



Frequently asked questions

When will I find out which House I am going to be in?

All Year 7 students will find out which House they are going to be in on their first day back in September. You will have a 'House ceremony' in which it will be announced. You will also find out who your Form Tutor is as well.

Will I be in the same House as my friends?

You may not be in the same House as all your friends but you will still see them often and they may be in some of your classes. Even better, you will get the opportunity to find new friends.

Ruskin is so much bigger than my primary school - am I going to get lost?

Ruskin is going to be bigger than your primary school but you will get to know your way around very quickly. On your first day you will walk around the academy with your Form Tutor to make sure you know where your lessons are going to be. [There is a map for you to look at on the Ruskin Website \(under Academy Information/Admissions/ Transition\).](#)

What happens if I get lost?

First of all, look at the map in your Values book to see if you can work out where you should be, if you still can't find where you need to go then you can go and ask a student or teacher for help. If there is no-one around, go to Student Reception and they will take you to your next lesson.

If I get lost, will I get into trouble from my teacher for being late to my lesson?

No. All teachers fully understand that it can be difficult for you to find your way around.

Who would I go to if I got upset at school?

If you felt upset you could go and speak to various people including your Form Tutor, Assistant Head of House, Pastoral Manager, Head of House (you will be shown who these people are and where to find them on your first day), a subject teacher or you could go to Student Reception.

What do I do if something is really worrying me and I don't want to tell anyone at school?

If something is worrying you, we would encourage your parents/carers to contact either your Assistant Head of House, Head of House or Form Tutor if they have any concerns. If we know about any issues we can help whereas if we are unaware we can't provide the support that is needed.

Where would I go if I didn't feel very well at school?

If you don't feel well at school you should go to Student Reception.

Will I be able to see my friends during free time?

All students have breaks and lunchtimes at the same time so you will be able to arrange to see your friends then.

What can I do if I don't make any friends?

We would encourage all students to participate in some of the extra-curricular clubs at Ruskin as it provides an opportunity to meet new people and not be alone. If you are unsure how to do this you can ask your Form Tutor or Assistant Head of House to point you in the right direction.

The Priory Ruskin Academy



How do I get the badges?

During your first week at Ruskin you will receive your Ruskin Values book and in there you will have pages that will inform you as to what you need to do to gain your badges for each of the values. It will be explained in full at the start of the year.

Can I bring my phone into school?

Yes you can bring your phone in to school, however, phones must not be seen or used during the academy day. Also, they must be switched off between 8.50am and 3.20pm. If you need to contact home you can go to Student Reception and ask them to do it.

Can I bring my scooter in to school?

No, but you can cycle to school. Please make sure that your bike is in good working order before you cycle to school i.e. check the breaks are working properly, you must have a seat and check your tyres. If you do bring your bike in to school check your bike is locked safely in the bike sheds.

Do I need to wear a cycling helmet?

We encourage all students to wear a cycling helmet no matter how old you are.

Do I need my PE kit or Performing Arts kit on my first day?

No you do not need your PE or Performing Arts kit on your first day. However, after your first day you can check your timetable and see exactly when you need your PE kit and Performing Arts kit. Please make sure your kit is labelled as this will be checked in your first week.

What do I do if I forget my kit or equipment? If there is someone at home, you can ask Student Reception to call home for you and ask someone to bring in your kit before your lesson. However, if this is not possible, you should visit your teacher before the lesson and explain/apologise for your mistake. **Will I get told off?** You will be allowed time to settle in to routines so you will find teachers are understanding. If you keep on forgetting equipment, there may be a sanction, like losing some free time, so it is worth getting organised right from the start.

Do I need to bring any money to school?

There is no requirement for you to bring money to school. You will have your thumb scanned on your first day and all payments at school will be made using your thumb.

How do I put money on to my online money account in school?

There is a payment machine in school where you can put cash onto your account (Student Reception and in the Spine block) but it is often busy so we would advise it is all done online via `SIMS pay`. *For further guidance on this, please visit [Ruskin Website/Admissions/Transition](#).*

I have a food intolerance – do I need to tell anyone?

Yes, please contact the academy to discuss your particular requirements.

Can I go to the toilet during lesson time?

You should try to use the toilet before/after lessons and during break times to avoid disrupting your learning. If you have a medical condition which requires you to use the toilet more regularly, please inform Student Reception and they will issue you with a Toilet Pass.

**How can I find out about extra-curricular clubs?**

There are many clubs at Ruskin and these take place at 8am, lunchtime or after school. A timetable of clubs will be shared with you in September.

How am I going to cope with the amount of homework at Ruskin?

It may take a little time to get into a routine but we would encourage you to work with parents/carers to help you get organised. You will get a login in September for your homework account - parents will also have a log in so that they can monitor the work you are doing. It is advised to complete the homework on the day it is set so that it is still fresh in your mind.

What will I do if I am getting behind with my homework?

If you are struggling to do your homework, perhaps you could try going to an extra-curricular Homework club. If you are consistently struggling to complete your homework we would encourage you or your parents/carers to make contact with either your subject teacher or Form Tutor to look at strategies to help address this.

What if I used to get help with my lessons at primary school?

If you were given extra adult support at primary school then you don't need to worry as your old teachers have been in touch with your new teachers at Ruskin. You will get chance to tell your helpers exactly what works well for you. Any other questions around extra support with learning could be emailed to the Director of Inclusion, kshelford@prioryacademies.co.uk

What happens if I don't do my homework?

If you don't do your homework and there is no good reason, there will be a sanction, like losing some free time and you will be given a behaviour point. Your Form Tutor and Assistant Head of House will be monitoring your behaviour points and may speak to you if you are collecting too many.

Can I wear earrings in the academy?

Yes you can wear one plain stud (either gold or silver) in each lower ear lobe. Despite your ears being pierced, it is compulsory to remove them in all practical lessons including PE and Performing Arts. If considering a new piercing it is advisable that this is done so at the beginning of the 6 week summer holiday to allow the correct amount of time to heal.