



# TRANSITION TO SENIOR SCHOOL

**Sancton Wood School**  
Nurturing academic  
excellence for bright futures



TRANSITION

## Life beyond the Prep School

The move from Year 6 to Year 7 can be a daunting one for some children; we work closely with each individual pupil to ensure their transition is as smooth and seamless as possible.

The transition to the Senior School starts as early as Year 5, with the introduction of some of our senior teachers taking lessons in the Prep School; also our pupils have the opportunity to experience lessons using the classrooms and facilities of the Senior School. Prep pupils become familiar with the teachers they will be taught by in the Senior School in some subjects, for example in Music, ICT and PE. Our youngest pupils also enjoy regular visits to the Senior School through shared sessions and masterclasses led by Senior specialist teachers.

In Year 6, pupils are invited to join the Senior School in enrichment activities on a Wednesday afternoon; here they can join the older students in a wide variety of clubs from robotics to creative writing, trampolining and even our very own version of the Great British Bake Off!

Transition Days provide a chance to meet Senior Students and quiz them about their experiences. Year 6 join Year 7 for lunch and these year groups have the chance to take part in enjoyable co-curricular activities and sport.

Our teachers and leadership team understand how important a positive transition is to a child's start in the Senior School and their journey ahead. The school's Pastoral lead, Mrs Settle, joins the Year 6 Parents' Evening to be on hand for any questions from pupils and parents, working together with the Year 6 Form Teacher to ensure every child looks forward to the next step in their educational career at SWS.

**Richard Settle**  
Principal



“ Learning about Biomes was really exciting and I can't wait to go to the Senior School to learn more about them”

“ Seeing where our classrooms are was really helpful and now I have a picture in my head of where I will be having my lessons”

“ I really enjoyed talking to the current Year 7s because we found out what it was like to be in Year 7”

“ Meeting the older children was really fun. I really enjoyed meeting the Head Prefects on our tour of the school”

Quotes from Year 6 pupils

## A message from our Head of Prep

Sancton Wood is part of the Dukes Education group and we are proud to state our children receive 'a first class education' where they are 'welcomed into a second family, with the love and care you expect'.

The transition between Year 6 and Year 7 is an exciting step for any young person, when they move on to the next stage of their education, and we take special care to ensure a smooth process. Starting a new school can be a daunting process for both parents and children but part of the beauty and success of Sancton Wood is its all-through education: transitions are seamless and staff already know the children in their care well. In this way, Sancton Wood offers the best of pastoral and academic outcomes: warmth and nurture supports academic rigour and challenge.

The following pages provide a brief overview of the wonderful teaching and learning on offer to our children at Sancton Wood's Senior School, where they will experience warmth, fun, adventure and exciting educational opportunities.

To make the transition to Year 7 as easy as possible, we offer our Year 6 children the opportunity to visit our Senior School, meet our staff and enjoy taster lessons throughout the year. During the Michaelmas Term, Year 6 will go on a special school trip with Mrs King and Miss Hodges, identify a Year 7 buddy, take a school tour, and enjoy workshops in English, Maths, Science and Drama.

In the Lent term, the children will experience the remainder of the creative arts subjects as well as a Humanities and Modern Foreign Language workshop. There will also be the opportunity to join the Senior School in some special assemblies.

During the Summer term there will be a special assembly and afternoon tea with the Head of the Senior School. There will also be a sports activity and we will arrange for Year 6 and 7 students to have an outdoor trip together.

Kylie Hodges



## A message from our Head of Seniors

At Seniors we love it when new students and prospective students come into the building and almost breathe a sigh of relief because they feel like they have found their school home.

Our aim at Seniors is to develop young people who are knowledgeable, caring and successful with bright, enquiring minds. We are so proud of the academic success our students achieve at the end of Year 11 but we want to allow students to grow in all sorts of ways.

We want our young people to have a positive approach to life, to broaden their horizons and to value the chance to think and study in a friendly, kind and fun environment.

If your child is joining us from the Prep School the transition is seamless and they are more than ready for life in Seniors when September comes. Other children join from a range of schools and instantly feel at home and find new friends for life.

