

# Transition

## Frequently asked questions

Please refer also to the 2021 Year 7 Transition booklet, located in the Year 7 2021 tile on our website, for detailed information on Year 7 at Blackburn High School.

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### Welcome to Blackburn High School Webinar – Thursday 8 October 2020

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#### Is there a Transition Information Session about the Parent Portal and the Bring Your Own Designated Device Program?

Yes, the webinar on Thursday 8 October at 5pm – 6pm will cover our Parent Portal, BYODD program together with other transition information.

Due to COVID19 this session will be held as a webinar to replace the information morning which we would normally hold onsite at the school. Information about the webinar will be communicated to you in future communications.

#### What device does my child need to have for Year 7?

The school has a Bring Your Own Designated Device program and the preferred devices will be listed under the Bring Your Own Designated Device area on our website after the Welcome to Blackburn High School Webinar on 8 October.

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### Year 7 Educational Assessment – Saturday 10 October 2020 8.45am – 11.45am (ONLINE)

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#### What is the assessment?

The assessment is a diagnostic tool that lets us know about your child. There are four, 30 minute assessments divided into two sessions. The first session is based around general ability and the second session is about skills and knowledge acquired through primary school. There will be a half hour break in between the two sessions.

#### Do I need to study for the assessment?

Definitely not – this is an assessment only of the skills and knowledge learnt through primary school and the student's potential.

#### How is the assessment conducted?

Due to COVID19 this assessment will be conducted online in the student's home.

#### What if my child sat the High Achievers Program Assessment?

If your child has not been accepted into the program, they are required to sit the online assessment on 10 October.

#### If my child has been accepted into the High Achievers' Program, does he/she have to do the assessment?

No. High Achievers' students do not do the assessment.



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### Parent Portal

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The Parent Portal is the main way parents access information about their child's progress, excursions, events, attendance, reports, fees etc. All school information to parents is distributed through the portal. Check this portal and complete any required tasks to assist your child to have a smooth transition to Blackburn High School.

There will be a Transition Information Webinar on **Thursday 8 October between 5pm – 6pm**. More details will be advised.

You will receive a **secure login** to the parent portal before the Transition Information Webinar.

Do not share your password with your child, as this is used for confidential information for parents only. Students will receive their own secure login and password when commencing Year 7.

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### House Information Afternoon – Monday 7 December (PARENTS ONLY)

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#### Will I be notified about the House Information Afternoon?

Yes, notification will be advised via our parent portal.

#### Do I bring my child?

No, students do not attend. This afternoon is for parents only.

#### How long does it go for?

It starts at 5pm and finishes at 6pm.

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### Orientation Day – Tuesday 8 December

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#### What time should my child arrive and where do I drop them off?

Students arrive at 8.45am for a 9.00am start and leave at 3.15pm. Students should be dropped off and collected from the gymnasium.

#### What should my child wear?

Casual clothes and runners.

#### Do I need to provide lunch and snack for my child?

Yes, your child will need to bring their own snack, lunch and water bottle.

#### Does my child need pens and paper on the day?

Yes, students are required to bring a well-stocked, named pencil case and a notebook.

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## Transition Morning Workshop

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In previous years we have held a morning workshop to assist students with their transition to high school. This year, due to COVID 19, the Year 12 student term has been extended and we are unable to offer the normal workshop due to the resultant staffing and room constraints at the school.

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## House Information

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### When do I find out what House my child is in?

You will find out your child's House via our parent portal and/or letter prior to the House Information Afternoon on **Monday 7 December**.

### Can I change my child's House?

Generally a change of House is not permitted due the criteria used to place students.

### Is there any difference between the Houses?

There is no difference between the Houses. Each House has the same mix of students, subject teachers and activities.

### How are students placed in a House?

Sibling, academic, sporting, musical and artistic considerations are taken into account, together with existing and possible new friendships.

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## Mentor Group

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### When do I find out my child's Mentor Group?

Your child will be allocated a Mentor Group in their House and this will be known on Orientation Day.

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## Uniform

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### Where do I buy my uniform?

Uniform details and pricelist can be accessed through our website under the Year 7 2021 banner. Blackburn High School uniform is purchased at Dobsons who are located in North Balwyn. All relevant details are in the brochure.

### Are there second hand uniform options?

Yes. The Second Hand Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday 8.15am to 8.45am and located at school, in the ground floor

stairwell, western end of the multi-storey building. (This facility is closed in Term 3 due to COVID19 restrictions).

### Is the uniform enforced?

Yes, the uniform is enforced and checked daily by the child's Mentor teacher and then their classroom teachers.

### Are there definite seasons for the uniform?

Yes. Summer uniform is enforced Term 1 and Term 4. Winter uniform is enforced in Term 2 and Term 3.

### Is the blazer compulsory?

Yes, the blazer is compulsory and must be worn as the outer garment of the school uniform.

If an outer garment is not required due to hot weather, then the blazer does not have to be worn. The school jumper cannot be the outer garment.

A supply of second hand blazers is available through the Second Hand Uniform Shop (see above).

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## Student Canteen

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### Is the Canteen open every day?

Yes, the Canteen opens every day for recess and lunch. A menu is available on the website under Our School/Campus Facilities/School Canteen. Pre-ordering on the day is recommended via the form available at House offices or on our website.

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## Music

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### My child would like to learn a musical instrument as a beginner. How do we do this?

If your child has never played an instrument before but would like to learn, you should tick YES in the relevant section of our online enrolment form. You will then be contacted by a member of staff from the Music Department to discuss the options. There will also be an opportunity in February 2021 for students to join the music program directly.

### My child currently learns a musical instrument. How do I enrol them into music lessons?

Complete the Instrumental Music Interest Form as part of the online enrolment form and a member of staff from the Music Department will be in contact with you.

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## CSEF Funding and Year 7 Uniform Package

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Families who are valid Health Care Card holders may be eligible to apply for CSEF funding and uniform assistance. Funding applications open early in Term 1, however uniform assistance should be applied for during Term 4, prior to starting Year 7. Further information and the necessary forms are available on our website under the Year 7 2021 tile (in Term 4) or contact the Bursar, **Andrea Julien: [andrea.julien@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrea.julien@education.vic.gov.au)**.