

Scalby School parent and student transition booklet



Firstly, a huge welcome from all of us at Scalby School.

It's almost here.

The next important milestone.

The next big step: starting Secondary School at Scalby School.

It is completely normal for students to feel nervous and worry about their first day of 'big' school, it is also very common for parents to feel the same way. I still remember my transition day, a mixture of nerves and excited about the unknown ahead. You might have some of the common concerns often voiced by parents:

- Will my child settle in?
- Will they make new friends?
- Will they cope with the work?

The answer to these questions is inevitably 'yes'. Students new to the school usually settle in quickly; find their way around in next to no time; widen their social circle and find new subjects interesting and stimulating. Of course, for some it may take a little longer than others, but there are people willing to help if you make us aware of any difficulties.

Most parents want to help reassure their children and support them in this exciting transition from Primary to Secondary school but feel they lack the information and experience to do so. This booklet aims to provide you with a little more information that may help you to prepare for this next big step and handy tips to help your child develop the skills they need.

It is important to know, whilst this may be your first experience of secondary transition for your child, the staff at Scalby School have experience of overseeing the successful transition of thousands of students and remain dedicated to making sure your child has a fantastic start with us at Scalby. Our job is not driven by exam results, it is the possibility to nurture and develop your child to be the best that they can be and improve their life chances when they leave us that inspires us.

We always look forward to welcoming a new Year 7 group to our school – it's a very exciting time for us too – and we look forward to working closely with you over the next five years to ensure that your child gets the best possible secondary education at Scalby School.

If you have any concerns about your child's imminent change of school, please get in touch. We will be happy to help in any way we can.

I look forward to meeting you as parents and students very soon.

Mr Philliskirk

Assistant Head Teacher – Raising Achievement and Standards

Head of transition

Transition to Scalby - Key Dates and FAQ

Key dates

Introduction Evening - Wednesday 6th July.

This evening's event will provide students with an opportunity to meet their son/daughter's mentors and listen to a welcome from the Head Teacher. This event will last from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

Transition Days – Thursday 7th July Friday 8th July.

This day will allow students to experience a typical day of curriculum lessons at Scalby School. The days will run from 8.20am – 2.30pm. All students are responsible for making their own way to and from Scalby. They must be at Scalby no later than 8:20am and will leave at 2:30pm. On these days students will have the opportunity to experience what a typical school day is like at Scalby. Our aim is to give them a taste of life here at Scalby, reducing any anxiety for September. Students will follow a timetable of lessons and have the opportunity to meet staff and other students in their year group. Students will need a pen and pencil, all other equipment will be provided for them on these days only. This will be non-uniform for our Y6 students, and we ask that they do not wear their primary uniforms. This is to help with the new interactions with other peers in their year group. Students can bring a packed lunch or money to buy a meal from our canteen.

New Term Commences – Tuesday 6th September.

Students should arrive at school before 8.20am and should go straight to the main school hall where they will receive information about their first day.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is different about secondary school?

1. Instead of one teacher your child will be taught by several teachers. They will have the opportunity to build relationships with a range of adults with different roles within the school.
2. The school site is much bigger and children have to find their way around.
3. They have lessons in different classrooms and have to move between lessons, carrying their belongings with them.
4. Children often have to travel further to school – some travelling independently for the first time, some by bus.
5. As school uniform is compulsory at Scalby, they may have to wear a uniform for the first time.
6. They will have to use and interpret a lesson timetable.
7. For the first time they will have to be fully responsible for ensuring that they have the correct books and equipment for their lessons, their dinner money, PE kit etc.
8. Students have the responsibility for recording their homework, completing it by the correct day and handing it in.
9. Teaching and learning styles may be very different.
10. There are fewer break times and they are organised differently. Students have more independence in terms of getting back to lessons and buying their own lunch.
11. There will be new lessons (e.g. Food tech, wood tech) and new variations on familiar ones (e.g. Science)

We hope that in the frequently asked questions below you will find the answers to questions you may have. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at Scalby School.

Getting Organised

Q. When are the Scalby Transition Days?

On Wednesday 6th July we be holding an Introduction Evening where students and parents are invited to attend to meet mentors and listen to a talk from the Head Teacher. This event runs from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. We are delighted to provide two Induction Days for Year 6 students joining Scalby. These will run on Thursday 7th July and Friday 8th July from 8.25am to 2.30pm. Students should ensure they arrive promptly for the start of each day. All students are responsible for making sure they are at Scalby School for 8:20 on the induction days and further information about these days will be given at the Introduction Evening.

Q. Where can I buy uniform?

The schools preferred uniform stockist is

Rumours,
17 Victoria Rd,
Scarborough,
North Yorkshire,
YO11 1SB
Tel: 01723 501989

Further Information can be found in the dress and appearance policy at:

<http://www.scalbyschool.org.uk/parents/uniform-and-pe-kit/>

Families who require some support with purchasing uniform can contact Mrs Wallace at Scalby School by phone. Scalby School are establishing a pre-loved uniform shop, which will be available on transition evening and at certain times during the summer holiday.

Q. Where should my child go on their first day?

When students arrive on the introduction day, and on their first day in September, they should go straight to the main hall. Staff and students will be on hand to point students in the right direction.

Q. How will they be supported in the first few weeks?

Year 7 students will have a settling in period. This means that if they forget their books, are late for lessons due to confusion or getting lost, or have missing equipment they will not receive sanctions. They will still however receive consequences if they misbehave.

Q. Can my son/daughter bring their mobile phone to school?

Students can bring mobile phones onto the school site, however they must be turned off and placed at the bottom of the student's school bag. We operate a zero-tolerance system on mobile phones. If a mobile phone is taken out of the bag at any time on the school site, it will be confiscated by a member of staff and locked in the school safe and will need to be collected by the student's parent/carer.

