Resource 1: Starting secondary school

What opportunities might there be at secondary school?	What challenges might there be at secondary school?
What feelings might someone have about starting secondary school?	What questions might someone have about starting secondary school?





Resource 2: Fact cards

There is more homework at secondary
school from lots of different teachers and
subjects and they will all expect it to be
completed on time. There is more of a need
to be organised and manage deadlines.
Teachers will talk to someone who hasn't
completed it and follow the school's policy if
it is happening regularly.

Everyone starting secondary school will be in the same position and won't know everyone else yet. There will be opportunities to meet others in different lessons or during break times or at clubs, and many people will want to make new friends.

Secondary school websites have lots of information on them such as a calendar, uniform details, and information about subjects.

When starting the first year of secondary school everyone is given a timetable and sometimes a map, showing which classrooms they will need to go to.

Uniform rules at secondary school are different for each school. Everyone is expected to follow the uniform policy and wear or use the correct items.

The school day at secondary school usually starts earlier than primary school as registration takes place before the first lesson. Exact timings can be found on a school's website.

Most secondary schools hold open days so new starters can have a chance to explore the building and get a feel for what it will be like in the first year. If a new person gets lost and can't find their way, school staff and young people who are more familiar with the site will direct them.

If a young person has any special requirements or needs, their primary school and parents will inform the secondary school they will be joining.

Some secondary schools use detentions when young people don't follow the rules. However, teachers also know that anyone starting secondary school is new to learning all the rules and most will give warnings before giving a detention.

There are lots of new clubs at secondary schools, for example there is more sports equipment for sports clubs and special clubs for art and science too.

There are lots of new subjects to learn at secondary school and as young people go through school, they get to choose which to study more/less of.





Resource 3: Dear Sam

Dear Sam

People keep telling me different things about secondary school, and I don't know who's right. My friend's older brother says you get in big trouble if you don't do your homework, but my teacher says that doesn't always happen. Our neighbour who goes to the secondary school I'm joining says we have to get there by 8.30 but my mum says it's 8.45. 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've tried to speak to my teacher who isn't sure, where can I find out more about the uniform?

From Jasmine

Hi Sam

I'm really worried about starting year 7. Everyone else has got an older 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? I find it hard to make new friends and I'm not looking forward to anything at all about starting secondary school anymore. Is there even anything good about it?

From Ella





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.

From Asha

Hello Sam

I'm looking forward to starting year 7 and getting the chance to learn new subjects, especially drama! The thing is, I've heard there's a lot of homework because of all the different subjects and I have dyslexia which means I sometimes need extra time to finish my work. I don't really know what to do or even if I should tell someone at my new secondary school. Please can you help me – what should I do?

From Ryan



