



**MERCIA  
ACADEMY**

Lionheart Educational Trust

# YOUR WELCOME BOOKLET

Name:

# From primary to secondary school

Moving to a new school is an exciting time. We are really looking forward to you joining us at Mercia Academy in a few months and we cannot wait to get to know you and educate you throughout your time with us. This booklet is for you to work through, to feel a little more 'ready' to start with us. At the start of the school year we aim to:

- Introduce your new teachers and support staff.
- Have assemblies with all the new year 7s
- Introduce your pastoral team, your tutor and your tutor group
- Give you a tour of the school
- Show you how the canteen works at break and lunch times.

We hope you are feeling excited about starting at Mercia Academy – here you will begin a brand new journey where you will continue to build on skills that you have learned at primary school.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU**



# Welcome

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We are delighted that you are joining us at Mercia Academy. As part of the Lionheart Educational Trust we set high standards and have high expectations. Our culture is founded on hard work, outstanding care, guidance and support and inspiring teaching.

We will encourage you to strive to be the best you can be, to take personal responsibility and to enjoy learning in a wide range of academic, cultural, social and sporting opportunities.

We are passionate about learning. We want you to enjoy school and with our new seamless 7 year curriculum, we know that you will be prepared for your next step. We also value your personal, social and emotional development.

Our committed staff know the importance of nurturing ambition and creativity. They will expect the best from you in your attitude to learning, your exemplary behaviour and uniform.

We want you to achieve the highest standards in a safe, secure and positive environment within our school community.

I am proud to lead Mercia Academy and I look forward to getting to know you more.

**Nick Holmes**  
Associate Principal

# Meet our staff

When you join us, you'll find a dedicated team of staff ready to support you every step of the way. Take a moment to get to know the friendly faces who are here to help you succeed.



**Mrs Wicken**  
Executive Principal



**Mr Holmes**  
Associate Principal



**Mr Black**  
Deputy Principal



**Mrs Payne**  
Safeguarding Lead



**Joe Chamberlain**  
Transition Lead

# Our school motto

## **SMALL SCHOOL. BIG HEART. SHAPING FUTURES.**

At Mercia Academy, we believe in creating a welcoming and supportive environment where everyone feels valued. Our school is a community where we all work together to ensure it's a safe and happy place for learning.

Each of you is unique, and we celebrate that. Our focus is on community, development, and learning, helping you grow into a proud and respectful individual.

We have high expectations because we believe in your potential. Our students excel academically and grow as individuals, learning to value themselves and their community.

*What do you think these values might look like in action?*



# The 4Rs

At the heart of our educational philosophy are the '4Rs'. These core values shape everything we do and believe in at our school. On this page, you'll find each of the 4Rs explained in detail.

## RESILIENCE

Determination • Ability to bounce back • Persistence • Positivity • Effort •

## RESOURCEFULNESS

Self-motivated • Proactive • Organised • Curious • Problem-solver

## REFLECTIVENESS

Thoughtful • Reasoning • Questioning • Critical • Imaginative

## RECIPROCITY

Collaborative • Supportive • Respectful • Communicative • Approachable

Once you've read through the descriptions, can you match the word to its description?

**RECIPROCITY**

To have the ability to recover quickly when the going gets tough.

**REFLECTIVE**

Learning to work together and show care and understanding for each other.

**RESILIENT**

Considering what needs to be done to take the next steps

**RESOURCEFUL**

Having the confidence to ask for help and to find answers in new ways.

# Times of the school day

To help you get ready to start with us, take a look at the timings of the school day.

ACTIVITY	TIME
Arrival at school Daily Connect and HoH Line Up Message	8.30am
Tutor time or Assembly	8.40am
Lesson 1	9.00am
Lesson 2	9.50am
Break	10.40am
Lesson 3	11.00am
Lesson 4	11.50am
Lunch	12.40pm
Lesson 5	13.30pm
Lesson 6	14.20pm
End of School	15.10pm



# Food and drink

## How will I pay for my food and drink?

We run a cashless system where you can pay with your ID card, which your parent/carer can top up on Beehive.

## What are the options for break time?

During break time, students can purchase sausage rolls, pizza, pain au chocolat, and vegetable samosas.

## Can I bring a packed lunch?

Yes, and there are lots of spaces around the school site where you can eat your lunch and catch up with friends.

