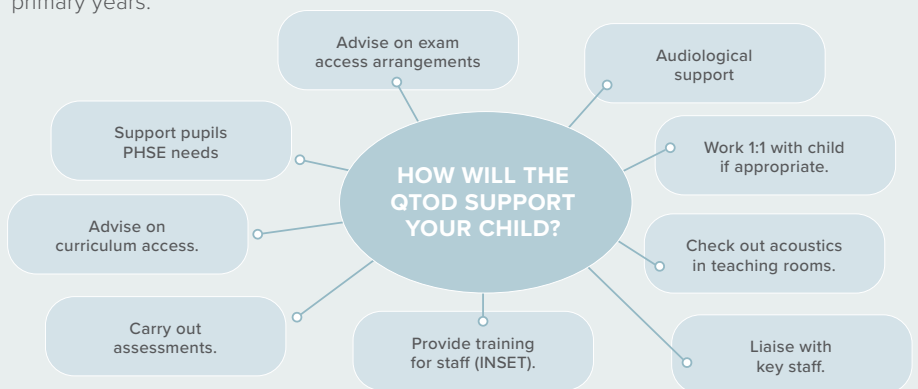


WELCOME

Welcome to the Southwark Hearing Support Service (SHSS) 2021 Summer One Newsletter. Many of you will have children in year 6, or will soon be. Transitioning to secondary school can be a daunting time for both you and them. There may be questions surrounding this time. We are going to try to answer some of these for you with the help of some of previous Year 7s looking back.

By now, you and your child will know which school they will be attending in September. The next step is to start preparing for this transition. What uniform will they need? How will they get to school? Do they know anyone else that is going to the same school? These are just a few of the questions all parents and their children will be thinking at this time of year. If your child has a hearing loss there will be more to add to this list. What support will they receive? Will the staff know how to meet your child's needs? How will they manage their audiological equipment? And many more.

If your child already receives support in school from a Teacher of the Deaf (ToD) in year 6, this will continue in year 7. It may not be the same ToD, but it will be someone from our team (unless they have chosen an out of borough school). There will be an opportunity for a hand over and introductions. Support will take a similar form as it has through their primary years.



Lottie, Teacher of the Deaf asked some current year 7's about their experiences moving up to secondary school.

What are some of the things that are different at secondary school? Did you know about them before you got there?

- A:** Having lots of different teachers and having to be responsible for taking books and equipment to each lesson.
- B:** Moving between different classes and different teachers and taking more responsibility for our learning.
- D:** You will have different teachers for each lesson. You will move around the school. There are more pupils. There are more activities and extra-curricular activities to get involved in. You will get more homework. You will be more responsible and independent.

What would have been good to know in advance about going to secondary school, did you know about these things before you got there?

- A:** Homework's not as bad as people say!
- B:** Take a packed lunch as the queue for hot food can be long. Some of our friends already had older siblings at the school so we knew quite a lot.
- D:** That the teachers will help you adjust.

Was it difficult to remember all the things you needed to take? Did you have a checklist to help you remember what to pack in your bag each night?

- Both:** Yes we have a checklist and no it's not that hard. A likes to pack the night before, B does it in the morning (he's an early riser)
- C:** I check my planner and keep things in my bag ready.
- D:** No, I didn't have a checklist but I did put in my planner what week it was, what lessons I had that day (timetable) and whether my books were at school or not.

How did you feel in the first few days? And how do you feel now; you're nearly year 8!

- A:** I settled in surprisingly quickly, now it feels completely normal.
- B:** I found it fine, I had quite a few friends from primary. It's gone quickly!
- C:** Making friends was challenging but I got through it. I felt a bit lonely, talking to people helped me. Hearing people talking about things that interested me too helped me talk to them and make friends.
- D:** I felt excited but also anxious to be starting something so new. Now nearing the end of year 7 I think it has been an exciting adventure where I have made new friends and learnt more and I can't wait to start year 8.

What do you think would be useful for others to know? What advice might you give?

A: Don't worry too much, everyone's in the same boat. Be friendly and don't worry about your hearing aids, nobody's ever even mentioned them to me

B: Try to enjoy it!

C: You can tell you teacher and talk to the people you live with if things are difficult.

D: I think people should know that if you don't have any friends from primary coming to your secondary school that's fine because everyone is in the same boat and you are not alone. Also even if you have friends from primary try to make new friends and find people with the same interests as you. My advice is always be confident and always be yourself and it will pay off.

Who helped you with your FM/speech processor issues?

D: I didn't need much support but I knew who I could ask if I did. At first I had someone in the class to support me.

Did anyone remark on your hearing aids/processors or FM system? How did you respond?

A: No never

B: The only remarks are when the teacher forgets to turn it off when they leave the classroom and I overhear something I shouldn't! We usually laugh about it!

D: Some people asked about it and I explained it to them and it wasn't a big deal and I made them deaf aware.

How easy was it to get to your new school if it was a different journey from your primary school?

A: Our journey to school is v. v. easy.

D: I would recommend that before school starts, time your journey to school.

Was it easy or hard to find your way around?

A: Our school isn't too big and it's not hard to find your way around

C: I think at first it was slightly difficult but remember all the staff can help you, also there are maps around the school and in the first few weeks if you are late to lessons the teachers won't give you detention.

HERE ARE SOME TOP TIPS TO HELP GET READY FOR SEPTEMBER.

- Find out your route to school. How will you get there? Will you need a travel card? Practise the route a couple of times. Even try it at the time you would usually be travelling to school. This way you can get an idea of timings.
- What system do they use for paying for lunches? Do you need a card? Does the school use thumbprints?
- Make sure that you have everything you need. Do you have the right equipment in your pencil case? Do you have spare batteries for you hearing aids/processors?
- If you use an FM, where will this be kept at school?
- Use check lists to help you remember things for each day.
- Who is the person you can go to I school if you need to? Where is their room located?
- Make copies of your timetable so that you have it in different places.

THE NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY HAS SOME ADVICE THAT YOU MAY FIND USEFUL TOO.

www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/education-and-learning/secondary-years/preparing-for-the-move-to-secondary-school/

If you, or your child still has questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact your current QToD and they will support.

A REMINDER OF HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US

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