

Transition



2021



Your guide to
starting
St Mary's College

YOUR JOURNEY TO WORLD CLASS SUCCESS STARTS HERE



Welcome to St Mary's College

Head of Transition: Miss Ramsden



Hello, my name is Miss Ramsden and I have been coordinating the Transition process at St Mary's College. It is my responsibility to make sure students make the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 successfully and it is a genuine privilege to undertake this role each year.

Making the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is a really big step and not something we underestimate at St Mary's College, so it is imperative that we support our new students fully to ensure they settle in quickly and can all make outstanding progress. We have been liaising with your Primary schools and families throughout the Transition process to ensure we have an in depth understanding of every child joining us and can therefore support all of our new starters appropriately. You will also complete a week of Transition this term to help navigate your way around the school, get to know your tutors, experience lessons and make new friends in preparation for returning as Year 7 in September.

We have very high standards at St Mary's College and these high expectations are reinforced continuously by every member of staff at our school. As a result of this consistency, every student knows what is expected of them in terms of attendance, punctuality, behaviour, personal appearance, effort and homework and therefore, all students have a strong platform upon which to build each day to achieve their very best. These high standards are underpinned by our commitment to offering a high level of Pastoral care. We have Pastoral teams in each year group who work tirelessly to support every child in their year group. Furthermore, each child who attends St Mary's College has a Personal Tutor who will see them each morning, meet with them on a one to one basis three times a year, set them appropriate targets for progression and support them with any challenges they may face. We are committed to educating and supporting each child as an individual within a large year group in a large school. Every teacher at our school is a Personal Tutor and this ensures we can offer personalised support and care so that all students in our school community feel valued at all times and all understand they have their part to play in the continued success of St Mary's College.

The commitment from our staff and the wonderful facilities we enjoy ensure that every child who comes to St Mary's College has the ability to achieve great things both academically and socially. Our philosophy that ability is not fixed ensures all students make excellent progress and that our staff go above and beyond to provide every opportunity for each student to achieve their very best. We firmly believe that every student who comes through our doors has a talent and is able to use that individual talent to contribute to our whole school community – a belief that our students embrace wholeheartedly!

St Mary's College is an outstanding school with superb results and excellent Pastoral care and I am lucky to work here in such a special role with such inspirational young people. I hope this publication will help you to gain an understanding of what we have to offer at St Mary's College but please don't hesitate to contact us by telephone or email if you have any queries or require any more information.

Good luck with making the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 - we are really looking forward to welcoming you to St Mary's College!

If you have any queries please email: transition@smchull.org

“Getting the basics right”

Equipment

You must have the following essential equipment every day from the start of Year 7:

- Packs of tissues for personal use.
- Alcohol based hand gel
- At least two black pens
- A red pen
- At least two pencils
- Rubber
- A clear, non-flexible plastic ruler with cm measurements on
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pencil case
- Reading book – your own choice

The following equipment is recommended but not compulsory:

- Set of coloured pencils
- Glue stick
- A small English dictionary

Uniform

Uniform must be correct for September

- Plain black shoes NO trainers NO boots
- School coats only
- No make-up, nail varnish or jewellery including earrings. A watch can be worn but ‘smart’ watches are not permitted
- No extreme hairstyles

Please refer to guidance in the uniform booklet and please see most recent uniform letter on our website sent home as guidance for current SMC students.

Behaviour

Follow the Code of Conduct:

- Act with respect and consideration to others at all times.
- Take pride in your work and if you have a problem ask for help.
- Follow the Classroom Code. Leave the classroom and school as you wish to find them.
- Move quickly and quietly on the left around the school.
- Be punctual to school and lessons.
- Follow instructions carefully and immediately.
- You are members of the school and should be immediately recognisable by your uniform and should conduct yourself as an exemplary representative of the college.
- Certain things cannot be tolerated such as bullying, rudeness to members of staff, racist, homophobic, transphobic, biphobic language, sexist remarks and defiant behaviour.



