

YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL IN 2022



Parent Update

Week 1, Term 4 – 2021

There's a lot to look forward to

From specialist learning facilities to new friendships and greater independence, there is a lot for our current year 6 and 7 students to look forward to when they start high school next year.

In 2020 we started welcoming year 7s to three public SA high schools as part of a pilot program, so we could learn from their experiences.

When surveyed early in Term 2 of that year, 91% of pilot students said they felt happy at their new schools, and 90% of parents said the high school experience had met or exceeded their expectations.

Below are some of the benefits you can expect from the year 7 to high school move in 2022.

Opportunities for learning

Our primary schools have been doing a wonderful job of teaching year 7s. But, under the Australian Curriculum, year 7 is designed to be taught in high school, with access to specialist facilities like science laboratories, kitchens and performing arts spaces.

Each high school is different, and the facilities and subjects offered sometimes vary, depending on the needs of their individual communities. Check with your school about the specialist facilities and subjects your child will get to experience in 2022.

Extra-curricular options

High schools generally offer a range of extra-curricular learning opportunities that students can choose to participate in. These may include sports, special programs, clubs and music groups.

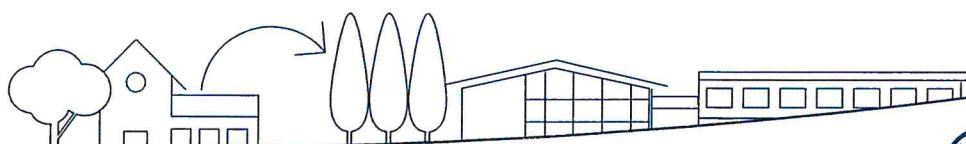
Check with your school to find out what extra-curricular learning it offers and talk to your child about getting involved.

Greater independence

Going to high school usually means moving between classrooms and learning different subjects from a range of specialist teachers.

More than 90% of pilot students interviewed said they liked using specialist learning areas and 89% said they liked having a range of teachers.

Several parents involved in the pilot told us they were proud of the independence and organisational skills their children gained in high school. Some of their comments are listed below.



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"He liked that they were trusted to find their way to their own classes."

– pilot program parent.

"Photography, science and cooking have helped her to enjoy interactive experiences."

– pilot program parent.

"Adjusting to a new environment has taught her flexibility and adaptability."

– pilot program parent.

"We definitely get treated like we're older, which makes most of us act like we're older and we get treated with that maturity."

– pilot program student.

Making friends

When interviewed at the end of term 1, 97% of pilot program students said they had made new friends and, for many, this was a highlight of their high school experience.

Most high schools are larger than primary schools and being part of a larger cohort gives your child a good chance of finding new like-minded peers. Our high schools also encourage students to get to know one another through transition programs and group learning activities.

One student from our pilot program had this advice:

"Just sit next to someone in class that you feel comfortable with or mix it up and sit with someone you don't know and get to know them. Just start talking to them when the teacher's not talking, and you're allowed to."

– pilot program student.

Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website:
www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS.

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: Year7toHS@sa.gov.au.

