

WELCOME PACK



Prior Park
Gibraltar

Hello!

Welcome to your 'New Student' welcome booklet.

This year, we are sadly unable to meet with you all face-to-face before you begin your time at Prior Park in September, so we've put all the important information you may need, in this booklet.

In this booklet you will find information about:

Transitioning to Secondary School

The School Day

The Equipment and Uniform you will need

Tutor and House Groups

Learning and Lessons

Leadership and Responsibility

The Co-Curricular Programme

Pastoral Care and Faith

Resources to prepare for the move to Secondary School

THE READING CHALLENGE!



TRANSITION

For many students, the transition from primary to secondary school poses a significant change in their educational experience, and whilst support and mentoring are part of our induction process, this will require a greater level of personal organisation and independence from you.



As the breadth and demand of the curriculum increases at secondary school, you are recommended to read a wide variety of books and texts (fiction and non-fiction), to ensure your vocabulary and comprehension is at an age-appropriate level.

At the end of this booklet, you will find a list of resources that you can use between now and September that will help you reach the appropriate level of understanding you need, in order to start at Prior Park School.

If you have any concerns in this area, our Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Ms Lawton, is more than happy to speak to individual families to ensure students are supported in the best possible way.

Ms Lawton

klawton@priorparkschools.com

THE SCHOOL DAY

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
8.30am	Reflection Time (1 House Mass in the chapel on rotation)	PSHCE (Lessons run 15mins later up to lunch time)	House Assemblies	Whole School Assembly	Tutor Time
9.00am	LESSON 1				
9.40am	LESSON 2				
10.20am	20 MINUTE MORNING BREAK				
10.40am	LESSON 3				
11.20am	LESSON 4				
12pm	LUNCH - Some enrichment activities take place during lunch times				
1pm	LESSON 5				
1.35pm	LESSON 6				
2.10pm	20 MINUTE AFTERNOON BREAK				
2.30pm	LESSON 7				
3.05pm	LESSON 8				
3.40pm	END OF ACADEMIC DAY				
4.00pm - 5.00pm	CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME				
5.00pm - 6.00pm	CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME				

At Prior Park, the school day starts at 8.30am. Depending on the day, you will have 30 minutes with your tutor or house groups, an assembly or Mass.

You will have 8 lessons a day, of roughly 40 minutes each. You will move around the school to a different classroom and have different teachers for each lesson.

You have a short morning and afternoon break, make sure you collect the books and equipment you need for your next lessons, from your locker, before the bell goes!

At lunchtime, you will have an hour to eat and play outside. Some clubs also run at lunchtimes.

Lessons finish at 3.40pm and the Co-Curricular Programme runs between 4-6pm Monday to Thursday.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

You will need to bring a few things to school to help you in lessons.

Black or blue pens
Pencils
A ruler
A protractor
A pair of compasses
An eraser
A pencil sharpener
Coloured highlighters
A scientific calculator

We operate a bring-your-own-device strategy and you may be asked to use your own devices for certain tasks during lessons. There is however, no need to purchase expensive devices, as the school is well-equipped and has extensive ICT facilities available for students.

You will be given your textbooks and exercise books for each subject. You can store these in your locker, so you don't need to carry them all at the same time. However, you will sometimes need to carry them home for homework, so make sure you have a **good quality back-pack** that will fit 2-3 A4 sized books inside.

Uniform:

You should have already received a list of all the uniform items you will need. This can be bought from Sports and Leisure, in Casemates Square.

You will also need a smart pair of **black school shoes** (lace up or slip on is fine) and a pair of **sports trainers** (suitable for astro-turf) for PE.

Lastly, make sure you have a **re-usable water bottle** so you can fill up at the fountains around the school. It's really important to stay hydrated!

TUTORS AND HOUSE GROUPS

On your first day at Prior Park, you will meet your **tutor**. This is the person who you will meet with most mornings and who you can go to with any questions or worries. There will be around 20 students in your tutor group and they will be from all the year groups across the school. We call this '*vertical tutoring*'. It gives you the chance to meet and talk to students from all over the school, not just those in your year.

As well as your Tutor group, you will also be part of a **House** (a bit like Hogwarts!).

Our four Houses are named after famous British historical figures, **Wellington, Rooke, Nelson and Elliott**.

House groups meet every week for a House Assembly. In your House you will take part in activities such as charity work, fundraising, sports competitions and other activities, all of which can earn you House points.

The House with the most points at the end of the school year, wins the House Cup!

