

FVC TRANSITION/TRANSFER PROGRAMME

- 1) Transition Team members (Teachers and FVC Students) visit each 6th class in the catchment area. Short presentation to students of 6th class re: FVC. College prospectus given to each student.
- 2) 6th Class students are encouraged to become involved in activities provided by FVC. Examples include Coderdojo classes, special preview of Christmas Variety Concert, Dragon's Den Competition and Sports Initiatives.
- 3) Students attend Open Day in FVC during the first term of sixth class. They learn about a typical day at Finn Valley College, meet the Teachers, meet other prospective first year students and begin to become familiar with the school.
- 4) Parents of the above students are invited to Open Evening. Information on school policies, procedures, programmes, subjects and pastoral care systems and supports is provided. Time is allowed to explore the school at leisure and to meet with Teachers over tea and coffee afterwards. Lots of opportunities for question and answer sessions are provided.
- 5) Parents formally enrol their child.
- 6) The HSCL/SEN Teacher visits the local Primary Schools and meets with parents, principals, teachers and other relevant agencies e.g. NEPS Psychologist to ensure any necessary additional supports are put in place for the child before s/he starts Secondary School in August/September.
- 7) All children who have enrolled in FVC are invited to a two day Induction Programme. Transport is provided to take students from their local Primary School to FVC. At the Induction Programme students learn how to interpret and follow our timetable, receive a map of the school and learn where all the classrooms are. They meet their potential classmates and Teachers and any fears or anxieties they may have about the transition will hopefully be allayed by having the opportunity to have any questions answered.
- 8) In September, students will follow a Taster Programme for six weeks. During this period students have the chance to experience a range of different subjects before having to make their final subject choice. We do not have an entrance exam rather we assess in all subjects to help students and their parents decide what subjects they have the best aptitude and preference for.

9. Parents of first years are invited back into the school for an evening during September. By this stage their children will have been in the school for a few weeks and parents may have questions they would like answered.
10. The Career Guidance Department undertakes a survey with all first years to review how each student is settling in and to determine what if any additional supports may be necessary to support the child in the Transition stage.
11. Parents and children are provided with information that will help them in making their final subject choice. The Career Guidance Counsellors will be on hand to support this process.
12. Parents will receive a detailed report of the progress being made by their child in October/November.
13. Parents will subsequently be invited for a Parent-Teacher Meeting to discuss how well their child has settled in to FVC.
14. A parent with a particular concern can make an appointment to meet with relevant members of staff separate to the scheduled Parent-Teacher meeting.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Department of Education and Science (2007) Inclusion of Students with Special Educational Needs. Post Primary Guidelines, pp.46-48. Available on www.education.ie

A Study of Transition from Primary to Post Primary School for Pupils with Special Educational Needs www.ncse.ie

SESS Transition Booklet: www.sess.ie/sites/default/files/Resources/Inclusion/Transition_Booklet.pdf

National Parents Council: Supporting your Child's move from Primary to Post Primary www.npc.ie

(NCCA) Moving Up: The Experiences of First Year Students in Post-Primary, www.igc.ie/download/1/parents