



DIDSBURY
HIGH SCHOOL

Didsbury High School

Year 7 Information

Unashamedly Academic

Contacting School

Address

Didsbury High School
4 The Avenue
Manchester
M20 2ET

Contact

Tel: 0161 507 5600
enquiries@didsburyhighschool.org.uk
www.didsburyhighschool.org.uk

Please see below the names of people you may wish to contact at Didsbury High School.

Mrs Alex Clayton
Head of Pastoral Care and SEND/
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Katie Houghton
Assistant Head of School/
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



The School Day

Students must be at school by 08.20 and can finish school at 15.45 every day except Wednesday, when students may choose to finish at 13.45 if they are not participating in electives (extra-curricular activities) on that day. Electives also run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 15.45-16.45. All students must participate in at least two hours of electives per week out of the five hours offered. They can of course choose to partake in more than two hours a week!

Through the electives programme we aim to expose students to a rich and varied curriculum particularly in areas where there may otherwise be barriers to access. Our electives change every term so each student will be given the chance to discover and develop their passions, enabling them to develop important life skills.

The school term dates and holidays can be found on the school website under parents/carers information.

Tutor Groups and Houses

Each student will be in a tutor group with a designated tutor. Every morning at school they will have tutor time which is spent with their tutor group and tutor.

There are four Houses at Didsbury High School:



TIMETABLE 2019-2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0730-0820	Breakfast Provision				
0820-0845	Form Time				
1 0845-0945	Maths	English	Science	Geography	Modern & Asset Language
2 0945-1045	Science	Maths	English	PE	Performance
1045-1105	Break				
3 1105-1200	Modern & Asset Language	Applied Science	Maths	Art & Design	Science
4 1200-1305	Geography	History & Classics	Modern & Asset Language	Maths	English
1305-1345	Lunch				
5 1345-1445	English	Modern & Asset Language	Electives	History & Classics	Applied Science
6 1445-1545	PE	Art & Design	Electives	Performance	Computing
7 1545-1645	Electives	Electives		Electives	

NOTES

Debating

Basketball

Page 7

These Houses are created using a vertical system whereby tutor groups from across all years will create a House team. This engages the students with their older and younger peers and develops a competitive inter-House spirit through academic, sporting and charitable activities.

The House system also allows the Head of Progress to ensure that students remain on track to reach their potential. The Head of Progress tracks student performance and implements intervention strategies, which students who are experiencing academic difficulties require.

Examples of intervention strategies may be:

- Individual learning conversations.
- Group learning conversations.
- Progression monitoring.
- Introducing new learning styles and techniques.
- Feeding back student needs to class teachers and tutors.
- Student mentoring.
- Ensuring parents/carers are involved in intervention strategies whenever necessary.

Head of Year

The Head of Year provides pastoral support and creates a positive ethos within the year group.

The role ensures the provision of a safe environment to maximise the learning of all students and the inclusion of all.

The Head of Year works closely with the students and their Tutors to build a sense of pride in the school and the students' own achievements.

The role establishes good communication with both parents/ carers and students by operating an 'open door' policy. Teachers at Didsbury High School work together with students to help them understand the importance of learning.

Assessment for Learning

All teachers at the school encourage students to make the connection between the impact of what they learn now and their future.

How do we achieve this? By:

- Sharing learning intentions with students.
- Developing excellent working relationships with students.
- Helping students understand the individual standards they should be aiming for.
- Involving students in the assessment of their own work.
- Providing students with feedback and advice.
- Promoting self-confidence.
- Teaching students the importance of reviewing and reflecting on work and progress.
- Sharing ideas on steps to improve.
- Encouraging students to be autonomous learners.
- Setting PP&R tasks – Preparation, Practice and Retrieval tasks (homework) that engage students in a cycle of continual self-assessment to aid long-term retention of knowledge.

This helps students:

- 1 – Learn new skills
- 2 – Use new skills
- 3 – Improve new skills.

Assessment for Learning can be supported by parents/carers at home. You do not need to be an expert in a particular or specific subject to support your child.

By simply understanding the Assessment for Learning process you can greatly support your child at home.

Reporting Home

Each term you will be given access to your child's Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills and Habits (KASH) report. These reports allow you to see the latest 'snapshot' of your child's progress in all four areas of KASH. Your child's development in each area is judged by the subject teacher on the progress being made when compared with curriculum expectations. Each member of staff conducts a learning conversation with your child. This conversation includes current strengths and areas for improvement within the subject.

At Key Stage 3, Foundation Stage levels are given to your child termly in each subject to allow you to benchmark current attainment. Full details of Foundation Stage levels are available on our website under Assessment. At Key Stages 4 and 5 we will report GCSE/A-Level grades which your child is expected to achieve based on current progress.

Rewards

The school aims to promote high standards of behaviour, self-discipline and learning through positive encouragement and reward.

When your child does something well his/her teacher will recognise this by speaking to your child in class, writing comments on his/her work, giving House Points and sending home Praise Postcards.

