

NEW INTAKE – SEPTEMBER 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What are the times for the school day?

We start registration at 8.40 am by which time your daughter needs to be in her form room. It is a good idea to aim to get to school for 8.20 am which allows for late buses and traffic. There is always a lot of traffic in Ilford so please allow enough time for travelling. School finishes at 3.20 pm.

Can my daughter bring her mobile to school?

NO. Mobile phones are not permitted in school.

We have found in the past that mobile phones in school cause serious problems with misuse. Any pupil who is seen with a phone in school will have it confiscated and it will only be returned to the parent/carer after 24 hours. Pupils should also not bring any items of value such as ipods, earphones or large sums of money into school. If there is need for your daughter to bring a sum of money into school, she should hand it in to the school office for safekeeping during the day and collect again as she leaves.

My daughter has a specific medical/learning need, which I need to discuss with the school, who should I contact?

Please contact Mrs Wood (Head of Year 7) at cwood@uai.org.uk who will be able to discuss the best way to support your child in school. If your child has an Epipen, you should make sure they have 2 Epipens available for the first day, one they keep in their bag with them in a sealed tube and one should be clearly labelled and left in reception. Inhalers for asthma should stay with your daughter in her bag.

Does my daughter have to take part in Mass and Assemblies?

You have chosen a Catholic faith school where prayer is an important part of our day and RE lessons concentrate on Catholic Christianity. We are a diverse community and welcome students from other faiths, we hope that all our students grow in their own faith. Prayer time at the start of lessons can be an opportunity for quiet reflection of your daughter's own faith. All students are expected to attend whole school mass and assembly as these are important community events, there is no opt out. During Holy Communion your daughter is invited to receive a blessing if she wishes, this is not compulsory but is a nice way to show respect and unity with our Catholic students.

What do I do if my daughter is sick and cannot attend school?

Please contact the school office for each day they are unable to attend on (020) 8554 1995, Option #5. You will need to leave their name and form and a brief message as to why they are absent. Longer absences may require medical evidence such as a doctor's note or hospital letter.

Does the school canteen serve Halal food?

The canteen does not serve Halal foods, however, there is a vegetarian option available every day. Your daughter can also bring a packed lunch to school if that is preferable.

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continued...



Can my daughter wear a headscarf to school?

A headscarf is not allowed as part of our uniform. Your daughter is welcome to wear the scarf to and from school but it must be removed when she gets to school. It should be plain navy blue or black. There is also no provision for trousers or leggings as part of the uniform- most of our pupils wear opaque tights in blue or black that serve a similar purpose and skirts should be on or just below the knee.

Are there lockers available in school?

Year 7 students are not allocated a locker, it is important therefore that they only bring what they need for that day. They will not need to bring heavy books such as an atlas, dictionary or bible as these are provided in school but are useful to have at home to support homework.

I am concerned that my daughter is not settling in, what should I do?

Be patient! This is a huge change for the girls at the best of times and it will take a few weeks, sometimes a little longer, for them to become comfortable with new routines, teachers, homework, journeys etc. Be positive and listen but try not to become overly concerned.

If the situation doesn't seem to be easing then please contact Mrs Wood to let us know your concerns. We can then discuss the best way forward to support your daughter. Don't worry too much, most pupils settle into school quite quickly and by Christmas it will seem as if they have never been anywhere else!

In all cases, if you have questions or concerns then please contact Mrs Wood or your daughters form tutor to discuss how we can help support. We all want the best for your daughters and want to work together with you to make sure they have many happy years as part of the Ursuline family.

What should I do if my daughter has friendship issues?

Talk things through with her to see if she can resolve them herself. If it continues and you are worried, please contact your daughter's form tutor or Ms Wood. Sometimes parents/carers worry about bullying but most issues are friendship disagreements that can be resolved quite easily with the right intervention from staff.

How can I help my daughter prepare for September?

Watch the induction video with your daughter to help her recognise who is who in school and to make her feel welcome. While there is no specific work over the summer, reading from the recommended reading list in your parent/carer pack is helpful. When she starts school, help her to get organised for the day, packing her bag with what she needs for that day. It is useful to stick a copy of her timetable on the wall/fridge to note when special equipment might be needed e.g. PE kit, apron, food ingredients. Please check your daughter's planner for homework and messages. It is good practice to sign this weekly.

The school has a weekly newsletter from the Headteacher which details school events, good news and any clubs taking place. Important messages are also sent via the newsletter. It should be read.

Mrs Wood is available at cwood@uai.org.uk if you have any concerns or other questions before starting in September – after this she is also available on (020) 8554 1995 during school hours.