



TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

#TEAMSPH

Together on The Journey

Transitioning from a primary school to a secondary school is one of the most challenging experiences for an 11 Year old child and that is why here at St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy we make the transition as smooth and seamless for your child as we possibly can.

#TEAMSPH is proud of its reputation as a caring school that has the Glossop community at its heart. We feel it is of paramount importance to work with our local primary schools and our community. Currently, we work with twelve primary schools in the area, four of those being our Catholic feeder primary schools.

At #TEAMSPH we take a different view on your child's transition, the transition doesn't just start in Year 6 when your child has selected their secondary school, we believe it should start earlier in order to help children adjust to new settings and surroundings.

As a result, we start transition when your child is in Year 5.

YEAR 5 TRANSITION

All the primary schools are involved in the #TEAMSPH Year 5 programme of events starting in the Autumn Term.

Just before we break up for Christmas, pupils are invited to enter into our Christmas Card Competition. The winner receives a chocolate hamper and their design is printed and made into cards.

In the Spring Term, your child will take part in two visits to the school, the focus of the visits is to allow your child to take part in two different lessons. The first visit takes

place before the half term, during this initial visit your child will be introduced to the transition co-ordinator and Head of Year 7 (Mrs Urquhart).

Mrs Urquhart has ran the transition programme for the last three years and has developed strong links and relationships with all of our primary schools. She is the key person for your child and they will get to know her extremely well during Year 5 and 6.

These taster lessons range from Maths, Science, English, RE to PE, Spanish, Food Technology and many more. Your child will get the chance to meet new teachers, experience lessons at a secondary school and get to meet older pupils who will work with them during their time visiting our school. The second visit is towards the Easter break so the Easter treats the children receive always goes down well!

Each child leaves the lessons with a certificate to say that they have completed a KS3 lesson.

At Easter time letters are given to primary schools to give all pupils a chance to enter into our Easter Card Competition. Again, the winner receives a chocolate hamper and their own design printed and made into cards.

During the Summer term all primary schools are invited in again but this time your child is invited to spend a day with us. During this time we get to learn a bit more about your child and let them mix with other primary schools. When visiting, your child will meet more staff starting with a welcome from the Headteacher, Mrs Morris. They will have a tour of the school and then enjoy two lessons of subjects they have not yet experienced.

One of the best times of the day is when they get to have lunch on us with the rest of the school. During lunchtime they get to play sports on the courts with some of our Year 9, 10 and 11's. To finish off the day they will have an assembly and get to meet the rest of the Senior Leadership Team, they also get to leave with a goody bag!

When your child starts in Year 6 they will get invited in for one last taster day during September, this will give them the chance to ask us any questions and to continue to get used to being at SPH.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

Once SATS are over and your child has picked SPH the transition for your child goes to another level!

Our aim is to have all pupils start their life with #TEAMSPH feeling comfortable and settled.

With this in mind at St Philip Howard we provide a full week of transition to all of the year 6 children who are joining #TEAMSPH.

Firstly, Mrs Urquhart will arrange to visit your child's primary school to speak with your child's teacher and also to talk to every child. During this visit Mrs Urquhart will find out information about your child to help her place them in form groups to best support them when they come during the transition week. Your child's opinion is important to us.

During the week we pack as many activities in order for your child to get the best experience possible. They start with meeting their future form tutors and the rest of their forms on the Monday and end the day with an offsite visit to go and take part in team building activities. We believe this is important to see how well the form groups work together and it all helps the Head of Year see if any changes need to take place before the pupils arrive the following day.

On the Tuesday your child will begin a project which they will continue in every lesson they go to. At the end of the week you will be invited in to an assembly to see the work your child has done – all the pupils are excited about this and it's brilliant to show the work they have done.

The following week you will be invited to a Parents' Evening to meet the Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team, Head of Year and Form Tutors. During this evening you will be able to order uniform and find out more information about the school.

Just before the half-term in October parents will be invited to school to meet their child's form tutor again where they can let you know how your child is settling into secondary school.

Throughout all of this the Head of Year and Form Tutors are there to help and they are just a phone call or visit away do deal with any questions that you want to discuss.

We have always encouraged parents to stay in touch and let us know if any problems do arise so then we can do our best to solve the problem together. Your support is crucial to your child settling in and having the best possible start to their time being part of #TEAMSPH!