



Dear Year 6,

I know starting secondary school can be a scary time and this year might be a bit more overwhelming than usual due to the Coronavirus. But be brave and think positively about this new start! Altrincham College is a great place to come and learn!

The first thing that worried me about starting a new school was how big this new school was in comparison to my primary. Also how big some of the other students appeared to be. I'd gone from being one of the oldest to being one of the youngest, but it didn't seem to matter much because the staff and other students were very welcoming and helpful. I think I got lost about 3 times in the first week! Don't panic though, we did spend a day getting to know the school with our form tutor.

When you're new the school lunch time routine might be rather confusing. Using your finger to pay is a bit strange but the dinner ladies are lovely and tell you exactly what to do. They're really sympathetic and kind when you don't quite understand the system. Year 7 get to go into lunch first at the beginning of the school year so you'll get the hang of it. My favourites are the hot dinners.

I worried about going on the bus to and from school as they are very busy and noisy, but you quickly adapt to the atmosphere. There are two options for tickets – a weekly or a return. You pay the bus driver the fee when you get on and then you wait for your ticket to be printed. If it's a weekly one you need to remember to keep it safely for the whole week, as you get asked for it every day. The Year 7 kids all stay on the downstairs until you get used to the journey.

It's a bit weird going to a new school without all your old friends, I found it very intimidating, but you quickly adjust and start making new friends. It's best going with an open mind and trying to be friends with as many people as possible. It was really helpful having a list of names for my tutor group, that way I got to know people's names quicker.

It might also feel strange moving every hour to another classroom and teacher doing a different subject. I found it quite nice having a natter between classes. It's good having different people in some lessons too. My favourite lessons are Food Tech, where you get to do cooking – I made some fantastic meatballs and a great Eton Mess. I also really like PE because we've been able to try lots of different sports. (Although sadly it got cut short by the virus – I missed rock climbing 😞)

There are many different after school clubs. It's quite tricky to choose what to do – I chose to do netball. I really loved it and even played in the school team!

Remember, be positive, be brave and speak up. This will be you writing about your Year 7 experience this time next year. Hope you have a happy start to life at Altrincham College.

Good luck 😊

Ruby