

7Y1 Non-Fiction Writing to Advise: Final Assessment

Write a non-fiction letter to a Year 6 student who is coming to GHS in September 2021, advising them how to be a good Greenfordian.

Greenford High School

Lady Margaret Road

Southall

UB1 2GU

To whom it may concern,

The following year will be tremendously crucial for the Year 6 students across the country, because they - and you - will start high school. High school is paramount: it will show your strengths, weaknesses, bring out the best in you, and allow you to meet new people. This letter is written from me to you to help you prepare yourself for the coming year at Greenford High and hopefully this will make the wait a little more bearable.

Everybody will have a new start at any high school. As expected, you will need to make friends so you can have someone to speak to and succour in times of hardship. Some people will already have their friends, and some people will prefer to have none at all. However, when you enter high school, this will be one of your main issues. It certainly was one of mine, last year, when I first came into high school. But Greenford is not just a high school, it is a community. You can feel out of place or deserted. Helped and welcomed. The first tip you should understand on finding friends is that you shouldn't wait for friends to come to you. Everybody around you will naturally befriend others so, over time, you will be alone if you do not find someone that is trustworthy and likeable. If you find yourself befriending somebody for the sake of having a friend, be a little patient, for some friends can be untrustworthy as you get to know them. Many will not have any similarities to you at all, which is the true point. Did you know that the word friend comes from the German word Freund, which originally means 'to love'? Every person you make friends with should love you for who you are: they should love you and you should in return. Therefore, your final tip for making a worthy friend is to choose them wisely and with as much care as possible. Frequently people choose friends because they sat next to them in a class, or had lunch with them. It doesn't always mean they are your friends. Just be you and the rest will take care of itself.

Potentially, an issue some people find nerve-racking or worrying is bullies and elder students at the school. Many people have read books like Middle School, Diary of a Wimpy Kid or even Harry Potter. These all involve a form of bully, even if not physical. However, let me tell you that Greenford has done all the work of stopping bullies to help you; you don't need to worry at all. Imagine a caring environment that you will be welcomed into. Greenford has separated the elder, more bully-like kids from the Year 7s and 8s so that there is a bully-free zone. However, some Year 8s and 7s can be bullies or impudent too so you should keep an eye out. When you have a problem, you can get more advice from the teachers around you. If you have trouble coping, there are plenty of teachers that can help, and all of them will be ready to give you support and will be caring and sensitive. Also, if you have trouble at home or need help dealing with bullying, there are teachers like Ms Adhami and Ms Johal, who may be intimidating and strict at first, but can help you. Ms Adhami is on the Child Protection Team, along with Mrs Grimley. And, if you can't find either you could speak to any teacher; any teacher that you feel is worthy of your trust. No teacher would want to hurt you on purpose – they are there to protect you. Even when you need someone your own age, there are cybermentors or prefects who will be there when you need to talk.

Greenford is a top school, so of course rules are the most salient part of Greenford's success and the core of the GCSE and A level scores that bring the school to the one of the top schools in the country. To follow in their footsteps, you must:

- Come in everyday with a positive attitude and give 100%.
- Create a positive atmosphere and help anyone who is struggling with their work to create an example for those around you.
- Always pack your bags the night before so as not to forget anything - be completely organised and have everything ready.
- Remember to always follow the rules, because the teachers know what is best for us and for our health and safety.
- Remember the school rules – Ready, Respect, and Safe – and keep these in mind throughout your time as a student at this acclaimed school.
- And finally, have a growth mindset to challenges and persevere through tasks.

Some activities at Greenford can be highly infuriating (they can involve lots of hard work!) and are strenuous. However, if you work hard, you can attain lots of fulfilling awards and certificates. Meanwhile, there are many, many gratifying rewards that come and go. Hot Chocolate Friday, Cinema Afternoons and Non-uniform Days, just to name a few. Hot Chocolate Fridays go to the students with the best Interims: you might even get the honour of having it with the headteacher! Cinema Afternoons are movies to the best form for achievement, attendance or punctuality. You might get to watch a movie with your form and some friends – how simply splendid is that? Finally, Trainer Days and other events of charity of the sort come around on Fridays, near the end of term and on half-days.

School trips don't come as often as they do in Primary. They only come to the hardest of workers, the most resilient of students and the most benignant of friends. Additionally, students are rewarded with them when they have shown all three of these attributes; they don't come just because you are only one of these. Even some students, who are in top-sets for everything; get Accelerated Reader prizes every other week and get called in assembly for Achievement Points – even they do not get required with trips. When you work harder than the teacher's expectations you may get chosen for trips. There are lots of different extra-curricular activities at GHS, even if most are sports. If you're not into sports like football, netball, hockey, gymnastics, badminton, tennis or table tennis, then there are plenty of competitions and other activities that would be perfect for you, like the Spelling Bee! There are also Creative Writing, the Junior Maths Challenge and Poem competitions to get right into. Teachers always run them, so why not join Miss Westcott and Miss Chana during lunchtimes if you can spell long words from memory, such as diarrhoea or hallelujah? In fact, at GHS, there is a little saying that passes on from time to time: "At Greenford High School, we don't just not do clubs. We have to fail to try, and try to do well. We fail so we can learn, and we learn to succeed."

Thank you for reading this letter. I hope you enjoy and make the most of your time here.

Yours Faithfully,

Jasmine Alrubaye,

Greenford High School