

Frequently Asked Questions (answered by pupils at St Paul's)

1. How did you feel about moving up to St Paul's while you were still in Year 6?

At first, I was a bit nervous and worried about getting lost as everything was so big and new, but I was also excited to meet new people and try different subjects. After the first couple of weeks, I felt much more confident and settled in really quickly.

2. What is the biggest difference between primary and secondary school?

The biggest difference is moving between different classrooms for each subject and having different teachers. It might seem confusing at first, but you get used to it really quickly. There's also more independence, which is great because you get to manage your own time and responsibilities.

3. What have you enjoyed the most about being a member of the St Paul's community?

I love how friendly and supportive everyone is, from the teachers to the students. There are loads of clubs, trips, and activities like Student Council to get involved in, and it's a great way to make friends and try new things.

4. How do I find my way around, and what if I get lost?

Everyone worries about this at first, but after a couple of weeks, you'll know where everything is. If you do get lost, just ask a teacher or an older student—they'll always be happy to help. The school site map is in the purple pupil handbook; you get chance to walk around on summer school and on your first day with your tutor.

5. How can I make new friends?

Be open to talking to new people, especially in your form and lessons. Joining clubs and getting involved in school activities is also a great way to meet others who have the same interests as you. Everyone is in the same boat, so don't be afraid to start a conversation!

6. What if I struggle with my schoolwork or don't understand something?

Don't be afraid to ask for help—teachers are really supportive and want you to do well. You can also ask friends or older students, and some subjects offer extra help sessions if you need them.

7. How much homework will I get, and how do I manage it?

You'll get more homework than in primary school, but it's not too much if you stay organised. Using our online homework platform, ClassCharts, helps a lot. Try to do a little bit each evening instead of leaving it all until the last minute! For the first half term you only get English, Science, Maths and RE.

8. What happens if I forget something, like my homework or PE kit?

If you forget something, don't panic! Teachers understand that mistakes happen. If you forget your PE kit, you might have to borrow a spare one or get a warning. If it's homework, just be honest with your teacher and try not to make it a habit.

9. What are school lunches like, and how do I pay for them?

The food is really nice, and there are lots of different options. You can have hot meals, sandwiches, or even pasta pots. You pay using your ID card/lanyard that your parents can top up online. If you pre order at the beginning of the week you can beat the queues.

10. Who can I talk to if I have a problem or feel worried?

Your form tutor is a great person to go to if you have any worries. There are also pastoral staff, mentors, and even older students who can support you. You're never alone—there's always someone who will listen and help.

11. What is the best piece of advice you could give someone joining St Paul's in September?

Don't be afraid to ask questions and get involved in school life. Join clubs/activities, be kind to others, and remember that everyone feels nervous at first. Give yourself time to settle in, and soon, you'll feel like you've been here forever!