Term 3 Holiday - 2025:Day 3 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

Section 1:

#1: "Making new friends" paragraph

Strengths:

- You provide practical advice about taking time to observe people before forming friendships, which shows thoughtful consideration
- Your suggestion to understand how people act is a sensible approach to finding compatible friends

Weakness: Unclear reasoning → When you write "40% of the kids in this school is worth hanging out with," this raises questions. How did you arrive at this percentage? What makes certain students "worth" hanging out with while others aren't? This statement might discourage readers from being open-minded or giving everyone a fair chance. Additionally, the phrase "some kids might seem nice at first" suggests that being cautious is always necessary, but this could make new students feel overly suspicious or worried about their peers.

Exemplar: I suggest observing how different people interact before deciding who you'd like to be friends with. This gives you time to find students who share your interests and values.

#2: "Stay out of trouble and dramas" paragraph

Strengths:

- You recognise that getting involved in other people's problems too early can be problematic
- Your awareness that people need to know someone before accepting their help shows maturity

Weakness: Contradictory advice → Your instruction to "Don't try to find out what is going on in this school" seems extreme and impractical. Students naturally learn about their school environment, including its culture, activities, and social dynamics. Understanding your new school is actually important for settling in successfully. The advice to avoid all drama is sensible, but telling students to deliberately avoid knowing anything about their school could make them feel isolated or uninformed.

Exemplar: Focus on understanding your new school's routines and activities, but avoid getting involved in other people's disagreements or personal conflicts until you've established your own friendships.

#3: "Listen to the teachers rules" paragraph

Strengths:

- You emphasise the importance of following classroom expectations
- Your suggestion to answer questions occasionally shows balance between participation and staying reserved

Weakness: Overly passive approach → Advising students to "just have to stay quiet" for an entire week might prevent them from participating in class discussions, asking important questions, or showing teachers their abilities. While you don't want to seem attention-seeking, being completely silent could make you appear disengaged or uninterested in learning. Teachers appreciate students who participate appropriately and ask questions when they need help.

Exemplar: Follow your teachers' instructions carefully and participate when you have something valuable to contribute or when you need clarification.

■ Your advice sheet addresses important aspects of starting at a new school, and your intentions to help other students are clear. However, your piece would benefit from presenting a more balanced perspective. Currently, your advice leans towards being overly cautious and withdrawn, which might make new students feel anxious rather than confident. Consider revising your suggestions to encourage healthy social engagement whilst still being thoughtful. For instance, in your first paragraph about making friends, instead of assigning a percentage to "worthy" students, you could explain what qualities to look for in good friends. Additionally, your advice about staying out of drama is sensible, but you could distinguish between avoiding conflicts and being a friendly, approachable person. Your guidance about classroom behaviour could be strengthened by encouraging appropriate participation rather than suggesting students remain completely quiet. Think about how you felt on your first day—what advice would have helped you feel welcome and capable? Your conclusion is encouraging, but the advice sheet would be more helpful if the earlier sections promoted confidence and positive engagement rather than excessive caution.

Overall Score: 38/50			

A start [guide] to your new school

Are you excited to go to your new school? Then follow these steps.

#1 1. Making new friends

I suggest you make friends a bit later because some kids might seem nice at first. What I believe so far is that 40% of the kids in this school is worth hanging out with. [Observe how different students interact and behave before deciding who you'd like to become friends with.] You might need an idea on [of] how people act around you to find the most suitable people you can be friends with.

#2 2. Stay out of trouble and dramas [drama]

To have a good start in this school, don't interfere with any drama even though you have a solution that might work. If people don't know you, they don't want you to get in there [involved in their] personal life [lives]. Don't try to find out what is going on in this school. [Focus on learning about your school's activities and routines, but avoid getting involved in other people's conflicts.]

#3 3. Listen to the teachers [teachers'] rules and don't try to grab the teachers [teacher's] attention.

In the first week of school, you just have to [should] stay quiet [attentive and participate appropriately]. Find people you can talk to later on. Answer questions occasionally [when you have something to contribute or need clarification].

This school might seem frightening, but you will get used to it eventually. Good luck!

Aaradhya