



Castle Hall Academy

Compass transition booklet
2026

To achieve academic excellence, develop character and raise aspiration for all at Castle Hall Academy.



Academic
Excellence

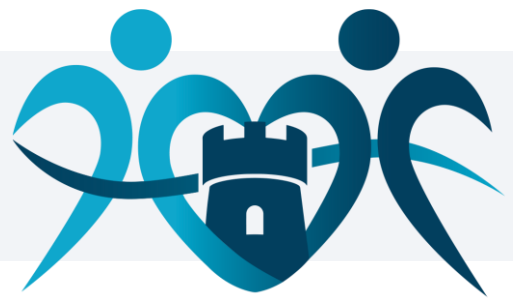


Develop
Character



Raising
Aspirations

Staff at Castle Hall Academy



Mr Brook is our Headteacher.



Miss Rankin is our Head of School.



Mrs Jefferson is our Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Mrs Martin is our Transition Lead.



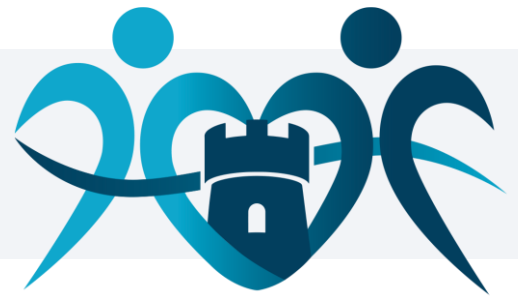
Miss Ward is our Special Educational Needs Coordinator.

Mrs Griffiths is our Assistant Special Educational Needs Coordinator.



Mrs Ennis will be your head of year.

What is high school like?



There are lots of differences between primary school and high school.

At primary school, you have one teacher for most of the day, but at high school, you will have a different teacher for each subject.

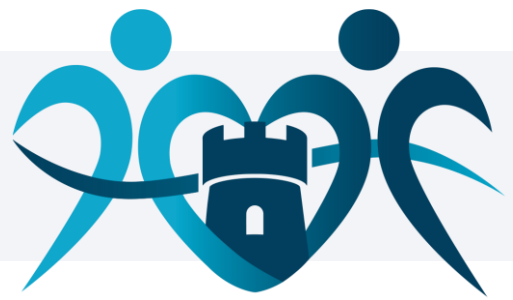
At high school, you will do more subjects. You will study Geography, History, and RE. You will also study Spanish. Instead of having art, you will do different subjects, including design, cooking, and photography. You will also do music, drama, and ICT.

At Castle Hall Academy, there will be 180 students in your year group. This is much bigger than at primary school.

We have a two-week timetable, which means that some lessons will be at different times on different weeks.



The school day



Day	School starts	School finishes
Monday	8.30	15.30
Tuesday	8.30	15.30
Wednesday	8.30	15.30
Thursday	8.30	15.30
Friday	8.30	13.25

You should make sure you are at school 5 minutes early so that you are ready for the school day.

We have a Breakfast Club every morning from 7.45am

For Year 7, break time is at 10.10. Lunch time is currently at 12.15.

You can bring a packed lunch, or you can have a school dinner.

Some students come to Compass at lunch time if they need a quiet place to go.

School uniform



Another difference between primary school and high school is our school uniform.

Our school uniform is:

- A white shirt
- Castle Hall Academy blazer
- Castle Hall Academy tie
- Black fitted trousers
- Smart black shoes

Your shoes must be smart, black, leather shoes.



On days where you have PE, you must come to school wearing your PE kit.

Equipment



When you start in September, we will give you all the equipment you need.

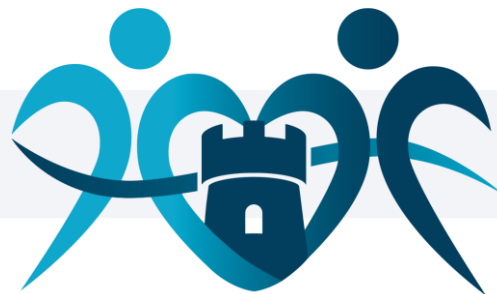
You will be given:

- An Academy backpack (grey)
- A calculator
- An Assessment for Learning (AfL) kit which will have all of your equipment in it (pen, pencil, ruler, whiteboard, whiteboard pen etc.)

You must bring these things to school every day so that you are ready for your learning.



Timetable



At high school, you will have a timetable to follow with your lessons on it.

When you first start, you will have lots of help to find your way around. Don't worry about getting lost!

