



We can't wait to meet you!

Hi Year 6

Welcome to our Goffs community. We were all in your position this time last year with feeling excited but also a little apprehensive about what to expect! So we have put some letters together for you, to share our experiences of joining secondary school. We promise it is not as scary as it seems! You will have such great opportunities and will be looked after by all of the great staff at Goffs.

We look forward to meeting you all in September.

From team Year 7

(and Miss McBride and Mr Petrou)

POEM

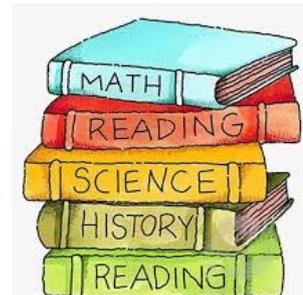
Diversity cruises within these walls,
Each and every other, eager to learn.
If you want to exceed to full capacity,
Join me here at Goffs Academy.

Noughts and crosses in English,
Algebra in Maths,
Travel in Geography,
Join me here at Goffs Academy.

Football, netball, debating too,
There's something for everyone.
An array of clubs and activities,
Join me here at Goffs Academy.

Now's the time to make new friends,
Discover what the future will bring.
Responsible, Respectful, Resilient,
Join me here at Goffs Academy.

Bella



Miss McBride's



1. Remember it is very normal to feel a mix of emotions- but do not panic! I will be here to support you through every step of your transition. If you have any questions for me, your parents can email me and I will get back to them/you as soon as I can.
2. Join clubs- it is a great way to meet new people with the same interests as you and to embed yourself in our amazing school community
3. Be kind– we do not tolerate unkind behaviour towards others. Kindness makes our community a great place to be and students are rewarded for their acts of kindness.
4. Be organised- get your uniform ready and pack your bag the night before. Make sure you have your books, equipment and homework in your bag, ready to go!
5. Be yourself– this is the start of the next phase in your education and I promise it will be a very exciting one! Enjoy the experience and do not be afraid to speak to us if you have any worries. We are here to help you every step of the way.



Miss McBride– Year 7 Director of Learning

kmc@goffs.herts.sch.uk

Mr Petrou's



1. Speak to everyone – the first few days can always be scary and you feel that you want to find a familiar face, someone you know from primary school so you are more comfortable. This is a normal reaction, however, I would like you to try and speak to everyone; other students in your form, in your classes and during social time.

2. Ask for help—being in a new school with new teachers and adults that you are not familiar with can be hard at first but make sure you ask for help if you are unsure about something- whether that is something in lesson, you can't find your classroom or you are just having a bad day.

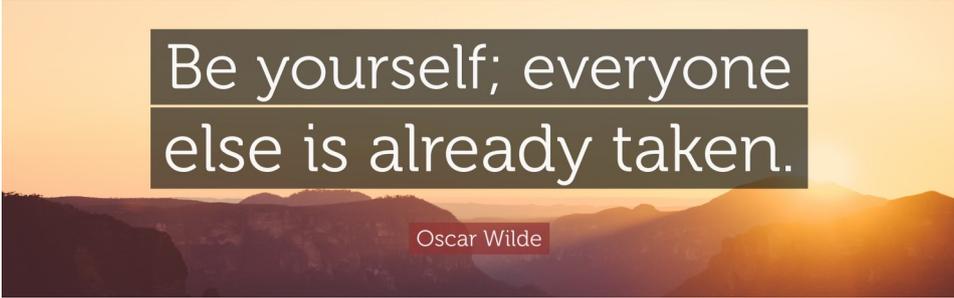
3. Be respectful - when interacting with other students and staff, it's important to be respectful and kind. We have an expectation that all students and teachers are respectful to each other.

4. Challenge yourself to do something new – we have a lot of clubs and different opportunities for our students. Try something new. It is important to take yourself out of your comfort zone so you experience new things and it is also an opportunity to meet new people.

5. Be responsible – you will have different lessons with different teachers in different classrooms. It is important to come in every day prepared for the day ahead and have the right equipment for every lesson.



Mr Petrou– Year 7 SLT Link



Be yourself; everyone
else is already taken.

Oscar Wilde

Dear Year 6 Pupil,

Goffs is an amazing school with lots of brilliant opportunities– there is nothing to worry about. Firstly, if you are worried about making friends, you shouldn't be, as everyone in Year 7 will be in the same position as you and all of the staff are very friendly too!

