**Starting high school**

I understand that when you see Unity, maybe driving by, it seems massive. This was a little daunting for me but soon you know it like the back of your hand.

Firstly, I would just like to say that you are all super brave because you must face high school without a transition. I am writing this to tell you all about my experience, so you don’t come knowing nothing. I understand that this is not the same, but this could help in other ways and I will try to include some good tips.

When you arrive at Unity on the first day, you will be taken into the sports hall to be put into your PD (This is where you get important notices and a weekly quiz). Once you are in your group you will be given your house tie. There are four houses, North, East, South and West.

Tip - You might want to learn how to tie your tie, so you don’t need a teacher’s help as they are very busy.

Then an older student will come a take you to your PD. Make sure you follow carefully because you don’t want to get lost.

Tip -You might want to remember your way as you have to go to this class every day.

PD is a little scary at the beginning, as you are with years 8, 9 and 10 but you get used to it. Your PD tutor is there to help too so if you have any concerns you can speak to them. (They don’t bite). In fact all teachers are there to help. You will spend lesson one in there where you will get you timetable for the week.

Tip - At breaktime you may want to take a picture of it as you can lose it easily.

Lesson 2-This is your first lesson at Unity. Don’t panic if you get lost or are a bit late, you will be let off. You could also ask your PD tutor for directions. They will gladly help as it is not your fault that you’re not sure.

Dinner time-On your first week of school you get to go for dinner 10 minutes early so you miss the queues but don’t get used to it as you will quickly learn what to do. The school dinners at Unity are very good too as there is something for everyone. There are things like pasta, sandwiches and wraps. You may also bring your own dinner; it is truly your choice. We also don’t use money at Unity as you will get an account that you can access with your thumb print, which you will get on your first day.

Day two-Your second day of high school is like a normal day. You will go straight in to lessons not PD. If you didn’t know you have 6 lessons, 1 break, dinner and PD time in a day.

Tip-If you get to school early you may want to find out where all your classes are so that you can find them easier between lessons.

When you are in the corridors always walk on the left and be careful on the stairs as we don’t want any injuries.

Once you have settled in, you may want to think about clubs that you can attend. When I first came, I joined a range of clubs like rugby, drama and athletics. But there are a lot more to choose from like football, climbing wall, gym, choir, art and maths. You could also go to the homework club where you can get it done so you have a free evening or if you need help.

Tip- I would try to join a new club that you have never done before as you may like it. If you don’t you can stop any time it is no big deal. (I tried rugby and now I really love it.)

Every year at Unity we have a school show and last year I decided to have a go and audition. You don’t have to be super talented; you just have to be enthusiastic. In year seven you only get the role of ensemble so it is not huge, but you could build up every year. This is a great way to make new friends and build confidence.

When I started Unity, I only knew a one person, but it didn’t matter because I soon made lots of friends. So that is one less thing to worry about.

Trips- There are a lot of trips that go ahead at Unity like New York and skiing, I just put my name down to go to Germany. At the end of the year there is a reward trip to Blackpool pleasure beach for those who deserve it.

Tip- Always stay on your best behaviour and keep a good attendance record or you can’t go and that would be a real shame.

Here are some rules that may come in handy

* You need to have at least a pen, pencil and ruler
* You should always have a reading book with you
* You are only allowed water in class
* You must have your phone on silent in class
* No hoodies or jackets on inside.

Hope this will help you a little when you start as I tried to make it as detailed as I could. I know it is not the same as transitions but the main thing is try not to worry, you will only feel worse.