Q. What equipment will my son / daughter need and where can I buy it from?

Students should arrive prepared with an appropriate bag or holdall, dictionary, pens, pencils, ruler, crayons or felt tips and a calculator. These items can be found at any high street stationery store.

Q. What do we need to do about school transport?

Information on school transport and entitlement to paid travel permits can be found at:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23550/School--transport>

How do we Support your Child?

Q. My child is nervous about the move up to secondary school.

We can arrange extra transition meetings for students and parents who are particularly anxious or nervous about the move up to secondary school. This can be arranged by contacting Scalby School directly and speaking to Mrs Colley, Head of Year 7, or Mrs Davey, SEN Manager. Their contact details can be found on the school website.

Q. Who can my son / daughter speak to if they are worried or upset?

If your son / daughter has any worries or concerns they should speak to Mrs Colley or their mentor who they will have contact with for 15 minutes each day.

Your child will have a mentor who they see every single day. This will be a point of contact for them and mentors are trained to help with the transition into Scalby. You will be able to meet the Y7 mentors on our Introductory evening.

Q. Will my child get bullied at secondary school?

We make every effort is made to ensure that every child enjoys being a student at Scalby School. The school has adopted a range of strategies to prevent and reduce bullying, to raise awareness of bullying and to support victims and those displaying bullying behaviour. Where isolated incidents of bullying occur they are dealt with swiftly and in line with the Scalby School anti-bullying policy which can be found at: <http://www.scalbyschool.org.uk/policies/default.aspx>

Q. Who do I need to speak with to pass on any medical concerns about my son or daughter?

We would ask that any relevant medical information about your son / daughter is passed to Scalby School directly by speaking to Mrs Colley, Head of Year 7, or Mrs Davey, SEN Manager.

Student Learning

Q. What lessons will my child have?

Your child will have the experience of completely new lessons and variations of ones they have studied in primary school. They will receive a timetable on their first day along with their student planner. The planner has a map in it to direct students around the school site and is a place to record homework and detentions. Your child will be able to experience a broad and balanced curriculum addressing the needs and enjoyment of all students. They will have a taste of some lessons on their Transition days. Please note, their Transition day timetable will be different to their timetable when they start in September.

Q. How will students be set for lessons?

At Scalby students will be set from Year 7 in English and Maths. Setting decisions will be based on information received from primary schools and our own independent baseline assessments. All setting is reviewed regularly and students can be moved between sets to ensure their learning needs are being met with the correct level of challenge. This will ensure students are not undertaking work that is either too easy or too hard for them.

Q. My child worries about the sanctions they could receive at secondary school.

We have high expectations of all our students. Our behaviour policies and practices promote an environment conducive to learning, ensuring high achievement for all young people, irrespective of their differing needs. There are a number of expectations which we place on all our learners. These expectations will be made clear to new Year 7 students during the first week induction assemblies and mentor time sessions. We have a consequence system which will be explained thoroughly to your child during their transition and on their arrival. Further information with regards to these expectations can be found in our behaviour policy which is available at: <http://www.scalbyschool.org.uk/policies/default.aspx>

Q. How will my child be rewarded?

We have a new Golden Ticket reward Scheme at Scalby. Students will receive a Golden Ticket for being the best they can be and showing exceptional behaviour in line with our school values of Learning, Leadership, Ambition, Preparation and Respect. The Golden Tickets will then be put into a raffle in which they can win prizes ranging from free food in the canteen, to family days at Flamingo Land, Alpamare, an iPad and a Playstation 5! The more Golden tickets students receive the more chance they have of winning.

Q. How much homework will my child receive?

Your son / daughter is likely to receive, on average, one hour of homework each night. Students will be provided with clear instructions from staff as to what is expected from each piece of homework and will also receive a realistic timeframe to complete the homework in. Students will be expected to record details of homework set, and the deadlines in their school planner.

Q. What after school clubs are available?

There are a variety of sporting and extra-curricular activities for your child to take part in at Scalby School. A list of after school activities is provided to students at the beginning of each term and is available to be viewed on our school website. After school activities usually run from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Fixtures run throughout the academic year. We have an excellent extra-curricular programme in place for students to enjoy, we hope that many of the Year 7 students will take full advantage of the diverse clubs on offer and enjoy their hobbies and interests in Scalby outside of the classroom.

Top Tips for parents

Before your child starts

- Familiarise yourself with our website
- Reassure your child that they will quickly get to know their way around and that they move around as a group to start with. There are lots of people to help and support them through their transition.
- They will get a simple plan of the school in their planner. If your child is really worried, talk about getting from one place to the other using the map
- If you, or they have any worries or questions, please contact us and we will be able to help.

When your child starts

- Have open conversations about how their day has been and how they feel
- Make a copy of your child's timetable. Keep this on display so that you and your son or daughter can refer to it. This will help with organising the correct books and equipment for each day e.g. subject books, PE kit etc.
- When your child gets their timetable, look at the list of teachers – it helps to know who teaches what lessons and when.
- Encourage your child to learn what lessons they have on which days so that they can become independent
- Make sure your child knows what to do if they are late or get lost (these concerns are addressed on the first day)
- Check your child's planner regularly to see if they have any homework or any detentions.
- Contact us should you have any issues or questions.

Our school website

All of our policies, information and contact details are on our school website. This can be found using the following link. Please have a look and familiarise yourself with the website as it will be used frequently throughout your child's time with us at Scalby.

www.scalby.coastandvale.academy