

Starting secondary school: Dear Sam

Sam writes advice on a website about starting secondary school. If you were Sam, what advice would you give to these Year 6 children who have emailed you?

Dear Sam

People keep telling me different things about secondary school, and I don't know who's right. My friend's big brother says you get punished if you don't do your homework, but my teacher says that that doesn't always happen. Our neighbour who goes to the school says we have to get there by 8.30 but my mum says it's 8.45. Also, I'm not sure which gate I'm supposed to use to get into school because there's two of them! How do I find out the right answers?

From **Hassan**

Dear Sam

I can't wait to start secondary school! I need to ask you though: is it true that you have to wear a blazer every day and you aren't allowed to wear shorts even if it's really hot? I'm not sure where I can get information about things like that.

From **Jasmine**

Hi Sam

I have got lots of worries about Year 7. Everyone else has got a big brother or sister who can tell them what they need to know, but I don't know anyone who is at secondary school yet. What if I get put in a class without anyone I know? And will I get into trouble if I don't understand the work? My teacher says that everything will be much harder next year.

From **Ella**

Dear Sam

I am kind of looking forward to starting secondary school but I also feel nervous about it. Is that normal? Everyone else seems to be really excited and I haven't really got anyone who I can talk to about how I feel because I'm afraid they won't understand. Can you help me please?

From **Sherelle**

Hi Sam

I only moved to my area very recently so I don't know anything about my new secondary school. I don't have any good friends at my new primary school yet so I feel shy about asking people about it. How can I find out more about the school that I am going to in Year 7?

From **Finn**

Dear Sam

Can you answer these questions for me, please? When I go to secondary school, how will I know where my classrooms are? I know that you have to move around for each lesson, but what if I don't know the way? The school is really big and I don't know what will happen if I can't get to one of the classrooms because I'm lost. Will I be punished for being late to the lesson?

From **Asha**

Hello Sam

I am mostly looking forward to starting Year 7, but there's some things that I feel weird about. I really like my Year 6 teacher and I know I'm going to miss primary school a lot. Is it ok to go back and visit your old teachers, or is that silly? Also, my best friend is going to a different school and I'm worried that we'll have so much homework and no time to see one another. At the moment I see her every day and I don't want that to stop!

From **Ryan**

