



Welcome to Borden Grammar School

Year 7

Student Welcome Booklet

Pupil's Name _____

Welcome to Borden Grammar School!

We are so pleased that you have chosen to join the Borden Grammar School community.

My name is Mrs Frost and I will be your Head of Year during your first year at Borden. I will be on hand to help you settle into school life and am someone you can come to if you have any concerns at any point. I will also be making sure you are working hard and behaving well so that you are able to take advantage of the fantastic opportunity that being a Borden Grammar boy presents.

This booklet contains lots of useful information which you should take the time to read with a parent or carer ahead of September and can refer to during your first year with us.

Background information and the history of our school

Borden Grammar School was founded as an independent day and boarding school in 1878, the original building is now the Adult Education Centre off College Road. In 1928 the present main building was completed; the Short Building was added in 1998. The school is now a Grammar School for boys, with Academy status and has a mixed Sixth Form.

The school badge has a navy field divided by a gold chevron. On the field there are three crescents representing sons of sons - the generations of boys educated here. Our motto ***nitere porro*** means "to strive forward".

When you walk around school you will notice many memorials to past boys. The Cricket Pavilion is dedicated to the boys who were killed in the Great War. The school clock tower is dedicated to the boys who were killed in World War II. A third war memorial is found in the entrance hall; there is a plaque over the door and a memorial book in a glass case.

Early academic memorials are found in the Hall, and you will find rooms, benches and paintings dedicated to former staff and boys. In the Library there are many books written or published by Old Boys of this school, *your* school.

We are very proud of our school's history and hope you are excited about joining us in order to be part of it too!





The Borden Values

You will see the Borden Values tree around school and in all classrooms. The six values that all staff and students aspire to were designed by our current pupils and represent the things they felt were most important to us in order to be safe, happy and successful during our time here. These values will be regularly discussed in assemblies and form times and rewards given out where staff can see you clearly demonstrating any of these values.

Uniform

It will be your responsibility to make sure you have the correct uniform on at all times. (The uniform list has been

sent to your home already)

Do you know how to do up your tie properly? This is a skill which you might need to practise before the start of term. The tie should cover all the buttons. Good luck with it!

You will be issued with a **uniform card** which has your name printed on it and will be kept in your blazer pocket. If you are not properly dressed in school a member of staff will ask for your card and sign it. If the card is signed five times, you will get a detention. Make sure you always know where your card is and, better still, that it never needs to be signed!

Bags, equipment and lockers

You will need a small school bag. Coats and resources not needed for lessons should be kept in your locker or form room, not carried to lessons. Make sure you get a padlock for your locker to keep everything safe. You must have your planner, maths equipment, calculator, headphones, English, French and Spanish dictionaries, pen and pencils every day in the relevant lessons. Pack your bag the night before after looking at your timetable/planner to ensure you have everything you need and do not have to rush around in the morning.

Travel and arrival at school

You **must** use the designated crossing when coming over the road outside school. If you cycle to school be sure to lock your bike in the cycle racks behind the canteen. Boys who travel home by bus must wait sensibly at the front of the school, allow other pedestrians the right of way and behave appropriately when on the bus.

All boys should enter school by the pedestrian gate. Do not walk through or push bikes across the car park or main front entrance and you must travel to school and home again in full uniform. School rules regarding behaviour apply on journeys to and from school because, when you wear our uniform, you are ambassadors for our school, whether you are inside the school gates or not!

Form time and assemblies.

The doors to your form rooms open up at around 8:20 each morning and I will always be there to greet you and allow you to ask me anything if you have any concerns. Each morning starts with registration in your form room with your tutor and you need to be in your seat and ready for this at 8:40. You will then have either tutor time or an assembly depending on the day of the week. Tutor time can involve looking at what's going on in the news or a wellbeing activity of some kind. Your assembly will be with me or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Lessons

You will have lessons with your form group for almost all subjects in Year 7. As each subject is taught by a member of staff you will meet a lot of new teachers in your first two weeks! Don't worry though - you will soon get to know their names and what is expected in each class.

Homework

You may have got used to doing a bit of homework in your Primary school but you must now be prepared for the increased amount you will receive at Borden. If you get a good routine going early on you will have no troubles in keeping on top of it all. Homework **must** be completed on time. You will be issued with a homework planner / contact book to help you get organised. Teachers here use 'google classroom' to post their homework tasks online and you will have a google account with the school in order to access emails and google classroom. Homework club is available each day after school in the Library too. You don't need to book a place - just come along and sign in!