In Year 7, you will have:

- First lesson
- Break
- Second lesson
- Third lesson
- Lunch
- Fourth lesson
- Fifth lesson
- Sixth lesson

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson
Mastery	Lesson 1 DEFAULT Mr J Pearson	Lesson 1 DEFAULT Mr J Pearson	Lesson 1 DEFAULT Mr J Pearson	Lesson 1 DEFAULT Mr J Pearson	Lesson 1 DEFAULT Mr J Pearson
1	History A106 Mr J Sullivan	English Language B403 Mr D Coop	PE BPE2 Mr B Lyles	Mathematics B302 Mr B Lyles	Science C205 Mr U Makda
2	History A106 Mr J Sullivan	English Language B403 Mr D Coop	PE BPE2 Mr B Lyles	Mathematics B302 Mr B Lyles	Science C205 Mr U Makda
3	Spanish A104 Mrs A Spiers	Literacy LIB Mrs D Griffiths-Brown	Religious Education A108 Miss M Begum	Art C105 Miss G Gratio	ICT B201 Mr J Gittings
4	Spanish A104 Mrs A Spiers	Literacy LIB Mrs D Griffiths-Brown	Religious Education A108 Miss M Begum	Art C105 Miss G Gratio	ICT B201 Mr P Gittings
PM	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson	UNKNOWN Mr J Pearson
5	Mathematics B302 Mr B Lyles	Science C205 Mr U Makda	English Language B403 Mr D Coop	Geography A114 Mr D Perkins	
6	Mathematics B302 Mr B Lyles	Science C205 Mr U Makda	English Language B403 Mr D Coop	Geography A114 Mr D Perkins	

At Castle Hall Academy, all of our lessons are double lessons. This means that you don't have to move around school as much, and gives you lots of time to learn.

Compass



Compass is an area of school, and also a team that helps students with their learning.

In Compass, we have some classrooms, some intervention spaces, a kitchen and a sensory room.

You might come to Compass for some intervention sessions throughout the year.



We make sure that all of our students with additional needs have the support and help they need to feel safe in school.

Support



At Castle Hall Academy, we have lots of students who have additional needs, including neurodivergence, learning difficulties, visual impairments and mental health needs.

All of our students go to their lessons so that they can learn with other students in their year group.

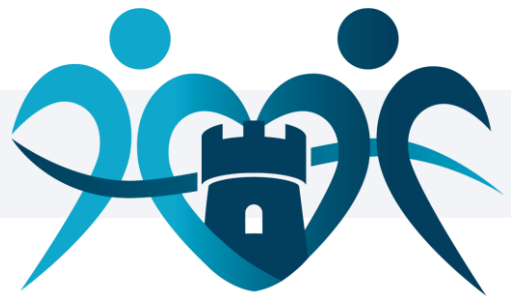
Teachers make sure that all students can learn by putting lots of things in place to help.

Some students might access extra support in Compass. We have lots of interventions that we run to help students with their learning and development, such as:

- Small-group literacy and numeracy
- Lego Therapy
- Social Skills group
- Understanding Autism group
- Emotional regulation group
- Touch typing



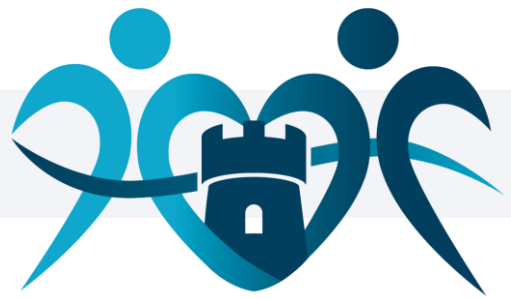
Questions



We have lots of questions from our new students every year. Here are some answers to some of our most commonly asked questions.

Question	Answer
What if I get lost?	We spend lots of time practicing when you first start. Most of the time, your teacher will pick you up and drop you off to your lessons. If not, there are lots of teachers on the corridor to help.
Who can I talk to if I am worried about something?	You can talk to any adult in school. Your head of year will also be around if you need any help or support with anything.
How about homework?	At Castle Hall, we have one piece of homework each night. We know it takes a little while to get used to this, so there won't be any detentions to start with. We spend lots of time practicing this too.
How about detentions?	When you first start, there won't be any detentions for Year 7. Once you get used to being on school, we will have detentions for poor behaviour, being late, or forgetting homework.

Questions



Question	Answer
What if I forget something?	Every morning, there is an opportunity before school to borrow equipment. You will need to hand in your phone or something similar as a swap. You will get this back at the end of the day when you hand your equipment back in.
What if I don't know anyone else who is coming?	We have children from lots of different schools joining us in September. Lots of these students are the only students from their school who are coming. There will be lots of opportunities to get to know new people, and lots of adults around to help too.
What if the dining hall is too noisy or busy?	At lunch times, the Compass room is available for students who might want somewhere quieter to go.
What if I need the toilet during lesson?	We do not generally allow students to go to the toilet during lessons, as we want you to focus on learning. If you have a medical need, you can get a toilet pass. If you are desperate, you will be allowed to go.

More information



You might have more questions, and that's ok.

You can:

1. Talk to your teacher at primary school, who might know some of the answers.
2. Go to our school website to find out more.
3. Your parents/carers will have received some extra information about transition for students with additional needs. There are different times to come and visit school to meet with teachers, students, and to have a look around and ask any questions.



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