Our students enjoy their education, have a clear sense of purpose and feel fully supported. We offer a varied curriculum and value each subject equally - a happy all round education producing happy well-rounded students.

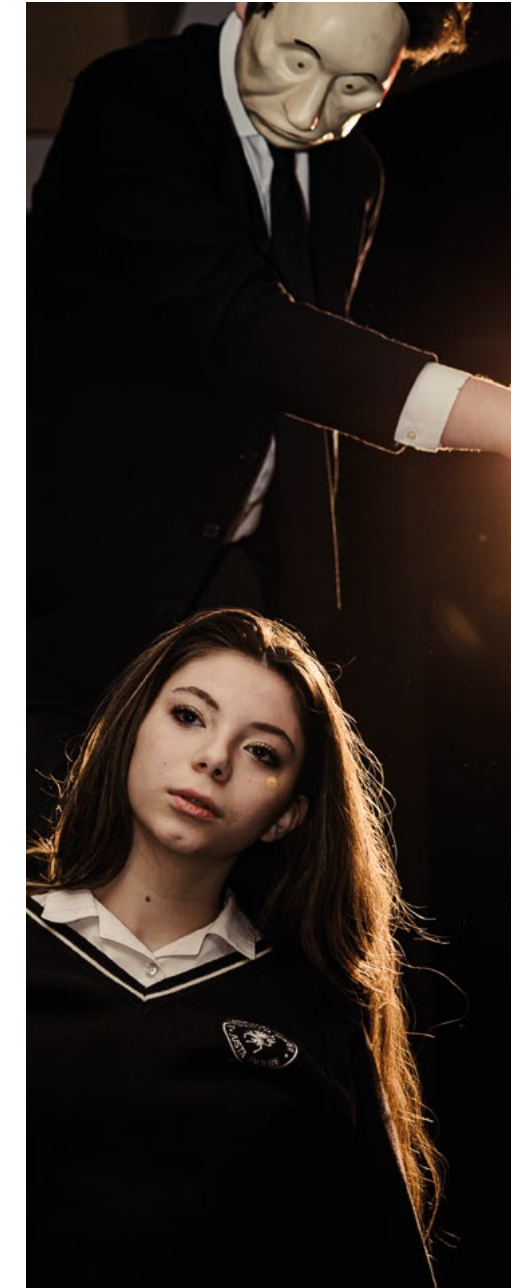
We welcome them as they take their first step into Seniors and stay with them as they build upon their skills and journey towards a successful future.

How we succeed together is simple - happy students like to learn.

Debra King

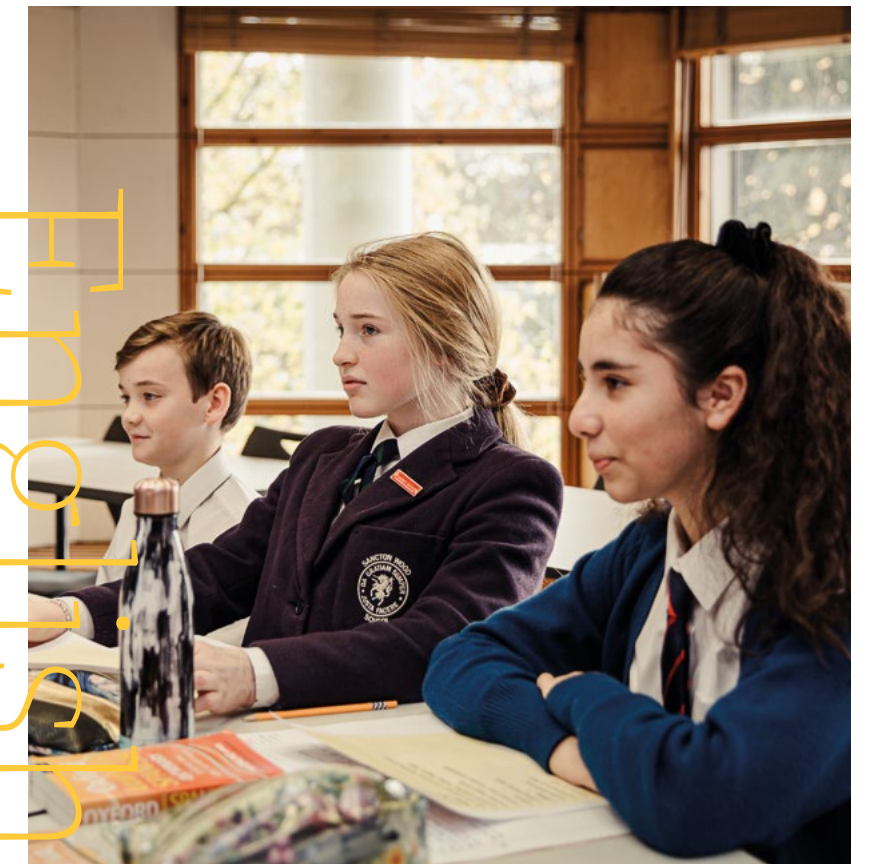
### What we can offer:

