



June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. We are delighted that your child will be joining us in September and we cannot wait for them to join the St Mary's family!

Many of you will be wondering about your child's transition to high school in September 2020 and how this will look with the current lockdown restrictions in place. I am writing to explain some of the steps we are taking to ensure this process will be as smooth as possible, as we work around the government advice on social distancing and the return of pupils to schools.

Important people to know

When your child starts high school, a very important daily contact will be their form tutor. There will be 6 forms in Year 7 (7S, 7A, 7I, 7N, 7T and 7M) and they will meet every morning at the start of the school day. When we have received all the handover information from your child's primary school, we will be able to place them into the relevant form group and explain who their form tutor will be.

In the meantime, other important staff members to be aware of are Miss L. Sieczkowski, the Head of Year 7 in September. Our Assistant Headteacher for pastoral matters is Mrs G. Reader and our Family Support Worker is Miss L. Turner. These three members of staff are vastly experienced and can help with any matter which may arise for new starters and their families. All three are also the school's designated safeguarding leads. In addition, Mrs R. Schofield is the school's SENDCO and will be able to field any questions you may have regarding any specific educational needs your child may have. In addition to the main school number, these staff can be contacted via the following methods:

	School Mobile	School Email
Miss L. Sieczkowski	07849 132 667	l.sieczkowski@ismchs.com
Mrs G. Reader	07928 335 202	g.reader@ismchs.com
Miss L. Turner	07999 561 353	l.turner@ismchs.com
Mrs R. Schofield	01772 421 909	v.schofield@ismchs.com

Information for you to return to school

Contained within this pack is our standard transition booklet. This contains all the relevant information on day-to-day life at St Mary's for both pupils and parents. Also included is a very important data collection sheet. I would kindly ask that every family return this information back to school by Friday 26 June either by post or directly to school reception. This sheet will allow us to have the most up-to-date contact details for yourself, as well as your child's most recent medical information.

Also included in this pack is a short exercise 'All About Me', for your child to complete. This allows us to get to know your child, for example their interests, favourite school subject, who they live with and the names of their best friends. All this can help the teachers here at St Mary's to get to know your child and be able to build strong relationships straight from day one. It would be ideal if this could be returned to school by Friday 26 June as well.

Communication

I would like to draw your attention to the various ways you can access relevant transition information, as well as wider school news.

Firstly, the school website www.lsmchs.com contains all information relating to St Mary's. There is a specific section for transition here; <https://www.lsmchs.com/parents/transition-2020>

In addition, the school has a handy app which can be downloaded onto mobile devices. To access this, visit your app store and download SZApp. Use the code 2820 to join the St Mary's app and look for the group 'Year 7 2020'.

The school also has a Twitter account ([@LeylandStMarys](https://twitter.com/LeylandStMarys)) and a Facebook page ([@StMarysLeyland](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysLeyland)) which will also update with transition news:

Both the SZApp and the parent's transition tab on the website will allow you to access and complete other relevant electronic forms such as locker hire and music tuition, and I would strongly recommend that you make use of them.

Transition Days & New Intake Evening

Sadly, it is highly likely that these traditional events will be cancelled before the end of the summer term. The current restrictions on social distancing and the limits placed on schools as to which pupils and how many pupils can be admitted into buildings at the moment makes it impossible to host these events currently. In relation to meeting new parents, we will look to host a New Intake Evening as soon into the new school year as possible, ideally in the first week of September.

However, if the government advice changes and we are able to, we would like to organise for your child to come into school in the final weeks of this term to meet their form tutor and some members of their form. I will stress though that this is only our wish at the moment, and there are no concrete plans for this to happen. If face-to-face contact proves impossible, then we will unfortunately have to rely on other means in order for your child's form tutor to have some initial contact before they start in September.


Visits to St Mary's

A small number of families may have been allocated a place at St Mary's and have not actually visited the school. This can happen, for example if someone is new to the area, or has been offered a place on appeal. In this instance, if you or your child has not visited St Mary's before, and would like to do so before September, then please contact the main school number and I will contact you directly to see how we can address that issue. However, I would politely suggest that this offer cannot be made available at the moment if you have previously visited the school site.

The Coronavirus pandemic has changed many things for us all in recent months, and sadly we are still currently experiencing the effects. I'd like to assure you that we will do all we can to ensure that your child's movement to St Mary's in September will be as smooth as can be.

We pride ourselves on the caring ethos we have at St Mary's, and I know that this is the reason many of you chose us for the next stage in your child's education. I believe this ethos has only strengthened in the past few weeks as our whole community has come together to help and support one another. Your child is very much a part of our family now, so if you feel you need any further information on any topic – uniform, busses, lunches, equipment etc. – all perfectly natural for the move to high school, please don't hesitate to get in touch and we will do everything we can to help you.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Thompson
Headteacher