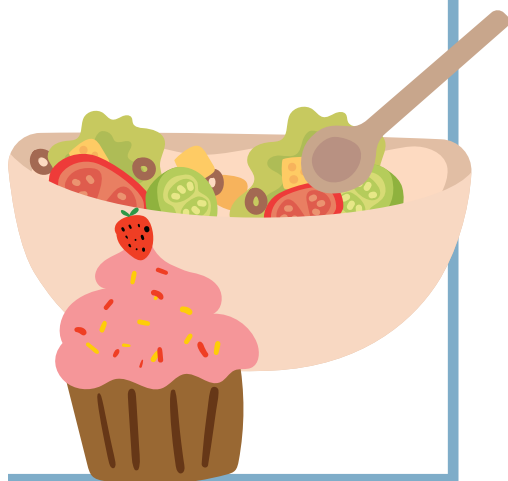
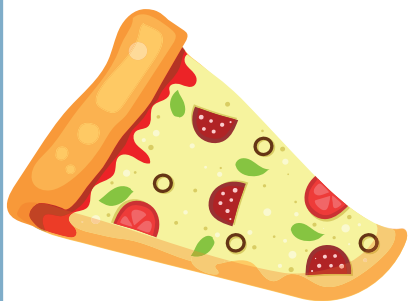
## What about Dietary Requirements?

We cater to various dietary needs, including halal, gluten-free, vegan, and dairy-free options.

## What's on the menu?



Scan the QR code to have a look at an example menu to see what might be on the menu when you start.





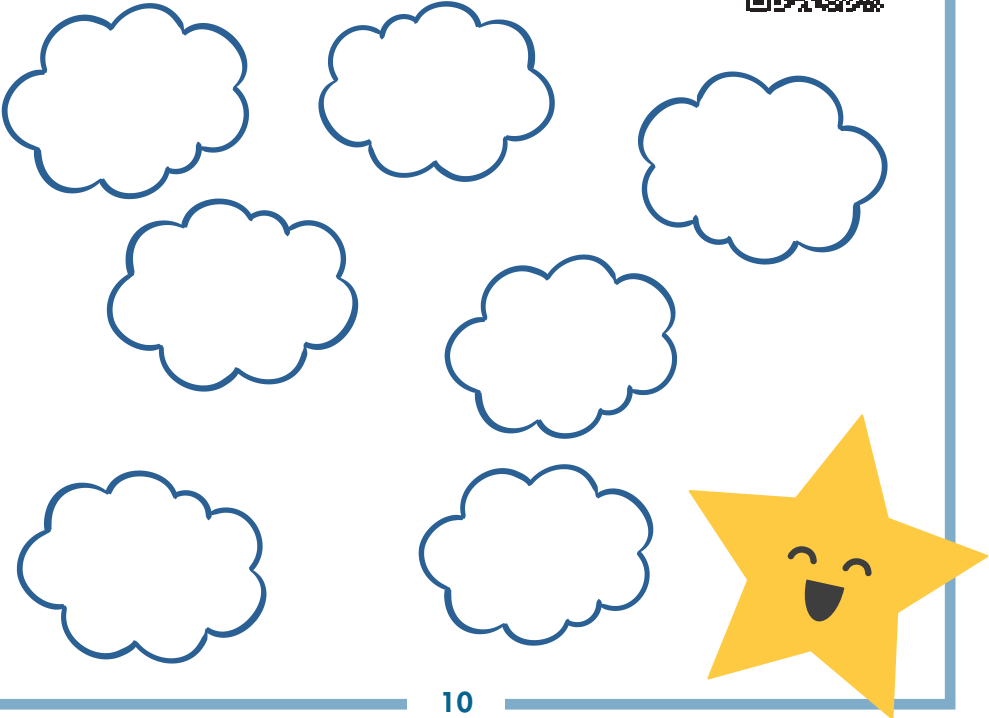
# Extra Curricular

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs for students to get involved with. From creative expression in the Art Club and Creative Club to exploring new worlds in the Book Club, there's something for everyone.

Students can also stay active with sports like Futsal, Badminton, and Basketball, or join the Dance Company. For those who enjoy strategic games, the Chess Club is a great choice. Additionally, students can dive into digital design with the Graphics Club or enjoy musical activities in the Music Club.

