



Dear Year 6 Parent

Moving to secondary school is a big change for Year 6 students and their families. For many families this is an exciting time, however some students, and parents, can become anxious about the move. We recognise that some families feel the need to exert some control over the move and put forward a range of requests including groups that their child will be placed into.

Year 6 students change and start to become more independent over the summer holidays and the first few terms of Year 7. Friendships that they value in Year 6 may become less connected as they grow and develop new interests and they very quickly start to make new friends.

The grouping in secondary school is very different to primary.

- Students are in tutor groups which have a few students from each year group (7-11). These tutor groups meet every day.
- Students are also in teaching groups for timetabled lessons each day.
- Certain subjects are taught in completely different groups (Technology, Maths, PE, Drama etc).
- Groups are not fixed

This should demonstrate that requesting two students are put together is unlikely to mean they are together all the time. We continually monitor the groups for each child's progress and wellbeing and will make changes when necessary.

It is important to balance groups with a range of factors including ability, previous primary schools, gender, personality, interests, etc. We look closely at the constitution of each teaching group and take into account information provided by the primary schools on each child. We don't ask for friendship requests from parents for a number of reasons: quite often a request from one family for students to be put together is paired with a request from the other family for the same students to be kept apart, or advice from the primary school to avoid placing specific students together; the view of students doesn't always align with the view of parents; surprisingly often friendships change over the holidays so requests alter. Moving to secondary is very much a fresh start in every sense.

Once we have allocated Year 6 students to a House, the House Team will be in contact during Term 6. Having observed students on Induction Day, final adjustments to the tutor and teaching groups can then be made and students will find out what teaching and tutor groups they are in on their first day in September. We will need to allow two complete runs of the 2 week timetable so that students can settle in before we look at any requests for changes.

The pastoral team work together on placing students into groups that will enable every child to be happy and thrive at Nailsea School. We would appreciate that parents trust in the transition process and support the school in helping to settle Year 6 students into Year 7.

Yours faithfully

Nailsea School Transition Team