The benefits of having lessons at the Senior School, speaking with past pupils and meeting Senior staff must not be taken for granted. Our smooth and timely transition activities ensure the children are confident and happy in their new school setting. Having the ability to meet with Senior school staff eliminates many worries your child may have.





# ENGLISH



## English

English is a key subject as children journey through school - our English team develop the skills students need to fulfil their potential in Year 11 as well as equip them with skills necessary for other subjects. It is a vital subject, but one which we deliver in a vibrant and creative way.

Through a range of varied texts and literature we aim to open up the minds of our learners. We bring English alive for the students as much as possible, arranging trips to theatre productions, poetry readings and film showings of the texts they are studying. Even when we haven't been able to take students to the theatre, we can bring the theatre to them.

Autobiographical texts, classic literature, modern plays and literature from different cultures all have a place in the English classroom.

Independent reading is also key to students' future success and we embrace and encourage the reading of books at home for

leisure and enjoyment. Of course we celebrate World Book Day and National Poetry Day but really every day is a book day.

In Year 7 and Year 8 some of the texts we study are: Boy (Roald Dahl); A Midsummer Night's Dream; (Shakespeare); a celebration of Fairy Tales (to develop creative writing skills); Trash (Andy Mulligan); Refugee Boy (Benjamin Zephaniah); Noughts and Crosses (Malorie Blackman); an anthology of Gothic fiction including the work of Dickens and Poe (to develop creative writing skills); Macbeth (Shakespeare); an anthology of poetry from other cultures. We also study Global Reading throughout the year to learn about stories from lesser known writers from across the world.

Life is full of stories. Appreciating our lives, learning about the lives of others, and developing knowledge of social and historical events is all achieved if we read and study the right things.

## Sciences

At Senior School each of the Sciences is taught by a specialist teacher in our newly equipped and very impressive labs. Our team's approach is to learn through doing and Science is as hands on as possible with experiments at every turn.

A skeleton awaits and greets students in the Biology lab where students begin to learn about the body, cells, genes, animal life, reproduction, the food chain and the ecosystem.

Science really is all around us. Our Chemistry lessons have students learning about how the world is made up, the particles of the Universe, metals, particles and products - our teaching displays how Chemistry is relevant in everyday life.

Young Physicists learn about speed, gravity, electricity, energy, light and sound. This all takes place with enthusiastic students being allowed to experiment and be curious.

There will be a range of activities available to students through Science enrichment, from investigating chemical reactions and how cells communicate, to rocketry, robotics, STEM club and later an opportunity to engage with aspirational medical students and prepare them for sixth form and university.

We enjoy various opportunities to sign up to competitions, from the Salters Chemistry Festival, to the leadership awards in Engineering and the potential to gain CREST awards through scientific investigation. We can also support students in their HPQ if they choose a science based project.

We also celebrate British Science week through our own STEM week where every student, regardless of year group accesses unique and different insights to the world of STEM, often across the curriculum. Science at Sancton Wood is a passion, and our commitment is to prepare students for the Science roles which Cambridge offers them as a future.