Chaplaincy



There are lots of exciting things you can get involved in with the Chaplaincy Team at SMC. We celebrate Mass in the Chapel every Tuesday lunchtime, it is a lovely way to spend your lunchbreak taking some time out of your busy day to be still in the presence of God, then we have lunch together afterwards.

Every Wednesday lunchtime we have our Youth SVP meetings to plan our charitable works. The group is based on the good works of St Vincent De Paul for any student who would like to be involved in helping other people. We arrange visits to meet the elderly in our Hull parishes including visiting the housebound day at St Stephen's Neighbourhood Centre and Holy Name Care Home. We have also visited Hull Royal Infirmary to sing Carols at Christmas & have been involved in fundraising to build a house for a family in India, sending over 500 scarves to refugee children in France and making Easter cards for the elderly community. Each Friday lunchtime a group of students meet in the Chapel to pray. We use different forms of prayer including, reflection, music, the Rosary, scripture doodle, Christian mindfulness and many others.

You could also get involved in our Chaplaincy residential retreats to the Briars Youth Centre in Derbyshire. This is always a highlight of our school year for Year 8s and offers a chance to get to know friends better and explore your faith. Another key feature of the school year in faith is the pilgrimage to Lourdes during May half term. Lourdes is such a special place to so many people where we have the opportunity to help the sick people of our diocese, grow in our relationship with God and spend time getting to know others from our school community.

Form Groups

In each year group we have an X half and a Y half which is then divided into different lettered forms, named after 6 different people. Here is some information so you can find out who they are named after:

C

St Peter CHANEL was born in 1803 in France. He is important to our school because he was one of the very first Marist Priests who concentrated on missionary work at home and abroad.

P

Blessed Nicholas POSTGATE was born in 1596 in Yorkshire and lived at a time when being a Catholic priest was punishable by a horrible death. He shared his food and clothes and offered both spiritual and practical help, wanting to understand the needs of the poor.

F

St John FISHER was born in Beverley in 1469. He was such a brilliant student that he studied at Cambridge University when he was only 14. Today, we acknowledge his courage and commitment to his faith and his example to us all.

R

Sister Mary RUTH -born in 1942 & grew up in Great Yarmouth. She became an RE teacher before entering the Catherine McAuley Central Novitiate in order to become a Sister of Mercy. In 1986 she was appointed Head of RE at St Mary's College. She was a great community person with a tremendous sense of fun & always full of jokes

M

Catherine McAULEY was born in Dublin in 1778. She dedicated her life to caring for the poor, particularly women. Catherine opened the House of Mercy in 1827: to house and educate poor women. In 1831 Catherine made her Vows and created the Order of the Sisters of Mercy. St Mary's College was originally founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Hull.

T

St THERESA of Calcutta grew up in the Catholic Church & decided to devote her life to God at an early age. When she turned 18, she joined the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary to India and at 36 St Teresa felt the call from God to help the poor of India. She received some basic medical training and then set out to help the sick and needy. This wasn't an easy task in India in 1948.

Music & Performing Arts



There will be plenty to keep you busy in the Performing Arts department!

Get involved in productions as a singer, dancer or actor (or all three) at regular after school rehearsals or even join our Stage Management club and learn about what happens backstage. You could even become a Shakespeare ambassador and work with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

There are also lots of exciting things to look forward to each year within the Music Department. We have several concerts and performances each term, as well as the annual Carol Service, which is always one of the highlights of the year. Make sure you come down to the Music Department and check out when rehearsals for all of our choirs, bands and orchestras start.

All are welcome!



Clubs galore !

Why should you join a club?

There are many benefits to joining a lunchtime club or extra-curricular activity whilst at St Mary's College:

- Helps you make new friends
- Keeps you fit and active – health benefits
- Develop new skills and techniques
- Develop skills such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, confidence building or public speaking
- It's fun!
- Matches, performances, competitions, tournaments
- Various levels of ability so you can participate at a level that suits your needs
- Prizes and incentives

Some of the clubs we have at SMC include:

- Construction Club
- Trampolining
- Performing Arts productions
- Boccia
- Arts & Crafts
- BoxFit
- Youth Speaks
- Science Club
- TeamFit
- Homework Club
- Backstage Club
- International Cinema Club
- Chaplaincy & SVP
- School orchestra



Keeping Safe

We all know that our students thrive better and are able to reach their full potential when we all work closely together. Everyone at St Mary's College is totally committed to this and we look forward to working together to stay safe and well.

