

Transition Programme- Useful Tips !

I noticed from the homework submitted by email- the same concerns surfacing for most of the class. So, I've decided to compile a list of answers/tips . I 'm also thinking, that those of you who haven't forwarded me their work but **are most likely** doing the programme with your parents, probably have similar worries. So, please find my few observations below. I hope they're helpful!

The first couple of days in you new school will be spent helping you settle in .

You will.....

- meet the principal and vice principal, teachers, your tutor, year head, prefects, new class mates.
- receive your locker and learn how to use it.
- receive your Journal . (The secondary school journals are much more detailed than primary journals. They contain all the information you need regarding your secondary school - School calendar, timetable, rules , study tips, exam results record sheets, sick/ late notes templates, booklists and much more. Make sure to read through them - they're very useful)
- get a tour of the building and most likely a school plan.
- Receive your timetable. (use the template I outlined on last week's plan to make your own colour coded timetable ... print lots of copies)

<https://www.calendarpedia.co.uk/timetable-word-templates.html>

Timetable

When making your timetable make sure to synchronise colour of subjects with your subject folders. This will speed up locker time and help avoid mistakes . It will also ensure you're not carrying around unnecessary books (a big heavy bag). You visit you locker every morning . Using your timetable, you pack your bag with books you need until break. At break you revisit your locker and pack your bag with books you need until lunch and so on . At home time you check your homework journal to pack your bag with the books you need for home.

Please note- Eureka have whole class sets of texts book in some classes. This will cut down on your visits to the lockers and books in your bag..... lucky you !

Also, some new text books have a code inside the cover. This unique code that allows you access the book as an e-book (online) more good news for your back !

Folders

Tough plastic folders can be bought in Choice/ Mr Price . Assign a folder to each subject area and place **all material** for that subject in that folder. Label the end of the folder. This means you can pack your locker like a bookcase and easily locate subject folders. This system greatly shortens the amount of time at your locker. It also means less mistakes.

(eg- your calculator is in your Math's Folder or the French dictionary is in your French folder etc.... no sweat!).

Homework Journal

Keep your homework journal with a copy of the timetable with you - that way, you'll always know where you need to be, when you need to be there and what you need to bring. Take your homework down clearly. All home/school notes are usually recorded in the journal.

Homework

I advise my sixth class when doing this programme to **ALWAYS** have your homework done in secondary school. Even if you're confused about what homework to do, try your best to find out. If you're at home and confused call a school friend or ask your parents. Have someone in your class that you feel comfortable contacting about homework(A Homework buddy). If you forget a book - access an online book or ask a friend to send a photo of it. Always pay particular attention when homework is being set - and use your timetable to prioritise which homework you need to do first. Also, try to get into a good homework routine- set up a little study area somewhere in the house and try to do your homework at the same time each day.

Making friends

You'll be going from a small country school into a large secondary school. You should see this an exciting adventure and great opportunity so much to learn, so many children to become your friend! Remember, no matter how 'cool' others may lookyou're **all** in the same boat! It's your first year in secondary school!

So, don't be afraid to strike up conversations with the children around you. Remember, your smile or an impromptu chat could make someone's day ! You can be the reason a classmate goes home happy.

Maybe next week we can compile a list of simple conversation starters....*Hi my name's Jack/ What school have you come from ? Do you have siblings in this school?* Introduce new friends to old friends - *Jack, this is my friend Susan from Carnaross.* Try your best to remember names. (Maybe jot down some names at the back of your journal in pencil to help at first)

You'll make lots of new pals but always remember to watch out for your Carnaross pals! Smile, be friendly and all will be fine.

People watching out for me.

In secondary schools.... everyone watches out for the first year students. Someone around every corner will be waiting to help you.....office and teaching staff, prefects, students. Don't be afraid to ask questions when curious or confused. There'll be no such thing as a silly question. (You ask the question ... and you can be sure there'll be 20 more in the class delighted to hear the answer!)

6th Class , you'll love secondary school and you are well ready for it. The various schools are lucky to be welcoming such a wonderful group of students! Mrs Moloney and I have completed your transition meetings with the various secondary schools. They're all looking forward to meeting you and are fully committed to helping you settle in as well as they can.

During the summer, prepare well. Organise your uniforms, PE gear, school bags, folders, copies, calculator, colours, a study area at home.... and so on. Everything else will fall in place.

Finally

We'll be sad to say goodbye to the 6th Class of 2020 but happy you're moving on , just as you should ! You'll all smash it !