

Welcome to



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

WORLD CLASS THINKING: WORLD CLASS ACHIEVING


St Cuthbert's
ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



This guide is packed with all you need to know about St Mary's College to help you start getting ready to join our fantastic school.

WHAT MAKES ST MARY'S COLLEGE SPECIAL?



We look forward to getting to know you as you prepare to become part of the St Mary's community. This guide will help you learn more about St Mary's as you start to prepare to join us.

In September, you will be joining 2,500 students from around the world who all play an important part in life here. There are 60 nationalities represented here, and over 68 languages are spoken. We are a multicultural Christian community and proud of our status as an International School and a specialist Sports College. Our values, ethos and mission make St Mary's a warm and happy place to learn.

Catholic Values

As we are a Catholic school, the Roman Catholic church's faith, morals and teaching are at the heart of life here. We aim to be a truly Christian community where we build our relationships on encouragement, concern, respect, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Our mission is to:

"Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength and love your neighbour as you love yourself" (Mk 12:30-31)

Everyone in our community is especially valued and has an important role in ensuring we live out our mission.

You will find our Chaplaincy in the heart of the school – very close to the Year 7 area. This position emphasises that Christ is at the centre of our community. We enjoy regular visits from Priests and Chaplains to say Mass, attend RE lessons and celebrate liturgical events.

On Feast Days and at the end of the school year, we celebrate whole-school Mass. You can visit the Chapel for Mass, for private prayer, or to join in prayer groups.

British Values

British Values are a key aspect of life at St Mary's, and we promote them throughout the school. These British Values are:

- **Democracy:** A culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- **The rule of law:** The need for rules to make a happy, safe and secure environment to live and work in.
- **Individual liberty:** Protection of your rights and the rights of others around you.
- **Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:** Understanding that we don't all share the same beliefs and values. Respecting those values, ideas and beliefs of others while not imposing our own onto them.

Sport

We love sport and Physical Education here at St Mary's. We have an outstanding reputation in Hull for Physical Education, school sport, health and wellbeing. You will have fantastic opportunities to do sports and other fitness during your PE lessons and extra-curricular activities. It's our aim that you will know how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle by the time you leave us.

We are a specialist Sports College and have been awarded the Platinum School Games mark – the highest national award of its kind. We organise, manage and host competitive school sports opportunities across Hull, the Humber and Yorkshire. We also lead in developing Physical Education and school sport locally, regionally and nationally.

International School

St Mary's has been accredited as an International School by the British Council five times. This accreditation recognises our global outlook and belief that we are stronger by embracing the world around us. We offer fantastic opportunities for students to get to know other cultures and people, improve their language skills, and make a difference in communities that don't have the same resources and opportunities we do.

We have partnerships with schools around the world. We have a large Polish community in our school and take part in student and staff exchanges with Zespół Szkół w Warzeczach in Jasło, Poland. We also work with Colegio San Agustín in Alicante in Spain, to help students in both schools develop their language skills. Project: Nepal enables students and staff to volunteer in Pokhara for a week.

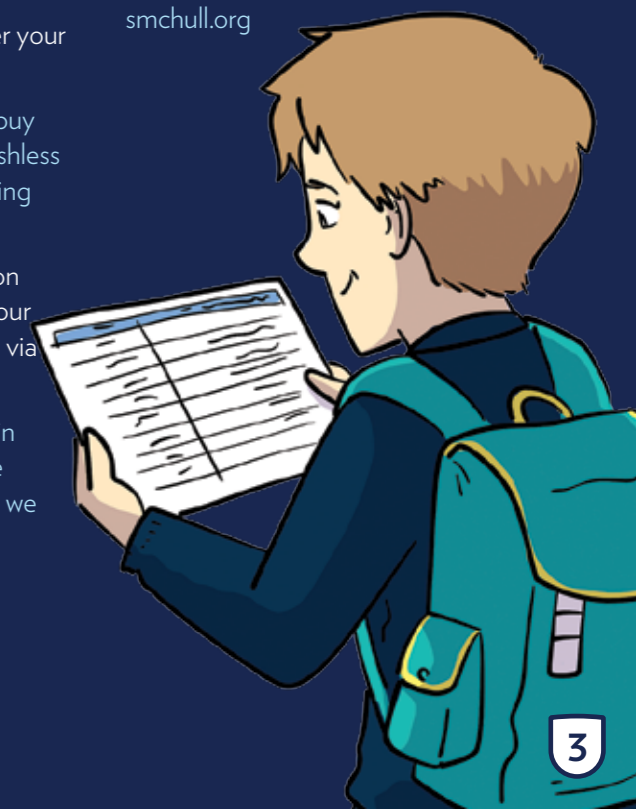
HOW WILL YOU HELP ME GET READY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL?

