



# MOVING ON UP

## A STUDENT GUIDE

"My teachers and Head of House have been so supportive and I have made nice friends. Each day I enjoy coming to school, and I'm never worried. There's so many great clubs to choose from as well. At first I was worried, but now I'm happy and very confident!"

- Reece, Mersey Park

"The second I walked through the doors at South Wirral High School I knew it was the place for me - the teachers made it easy to fit in and find my way around school."

- Aaron, Millfields

"South Wirral has already given me so many chances to go on school trips and join different clubs."

- Tiegan, Heygarth

"Before I joined South Wirral I was worried about finding new friends, as nobody from my primary school came here. I knew a few people from my registration group, and when I started lessons I made loads of new friends. The teachers make you feel very welcome, and the after school clubs are amazing!"

- James, Parklands

"Making new friends in South Wirral High School is easy - everyone is supportive and friendly. If you feel uncomfortable all you have to do is go to a teacher and they will help you."

- Ava, Stanton Road

"I'm not very confident at making new friends - but to my surprise I now have more friends than ever! That is because of the support from my teachers and the other students. Everyone is friendly, and I am looking forward to meeting you when you join us in Year 7."

- Ellie-Louise, Woodslee

"Everyone was welcoming and I made a lot of new friends. The lessons are so interesting and fun - the teachers make school life enjoyable."

- Hannah, Heygarth

"I am in classes with my friends from Primary School which made it easier to make new friends. The teachers are so helpful with things you don't understand."

- Ella, Raeburn

# WHAT OUR YEAR 7 STUDENTS SAY...

"South Wirral is a very good school, due to the vast amount of activities, high quality teaching and the support from teachers... there are lots of things to do and to enjoy. Don't be worried about the size of the school, you will get used to it after a week or two."

- Jack, Millfields



"I enjoy South Wirral High School because when I joined all the teachers supported me. As scary as it seems, it is really not. The lessons are always fun and the teachers are always kind."

- Shaune, Mendell



"The more lessons I had - the more friends I made. All of the teachers are really supportive and helpful. Since starting in Year 7 I have been in a Dance show and do trampolining. There are a lot of extra clubs for you to take part in after school."

- Molly, Woodslee



"I am challenged in all of the lessons, especially ones I have never done before like Drama, Food Tech & German. I have ever done German before, and my teacher made it easy - I can now hold a conversation in German."

- Luke, Poulton Lancelyn



"When I first entered South Wirral I was so worried about making new friends and losing my old friends. Now South Wirral is like a second family. The teachers are wonderful - I am enjoying it so much."

- Grace, Heygarth



"I am in classes with my friends from Primary School which made it easier to make new friends. The teachers are so helpful with things you don't understand."

- Ella, Raeburn



"South Wirral is a happy place to be. On the first day of High School I was very nervous, but I made loads of friends on the very first day and I always hang round with them. Our teachers and Head of House are very nice and all of the lessons are amazing."

- Thomas, Brookhurst



"I was scared to move from Primary to High School, but when I got here I made many new friends and really enjoy my lessons."

- Elena, Church Drive



"South Wirral High School is a very good school. They have got lots of fun clubs. Rugby is my favourite club as you can have a laugh with your friends."

- Dylan, Higher Bebington



# YOUR NEXT BIG STEP

## WELCOME TO THE SOUTH WIRRAL FAMILY

Do you want to meet lots of new friends who have the same interests as you?

Do you want to learn exciting things about Science, Design Technology and learn 12 different subjects?

Do you want to learn to sing, dance, act, paint, play basketball, trampoline?

Do you want to go on lots of trips?

Do you want to play fun games, walk the Wirral Way and go camping with your friends?

**Then South Wirral High School is the place for you.**

‘Moving on up’ to high school is a big step - a giant step - scary, but very exciting. You may have some worries about what South Wirral High School will be like, so who better to tell you than pupils who actually went to your primary school and have made that giant exciting step and are now having a wonderful time here at South Wirral.