Clubs

A wide variety of clubs are run at lunchtime and after school. Your tutor will be able to give you more information and clubs are advertised on the notice board outside room 3.

Achievement and behaviour points.

We use a system called Edulink to award achievement and behaviour points. If you are working hard in class or a member of staff notices you demonstrating Borden values around school they can award you an achievement point. A notification of this automatically goes home too so your parents/carers will know that you are doing great. Certificates and other rewards are given out to boys with high numbers of achievement points. On the flip side the same is also true of behaviour points. Silliness in or outside of lessons and any other unacceptable behaviour could result in a behaviour point being given. A notification for this will also be sent home.



Attendance and lates

There is a direct link between high attendance and high achievement at school and we expect full attendance from all students. There is a procedure for your parent/guardian to follow in case of absence, which is detailed in the parent booklet.

If you are late, you must sign the Log Book in the attendance office giving the time you arrived and the reason for being late.

Good attendance and few lates are rewarded here but if you are regularly late with no good reason, I'm afraid you may find yourself in detention.

Breakfast

A daily breakfast is provided from 8.00-8.30am. Only boys buying cooked food may enter the Hall at this time, using the side kitchen door. All boys may enter the main school from 8.30am.

Break and lunchtimes.

You can choose to bring a packed lunch, use the canteen or do a mixture of both! Packed lunches may be eaten in the Hall. Our canteen runs a cashless system and so you will have a Squidcard which a parent/guardian will add money to from their account. Details of this have already been sent home. The canteen is full of delicious meals and snacks (current pupils cannot get enough of the waffles!) There will be designated areas for you to eat and play which we will confirm when you arrive in September. Absolutely no eating in corridors, the library or computer rooms though please!



Library Resource Centre

Our library is a fabulous resource which you can access at break, lunchtime and also after school. Some teachers will also book the library out for you to use during lessons. The Library is very well stocked and has an excellent reference section with computer access.



Each boy is allowed to borrow resources from the Library using a fingerprint recognition scanner. You must take care of any resources you use or borrow. You will have a library induction session at the start of term to help you find your way around.

Bullying

We have a total zero tolerance on any kind of bullying or intimidating behaviour. We believe that everyone has the right to feel safe and happy at school and I'm sure you will agree with that! Every year we train up anti bullying ambassadors in order to look out for the signs that someone is being bullied and to spread the anti bullying message. Perhaps you will become one during your time in Year 7?



Mobile Devices

While mobile phones are not banned items, there are very specific rules about their use. The rules exist to ensure that lessons, tutor time and assemblies are not interrupted and to prevent misuse in the school context.

Mobile devices may only be used in form rooms 8.30-8.45 am and at morning and lunch breaks. At all other times they should be switched off and out of sight. In particular, cables and earphones/airpods should not be visible. Students should not ring or send texts from the medical room but allow office staff to make contact with parents/carers instead.

Students should not make calls from their mobiles. There are two exceptions to these rules.

- School office staff may, at their discretion, give a student permission to use a mobile to make a call during the school day (in the office area only).
- Should students need to check their phones for messages from parents or phone them after 3.15pm it would of course be in order to do so (but not whilst attending study sessions or detentions).

The use of the camera function of a mobile phone or digital camera is forbidden at all times unless express permission is given by a member of staff. On no account should images be posted on social networking sites.

I would definitely advise against bringing in any valuable electronic devices.

The School Day

Registration	8.45	-	8.50 (Be in your seat for 8:40)
Assembly/tutor time	8.50	-	9.05
1st Period	9.05	-	10.20
Break	10.20	-	10:40
2nd period	10:40	-	11:55
Lunch	11.55	-	12:40
3rd period	12:40	-	13:55
Registration	13.55	-	14.00
4th Period	14.00	-	15.15

And finally...

All of this information may seem a bit overwhelming right now but please do not worry! The single best thing you can do if you are unsure is 'just ask' or if you are worried just let someone know.

Starting secondary is a big deal but I can promise you three things:

1. There is no such thing as a silly question - just ask it if it will help you feel more secure.
2. Everyone will be nervous - it's natural and it will pass!
3. You have made the right choice in coming to Borden. We cannot wait to meet you!

See you in September!

Mrs Frost
Head of Year 7.