

Welcome Letter

Dear P7s,

My name is Thelma I am currently an S1 at St. Andrews Academy and my registration class is 1F.

I am writing this letter to explain the changes that you guys will experience moving to secondary school. you might think its very scary to move to such a big place and might feel that you're not ready to take another step into your future but I can assure you that its nothing bad and you will get used to everything in a blink of an eye. Some things I will go into throughout this letter are my personal experience moving from primary school to secondary school, a list of activities and more about the school.

I remember when I was leaving Primary and about to start a new journey at St Andrews I was really scared and nervous thinking about how big of a school it is and the never ending floors, I was also anxious at the idea of having a class with people I didn't know from different schools also, meet new people without being awkward, finally, I was worried that the teachers will be very strict and the most important- how I will get to my classes in time without getting lost while panicking and running all around the school. Aside from all the things I listed, I was excited to make friends to enjoy the time I will be spending in high school, trying new subjects I never tried before and learn different things that I find interesting. Being in a new environment is quit hard to get used to but as I came to St. Andrews induction days and learned more about the school I felt more relaxed and at ease which made me more excited and I mostly forgot all about the negative thoughts I had before! The staffs are all nice and kind and I would advise to go talk to them if you have any troubles in school, lastly after a month or so you will start to remember where everything is and get to class in time but if you don't its fine because as you get lost and ask for help that will be no problem for the teacher.

On your first few days at St. Andrews you should expect somethings to be very different from primary school, one of the most dramatic changes is the amount of people there is, it will be very hard to get past everyone as there will be such a big crowd of people coming from all directions, you might get pushed by people which will be very annoying but just try your best to be quick before the bell rings, another important thing to expect is the switching of classes, each class is about 50 minutes long and after the bell rings you walk to your next class, to make things easier the school made something called "The One Way System" which is a system all students follow which means you are not allowed

to go some ways in order to get to your class, it might get confusing at first but when the time passes you will get used to it so its ok if you make mistakes. Secondary school is different in comparison to Primary school because you are exposed to a lot more subjects in school, you don't have one teacher for the rest of the day which you might find fun, you walk to your next class and another class will join for some subjects.

As I got to learn different subjects in secondary school, I found some subjects which I look forward to everyday and that will happen to you too! You will learn different things and might decide you like a class more than another but make sure to still try your best in all classes. Personally my favourite subject at the moment is art because I have fun learning different techniques of art and using them though my style of drawing, but art is not only about drawing you also write evaluations describing artworks and learn about different artists which makes it more interesting also you won't get bored of the subject easily. Everyone has a great time together and jokes which makes me like the subject more because art is such a bright thing to me. I also liked the course I had of history which was about Egyptians vs Celts it made me learn about the past and how people used to live.

You might be wondering which type of activities and clubs are available in St. Andrews, well let me tell you there are so many to choose from that you will never get bored in school and will always have something to look forward to after class or after school, some activities/clubs in St. Andrews are basketball, music club, creative writing, science club a great way to make experiments and learn about different things, reading club which is a nice place to calm yourself and share your ideas about books with other people, football club which most of you will look forward to, dance club, gymnastics... There is much more that I could go on about, but you will see for yourself. I attend the Hub Club everyday and met some people which I became friends with, it's a good place to go if there's no space in the social space at lunch or if you don't like eating in crowded spaces, it makes me more comfortable and everyone around is very friendly and sometimes we get to have parties with food, it's a very welcoming place and it would be cool to see some of you there!

St. Andrews is a building but what makes it so special is the community that forms it. The staff are there to support every student and help them in every way they can, the student's ideas make the school brighter by expressing it all around the school such as making posters and forming new clubs with the permission of the head teacher. Everyone tries their best to be polite and kind which makes our school great, you guys will be the new S1s in August and can

look forward to making new friends, try different classes and see how secondary school is like!

When you guys transfer into S1 in August the advice I would give you is try your best in every class and don't slag off, just because you will enter a new school you should still take your work very seriously and work hard everyday so you will have more opportunities in the future and make sure to ask for help to the staff if you need it such as for finding your class.

Lastly, another important thing is if you're having any problems in school you can talk to teachers and they will help, as I said before all the staffs in St. Andrews are nice and supportive which makes it easier talking to them, you can also ask for help to your buddies which will be introduced to you guys when you come.

Thank you for reading my letter I hope you feel more at ease now and I cannot wait to see you all!

Kind Regards

Thelma