# MAKING FRIENDS

You may have been with the same group of pupils throughout your whole time at primary school, so you may be worried you will be split up from your friends and not know many children at South Wirral. You may be asking yourself “*which house will I be in?*”, “*will I make any friends?*”, “*will I know anyone in my tutor group?*”.

At South Wirral you may be in a different House or Tutor Group from your friends. But when you visit South Wirral on Welcome Day, you will meet not only many different pupils from other primary schools but you will meet year 7 students who used to go to your school and you will be looked after by lots of older students who are in the same House as you.

We have 4 houses: Laird, Mayer, Stanley and Wilson. These are the wonderful ‘Heads of House’ who look after you from the minute you join their house to the minute you leave South Wirral.

**LAIRD**



**Mr Woodhall**

**MAYER**



**Mrs Robinson**

**STANLEY**



**Mrs Batch**

**WILSON**



**Miss Adu**

When you come to South Wirral on Welcome Day you will meet all of the year 6 pupils who are in the same tutor group as you. You will also have access to a student forum and you will have students from South Wirral who will answer any questions you have - honestly.

You won't lose your old friends - you can see them at break and lunch and although you may not be in the same House or Tutor Group, you may be in several lessons with them.

‘Moving On Up’ into South Wirral is a great opportunity to meet and make new friends. Everyone will be feeling the same way and our caring students at South Wirral will look after you as they remember how nervous they were when they were moving from primary into secondary.

# WHAT TO EXPECT

## GETTING USED TO THIS BIG BUILDING

By year 6 you know your way around the whole of your primary school. You know where everything is and who and where to go to for everything you need. You are often taught in one class by one teacher so you don't have to find your lessons on your own. Because our school is so big you may be worried about finding your way around, getting to the different lessons on time and getting lost!

When you get to South Wirral don't worry about getting lost, yes we are a big school - a lot bigger than your primary school - but there is nothing to worry about. We have over 80 staff and hundreds of students who are available to help you. When you leave your tutor room to go to your lessons you will be with your new friends and you can help each other.

It is possible you may end up getting a bit lost the first few weeks but teachers will not get annoyed if you are late. There are often staff who are also new to the school who start in September and they get lost too!







## NEW LESSONS - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

In primary school most of your lessons are all taught by the same teacher in the same classroom, working with the same pupils. Therefore you may be worried about how you will know where and when the different lessons in South Wirral will take place.

At South Wirral you may have twelve different subjects, taught by twelve different teachers, in twelve different classrooms. We have specialist science labs where you do lots of exciting experiments, two sports halls, a fitness suite, drama and dance studios, art rooms, cookery rooms, ICT rooms, design technology rooms and many more. You will be doing some subjects you have never done before and using equipment you have never used before, but the caring and supportive teachers will help you every step of the way so you can achieve the very best you can while you are at South Wirral.

You will be given a timetable to tell you what time each lesson is, where it is and with which teacher. It takes a little while to get used to but your tutor helps you and gives you your own copy so you can always ask a student,





a teacher or go to the office. If you lose your timetable you can get a copy from the office or you can access it from your home via our Moodle website which will be explained to you when you come to South Wirral. You will also receive a student planner to keep track of homework deadlines.

Some pupils are worried that teachers at secondary school are strict. At South Wirral teachers are fair and help students to achieve the best they can. We have rules which are common sense and we expect all students to be well behaved. We have a great reward system, house points and presentation evenings to reward all the students who work hard in the different subject areas.





# THE SCHOOL DAY

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SOUTH WIRRAL STUDENT

8am

### TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL

Many pupils walk to primary school, others may get dropped off by their parents, but many South Wirral students travel from different parts of the Wirral including Spital, Bebington, Birkenhead and Port Sunlight. Although the journey is longer we have school buses which take our students safely home. On our school website there is a list of buses, where the bus stops are and the times. Friendly staff are on duty at the end of the day to help ensure students know which bus they are getting on and help students who are unsure. Some primary pupils practise with a friend during the summer holidays.



8.40am

### REGISTRATION & ASSEMBLIES

When you join South Wirral, you will be placed in a tutor group along with other students from your house. There will be a few the same age as you, but there will also be students from the older years to get to know too.