WELLINGTON



ROOKE



NELSON



ELLIOTT

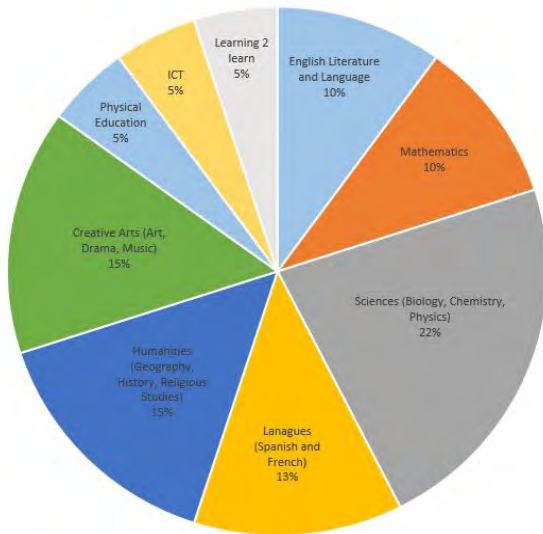


LEARNING AND LESSONS

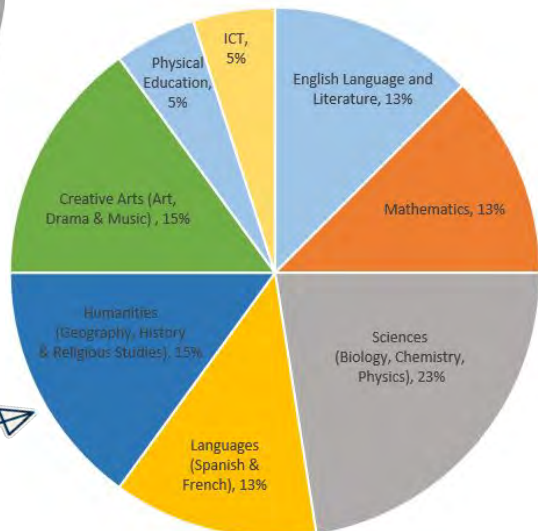
Your lessons at Prior Park might seem a bit more difficult, to begin with, than the ones you are used to at middle school.

The move to secondary school will mean a more grown-up way of learning. Your teachers will support you with anything you don't understand but you will also be expected to research and explore new topics by yourself, through homework. This will help you to understand things more deeply and make sure you keep up in lessons.

In Year 7 & 8 you will study a wide range of subjects each week. This is the best time to try a little bit of everything, see what you enjoy and what you are good at, before choosing your GCSE subjects in a few years time.



Year 7 Curriculum



Year 8 Curriculum



LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY



During your time at Prior Park, you will have the opportunity to take on roles of responsibility and leadership within the school.

These roles include: The Student Council, Library Prefects, Sports Captains and Student Mentors.

These opportunities really help enrich your time at school and the higher up the school you get, the more responsibility you will be given. Eventually, you can apply for Head Girl and Head Boy.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



When the school day finishes, the Co-Curricular Programme starts.

Monday to Thursday, between 4-6pm, there are over 30 different clubs, sports and activities you can join.

You will have to choose four different activities per term.

The four different strands of the programme are:

- Sports/Physical Activity
- Creative/Enrichment
- Service/Leadership
- Community Outreach



When you choose your four activities each term, you must commit to them in order to achieve the **Prior Passport**. If you complete this each term, you will receive the Prior Passport Award at the end of the year.

PASTORAL CARE AND FAITH

Understanding yourself and others, both strengths and weaknesses, learning to express yourself, being tolerant and supportive and developing strong relationships with a wide range of people are vital skills to have.

Pastoral issues are addressed through school assemblies, tutor periods, house groups and **Park Life**, our own PSHCE Programme.

Here you will learn about issues to do with health, wellbeing, relationships, money and other life skills that will ensure you leave school with the knowledge you require to thrive and contribute to your community.



We want our students to be rooted in the **Christian Values** of consideration, compassion, kindness, service, contribution to others and an openness to God, on which they can build their lives and which will be their inspiration in good times and comfort in bad.

Our school welcomes children from **all faiths and backgrounds** and we ensure that everyone learns about the other major religions, such as Judaism, Islam and Hinduism through Religious Studies lessons.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Before you start in September, you are recommended to read a wide variety of books and texts (fiction and non-fiction), to ensure your vocabulary and comprehension is at an age-appropriate level.

The more you do now, the easier the transition to secondary school will be.

Recommended resources:

1. The Book Trust's recommended reading list for ages 9-11:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/1/100-best-books-9-11/>

2. 'Drop Everything And Read' recommended books: <http://dropeverythingandread.com/book.html>

3. National Geographic Kids online learning activities:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

4. Science News for Students non-fiction reading:

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/>

5. Twinkl, five classic short stories:

<https://twinklsecondary.blog/secondary-school-books-five-classic-short-stories-available-online/>

6. BBC 'Newsround' current news stories:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>

7. The School Reading List:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-7-pupils-ks2-age-11-12/>



YOUR CHALLENGE

Between now and September, we challenge you to read for a minimum at **15 minutes per day**.

This could be a book (fiction or non-fiction), an online blog, a newspaper or magazine. Check out the recommendations made in this booklet if you don't have many books at home. It is great to read a wide variety of different materials, so you could also ask your friends and family for their recommendations. You might discover a new area of interest!

Reading Tasks:

1. If you come across words or phrases that you don't understand, make a note of them and then look up the meaning in a dictionary. You will then have a great lists of new words to use in your writing in the future!
2. When you have finished a book or other longer piece of writing, try and write a **100 word summary** of the main points or topics (Think of the summary you normally find on the back of a book). Try reading this aloud to your family and have a discussion around it.
3. Think about the main messages the author was trying to give the reader. How did they do this? Think about the language used, the scene setting, the characters.

WIN

Send us your book reviews between now and September and you will be awarded 10 house points for each review.

Read more books ---> Write more reviews = WIN MORE POINTS!



Prior Park
Gibraltar

Contact Us

For further information, please email our Admissions Manager,

Mrs M Mor

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