



What Will Happen If I Join Townsend?

Information for the new Year 7 2020

If you choose Townsend for your son or daughter you may wonder what support they will get to prepare for a good start at their new secondary school.

We have lots of experience to make children welcome and to help them settle in quickly and to get ready for learning and to become members of our Townsend Community.

Ofsted have always praised our transition arrangements and we listen to feedback from pupils and parents/carers every year to make things even better for the next year.

Townsend regularly recruits from around 70 different Primary Schools and each year we only admit up to 150 new year 7 pupils making us a lovely relatively small secondary school where all pupils are known and nurtured. Having so many Primary Schools means that many children (around half normally) come to Townsend with no one else from their Primary School. We devote a lot of time and care to helping children feel safe, welcome and to make friends. We have a lot of experience and within days of arriving nearly all children say they feel safe and happy and that they have made new friends.

Here are some examples of the lots and lots of things we do to help children integrate.

- If a child is the only one from their Primary School we try to put them into a tutor group with another child travelling from their area so they can have a travelling companion.
- New children usually visit the school twice before they start and on one day in July they spend a whole day at Townsend.
- On the first day of term usually only year 7 and some of the 6th form are in school so children can find their way around the school and get to know each other.
- New students are allowed to go to lunch early for the first few weeks so that they can get used to the cafeteria style self-service in the school dining hall.
- Every year our senior staff visit every Primary School that a child is coming from to talk about Townsend and so that they recognise a friendly face when they arrive the following September. While visiting the Primary School the senior teacher tries to meet with and speak to the Year 6 class teacher, and the headteacher, if they are available to find out as much as we can about each pupil so that we know how to support them best.
- Each year 7 tutor is especially selected so that children get the best possible support.
- and much much more.....

If you go to the front page of our main school website you will find a tab called 'New Intake'. If you click on the tab you will be able to see all of the information and newsletters that we provided to support the Year 7 who started with us a few weeks ago. Normally we would remove the tab but we have left it in place this year as things are so different because of the Coronavirus pandemic and we thought parents and carers would appreciate having the additional information.