Rewards will be awarded for:

- Good work
- High quality PP&R
- Positive attitude
- Contributions to departments
- Participation in electives
- Good attendance and punctuality
- Consistently high standards of uniform and being equipped for all learning
- Displaying the qualities of a valuable member of school and wider community

Badges are awarded for outstanding contributions to our four cornerstones: Academic Aspiration, Competition & Physical Endeavour, Leadership & Service, and Culture, Creativity & Rhetoric. There are also badges for outstanding attendance and a prestigious Head of School badge.

Behaviour

We adopt a firm but fair Behaviour Policy at Didsbury High School. The system we adhere to is the consequence system:

C1 – Formal Warning

C2 – 10 Minute detention at break or lunchtime

C3 – 30 Minute detention at lunchtime or after school

C4 – 1 hour detention and withdrawal from the lesson

C5 – Serious incident

If a student receives three or more C2s or above in one week they will also receive an hour Head of Year detention after school. Your child's teachers will record any consequence points electronically and you will be able to see these via the SIMs Parent App.

We also closely monitor 'Behaviour for Learning' in lessons.

This will involve how well-equipped students are; how quickly they start their work and how they continue to work throughout lessons. Additional rewards will be given to students who show consistently good 'Behaviour for Learning'. We will record instances where we believe that a student's behaviour for learning is preventing them from making good progress. This will allow the Head of Progress to put intervention strategies in place and alert parents/carers to this at an early stage.

Prohibited Items in school

These include

- Energy drinks and fizzy drinks
- Aerosols
- Chewing gum

Teachers will also confiscate any items which are preventing learning in the classroom or are in any way dangerous.

Those bringing a packed lunch in to school should bring healthy food and snacks and know that sugary sweets may be confiscated.

Exclusions

- Fixed-term exclusions and permanent exclusions can be applied as a sanction either for one-off serious incidents or for an accumulation of unacceptable behaviour.
- All cases will be considered on an individual basis.

Attendance

At Didsbury High School we are committed to promoting the welfare of our students through regular school attendance. We know that every day of education lost can have a serious impact on students' attainments and overall progress in school. The link between good attendance and high levels of achievement is undeniable. Poor attendance and lateness may also be detrimental to the social adjustment and development of students. We expect that parents/carers will ensure that students attend school and are punctual. Underpinning this policy is the belief that promoting good attendance is the responsibility of staff and parents/carers and this must be evident in our interactions with students. The school's Attendance Policy states that 'parents/ carers will not take their child/children on holiday in term time'.

Aims

- To promote good attendance and punctuality.
- To deal promptly with the causes of poor attendance and lateness.
- To reward good attendance and punctuality.
- To involve all staff, students, parents/carers, governors and outside agencies in promoting good attendance.

Absence and Punctuality

Students who arrive late to school will be required to report to their Head of Year at break time for a maximum of 15 minutes. Persistent latecomers will be issued with an additional after-school detention.

If your child needs to leave school for any reason e.g. a medical appointment, a parent/carer must give prior notice and evidence of the appointment may be asked for. Where possible please use after school hours or Wednesday afternoon for these appointments.

If your child is late to school in the morning, for any reason, they must always sign in at Main Reception before going to registration or a lesson. If they do not sign in, then a school absence text may be sent to the parent/carer.

If your child is to be absent for any reason, please contact the school, before 8.20am.

It is necessary for you to contact school each morning your child is absent unless we have a doctor's note for longer term illnesses. If we do not receive a text/email/call then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

In respect of communication home, we use the email option on a regular basis to inform parents/carers of events in school. It is therefore important that we have an email address that you check regularly on our records.

Uniform

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students. Any student arriving at school in the incorrect uniform may be sent home to get changed or be kept in isolation for the day.

- Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school – no shaved heads (minimum number 2), no patterns in the hair or radical hair colour.
- For reasons of health and safety we do not allow students to wear jewellery in our school. We are aware that there may be occasions when some students request to wear religious symbols. These will be considered on an individual basis.
- Watches may be worn.
- Medical alert tags must be worn at all times.
- Make up must not be worn in Years 7 – 9.
- Coats and outdoor clothing must not be worn in school.
- Students must wear suitable school shoes. These school

shoes should be black leather. Boots, trainers and canvas footwear are not allowed, including sports branded footwear (there should be no obvious logos, stripes or colourful markings).



Uniform Requirements from September 2021

Black, blazer with Didsbury High School logo
White shirt, long or short-sleeved, with pointed collar (shirts must be tucked in at all times)
School tie
Plain black pullover
Plain black leather shoes
Black trousers (tailored, neither tight or baggy, not denim or corduroy) or Didsbury High School tartan pleated skirt (no shorter than three inches above the knee)
Black socks, black or neutral tights must be worn
Hijabs must be plain black or plain white
House T-shirt – will be purchased from the school (details to follow)

Black PE Kit from September 2021

Black and red Didsbury High School polo shirt
Black shorts or skort
Black sports socks or white ankle/trainer socks
Training shoes – pumps/Vans/Converse footwear will not be allowed for PE lessons
Didsbury High School games jersey (optional)
Black tracksuit bottoms (optional)
Black fitness leggings can also be worn instead of shorts/skort
Recommended:
Plastic/ rubber studded football boots
Shin pads and mouthguard

