



15th March 2012

P7 Parents Carers re Transition to S1

Dear Parent / Carer,

Mrs McCready, Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for primary liaison at St Paul's Academy, visited P7 this morning to pass on some information about the transition to S1 for August 2012. Mrs Ansquer, Principal Teacher of Guidance, I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on this process. I hope this will be of use, particularly for those of you for whom this is your first experience as a parent / carer of primary-secondary transition.

In December, P6/7 Parents/Carers and the children were invited to St Paul's for an Open Evening and I know that some of you took up this invitation. The children have also taken part in some 'taster' events, including the recent Cluster Ceilidh. Some children who may need some additional support have also taken part in an October holiday club and have met with a member of the St Paul's support team to explore their thoughts about the move. Some additional assessments have also been undertaken with these children.

Also in December, parents/carers received a letter informing them of the secondary placement for their child and the process for making a placing request. In January, all pupils received a St Paul's Academy Handbook.

At today's visit, Mrs McCready and Mrs Ansquer talked to the children about their transition and left a quiz for them to do. Part of the presentation was taken from information on the Young Scot website (www.youngscot.org.uk) which is a great resource for young people aged 11-26 and their parents. (Next term, the transition process will accelerate. In class, all P7 children across the St Paul's cluster will be undertaking:

- an ICT project using Scratch software
- a Religious Education study on St Paul's Journey to Damascus and its relevance to their personal journey to secondary school at St Paul's Academy
- an English book study using the Graphic Novel 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'.
- work on their ePortfolio, a new way for pupils to evaluate their progress in learning and their successes and achievements using Glow (Miss Flight is working with the children to set these up just now).
- ePortfolio work will then lead into the children, supported by their teachers, producing their P7 Profile, a document introduced this year across Scotland which will be shared with parents and gives a 'snapshot' of the child's progress and achievements from their perspective.

These activities will provide a common experience for all the children who are going to St Paul's from its six associated primaries across the city. Some activities in S1 will build on this work and so help to 'bridge' the primary-secondary gap for the children. There will also be visits in May from St Paul's staff from various departments including English and Art to work with the children in class.

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To transfer pupil information, Guidance staff from St Paul's will also meet with Mr Malone and me to collect relevant information on the children's learning progress, abilities, personal attributes and support needs. I will also arrange transition meetings for parents of children with particular support needs related to transition.

Finally, the children will visit St Paul's Academy on 12th, 13th and 14th June to follow part of their S1 timetable and to take part in many activities, some of which will relate to the cluster projects described above.

I know that some parents have made Placing Requests for their children to attend other secondary schools. Once the outcome of these requests is known in early April, contact will be made with the relevant school(s) and arrangements made for transition work. The learning activities outlined above will be for all of our P7 children, and will be relevant and appropriate, and particular activities may be arranged for pupils going elsewhere.

I hope this information is of use to you at this exciting and maybe a bit concerning time in your child's education. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything else you wish to know, anything you are worried about or anything else.

Yours sincerely,

A. Macgregor
Head Teacher