

Uniform

During Taster Day all students will be given a list of uniform requirements. Please read it carefully and buy correct school uniform early.

Most parents agree that a high standard of uniform encourages pride and reduces competition between students. If you have any concerns please always ask before you buy.

The First Day

The first day of school is very important and it is a good idea to do some planning before the day itself. Encourage your child to go to bed early, get up early and have a healthy breakfast.

In advance, plan some strategies with your child for when things don't go as expected. For example, what to do if they miss the bus / lose their bus pass?

Please remind your child that the first day of high school is very special, to embrace new challenges, have fun, make new friends and to stay safe.

And Finally...

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet and we hope that you have found it helpful. A lot of work has already been done during primary school visits and the Taster Day but you may also find it useful to read the Student Guide with your child over the summer holidays. Your child will also be able to access lots of support when they start the new school year. Please find below some quotes from some of our current Year 7 students, who can't quite believe how fast their first year at high school has gone:

*'You make friends
really quickly at
St Mary's.'*
Megan Yr 7

*'It takes time to find
your way around but
there are lots of people
to ask.'*
Joshua Yr 7

Please don't worry too much about your child's transition as 95% of our Yr 7 students feel settled after the first 3 weeks of term. Have a fantastic summer and we look forward to seeing you in school.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

An 11 to 18 Specialist Mathematics and Computing College

Year 6 – Year 7 Transition.



A Parent's Guide to Surviving Transition.

The nurture
group network 
helping children to succeed

Welcome

Welcome to new parents/carers of students about to start at St. Mary's Catholic High School. Transition can be an exciting time for both parents and students.

We hope you will find this booklet helpful in supporting your child through transition from primary school.

New Beginnings

Starting high school is a fresh start for all students with lots of great opportunities. It's a good idea to highlight the positives about transition with your child, especially if they are feeling anxious. You may find the following list of positives helpful:

Making new friends, new subjects, more sports, being more independent, travelling to school alone, new challenges.

Communication

St Mary's likes to work in partnership with parents at all times to ensure a successful transition for all students. We value your input so please get and stay in touch. If you have any questions or concerns please

contact the school in writing or by telephone on 01942 884144.

Your first point of contact will be your child's form tutor. You can also contact Mrs Beeley (Yr 7 Lead Professional) or Mrs Kawalek and Mrs Pendlebury at the Nurture Centre.

Homework

Your child will probably be getting more homework than in the past and they may find some of the work challenging. Some subjects may set project work. Where projects are not appropriate, homework will be set on an average of one every three lessons per subject. These homeworks should take between 30 to 45 minutes each to complete. Students will also be writing homework in their planners, please check and sign them each week.

It may be helpful to discuss homework with your child and agree a suitable time and place for them to complete it.

Friendships

Starting a new school is a great opportunity to make new friends. Although we try to put at least two students from the same primary school into a form, it is important for parents

and school to encourage students to make new friends.

Travel Arrangements

New students often worry about travel arrangements and it's important for students to plan their journey to and from school.

General information can be found in the Student Guide (given to students at Taster Day) but if you would like to help your child to plan the journey here are some helpful hints:

If your child is travelling by bus, bike or walking, do some practice runs in the summer – this will help them to feel confident when travelling on the first day of school.

Encourage them to always use the same route so if they are late you can trace the route.

Students can contact home using a telephone in school if they are late – mobiles are not allowed in school.

Encourage your child to always carry their emergency telephone numbers with them.

Discuss the journey with your child and agree a time that you will expect them home from school each day.