

Joining Saint George in Year 7

Transition from Primary School: Information for Parents

“One parent expressed views similar to many when saying, ‘Every effort is made to help Year 7 children settle’”

OFSTED 2011

Saint George has an excellent reputation for its transition arrangements and every effort is made to welcome all our new boys and girls in to Year 7. We recognise that the move from primary to secondary school can be a nervous experience, both for parents and students, and we therefore tailor our transition programme to suit individual needs. Gradually we hope to transform nervousness into excitement! Below you will find some detailed information on how we help Year 7s settle in at the college.

Working with Primary Schools

We work very closely with primary schools, particularly our seven Catholic feeder schools:

- Holy Family Catholic Primary School Southampton
- St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School Titchfield Common
- St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Chandlers Ford
- Springhill Catholic Primary School Southampton
- St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School Southampton
- St Peter’s Catholic Primary School Winchester
- St Jude’s Catholic Primary School Fareham,

We feel that the longer the time children spend with us, the more comfortable they will feel about meeting new people and entering a new phase of their education. It is common for us to therefore work with Years 3 upwards at primary schools, with a large amount of time being spent with Years 5 and 6.

Below is a short summary of some of the things we do as part of our transition programme:

- **Primary School Roadshows** – these give pupils the chance to meet current Saint George students and ask them questions; from what lessons are taught to what food is like at lunchtimes (a very popular question!).
- **Primary School Teaching** – a number of our staff teach regularly at our feeder schools, strengthening links between the schools further.
- **Open Evening** - each year we open the school for parents and pupils who would like to have a look around the college, see all of our facilities and meet our staff. **This year our Open Evening is on THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2016 at 6pm**
- **Open Mornings** – we also hold a number of Open Mornings, allowing families to visit the college on a regular working day. This year, we have two Open Mornings on **WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2016, 9AM-10.30AM** and on **SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2016, 10AM-12PM**. Please telephone 02380 322603 to book a tour if you would like to visit on either of these mornings.
- **Year 6 Sports Tournament** – this is on **THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2016, 4.30PM – 6PM** for individuals or teams of Year 6 pupils, giving them the chance to familiarise themselves with our sporting facilities, meet our PE staff and have fun!

- **Year 6 End of Year Celebration** - we also hold a celebratory Mass and “It’s A Knockout” tournament for our seven Catholic feeder schools every July. This academic year, our celebration takes place on **FRIDAY 14TH JULY 2017**.
- **Year 6 Induction Visits** - Each Year 6 child who has secured a place at Saint George is either visited in the summer term by transition staff, or invited in to St George, to talk about what things they are looking forward to and what they might be nervous about.
- **Nurture Groups** - Students who might need a little more care and attention in their transition (for example, those who might be the only child coming from their primary school) are invited in to St George for Nurture Group sessions, which are small group sessions where they get to meet other Year 6s on a smaller scale.
- **Year 6 Induction Day** - All Year 6 pupils who have secured a place at St George are invited in in July to meet their tutor group and tutor, and sample lessons at the college. This year, Induction Day is on **WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY 2017**.
- **Year 6 Parental Information Evening** – Parents have the opportunity to meet college staff as well as their son’s/daughter’s tutor on this evening, and all parents are given an important information pack about joining St George. This year, this event is on the evening of **WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY 2017 FROM 6PM**.
- **Year 5 'Taster Day'** – Every July, we hold an open day for Year 5 students, giving them the chance to experience a day at secondary school, before they decide on their secondary school preference. This year it will be on **Wednesday 28TH JUNE 2017**.
- **Prospective Parent Information Evening** – This is held in the Summer Term for any parent interested in securing a place for their child at St George. It is in addition to the Open Evening, which takes place in the Autumn Term. This year, the evening is being held on **Wednesday 28TH JUNE 2017, FROM 6pm**, following the Year 5 Taster Day.

Year 7: Securing a successful Transition

Once your child has joined Saint George, work still continues to ensure transition is as smooth as possible.

- **Year 7 only day** - The first day of the new term is on **MONDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2016** and students should arrive from 9:30am for a 10am start (reserved for Year 7 students only). They spend the morning with their tutor and tutor group getting to know each other before they embark on their first lessons in the afternoon. All staff are available, as well as the college prefects and peer mentors who ‘buddy up’ with each tutor group.
- **Team Building Trip** – All Year 7s are taken on a Team Building Trip with all their tutors to help them bond. **Friday 14th October 2016**
- **Year 7 Welcome Mass** - The Mass is a tradition at St George whereby we welcome students and their families to the college. **Friday 16th September 2016**.
- **Year 7 Settling in Evening** – This evening will be on the **THURSDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 5.30PM** and is for Year 7 students and their parents only. We offer it to give all parents the opportunity to meet their child’s tutor and review how they have settled in during their child’s first half term at St George.
- **Mentoring Day** – Three times a year, parents are invited into the college to meet their child’s tutor on Mentoring Days, where they can review their child’s progress. It is on **Wednesday 14th December 2016** for the autumn term.
- **Year 7 Parents’ Evening** – This will be on the **WEDNESDAY 3rd MAY 2017 AT 5PM** and will provide parents the opportunity to meet their child’s individual subject teachers.

- **Year 7 Camp** – This is a three night residential at Ferny Crofts where Year 7 students take part in a programme of team building and fun activities to cap off their first year at St. George. The provisional date for 2017 is Tuesday 11th July – Friday 14th July.

Specialist support is available for those who might need it and these programmes can be offered in consultation with staff and parents:

- **Nurture Group** - This is small group work for those who might need more support with the change from primary to secondary school
- **Friendship Groups** – To develop and support new friendships
- **ELSA Support** – 1:1 sessions for those who need a little extra support to settle into live at St. George Catholic College.

You can always email info@stgcc.co.uk for more information.