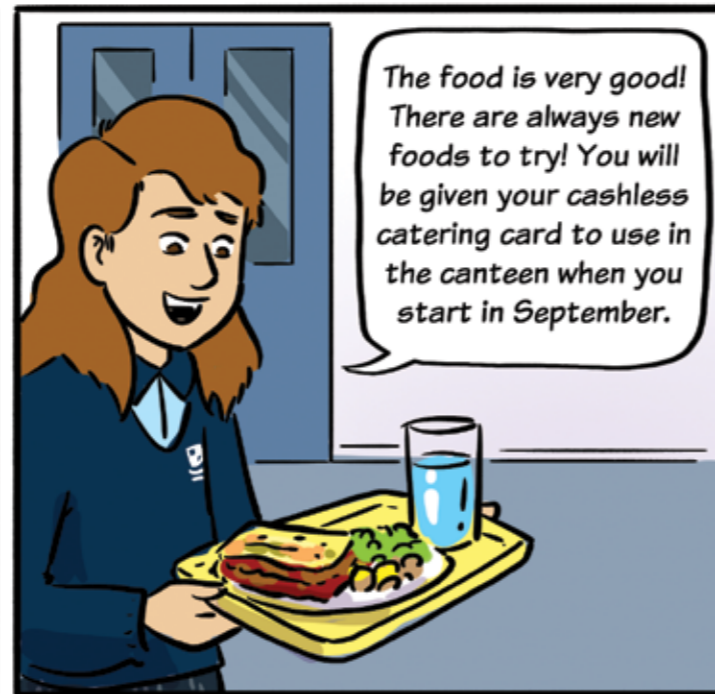
As soon as we know you are joining, we will speak to your Year 6 teacher to learn more about you. You will be invited to visit us, or staff from St Mary's will come to see you. During our Induction Evening in June, you will have the chance to meet a member of our Pastoral Team and a Year 7 Tutor.

In the summer, there will also be a brilliant Transition Week, when you can take part in fun activities, get to know the Year 7 Tutors and make new friends.

Here is some useful information about Transition Week:

- On your first day, you must come in PE kit. You will be given a t-shirt linked to the week's theme, which you should wear for the rest of the week.
- You should bring a school bag, a water bottle and your own pencil case filled with appropriate equipment.
- You should make your own way to the Year 7 area as your parents/carers cannot come onto the school grounds.
- You will have lessons including Maths, English, RE, PE, Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or German), Geography, History, and Design & Technology.
- You will get a home/school diary on the first day, which you must bring every day. You can use it to reflect on your day, and there is space for your parents/carers to write any comments or queries.
- The day will finish at 3.35pm.
- You can use school buses during Transition Week. We will send you more information nearer to the time.
- If your parents/carers have any questions about Transition Week, they can call the school on 01482 851136, 01482 808808 or email transition@smchull.org
- Each lesson will last an hour.
- The Transition Team, Head of Year 7 and Learning Mentors will support you throughout the week.
- Student Transition Mentors will help you find your way around school, support you in lessons and answer your questions.
- You can bring a packed lunch or buy lunch in the canteen using the cashless catering card you will receive during Transition Week.
- You will receive further information on how your parents can credit your cashless catering card in advance via ParentPay.
- If you receive a free school meal in primary school, you will get a free meal during Transition Week and we will credit your cashless catering card in advance.
- Make sure your belongings are clearly labelled with your full name.
- Your parents can drop you off at the school car park in the morning, but you must arrange to meet them at an appropriate place on Cranbrook Avenue in the afternoon.
- You should arrive at 8.40am every day and line up in Tutor Groups in the yard near the Year 7 Social Area.





WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

WE HAVE SOME SIMPLE RULES FOR YOU TO FOLLOW:

- Attend school every day.
- Arrive at school on time.
- Wear the correct uniform.
- Do not use your mobile phone in school.
- Complete all your homework.
- Always try your best.

IN THE CLASSROOM, YOU SHOULD:

- Arrive on time and take off your jacket.
- Take out your equipment and get ready to start the lesson.
- Stand to start the lesson with the sign of the cross.
- Sit down in silence when invited to by the teacher.
- Listen attentively when the teacher speaks and when another student contributes to the lesson.
- When you want to ask a question or contribute to the lesson, put up your hand.
- Wait until you are asked to speak.
- Be respectful, polite and cooperative.
- Work hard.
- Ask if you need help.

There are sanctions for disruption and inappropriate behaviour, including a yellow card and text home and detentions.



