

Dear New Year 7,

We remember being in your position and feeling really nervous about coming to Lord Grey. However, we can honestly say that there was no need to feel nervous at all, because you will find from your very first day, a group of caring students and teachers. You will meet your tutor group straight away and they will all be feeling exactly the same as you! We really worried about getting lost in such a big school, but the other students looked out for us and showed us where we needed to be. Of course you are going to get lost, but that's absolutely fine. You won't get in any trouble and it does not take long to find your way around the school, especially after you have been through your timetable a couple of times. We also made new friends really easily. You will be with lots of different students in each of your classes, so there is plenty of opportunity to start talking to new people. You just need to remember that everyone is in the same position, so find the courage to say hello and you will soon start to make friends. Your Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year can also really help you to settle into life at Lord Grey. If you do find it difficult at first, then do go to the Year 7 Hub and they will soon make you feel welcome and give you lots of great advice.

We also worried about getting lots of Consequence Points, but the teachers are very fair here and you'll only receive a C Point if you deserve one! So our advice to you is to follow The Lord Grey Way and you'll be fine. If you work hard, you will be rewarded, especially with Value Points. We love earning Value Points and your parents can see if you have been lucky enough to gain any each day through looking on Go4Schools. It also shows if you received any C Points, so be careful!

We also worried about the amount of self-study we would be set and whether or not it would be too difficult. To start with, you will only have self-study in a few of your subjects and the work tends to go over what you have already learnt in class. It is a way of your teacher checking that you have understood the classwork. As you then become more settled in school, you will get more self-study, but if you plan how to use your time at home, or in the library, you will soon get into a routine for completing your self-study. You can always ask people in your tutor group for help, too. There is a homework club after school, so if you struggle to work at home, Lord Grey does give you the space and resources to complete your self-study at school.

Lord Grey is a brilliant place to make friends and to take part in lots of different activities during lunchtimes and after school. There are lots of sporting clubs, including football, rugby, basketball, dance and even darts on a Friday lunchtime! You can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award and Art club is also really popular. Timetables with all of the different clubs are published at the start of each term and your tutor takes you through them. We would say have a go at everything and see what you like.

Most importantly, food! The food in our canteen is really good and everyday there is lots of choice. There is also Street Kitchen and Pronto, so there are lots of places for you to get your food.

We hope this letter has made you feel excited about joining Lord Grey in September. Everybody feels nervous about starting secondary school, but we can honestly say that Lord Grey is a friendly and happy place, where you will feel safe and cared for everyday.

Archie, Ben, Aidan, Isabella and Fallon
(Year 7 and 8 students)