If you have any questions or need further advice, please don't hesitate to email us at contact@suthersschool.co.uk or call 01636 957690. Once your child has started school, the first point of contact would normally be their Form Tutor.

Routines

How do I report my child's absence if they are unwell?

On the rare occasion that your child is too unwell to attend school, please make contact with us by 8am on the day of absence. You will need to call 01636 957690 and choose the 'report a student absence' option to speak to a member of our reception team or leave a message.

How and when will homework be set?

Homework (Independent Study) is set on a weekly basis by each of your child's subject teachers and whilst some of this may be completed at home, they have at least 2 Supervised Study sessions (2 x 50mins) in school every week in which they are able to complete these tasks. All students are issued with a planner at the start of the year and use this to record their homework and when it is due in.

What will a typical school day look like?

At The Suthers School, we operate an extended school day Monday – Thursday. This means that with the exception of Fridays (when we finish at 3pm) the normal school day runs from 8:30am to 4pm. The school day starts with Form Time. You can view a copy of our school day summary by clicking [here](#).

Where do I order my child's uniform?

Our uniform is available to order from [Academy Uniform Supplies](#). To find out more, including the starter pack which contains all the essentials, click [here](#).

Rules and Expectations

What behaviour systems are used and how will my child know how to follow them?

Our 'work hard, be kind' philosophy is underpinned by a clear, stepped approach to behaviour management. At all times, we seek to ensure that students maintain the highest standards of conduct and will always work to support them in making the right choices. The stepped consequence system provides a graduated approach which seeks to reinforce the five key character strengths (tenacity, optimism, respect, curiosity and hard work). Further information about how this works in practice is available in our Parent Handbook (issued directly to parents in July/August).

What is the uniform policy?

We take great pride in the high standards of uniform established since first opening and our students wear their uniform with pride as well. You can find full information about our school dress code and uniform policy in our Parent Handbook (issued directly to parents in July/August) and by clicking [here](#)

Will my child be allowed a mobile phone?

In the interests of safety, students will be allowed to bring a mobile phone to school. However, students are not permitted to use a mobile phone at any point during the school day or within the school site at any point unless directed by a member of staff. Smart Watches are strictly prohibited.

Opportunities

What makes The Suthers School different?

It's a brand new school so you'll be part of shaping what it will become. The extended school day provides guaranteed access to enrichment activities as well as at least two periods a week of Supervised Study (where you have chance to complete your homework). As a school we all work to develop 5 key character strengths: tenacity, optimism, respect, curiosity, hard work. Your teachers help you develop these every day and it's a big part of what it means to be a student at The Suthers School and means there is a strong emphasis on personal development. Other opportunities include our Leadership Academy, Advanced Study Classes and annual events like our Oracy Challenge.

What is your rewards system like?

We have a brilliant online House Point system using an award-winning platform called Epraise. Students earn points for demonstrating excellence in relation to our TORCH character strengths (Tenacity, Optimism, Respect, Curiosity, Hard work). The system we operate allows students to manage their own accounts online, earn the chance to take part in prize draws, spend their points in our House Point Shop and even donate their points to a nominated charity. We have four Houses (Attenborough, Beacon, Skylark, Treswell) and each one has been named after a local conservation area that the late Martin Suthers OBE had a lot of involvement with.

Are there any trips for students in Year 7?

Yes – this will of course be subject to any COVID-19 restrictions still in place but we normally run a character challenge day in the first term for all Year 7 as well as a number of other trips during the year, including a Golden Ticket Reward Trip (that students must earn a place on) at the end of every year.

What extra clubs and activities will my child be able to get involved in?

Whether it's something at lunchtime, during or after school, one of the big advantages of having an extended school day is that we are able to guarantee that every child will participate in an extensive enrichment / co-curricular programme. A full list of enrichment / co-curricular activities will be published at the start of the academic year but will always include six different types of activity (sport, performance, creativity, social action, life skills and intellectual challenge).