

Year 6 to Year 7 Transition & Internal Scholarships

As our Year 6 classes are currently based at the senior school campus in Prague 1, the physical transition to Year 7 is relatively straightforward for the majority of pupils. However, there are a number of key factors that still make the Primary-Secondary transition quite challenging, even for our more able pupils.

Moving from a homeroom environment with one main class teacher and a teaching assistant to a Year 7 form class with 10 or 11 different subject teachers can be quite daunting for any 11-year-old. For this reason, and in order to ensure that each individual's learning and social needs are addressed and planned for, our Year 6 teachers are in close contact with the secondary team throughout our pupils' final year in the primary school. In parallel with this, our secondary specialists take a keen interest in the progress of next year's Year 7 intake and begin to familiarise themselves with the pupils concerned.

For certain key subjects, our secondary team is even more active. Indeed, in 2015-16 one of our secondary Science specialists teaches each of the Year 6 classes for one hour per week, thus ensuring that our pupils' foundations for the Science component of the Cambridge Secondary 1 Programme are as solid as possible.

Transfer tests

In early March, our Year 6 pupils complete 'transfer tests' for English and Mathematics. These tests are organised and assessed by our secondary English and Maths teachers and are used as a first 'benchmark' for the new Year 7 intake. They are also used to determine which of our Year 6 pupils are eligible for scholarship testing (-see below).

2016 Scholarships for Pupils joining Year 7 from Park Lane's Year 6

Our scholarship scheme for internal candidates is aimed at academically gifted students joining Park Lane's Year 7 in September.

Pupils currently enrolled in Park Lane's Year 6 classes will complete the aforementioned Year 6-7 transfer tests in early March 2016. Based on these test results and our Year 6 teachers' recommendations, a small number of pupils will be selected to participate in our scholarship selection process, which includes the following elements:

- reasoning and aptitude tests conducted by an external educational assessment company;
- a verbal challenge followed by a formal interview led by the school principal and other members of the secondary leadership team;
- a formal interview with the candidate and her/his parents.

Successful pupils will receive scholarships based on a percentage reduction in basic tuition fees for the duration of Key Stage 3, i.e. for Years 7-9. Our scholarship recipients receive their framed scholarship certificates at our annual prize-giving ceremony in June.

Transition Day

A 'transition day' is organised by the secondary department in late May/early June. Year 6 pupils join the secondary school for a day of acclimatisation and are encouraged through various activities to learn about life in the secondary school. The younger children are buddied up with current members of Key Stage 3 and are given ample Q & A opportunities throughout the day. Transition Day usually ends with a 'transition picnic' for Year 6 and Year 7 in a nearby park.