

Moving on to secondary school is a big event which means many changes. For all pupils it involves a new environment, meeting new people, learning new things and making new friends. We try to make the transition period as easy as possible for our pupils by offering lots of opportunities for them to familiarise themselves with the school during the course of primary 6 and 7. We involve them in a range of activities based at the school and our staff provides input to the primary schools in a variety of ways

Prior to moving to the Whitburn Academy, almost all P7 pupils will have:

- had an invitation through their Head Teacher to join an enhanced transition group if they are unsure, or especially concerned about, their move to Secondary education
- had visits from members of the Academy's House teams, to discuss educational and welfare requirements
- had information transferred from their Primary School to the Academy, consisting of academic, social, support for learning, siblings, health and interests. This is used to help us determine Tutor and class settings

Also, as part of the transition process:

- There is an Open Evening for prospective S1 pupils and parents in October which provides an opportunity to tour the school and to visit a range of departments. During this tour, pupils and parents meet with current pupils and staff, and have the chance to see the exciting work going on across the curriculum.
- All P7 pupils spend 2 days at Whitburn Academy in February to give them their first flavour of life at secondary school. Pupils are based in our transitions classroom with their P7 teacher however, attend various classes across the school over the two days including Science, Art, Home Economics, Drama and so on.
- There is a second Evening for new S1 pupils and their parents in early June, where there is the opportunity to meet with the Headteacher, the Senior Staff, and members of the House teams
- During the period from October to June before coming to the Academy, various meetings are held between Academy Staff, parents, senior pupils and the primary children, in order to answer pupils' and parents' questions, and to help make the transition to Secondary as smooth as possible
- In June pupils follow a three-day transition timetable within the Academy, where they meet their Tutor Teacher and go to a selection of their new classes
- Once at the Academy, S6 buddies escort our newest pupils around the school for the first week. S6 buddies then stay on assisting some of the new S1 cohort during tutor time at least until January of that first year; some S1 pupils are allocated an individual S6 buddy, who accompanies them to certain lessons
- We aim to keep our Primary colleagues up to date and well informed as to their pupils' progress whilst at the Academy. We do this via regular meetings, data sharing and informal discussions