There are also lots of clubs to join, to help you to make new friends and have fun!

You may be worried about getting lost but you have nothing to worry about. For the first few weeks you will be given time to settle in and if you are late to your lessons, you will not be in trouble as the teachers know it may take you a bit of time to find your way around.

You are probably worried about the amount of homework you will receive. Doodle is the app used for organising your home learning and it couldn't be more simple. In the first week, you will be given your Doodle login. The teachers will then set all of your work on Doodle and the app notifies you when a new homework task is set. We also have a homework club you can join. It is on daily after school and there is a member of staff there who can help you with your work.

Secondary school is an incredible experience and I know you will definitely enjoy your time at Goffs.

Eva

Dear Year 6,

When I first joined Year 7, I was worried because it was a new experience for me and totally different to primary school. I was feeling a bit nervous on my first day but I soon realised that the school is easy to navigate your way around and the students and staff are helpful. I instantly felt better and relaxed.

You will meet lots of lovely people who you will make good friends with.

Always remember to be yourself– don't be afraid to be who you are and just have faith that this is a new experience to embrace.

Madeline



Hi Year 6,

It can be nerve wracking going from a small primary school to a huge secondary school with over 1400 students. So here are a few tips to help overcome your worries:

1. You will get lost– do not panic. This is totally expected and staff will help you to find your way around
2. Try to make new friends when you first join. Do not just stick with people you know from Primary school.
3. Be organised– ensure you pack your bag the night before and have everything you need for the day
4. Do not entertain drama. Do not spread rumours, do not lie and be sensible when using social media
5. Join as many clubs as you can to find new interests and make new friends
6. Enjoy the experience– you are going to love it.

Grace

Dear Year 6,

When you are here in this wonderful school, you will have nothing to worry about. At first you will be nervous but you will soon overcome those nerves.

If you are worried about bullying, then don't be! Staff do not tolerate any negative behaviour. If you ever have any problems, you can go to your teachers and they will fully support you.

There are some awesome opportunities to take part in, such as different school trips, clubs and we recently took part in a Sport-a-thon to raise money for charity. We took part in team games and we had the best time and were rewarded with lots of house points for our participation and effort.

Get involved in as much as you can– I promise you will love it!

Leo



Dear Year 6 students,

I came to Goffs with only one other person from my primary school. I was terrified and had so many worries. When I walked into school, all of my worries were gone as the teachers were really welcoming and all of the students were kind. The best piece of advice I can give you is to be yourself, try your best and you will be fine.

Tips:

- Be organised
- Be responsible for your actions
- Keep trying and do not give up
- Be kind
- Ask for help when you need it
- Be responsible, respectful and resilient
- Have fun!

Evie



Hi Year 6,

To all of the students who are about to take a big step up; here is some advice I would like to give to you:

- Come to school fully equipped
- Join clubs– you will meet people with similar interests
- The corridors can be crowded between lessons but if you walk calmly and sensibly to your lessons, you will get there on time. Keep to the left!
- Do not worry about assessments. Teachers will assess you a lot throughout the year to know how you are getting on and what you need to work on to improve
- Spend time with your friends and make sure you make new friends by speaking to others in the year group
- Participate in as many extra-curricular activities as you can
- Do your homework– go to homework club if you need help with completing it
- Arrive to school and lessons on time– be organised
- Show respect to staff and peers

We look forward to meeting you.

Alice



Our house system

When you start in September, you will be put into a house. There are 4 houses: **Hawk, Falcon, Phoenix and Eagle**. Depending on your house you will wear a certain colour tie.

Hawk– blue

Falcon– red

Phoenix– green

Eagle– yellow

These houses become important in competitions as you will be competing for your houses. We have lots of house competitions and challenges throughout the year. Also, all of the house points you earn for your work, homework and contributions to the school community go towards your house but you also get rewarded individually too.

Hello, I am a Year 7 student at Goff's Academy; today I am going to be talking to you about your first day at Secondary School.

Like many others, I have been in your position where starting off fresh can be quite nerve-racking however, everybody feels the same. Your worries might be engulfing you and working you up and that's okay! There is nothing to fear about coming to a new school and as soon as you get used to your surroundings, it'll be a walk in the park.

Stepping through those doors for the first time, knowing that this is where friendships are made and a new beginning has begun, is a rush of excitement. Everybody's introduction here is going to be different, however older students and teachers are always going to be here if you need them. Now one thing that I was particularly anxious about was getting detentions or forgetting a piece of homework, but I can tell you now that if you behave and be respectful, then your time will be so much more pleasurable.