REWARDS

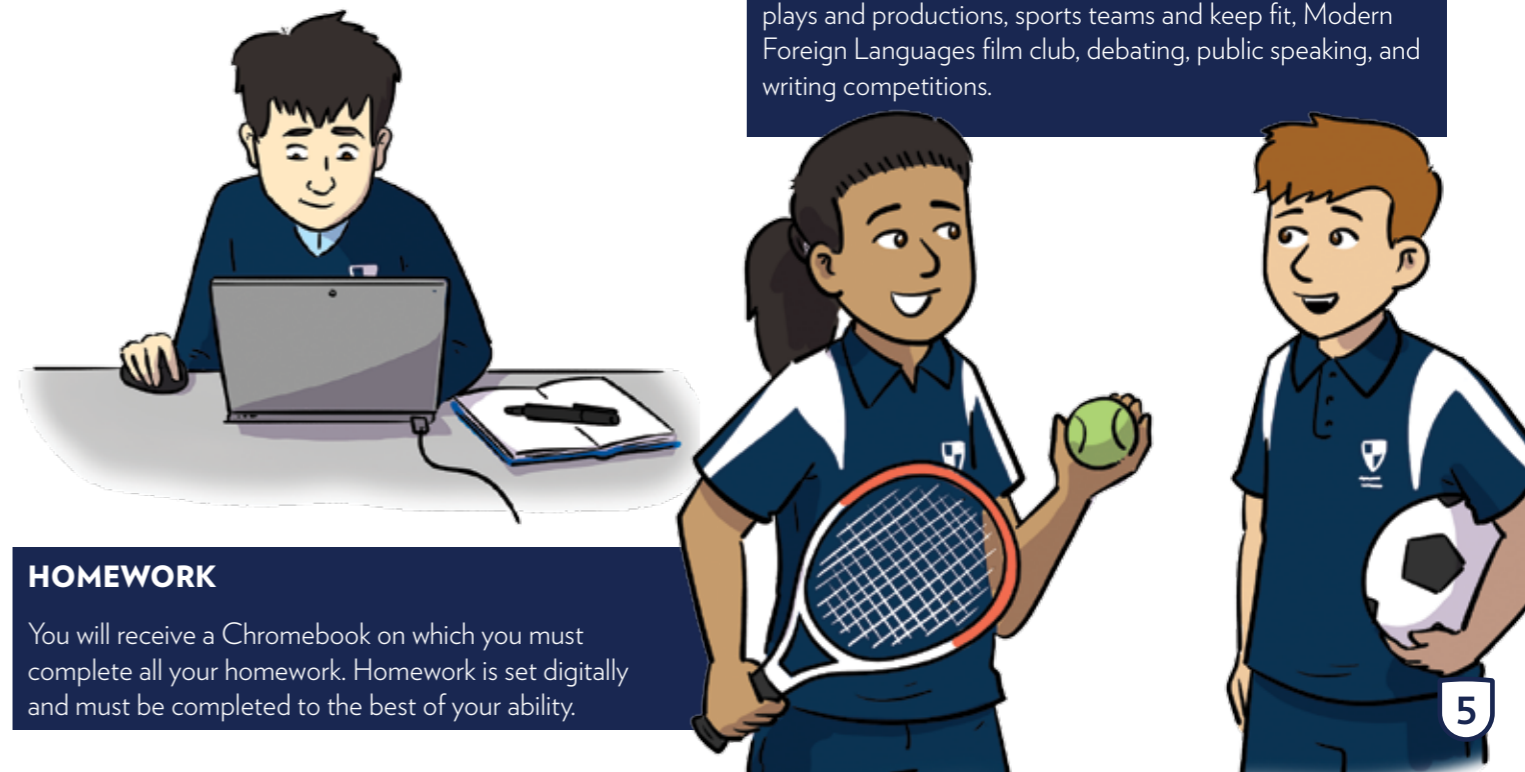
You can earn points for Excellent Effort, Outstanding Work, Respect and Tolerance, Exceptional Conduct, and more.

Your achievement points equal rewards that you can redeem in our Rewards Shop for SMC equipment, books, chocolate, vouchers, SMC mugs and SMC sweatshirts.

WHAT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

You can choose from a wide range of extra-curricular activities that allow you to develop that allow you to develop skills in areas such as teamwork, leadership and communication. These are skills that have a positive impact on attainment and achievement.

The clubs you can join include choirs, orchestras, school plays and productions, sports teams and keep fit, Modern Foreign Languages film club, debating, public speaking, and writing competitions.



HOMEWORK

You will receive a Chromebook on which you must complete all your homework. Homework is set digitally and must be completed to the best of your ability.

