

Dear Year 7s,

First of all, welcome to St Paul's Academy! You have so much to look forward to in the 5 years ahead, and I'm sure you'll make many memories along the way. Anyway, my name is Petra and I've just finished my first year as a member of the St Paul's Academy community. I promise you- there is nothing to worry about. Scared of getting lost? There should be a map of the school in your planner, PLUS- you can go round with a friend or ask someone for help.

Wondering how to make new friends? Just be nice, be open and be yourself. With such a big group of people it can be hard to 'fit in', but once you know who **you** want to be you'll be fine.

Going into secondary school is a different experience for everybody. For my year group, we had only started with half days and a lot of our time in year seven was spent in quarantine. As you can imagine, it was difficult to get used to the home learning platforms and not seeing everyone face to face. We did, however, manage to make the most of the time we had together (and apart) with things like the Year 7 Virtual Talent Show and the recently reopened clubs.

Our school also offers a large variety of extracurricular activities. There are sports clubs, drama clubs, dance and music, so you can find out what you're into. If you can't find anything you'd like to join, suggest some ideas to your Head of Year and (who knows?) you could be the founder of the next best club at St Paul's. Aside from clubs, there are multiple other ways you can help out. Opportunities such as serving as Form rep helped me share my thoughts and ideas, it's something I would recommend to any new Year 7 because it improves leadership skills and ☆confidence☆.

All in all, I do think St Paul's is a great school and an amazing environment to be in. We have some really fantastic teachers who make learning fun, though it's not always easy. Just try your best with everything, and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Remember: Be safe,
Be respectful,
Be ready for learning,
and

Be prepared for a rollercoaster ride of events that will be your experience at St Paul's Academy!

Good luck!

Yours truly, Petra.