Secondary School is a new chapter in your life, one to cherish and look back on and once those first nerves out of the way, you will be able to accomplish many things. This is where your future begins to take place.

Lottie

Dear Year 6

As you know, you've been the big fish in the little pond being in year 6, but now you'll be the little fish in the big pond with being in Year 7 but you have nothing to worry about.



First of all I will be writing about what I did on the first day of secondary school. At the beginning of the day, you have to go to one of the teachers in front of the main doors and they will tell you if you're in:

7E, 7Q, 7U, 7A, 7L, 7I, 7T or 7Y

If you put all the letters together, they spell EQUALITY. This is very important at Goffs, as everyone is equal. Then when you go into the hall, some teachers will be standing at the front of the hall by signs that match your form, they will be your Learning Mangers. After you've figured out who is in your form, you'll go to your form room, which is where you'll go every day in the morning for tutor time except on a Monday– this is assembly day. Your form group stays the same all through Goffs and your Learning Manager is a bit like your teacher in primary school – they are with you every day in the morning. On your first day you only have half a day so you go home at 12 o'clock, which is pretty nice! You're given a timetable and on this you will see that you have five periods (lessons) a day and you'll have two breaks.

What's useful to know: life at Goffs Academy has a reward and behaviour system - the behaviour system is: PW which is a personal warning, C1 is your last warning before a sanction is issued, C2 is 15 minute detention at break, C3 is a 45 minute detention after school and a C4 is a high sanction for really poor or dangerous behaviour. The reward system is: R1 is 5 house points, R2 is 10 house points, R3 is 100 house points, R4 is 1,000 house points and R5 is 10,000 house points. House points can be cashed in for cool prizes throughout the year, like free cookies, a queue jump for the canteen at lunch or even Amazon vouchers!

Some useful tips I would give you are; don't eat gum! If you get caught you get a C3. Don't roll your skirt! This will also get you a C3. Always do your homework, NO BULLYING and just be nice and kind to others. This way, everyone will enjoy their time at school and you won't get into any trouble!

Finally, if you ever get lost, have questions or need help, you can always ask teachers. There are ladies in reception and at Student reception that will help you. You can ask Miss McBride or Mr Petrou as they lead Year 7 or you can speak to your Learning Manager. Everyone will always help you, so don't be shy to ask!

I hope you are excited about joining our school – year 7 is wicked!

See you in September!

Year 7



When I first came to Goffs,
I was a nervous wreck,
I sat at a table feeling scared,
With loads of time to reflect.



But then a ray of light came over,
And that was a new friend,
We weathered the timetables and tests together,
And saw it through to the end,

Even though COVID was a storm like no other,
I still got support and did not suffer,
If my Year 6 self were to look at me now,
I think he would stare and he would be proud.

I've come a long way,
it is easy to see,
So my advice to you, is just be yourself,
be free!

Aston



TIME FOR QUESTIONS

1. What did the Year 7 students say they worried about most before joining Goffs?
2. Name the 4 houses at Goffs...
3. Which part of your uniform will identify which house you are in?
4. Name the homework app we use at Goffs...
5. Name some of the clubs you can join...
6. What should you do if you get lost?
7. Will you be in trouble if you are late to a lesson in the first 2 weeks?
8. How many form groups will there be in our year group?
9. What do the form letters spell? (Clue- 7E, 7Q, 7U, 7A, 7L, 7I, 7T & 7Y)
10. Who is your Director of Learning?
11. Who is the Year 7 SLT link?
12. Is it normal to have a mix of emotions about joining Secondary school?





1. Getting lost and not making friends- but as you can tell from reading the letters, you will find your way around very quickly and will make lots of new friends
2. Hawk, Falcon, Phoenix and Eagle
3. Tie– Hawk (blue), Falcon (red), Phoenix (green) and Eagle (yellow)
4. Doodle
5. Dance club, Drama club, Netball club, Science club, debate club– there are many more for you to choose from when you join in September
6. Do not panic! Ask a member of staff or a student– they will all be there to help you
7. No– you are given time to find your way around the school
8. 8 form groups
9. EQUALITY
10. Miss McBride
11. Mr Petrou
12. Yes totally! Remember– stay calm, be kind, be happy and if you feel unsure about anything– just ask!

