

To a soon-to-be Y7,

Hi! Before we get started, I would like to congratulate you on passing the entrance exam and getting into AGGS! I know you've heard it a thousand times before, but it is a phenomenal achievement and I am sure that you have worked diligently for hours upon hours to do that. I'm going to tell you some tips for starting and some personal words from me.

Tip 1: When moving from lesson to lesson, try to stay with your form because AGGS is like a maze and is extremely easy to get lost in if you don't know your way around. If you do happen to get separated, feel free to ask one of the older students or teachers for directions. They should be happy to help! Also, there is a map of the school near the start of your planner if you prefer to figure it out yourself.

Tip 2: Explore! Whether it be at rec or lunch, look around the school because it is a jigsaw puzzle waiting to be fit together. Once you know your way round, moving from lesson to lesson will become so much easier and care-free because you know exactly where you are going.

Tip 3: Get a mini timetable to keep in one of your blazer pockets. This could be the one you get at the start of the year or another one you made yourself. This will ensure you are always in the right place and have the right books for lessons which you will need to thrive at AGGS.

It might feel difficult moving from one school to another, especially if you saw your primary school as a second home as I did. Never fear! Socialising with your new classmates is a vital action as they will be with you for years to come. You could also talk to people from other forms or year groups. There are no limits! If you are struggling to find people with similar interests to you, go to one of the lunchtime clubs that sound fun to you and socialise with the people there. Once you know people, it will feel like you have a network of friends all around the school and that you can rely on them.

Focusing on the work side of school, you may be concerned about the increase of homework that will be set. Here I feel it is time to remind you about how one of the reasons that humans are the predominate species on Earth is because of our extreme adaptability. Humans conquered the world because they can adapt and live anywhere! And if we can do that, then you can manage having some more homework. In addition to this, the work will also have a general increase in difficulty. This is normal and to be expected. Though if you are finding it particularly difficult, don't be afraid to talk to your form tutor, go to the senior tutor's office or – if you don't want to talk to an adult – even one of your classmates! Never feel trapped, or that you must handle it all by yourself; we are here to help!

To conclude, I would suggest that you read through at least some of your planner. Masses of useful information about life at school, the layout, timetable, rules and more! Use your first year at AGGS to explore different activities, subjects, places and enjoy settling into your new school. I know for me personally, this year has flown by in a flurry even with the circumstances we are in now and hope that anyone reading this will love it as much as I do. It is an experience that will stay with you for the rest of your life and I have relished every bit of it.

Good luck and thanks for reading,

Helen.