



Information for Year 6 Students:

Moving from Primary to Secondary school is an exciting time so we hope you are really looking forward to joining St Mary's College. However, moving from Primary school to Secondary school is a big step so it is also normal to feel a bit nervous and to have some questions.

With this in mind we have put together the information below which is a summary of what we would have shared with you on a Transition visit to hopefully reassure you and answer some of the questions you may have.

What are the main differences at secondary school?

- St Mary's College is much bigger than your Primary school
- You will have lots of different teachers for different subjects.
- You will move around for all of your lessons – this helps you to find your way around quickly!
- You must bring all of your own equipment to school each day – you need a strong school bag / rucksack as you will need quite a lot of things with you each day.
- You must look after all of your belongings throughout the school day - we don't have cloakrooms or lockers at St Mary's College.
- You will follow a timetable and use your planner effectively to ensure you are organised and ready for each school day – make sure you get organised the night before for each school day!
- Our school day is probably longer than your Primary school day – we start at 8:45am, lunch is at 12:35pm and we finish school at 3:35pm.
- You will probably receive more homework than at Primary school – you will need to write this in your planner and make sure it is completed and handed in on time.

- You will need to organise yourself at lunchtime – it is very important you eat! You may have a packed lunch or eat in school in the canteen or get a grab bag (a packed lunch in school) which is often helpful if you are going to a club.
- Lots of variety of clubs – see enclosed information on sports clubs – there are also lots of other extra-curricular lunchtime clubs which are non-sport related.
- You may be travelling to and from school on your own for the first time – you will need to know the plan(s) for this to ensure you know what to do at the end of the school day.

Our Expectations:

- Come to school every day! We expect our students to have 100% attendance.
- Be punctual – make sure you are on time for school and all lessons.
- Good behaviour – we have a very clear behaviour policy at St Mary’s College. If you break the classroom code you will be issued with a first warning, if you break the classroom code again you will be issued with a second warning, if you break the rules a third time you will be asked to leave the lesson, collected by a Senior member of staff, complete the rest of the lesson in our Pastoral Centre and you will be issued with a lunchtime detention for the following day.
- We have very clear uniform rules (see uniform booklet and letter enclosed) – please make sure your uniform is ready the night before for each school day ahead so there are no issues. A few clear reminders: no trainers, no boots, no make-up, no jewellery, no extreme hairstyles.
- PE kit is considered part of our uniform and therefore the correct kit must be worn in Physical Education lessons (see uniform booklet enclosed) Make sure you have your full PE Kit in school on the days it is needed.
- NAME EVERYTHING!!! All items you bring to school must have your full names on - if something is lost and it does not have your name in it, it is VERY doubtful it will be found. If things DO have your full name in they may be returned to the Year 7 office. It will be your responsibility to find any lost items – it is your responsibility not to lose them!
- Mobile phones – must be switched off in bags all day – if you use your mobile phone during school time it will be confiscated and taken to Main Reception for you to collect at the end of the day. If this happens three times your parent/carer will have to come into school to collect your phone. If you need to make a phonecall you come to the Year 7 office and we will help you to do this using our office phones.

Main worries and solutions:

- Getting lost – if you get lost just ask someone for help, all staff and students at St Mary's College will help you. Try to learn your timetable so you know what lessons you have on which days and who the teacher is.
- Older students – we understand it is a bit daunting to be the youngest again when you have been the oldest at Primary school. Try not to worry, the older students will support you and help you – they were all Year7 once!
- Homework – you will get more homework than you had at Primary school so it is really important to be organised. We have homework club each lunchtime in the Year 7 area which may help you to manage this.
- Increased responsibility – you will need to be mature and organised to manage everything. You need to have all of your own equipment each day (see equipment list enclosed) and be responsible for all of your own things throughout the school day. A good tip is to pack your bag the night before.
- Making new friends – some of you are coming with lots of other children from your Year 6 class, many of you are coming on your own from your school. You need to be brave, try new clubs and talk to new people – there are approximately 380 students in Year 7 so lots of opportunities to make new friends.

If you have any problems or worries:

- Tell your Tutor. You will have a Personal tutor (who may also be your Form tutor) - this is a member of the Year 7 team who will meet with you on a one to one basis each term to check how everything is going and set you targets for further progress.
- Come to the Year 7 office and tell the Year 7 team so that we can help.

We are sure you will make the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 very successfully and we are here to support you.

Be organised, be ready, be brave – we are really looking forward to you joining us at St Mary's College!