# Sciences



# Maths



Maths really livens up in Senior School. Students are given the chance to take place in regional and national challenges. Through a variety of activities our specialist teachers are expert at getting students mathematically engaged in an interactive way - what child wouldn't love to learn maths through a Treasure Hunt or Bingo?

In Year 7 we take a deep dive into algebra and, importantly, draw connections between previously unconnected topics such as equations and graphs. A marvellous foundation for problem solving, critical thinking and recognised life skills.

## Humanities

At the Senior School students have the opportunity to study the three main Humanities (Geography, History and Religious Studies) as individual subjects with specialist teachers and right from Year 7 will also have the opportunity to study Classical Civilisations.

Humanities subjects are incredibly exciting and although they are very different they are brought together by their mutual study of humans and their interactions with each other and the natural world, past, present and

future making them an essential part of the curriculum. Museum trips bring to life past events and key moments in History while local and international field trips to Norfolk, Suffolk and Iceland form a key part of Geography studies.

In all Humanities subjects students can expect to debate, research and reflect on an array of contemporary ethical, social, environmental and historical issues to better understand the complexities of the world around them.



# Humanities

# Languages



## Languages

We celebrate the languages that are taught and spoken at Bateman Street. At the start of the academic year we promote 'Languages Week' and throughout our curriculum we encourage curiosity about other languages, cultures and countries.

Students have two hours of language teaching a week in Years 7 - 9 and French, Spanish and Mandarin are on offer in the curriculum. Native speakers support our older students' conversation skills and international penpal links and collaborative projects are fostered. For those wishing to take early exams in their native tongue there is the possibility for this and we facilitate and help wherever we can.

Through our exciting enrichment programme, students can take part in national language competitions and European residential trips.





# Creative Arts

## Creative Arts

At the Senior School all students have an hour a week with a specialist teacher in all of the arts subjects; Art, Music and Drama. There are lots of opportunities to be involved in the arts both in and out of the classroom. We will be delivering a wealth of fantastic enrichment opportunities, including: Stage Make-Up, Pottery, Rock Band and Song Writing and many more. Students will be able to opt for LAMDA sessions and private music lessons during the school day if required. There are a host of showcases and performance opportunities throughout the year, as well as the whole school production.

### DRAMA:

In Year 7 we spend the first half term getting to know each other and building confidence. Vital skills in team work are developed, as well as an introduction to some theatrical techniques.

We use Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes to explore storytelling and stylised technique.

### MUSIC:

In Year 7, students are given an introduction to the elements of music. Topics such as body percussion, African drumming and keyboards allow students to explore rhythm, melody, music notation, composition and performance. Evaluation and critical listening to a range of different music are also key features of the Year 7 Music curriculum.

### ART:

In Year 7 students start with an exploration of the formal elements of Art. Tasks include artist research and learning through the exploration of a range of media and techniques. Students then develop their skills by participating in a three-dimensional project using ceramic and modelling skills to create a sculpture of their own!





# Sports



## Physical Education

Pupils in the Senior School participate in many of the same activities as the Prep students, however a greater focus is on game play and how to implement skills into games and competition. Pupils participate in contact rugby, lacrosse and in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) pupils have access to the use of local fitness suites.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in regular inter-school fixtures and have the opportunity to take part in many more Independent Schools' Association (ISA) regional and national competitions as well as the local Cambridge School competitions.

The pupils from Year 6 are invited to a ski trip with the younger Senior School students, where they can establish new friendships before joining their 'new' school.

Senior School pupils are invited on sports tours for example the England Netball PGL weekend full of competitive netball and exciting outdoor activities.





At Senior School we link with the outside world to ensure that Computer Science learning doesn't just happen in the classroom, although we do have our very own dedicated IT lab.

After an exciting taste of all things Computer Science in Years 7 - 9, our GCSE course is becoming very popular. We really do ensure that students experience the outside world in their lessons with our exciting new Virtual Reality headsets meaning they can be transported anywhere.



# Computer Science

## **Sancton Wood School**

Nurturing academic  
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