Uniform Suppliers

MCS Stores

220-222 Fog Lane, Didsbury
Telephone: 0161 445 7740
Website: www.mcsstores.co.uk

Monkhouse Schoolwear Specialists

217 Chestergate, Stockport,
SK3 0AN
Telephone: 0161 4883411
Website: www.monkhouse.com

Equipment

Every student is expected to provide the following basic items of equipment for every lesson:

Black or blue ballpoint pen
Pencil eraser
Scientific calculator (Casio)
Protractor

Pencil (and a spare!)
Pencil sharpener
Ruler 12"/30cm



Students should also carry with them a refillable water bottle as there will be limited amounts of single use plastic sold on the school site.

Tippex/Liquid Paper is not allowed in school and must not be used in any school work.

Textbooks and specialised equipment will be issued on loan and students will be required to pay for any loss or damage to school property.

For some subjects such as Food and Nutrition and Art there may be some additional items students need to purchase. If this is the case the items will be added to ParentPay.

All students at Didsbury High School need a school bag. Children will find it very hard to organise themselves, and not lose their books and equipment, if they do not have one. The bag must be of a suitable size and durable enough to carry all the things they need for every lesson in a school day.

Personal Property and Mobile Technology

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones or music players during the school day. Students will be issued with a small locker for valuables in which they can store their mobile phone for the duration of their school day. Students should bring a small padlock to lock their locker, a combination lock is most suitable. Mobile phones may be used to contact home after electives. Larger lockers are available on request, information about these will be given at the start of term. We cannot be held responsible for personal property.

First Aid

We will have trained First Aiders in school at all times. We will compile a list of students detailing all emergency medical conditions that we have been made aware of. This is regularly updated, distributed to all members of staff and shared with the school nursing team where appropriate.

Please note that we would never send a student home ill without first speaking to a parent/carer or one of the contact names on our system. We would always check how the student would be travelling home before signing them out of school.

Students must never contact home regarding illness. They must always see our First Aider or their Head of Year. The student must always sign out at Main Reception before leaving school with the parent/carer.

Payments

You may need to make payments to school for items such as dinner money, trips, and other resources. Please note that Didsbury High School operates a cashless system. Parents/carers are asked to make payments either online via a secure website called ParentPay or by making cash payments at local convenience stores displaying the PayPoint logo. We will issue more details re ParentPay/PayPoint in due course.

Free School Meals

For information on entitlement to free school meals please visit the Manchester City Council website:

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500290/school_meals

Travel to and from school

Didsbury High School is situated in a residential area and as such the local roads can become easily congested and present a safety risk to our students and neighbours. As the majority of our students live in very close proximity to school we ask you encourage your child to walk or cycle to school. We have plenty of onsite bike storage, although bikes are left at your own risk.

There are a number of public bus routes that serve the area well. The school is also very close to Withington tram stop. To qualify for a child bus/tram fare, children aged 11 and over are required to carry an IGO card. Further information can be found on the TfGM website:

[igo card | Transport for Greater Manchester \(tfgm.com\)](https://www.tfgm.com/igo-card)

If it is absolutely necessary to drop off or collect your child by car we ask that you please park away from the school premises and in a manner that is considerate to our neighbours.

What can you do at home to support your child to become independent and succeed at secondary school?

The aim of this page is to provide you with the information you need to help your child achieve independence, while supporting them in getting there. To achieve the balance of doing too much or too little for your child is hard – a useful rule of thumb is:

‘Never do anything regularly for your child that they are capable of doing for themselves.’

How can you help your child to settle into their new environment and learn the required skills to be successful at Didsbury High School?

- Establish a routine which your child is expected to follow. If necessary, provide a tick-list to help them.
- Be involved; praise and encourage independence.
- Encourage them to arrive at school on time in the morning and at the start of all lessons.
- Each student will be expected to have the correct books and equipment for lessons every day. Having a copy of their timetable at home will help you make sure your child is taking what is required for the school day.
- Make sure your child knows what to do if they are late or if they get lost.
- Your child should always have a suitable school bag.

- Check and sign your child's journal on a weekly basis. If you can set this standard, your child will see the importance of it.
- Agree a routine for your child for PP&R and out of class learning and stick to it!
- Point out the rewards of establishing independence and a routine.
- Ensure your child has the correct uniform and equipment EVERY DAY. They may need a checklist for each day at first to ensure they don't forget any essentials.
- It is useful to have all the necessary equipment at home as well as a set for school. This way the student can keep their school equipment in their bag to ensure they have it every day, while still being able to do their homework with the equipment they have at home.
- Encourage your child to check their journal for any PP&R or reminders each night.
- Try to be available for a set time each day to help with PP&R until the routine is established – it will be time well spent.
- Encourage your child to read for pleasure. Reading is one of the most important things any child can do to further their educational success.

Students who satisfy these requirements tend to enjoy school and achieve more.





LAURUS
TRUST

Didsbury High School

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didsburyhighschool.org.uk



@DidsburyHigh



Didsbury High School