

# Transition to Secondary School

## A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



Moving up from Primary to Secondary school can sometimes seem like a daunting and complicated experience. At All Hallows, we want to make the transition process run as smoothly as possible. In order to ensure that you have up to date information about the type of transition activities that we do and our relationship with our Feeder Primary schools, we have put together this guide for prospective pupils and parents.

### When will pupils first come into All Hallows?

Pupils are welcome to visit school on any of our Open Evenings in September, but their first 'formal' visit to school will be in the January of their Year 5. They will visit school with the rest of their class from Primary school and will be given a special timetable for this 'Taster Day'. An example of a typical timetable is here:

9.00-9.50	9.50-10.10	10.10-10.55	10.55-11.45	11.45-12.35	12.35-1.20	1.20-2.00	2.00-2.30
Arts Theatre	<b>Break</b> Junior Yard	Chapel/Arts Theatre	Technology	<b>Lunch</b> Junior Dining Room	PE	Music and Performing Arts	Arts Theatre
Introduction to our Headteacher, Mr Riding followed by Treasure Hunt		Ice breakers and Reflection with our school Chaplain	Design and make the fastest car		Badminton, basketball and table tennis	Mrs Colclough	Farewell and prize-giving with Mrs Washington and Mrs Hall

Our normal school day at All Hallows runs from 8.40am until 3.05pm, but the Taster Days have a slightly shorter format. We also timetable the 'break' and 'lunch' sessions at a different time to the rest of the school. This ensures that the Year 5s have the freedom and space to enjoy their first day at All Hallows without feeling too overwhelmed by lots of older children moving around and eating lunch.



This term has seen the first of this year's visits from our Feeder Primary Schools. St Mary Magdalen's, St Teresa's, St Oswald's and Our Lady and St Gerard's Year 6 pupils, have all been into All Hallows to sample a day of school life. The action packed days included treasure hunts, technology projects, a carousel of PE activities as well as some time in the school Chapel for quiet reflection with our Chaplain.

The activities that the pupils take part in on the Taster Days are intended to be both fun and informative. Many of the tasks involve getting used to the new teachers at All Hallows or finding out where particular rooms or activities are. The feedback from our most recent Taster Days has been brilliant and below is a selection of comments from Year 6 pupils:

"I really enjoyed having some spiritual time in the Chapel. It's great that All Hallows has its own Chapel."

"Technology was amazing. The rooms were huge and the equipment was impressive."

“The Treasure Hunt gave us a chance to go round school and find out where places were. We were allowed to do this on our own. I don’t think I’ll get lost when I start in September now.”

“My favourite part was PE in the Sports Hall and Gym. The teachers were really fun and friendly. I hadn’t realised how much I enjoyed badminton until now.”

“I was a bit worried about coming at first....but now that I have met lots of teachers and found out where things are, I’m really looking forward to my next visit in July.”

“I loved it....when can I come back?!”

### **How to apply for All Hallows?**

Applications to Secondary school take place when your son/daughter is in Year 6. Application forms must be completed on paper or online. You can find more information here: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place.aspx>



The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. In addition, you need to submit a yellow faith admission form, direct to school. All forms will be made available in the Feeder Primary schools and at our Open Evening, prior to the closing date. The Admissions policy for All Hallows is available on our website:

<http://www.allhallows.lancs.sch.uk/information/admissions/>

You will be notified if your child has a place by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

### **What happens next?**

If your child receives the offer of a place at All Hallows, they will spend their next full day in school in the July of Year 6. This day is referred to as Transition Day . Every pupil offered a place at All Hallows, regardless of the Primary school that they attended is invited to attend Transition Day. On this day, pupils are divided into their new form groups and spend the day meeting their tutor and getting to know their new form -mates. They also will enjoy a number of ‘getting to know you’ games and activities.

### **What is a form?**

Form groups are mixed ability classes of pupils who meet for 15 minutes each morning. During this time pupils register, have their diaries checked and get the opportunity to discuss things with their form tutor. They also take part in a daily act of collective worship and attend their weekly Assembly. They will remain in the same group for their five years at All Hallows. Some lessons, such as SMSC are taught in form groups and on Sports Day, pupils compete in vertical forms against other houses.



### **What is a form tutor?**

Form tutors do a lot more than take the daily register! Tutors offer advice, track learning and progress, co-ordinate charity fundraising, deliver PSHE and are a 'listening ear' if your child has any worries or concerns. Crucially, form tutors are a friendly, familiar face for the move up to Secondary school. They are a crucial part of the Transition process and all pupils get to meet their tutors on Transition Day.



### **What lessons will my child study at All Hallows?**

Below is an outline of the current timetable studied by all our Year 7 pupils. The numbers refer to the number of lessons each week in the subject.

RE	3	Geography	2
English	4	History	2
Mathematics	4	P.E.	3
Science	3	Art	1
Languages	3	Music	1
Technology	2	ICT	1

In addition, pupils have one lesson of SMSC per week.

### **How are pupils set at All Hallows?**

There are seven sets in each Year Group. Pupils are set into three parallel groups and an SEN group. An example of this is outlined below:

2 x set 1      7P1 7G1

2 x set 2      7P2 7G2

2 x set 3      7P3 7G3

1 x SEN 7PG

Setting is based on pupil performance in SAT tests in Mathematics and English and on Teacher Assessments in Science. Setting is reviewed twice yearly in order to ensure that pupils are taught in a class specially tailored to their needs.



### **Any questions?**

If you have any questions about the Transition process or applications for All Hallows, please call school on 01772 746121.