

Year 7 Transition FAQs for Parents and Carers

How will my child be supported during the transition to secondary school?

We understand that moving to secondary school is a significant step. Students are supported through transition events, induction activities, tutor time, and ongoing pastoral care to help them settle in confidently.

What should I do if my child is feeling anxious about starting secondary school?

Feeling nervous is completely normal. Encourage your child to talk about any worries they may have and reassure them that many students feel the same way. If concerns persist, please contact the school so we can offer additional support.

Who should I contact if I have a question or concern?

Your child's Advisor, Head of Year and Peak Leader will be your main points of contact. They are available to answer questions and provide support throughout your child's transition and first year.

How will I receive information from the school?

The school communicates through email, the school website, newsletters, and the MCAS app. Please ensure that all your details are up to date.

What support is available if my child has additional needs?

We are committed to supporting all learners. Parents and carers are encouraged to share relevant information with the school so that appropriate support and provision can be put in place. Our Mountain Rescue team are on hand to offer support to you and your child, should they need it. Please contact school to discuss this further.

How do school lunches work?

Students can either bring a packed lunch or purchase food from the school canteen. We use our system ParentPay and log ins and details will be provided at the start of the academic year in September.

How can I help my child prepare for secondary school?

Encourage your child to become more independent, practise organising their belongings, discuss any concerns openly, and maintain a positive attitude towards the transition. We will be offering a Summer School which will be an exciting chance for your child to prepare for life at DFA.

Will my child be in classes with their friends?

Every effort is made to help students settle successfully. While it is not always possible for students to be in every class with their friends, they will have opportunities to build new friendships and feel part of the school community.

What happens during the first few weeks of school?

The first few weeks focus on helping students become familiar with school routines, expectations, and procedures. Additional support and guidance are provided to ensure students feel confident and secure.

How can I support my child's learning at home?

You can support your child by encouraging good attendance, establishing routines for homework and revision, providing a quiet space for study, and maintaining regular communication with the school.

What should my child do if they are worried about something at school?

Students are encouraged to speak to their Advisory, Head of Year, Peak Leader or another trusted member of staff. We want every student to feel safe, supported, and listened to.

How can my child get involved in school life?

There are many opportunities to participate in clubs, sports teams, performing arts activities, leadership roles, and enrichment programmes. We encourage all students to get involved and make the most of their secondary school experience.

What if my child gets lost or is unsure where to go?

Staff and student ambassadors are available to help students find their way around the school. Students quickly become familiar with the site and routines during their first few weeks.