



**Archbishop Courtenay  
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Headteacher: Mrs S Heather  
Chair of Governors: Mrs R Linn

22 March 2021

## **Transition to Secondary School**

Dear Parents / Carers,

This is an extremely important time of the year for our Year 6 pupils as they start to think about the move to "big school" and the exciting challenges that lie ahead. We wanted to take this opportunity to share our plans for supporting your child's transition to their new school.

We are continuing to participate in the **Maidstone Schools Transition Project** which joins a number of Primary and Secondary schools in partnership in order to support your child's happy, and well-informed transfer to their named Secondary School. This is further supported by the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS) so that all schools are guided by best practice and that the needs of all groups of children are represented.

During the course of next term, we will be working with our Secondary School partners in order to create a profile of your child: this will enable them to better understand who they are as a learner and what they may need in terms of support when they arrive in September. The children will be completing a questionnaire in school so that our Secondary Schools may tailor their transition work according to the outcomes of this questionnaire.

The transition partnership has arranged a **Virtual Parents' Information Session on 28 April at 7pm**. This will be managed on the Microsoft Teams platform; we will write again closer to the time in order to provide more details and the link to access the meeting. Please complete the questionnaire on the link below in order to register your interest for this meeting.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nhh1x0qyo0qgd6C5j47Rwwb7XA5EcSJkQT-D4YOfKYtURDY4OThJQVNBUIowUERRR1NGRThEVk5TRy4u>

At this stage, it is uncertain whether the children will have the opportunity to visit their new school before September so the mainstay of our transition work has initially been planned through online and in our school activities. We will keep you informed once government guidance changes. In the meantime, I have attached a "**Getting Ready for Secondary School**" document that I hope you find useful as a starting point for conversations with your child. A document with **links to all Secondary School Transition websites** is also attached for your information.



Miss Flisher and Mr Biddlecombe will be working with the children using a project booklet that will prepare the children for life in Secondary School in many ways; timetables, using public transport, visiting the school canteen, expectations, code of conduct etc.

If you feel that your child may need extra support for transition, please contact us so that we can work together in order to support you and your child with this. Please remember that there are many ways to contact us;

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr Biddlecombe | <a href="mailto:heron@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk">heron@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk</a>                   |
| Miss Flisher   | <a href="mailto:redwing@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk">redwing@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk</a>               |
| Mrs Heather    | <a href="mailto:headteacher@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk">headteacher@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk</a>       |
| Wellbeing      | <a href="mailto:welfare@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk">welfare@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk</a> (Mrs Gooding) |

Please be assured of our commitment of the very best and smoothest of transitions for your child at this time.

Kind regards



Mrs Heather  
Headteacher



# A GUIDE TO STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR PARENTS

## TRANSITION PROGRAMME



We appreciate that getting ready to move to secondary school is a time of both excitement and of worry for pupils and for their parents. This is a transition that the majority of children find tricky: saying goodbye to the familiar faces and friends at primary school and adjusting to the larger and busier environment of a new secondary school. We are committed to providing support to all our pupils so that they feel safe, happy and ready for the exciting challenges ahead. We achieve this through a detailed transition programme, working in association with other primary schools in Maidstone and with our secondary school partners. We work very closely with all families so that any unique challenges that your child faces are identified and form part of a personalised transition plan. These questions are designed to help you in the first stages of this very important time.

### Can I:

- Read the time on a clock and on a watch?
- Read a bus timetable?
- Walk my route to school?
- Plan my route to school using Google Maps or another App?
- Download the Arriva bus App on my phone?
- Be responsible for the safety of my Freedom Pass?
- Behave responsibly on public transport?
- Join up with friends that are travelling to the same school?
- Leave enough travel time so that I am at school on time?

How will I get to school?

### Can I:

- Tidy and put my clothes away at home?
- Organise my school uniform myself?
- Ensure all my uniform is named?
- Make my own bed?
- Know how long certain tasks take and leave enough time for these so I do not rush?
- Make a hot drink safely?
- Make my own packed lunch with a range of healthy options?
- Help to cook a few simple recipes at home?
- Join an online chat group with friends who are going to the same school?
- Plan and organise what equipment I need for every day

How can I be independent?