When you start with us you will be able to see all the afterschool clubs and book your place on them via Beehive.

**Scan to discover more clubs on offer, are there any you can't see that you would like?**



# My school bag

When you start Mercia Academy one of the main differences is that you will be responsible for all of your equipment and you will take it home each night.

**What things do you think you should bring to school each day?**



# Poetry

At Mercia Academy we believe in learning poetry by heart. Poetry is wonderful because it broadens our horizons, teaches us about life and can turn words into emotions. And when you learn poetry off by heart it becomes a part of you. Below is a poem about resilience. Resilience is the ability to recover from something difficult and keep going. We would like you to spend some time learning this poem off by heart before you start at Mercia Academy.

When you join us, we will say it together.

## ***OZYMANDIAS BY PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY***

I met a traveller from an antique land,  
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;  
And on the pedestal, these words appear:  
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;  
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

# Moving up

***Here are a few activities that you can complete to help you get ready to start secondary school.***

- Visit the school website and have a browse to find out as much useful information as possible. You can find the website on (**[www.merciaacademy.org.uk](http://www.merciaacademy.org.uk)**)
- Practice packing all the things you will need to take to your new school. Get in the habit of packing the night before.
- Plan the route to your new school and have a few trial runs when it's safe to do so.
- Have a look at the school map and familiarise yourself with the layout ready for your first day
- Get in the habit of going to bed early and getting up early in time to eat breakfast.
- Leave plenty of time to find out about your school uniform and order it. Make yourself aware of school policies on things like jewellery, piercings and mobile phones.
- Take some time to learn the names and faces of important people like the headteacher, your head of year, and your tutor. This way, you'll know exactly who to look for if you need assistance or guidance.

# Making new friends

You will meet lots of new people at your new school. It's normal to feel excited, nervous or a mixture of both; here are some ideas that might help:

## Get involved

Spend time with others at lunch and break times. Joining a club is a great way to meet new people.

## Get to know your friends' friends.

You can meet up in the canteen, on the walk home or you could ask your friend to introduce you to them.

## Take the first step

Say 'Hi' or ask how someone's day has been. Giving someone a compliment is a good way to start a conversation.

## Be a good supporter

Help people where you can. Just offering a smile or saying 'Hi' could help someone to feel better.

# Positive friendships

Real friends encourage you to be the best that you can be. Think about the qualities you would look for in a good friend and what might warn you that a friendship was unhelpful.

Write them in the boxes below.

## Positive friendship

Examples:

- Respects my opinions
- Listens to me

# TRIP ROADMAP

## YEAR 8

Battlefields Tour (Y8 & Y9)  
Sporting fixtures (All years)  
Reward trips (All years - Roller world, bowling, Cadbury world, theme parks, Ninja Warrior, etc.)  
Football Tours (PSV and Girona)  
Dance Company Tours



## YEAR 7

Sporting fixtures (All years)  
Y7 PGL residential  
Reward trips (All years - Roller world, bowling, Cadbury world, theme parks, Ninja Warrior, etc.)  
Dance Company Tours



## YEAR 9

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh  
Battlefields Tour (Y8 & Y9)  
Sporting fixtures (All years)  
Reward trips (All years - Roller world, bowling, Cadbury world, theme parks, Ninja Warrior, etc.)  
Football Tours (PSV and Girona)  
Dance Company Tours



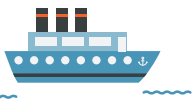
## YEAR 10

Silver Duke of Edinburgh  
Geography Field trips - River testing and Urban Planning (Y10 & Y11)  
University visits and residentials  
Computer Science - Bletchley Park  
Sporting fixtures (All years)  
Reward trips (All years - Roller world, bowling, Cadbury world, theme parks, Ninja Warrior, etc.)  
Football Tours (PSV and Girona)  
Geography - Iceland  
English and Drama - Theatre Visits  
Dance Company Tours



## YEAR 11

Geography Field trips - River testing and Urban Planning (Y10 & Y11)  
University visits and residentials  
Sporting fixtures (All years)  
Reward trips (All years - Roller world, bowling, Cadbury world, theme parks, Ninja Warrior, etc.)  
Football Tours (PSV and Girona)  
Geography - Iceland  
English and Drama - Theatre Visits to support learning  
Dance Company Tours



\*these are an example of the types of trips that might be available during your time with us



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