Some ways the you can stay safe:

- **ATTENDANCE** - regular attendance at school is really important. We always check up when students are not in school and ask for medical evidence if you are off ill.
- **BULLYING** - we take all cases of bullying at SMC very seriously and will work together with pupils and families to resolve any serious problems. Please take time to read the Anti-Bullying policy on our school website. Try hard not to get into petty squabbles with others.
- **HEALTH & SAFETY** - we have a Health & Safety policy at SMC which works to keep everyone safe. Health & Safety is everyone's responsibility so students are expected to follow our rules and procedures carefully and sensibly. We have a medical team and trained first aiders on site to deal with accidents and illnesses.
- **ONLINE SAFETY** - The world of online safety can be confusing and overwhelming. There is so much information out there & some children are so much further ahead in their understanding than others. We promote e-safety in all aspects of ICT usage at SMC. Please see our advice for staying safe online on the pages that follow.



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Miss A Booth * Vice Principal



Staying Safe online

Here are some practical tips to help you stay safe online and get the most out of the digital world.

- Only talk to real life friends or family on social media sites, online gaming or chatrooms.
- Stick to the minimum age limits for apps and social media sites - you should not be on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter before the age of 13. We may report accounts if students are putting themselves and others at risk.
- Use secure and legal sites to download music and games.
- Never share your email address or phone number with anyone online, always keep your privacy settings tight to keep your information private.
- Don't arrange to meet people in real life that you have only ever met online. Don't post anything online that you wouldn't want your family or your teachers to see- treat others online as you would wish to be treated yourself. Check attachments and pop ups for viruses.
- Always come and talk to someone if you are upset by something you have seen online.
- Stick to the use of ICT expectations at SMC, laptops and computers are for school work only.





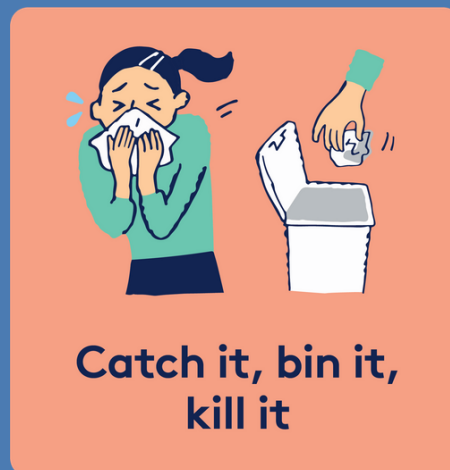
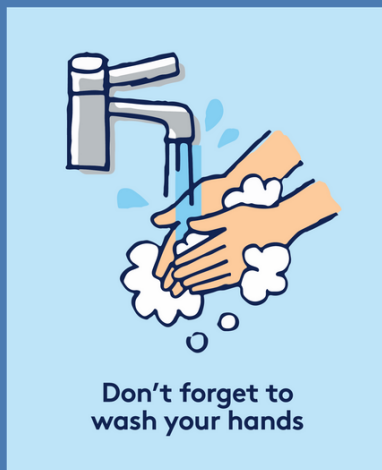
Medical support

If you aren't feeling well during the school day, don't worry, there is help and support in school for you.

Please tell someone if you are feeling unwell.

The Year 7 office will then pass the information on to our School Healthcare Assistants based in the Medical room.

Our Healthcare Assistants have a wealth of experience and are very skilled in supporting students with medical issues in a sensitive way..



Well-being support

A message for Year 6 students from our well-being officer at St Mary's College:

"My role is to help you if you are experiencing challenges by developing your resilience to help you manage. I love working with our young people and seeing them use strategies to overcome barriers as they grow in confidence. I've already learned a lot about you all from your primary schools and am really looking forward to meeting & supporting you when you join SMC".

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ST MARY'S COLLEGE