### Can I:

- Find my way around my new school website?
- Use the school website to find out how the school expect me to wear my uniform and how to behave?
- Find a copy of a school timetable?
- Find out how I pay for lunches and snacks?
- Find out what clubs and activities my school offers?
- Find out what help I can get for homework?
- Find out who the important adults are in my school?
- Find out where I go if I am worried or upset?

What do I know about my school?



## Here is a link for each school's general information and then a link specifically to do with transition.

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Cornwallis                            | <a href="https://www.cornwallisacademy.com/parents/outreach-transition/">https://www.cornwallisacademy.com/parents/outreach-transition/</a>   |
| Invicta (VIAT)                        | <a href="https://www.invicta.viat.org.uk/176/welcome-to-our-school">https://www.invicta.viat.org.uk/176/welcome-to-our-school</a><br><a href="https://www.invicta.viat.org.uk/2867/joining-invicta-in-september-2021">https://www.invicta.viat.org.uk/2867/joining-invicta-in-september-2021</a>  |
| Maplesden Noakes                      | <a href="https://www.maplesden.kent.sch.uk/804/headteachers-welcome">https://www.maplesden.kent.sch.uk/804/headteachers-welcome</a><br><a href="https://www.maplesden.kent.sch.uk/981/virtual-tour">https://www.maplesden.kent.sch.uk/981/virtual-tour</a>  |
| MGGs                                  | <a href="https://www.mggs.org/joining-us/joining-our-year-7/virtual-tours-and-open-evening/">https://www.mggs.org/joining-us/joining-our-year-7/virtual-tours-and-open-evening/</a><br><a href="https://www.mggs.org/joining-us/joining-our-year-7/open-events-for-joining-in-year-7/">https://www.mggs.org/joining-us/joining-our-year-7/open-events-for-joining-in-year-7/</a><br><a href="https://www.mggs.org/joining-us/joining-our-year-7/transition-to-year-7/">https://www.mggs.org/joining-us/joining-our-year-7/transition-to-year-7/</a> |
| MGS                                   | <a href="https://www.mgs.kent.sch.uk/information/school-maps/3d-virtual-tours/">https://www.mgs.kent.sch.uk/information/school-maps/3d-virtual-tours/</a><br><a href="https://www.mgs.kent.sch.uk/admissions/joining-mgs-in-september-2021/">https://www.mgs.kent.sch.uk/admissions/joining-mgs-in-september-2021/</a>  |
| New Line Learning                     | <a href="https://www.newlinelearning.com/year-6-area/">https://www.newlinelearning.com/year-6-area/</a>   |
| Oakwood Park Grammar                  | <a href="http://www.opgs.org/about-us/">http://www.opgs.org/about-us/</a><br><a href="https://www.opgs.org/year-6-7-transition/">https://www.opgs.org/year-6-7-transition/</a>  |
| School of Science & Technology (VIAT) | <a href="https://www.sstmaidstone.viat.org.uk/2300/welcome">https://www.sstmaidstone.viat.org.uk/2300/welcome</a><br><a href="https://www.sstmaidstone.viat.org.uk/2638/parent-booklet">https://www.sstmaidstone.viat.org.uk/2638/parent-booklet</a>  |
| St Augustine                          | <a href="file:///C:/Users/jcronk/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/Parent-virtual-tour.pdf">file:///C:/Users/jcronk/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/Parent-virtual-tour.pdf</a>   |
| St Simon Stock                        | <a href="https://www.ssscs.co.uk/about-us/principals-welcome/">https://www.ssscs.co.uk/about-us/principals-welcome/</a><br><a href="https://www.ssscs.co.uk/academic-life/transition/">https://www.ssscs.co.uk/academic-life/transition/</a>  |

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| The<br>Lenham<br>School<br>(VIAT) | <a href="https://www.thelenham.viat.org.uk/1517/welcome-from-the-headteacher">https://www.thelenham.viat.org.uk/1517/welcome-from-the-headteacher</a><br><a href="https://www.thelenham.viat.org.uk/1592/students-joining-september-2021">https://www.thelenham.viat.org.uk/1592/students-joining-september-2021</a> |
| Valley Park<br>(VIAT)             | <a href="https://www.valleypark.viat.org.uk/2301/values-and-ethos">https://www.valleypark.viat.org.uk/2301/values-and-ethos</a><br><a href="https://www.valleypark.viat.org.uk/3275/welcome-students">https://www.valleypark.viat.org.uk/3275/welcome-students</a>   |