Each morning at 8.40am, your tutor will take a register of your attendance and read out any important notices that are relevant to you.





9am

# LESSONS 1 & 2

## ALL THE BOOKS AND KIT YOU NEED TO BRING



In primary school you will often have a peg to keep all your belongings on or a tray to keep all your books in. At South Wirral we have lockers which can be hired through the staff in the front office.

You need to be organised in year 7 - and as well as your books and pencil case you will often have to bring in your PE kit and sometimes ingredients for Food Technology, but that is where your timetable and student planner comes in. If you look at it the day before and pack your bag the night before you will be sure to have the right things at the right time!



11am

## BREAK TIME

At 11am you will have a 15 minute break from lessons, you can visit the canteen for a snack or catch up with your friends.



11.15am

## LESSON 3



12.15pm

## LUNCH TIME

Lunch time is very similar to primary school, you can go anywhere, including the canteen which sells a host of healthy goodies at break time as well as lunch. We have lots of hot options as well as dishes for the day, pizza, sandwiches and salad, cakes and biscuits.

There is plenty to choose from, so the only worry you will have is what to choose! You can, of course, bring in your own lunch and eat it in the hall. All students are required to stay within the school grounds at lunchtime.

**WE HAVE LOADS OF CLUBS THAT YOU ARE FREE TO ATTEND DURING LUNCH!**



1pm

# AFTERNOON REGISTRATION

You will briefly check in with your tutor for 5 minutes in the afternoon



1.05pm

## LESSONS 4 & 5



3.05pm

## HOME TIME OR CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

We have so many different clubs at South Wirral High School. Some are at lunchtime and others after school, including art, drama, music and dance. There is also a wide range of sports clubs for both boys and girls (such as basketball, trampolining, football & rugby).

Look out for all the opportunities and try something new. It might be the start of a new hobby and will help you make even more friends. There is a booklet highlighting all the clubs/activities on the school website.

Something unique about South Wirral is our 'Pledges' system. We want students who come to South Wirral to have fun by encouraging them to go on trips, take part in the many performances we have in school or represent the school in one of the many sports clubs; attend a performance; have the opportunity to speak to important people who have done well in life; learn about different countries; visit local galleries; visit a cultural centre; be involved in one of the many clubs we have in school and contribute to charity work.

As well as clubs and activities we have many trips including a Year 7 residential theatre trip to London, Year 7 camp and a lot of others including trips abroad.





# HOME LEARNING

## HOW MUCH HOMEWORK WILL I BE GIVEN?

Subject	KS3
Art	Once a term & Weekly Extra Curricular Club
Business/Travel	N/A
Catering/H&S Care	One per half term
Dance	Once a term & Weekly Extra Curricular Club
Design Technology	Once per half term
Digital Photography	N/A
Drama	Once a term & Weekly Extra Curricular Club
English	Once a fortnight
Geography	Once a fortnight
History	Once a fortnight
ICT	One per half term
Maths	Once a fortnight
MFL	Once a fortnight
Music	One performance & listening task a year & Weekly Club
PE	Weekly Extra Curricular Club
Psychology	N/A
RE	One project per half term
Science	One booklet per half term





# MOODLE

Moodle is our school Learning Platform (also known as a Virtual Learning Environment). It is a website that allows students and teachers to get access to learning activities and resources at any time or from anywhere.

Every student has a unique username and password. Every student has their own Home Page, with a list of all the groups that they belong to. This allows students to see what homework tasks they need to do and what the deadlines are. Parents can see these deadlines and sometimes what feedback has been given.

Moodle can be used for discussion forums, group work projects, interactive quizzes and many other types of activities.

## SUPPORT

### ANY QUESTIONS?

If you are worried about leaving your primary school to move to South Wirral, don't worry at all - that is perfectly normal. If you have any questions at all just email us at [hello@southwirral.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:hello@southwirral.wirral.sch.uk) and we will get back to you to.

We look forward to seeing you at our Welcome Day in July!