WHO SHOULD I GO TO IF I AM WORRIED?

If you have any worries or questions, you should first speak to your Personal Tutor. Every student has a Personal Tutor who is here to support, care and focus on you as an individual. Your Personal Tutor will have one-to-one meetings with you throughout the year and meet with your parents/carers twice while you are in Year 7.

Each year group has a Pastoral Team that includes a Head of Year, an Assistant Head of Year, and two Learning Mentors. They can work with you and your family to overcome any barriers to learning you may encounter.

All our teachers are Personal Tutors, which means that pastoral care is the responsibility of all staff at St Mary's. We take this responsibility very seriously and will provide pastoral support for you inside and outside lessons.

SEND TEAM

Our SEND Team provides support for students with additional needs and/or disabilities and ensures each student's individual needs are met.

The team offers transition visits including one-to-one visits and group activities before Transition Week.

St Mary's also has a kind and caring Medical Team that can support you if you are unwell.

FORM GROUPS AND HOUSES

Each year group is separated into halves called X and Y, which are then divided into different lettered forms. You will also be in a House. We have six Houses named after different people. They are:

- St Peter CHANEL
- St John FISHER
- Catherine McAULEY
- Blessed Nicholas POSTGATE
- Sister Mary RUTH
- St THERESA of Calcutta



WHAT SCHOOL UNIFORM WILL I NEED?



St Mary's College sky-blue polo shirt

St Mary's College V-necked navy jumper or cardigan (optional)

Mid-grey trousers, not made of jersey material

Kilt-style skirt (girls)

White, grey or black socks

Neutral, black or grey tights

Sensible, all black, full shoe, NO trainers or boots

GIRLS' PE UNIFORM

St Mary's navy haze polo shirt
St Mary's College navy cuatro training top
St Mary's College navy shorts
St Mary's College navy socks
St Mary's navy leggings
St Mary's navy tracksuit bottoms

BOYS' PE UNIFORM

St Mary's College navy vapour polo shirt
St Mary's College navy Pro-Tec rugby shirt
St Mary's College navy shorts
St Mary's College navy socks
St Mary's navy tracksuit bottoms



WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED?

- At least two black pens
- A red pen
- At least two pencils
- A rubber
- A clear, non-flexible plastic ruler with cm measurements on
- A pencil sharpener
- A pencil case
- A reading book of your own choice

It is also useful to bring:

- Highlighter pens
- A set of coloured pencils
- A glue stick

A subject equipment pack will also be available to buy at the Induction Evening. You should put everything into a school bag that is large enough to carry books, PE kit and equipment.



Dear Year 6 Student,

Welcome to St Mary's College! Congratulations on securing a place at our amazing school; you are about to embark on a unique and special journey. I am looking forward very much to seeing you in Transition Week in July and in September when you start with us properly. Everyone here at St Mary's is really excited for your arrival and we cannot wait to meet you - you will be a very important member of our school community!

My name is Mrs Stead. I am the Head of School, and alongside Miss Jaques and Mrs Dale I am here to ensure that your transition from primary to secondary is as smooth, calm and enjoyable as possible.

Of course, I know that some of you may be nervous about the transition to secondary school. Please rest assured that we will do everything we can to settle any nerves or worries. To help with this, we will be hosting you for a week in the summer term where you will come to St Mary's and get to know the school and some of the teachers - especially your Form Tutor and Personal Tutor (who will be a very important person in your school life!)

St Mary's is my old school and I clearly remember my first day in September 1989 (a very long time ago); I was super nervous. However, I quickly made new friends, joined clubs and settled into life at a much bigger school. Therefore, the school is very close to my heart and I am sure that it will be a wonderful experience for you too. You will see lots of me, and please know you can always come and talk to me about anything, anytime.

Included in your pack is lots of information about our school, as well as a letter-writing activity for you to complete. Please spend some time going through this with your parents/carers. This will be read by your Personal Tutor and will be the starting point for them getting to know you really well, so the more information you can include the better!

Moving to secondary school is and should be an exciting time. It is a huge step in any young person's life. The Transition Team, Year 7 Pastoral Team and our SEND Department will be on hand if you need any further support or have questions about the move from primary to our secondary school. Do not worry if you need a little extra help from time to time; this is completely normal and we will do all we can to help you with your learning, the busyness of the school day and being around lots of new people.

In the meantime if you do have any questions, please contact the school at transition@smchull.org

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our school.
Enjoy the rest of Year 6, work hard, and I will meet you soon.
Your journey at St Mary's is about to begin...

All my best wishes,

Mrs M Stead



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Cranbrook Avenue, Hull, HU6 7TN
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Website: www.smchull.org

