

Headteacher

Erasmus Darwin Academy, Pool Road, Burntwood, Staffordshire, WS7 3QW

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11th September 2026

Dear Families,

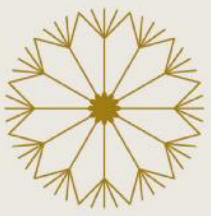
Thank you for taking the time to complete the Year 7 Transition feedback form. I would like to begin by saying thank you for your positive comments regarding our transition process. We fully understand transition from Primary School to Secondary School can be an exciting, daunting and emotional time for both children and families. As such, we do put a lot of time and effort into ensuring that we get this right. The purpose of this letter is to respond to some of the feedback and to share some of the findings.

Firstly, I asked families about any concerns that had been experienced in the first two weeks. The bullet points below will hopefully address the points raised:

- Lesson changeovers are busy periods. The Academy was originally built for 700 students with currently 1100 in the school. The corridors are narrow and these unstructured periods are managed carefully. There is a strong staff presence during all lesson changeover periods which includes staff on corridors and teachers standing on doors to ensure lesson transitions are calm and orderly. There is a one-way system which is in place to ensure this process is smooth. Should your child experience an incident, please ask them to report this to their Tutor.
- Class arrangements are different and each class will have a specific seating plan. There are going to be times where students are asked to sit next to an unfamiliar person but over time, students will develop positive relationships with their new classmates. There are class changes throughout the year following assessment points which is done to ensure students are in the appropriate class for learning.
- In the first two weeks, students will experience getting lost. The Senior Leadership Team and I are always around during lesson changeover periods to help the students. Students will become familiar with the Academy configuration and as I write this, I don't think a student has needed my help for a few days to get to where they need to be. As a year group, they have navigated this superbly.
- If your child is finding they are on their own during social times, please direct them to their Tutor, Student Support Manager or Head of House.
- Breaktimes and lunchtimes are very busy in the canteen. On average, 700 students will use the canteen during both break and lunch. At breaktime, all students are required to line up, and students are allowed into the canteen in a controlled way. During break, we operate a sitting priority whereby certain Year groups are allowed to enter first and for fairness, this is flipped the following week.
- Managing money is very new to Year 7 children and this is something they are required to do independently. Your child can check their account balance in the canteen. Pricelists can be found on our website under 'Parent Info at EDA Café Erasmus'.
- Rewards are given for work in lessons and behaviour around the Academy. Further information can be found on our website 'Parent Info at EDA Rewards'.
- Our extra-curricular information is being finalised, and the offer will be shared with families. You do not need to book onto these, they are free and any student can attend. The only bookings required are for trips and visits and this information is shared separately with families around the time of the visit.

Secondly, I would like to share some of the feedback statistics from family responses:





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- **97%** of families stated they felt well informed during the first two weeks of their child's secondary education
- **96%** of families stated they were satisfied with the transition experience
- **96%** of families stated their child was either confident or extremely confident with the new school routines
- **94%** of families stated the transition communication was helpful
- **93%** of families stated their child was either confident or extremely confident about settling into lessons
- **92%** of families stated the overall transition process was excellent, and they would recommend this to our future families

Finally, we have been delighted with our Year 7 cohort and the start they have made. They have settled superbly and are a very polite group of EDA superstars. Please continue to work with us and I would like to thank you once again for the positive comments regarding the transition process and your child's first two weeks at Erasmus Darwin Academy. We very much look forward to seeing your child thrive for the rest of Year 7 and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Walklate
Headteacher

