



# **TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL**

THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015


# AIMS

- To discuss how best to prepare children for transition to secondary school: our role? What can be done at home?
  - To share basic practical arrangements in relation to applications
  - What else? Please ask away!
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# WHAT IS DIFFERENT AND NEW?

- Size of school, size of pupils (!)
  - Number of different teachers
  - Expectations of organisation – eg movement between lessons, books etc
  - Quantity of homework
  - Potentially, expectations of discipline
  - Independence – eg punctuality, travel to school
  - Potentially, content of learning
  - New friends
  - Increased freedom – eg break and lunch times
  - Increased opportunities – eg clubs, wider subject areas etc.
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# WHAT SUPPORT IS ALREADY IN PLACE?

- Transition arrangements between primary and secondary eg Head of Y7 visits, additional support from Chessbrook for vulnerable pupils, communication re key records, secondary transfer day in July of Y6
  - PHSCE curriculum: staying safe/protective behaviours, road safety, drugs education, esafety, SRe, circle times exploring feelings re movement to secondary school
  - 1:1 support where especially needed: for example, learning passports created
  - Gradually preparing children for secondary expectations: increase in homework, expectations of independence, prefect/other whole-school responsibilities
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# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT AT HOME?

- Encouraging developing independence – for example, getting things ready for school bag and/or packed lunch themselves
- Supporting with safe yet independent travel to school – for example, road crossing etc
- Responsibility for small amounts of money – for example, bus fares, pocket money etc
- Well-established routines, both with homework and bedtimes etc. Homework completed independently but supported to do in the right, quiet atmosphere and pride taken!
- Clear guidelines for your child in relation to esafety: not just the computer, but mobile phones etc. Facebook is not legal until the age of 13.
- Time to talk!

# YEAR 6 CHILDREN PUPIL VOICE

- Feelings about going to secondary school:

“ Fine!”

“A little nervous, a bit shaky”

“Excited to make new friends”

“Feeling quite

confident because my sister goes there”

“It’s a new

beginning”

“Its going to be lots of fun because there

will be so much to do, and you will learn more”

“We

are taking a big step, and our friends from Alban Wood

will help us”

“New activities and new teachers are

exciting!”

“Being the youngest again is a bit of a worry”

# YEAR 6 CHILDREN PUPIL VOICE

- What my school can do to help:

“I want Alban Wood to give me courage”      “Its important that I try to get the highest levels before I leave Alban Wood”      “Helping us with our behaviour so we are ready for secondary school”

“I want there to be a Mrs Forbes at secondary school so we’ve got somebody to go to”

# YEAR 6 CHILDREN PUPIL VOICE

- What my family can do to help:

“Get us up in the morning so that we won’t be late!”

“Give me advice on what to do and what not to do – eg  
do homework, avoid trouble”

“Support me – for my  
SATs tests, and my tests for secondary school”

“Lots of encouragement! – tell me not to worry!”

“Help me to understand what it will be like”



# PRACTICAL MATTERS IN RELATION TO APPLICATIONS

- Keep an eye on secondary school websites – all well advertised and explained
- Attend open days, opportunities to visit schools
- Don't set your heart on one school!
- Consider if you wish your child to apply to the seven Consortium schools (Parmiter's, Bushey Meads, St Clement Danes, Rickmansworth, Queens', Watford Grammar School for Boys and Watford Grammar School for Girls). If so, special tests are taken and registration takes place in May of Y5. The test registration website address is: [www.swhertsschools.org.uk](http://www.swhertsschools.org.uk). Tests take place in September of Y6.
- Make sure your applications are in on time: we are very happy to help practically (for example, internet access), but process all handled by Herts centrally

**QUESTIONS – PLEASE ASK!**

