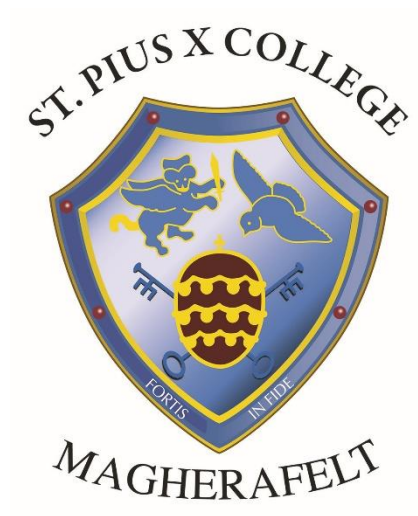

Moving to
St Pius X College
Magherafelt



September 2021

Name: _____

Moving Up – An Introduction

This booklet is designed to help you to prepare for moving to St Pius X College in September. We hope you enjoy it.

Sometimes people say that you are 'moving up' to a new school. This simply means that you are going to a new level of education called post primary or secondary education. Everyone finishes Year 7 in primary school and then moves to a different school for Year 8.

Throughout this book, you will be asked to complete some activities on paper (or in a notebook) to help you learn about your new school setting.



When you see this picture, it will remind you to complete the written activity.

Writing things down can help us to show other people (family and new school teachers) how they can help us.

St Pius X College has lots of information on their website too. We would encourage you to check it out (<https://www.stpiusxcollege.org>).

Remember...

All Year 8 pupils will be new to the school and some may need help.

Message from our Principal



Mr Friel, our Principal





Hello and welcome to our Year 8 information booklet. We are delighted you have chosen our school, as your school, for the next phase of your life.

St Pius X College is consistently a top performing school, providing success and future pathways for all our children. In the college we strive to provide the broadest and most engaging experiences for our students to ensure they have the best possible preparation for life beyond school.

Our college is a very busy and enjoyable place, and we encourage you to avail of many of the exciting opportunities that exist.

We look forward to giving you a huge St Pius welcome, as a valued member of our school community, in August 2021. *Mr Friel.*

Key people you will get to know in our School.

Pastoral Vice Principal - Mrs Toner	 A portrait of Mrs Toner, a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a pink cardigan over a floral top, smiling.
Curriculum Vice Principal - Mr Mulholland	 A portrait of Mr Mulholland, a man with a grey beard and balding head, wearing a dark suit and tie, standing outdoors with greenery in the background.
Head of Key Stage 3 - Mrs McCann	 A portrait of Mrs McCann, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a blue patterned top, smiling.
Head of Year 8 - Mrs Moore	 A portrait of Mrs Moore, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a dark top with a yellow floral pattern.

Moving Up ... In 2021

In September, you will be moving to St Pius X College. It may take some time for all students to adjust to their new school.

The timeline below will help you understand when you will be starting your new school.

Timeline

August

This year, St Pius X College are bringing year 8 pupils into school on Thursday 26 / Friday 27 and Tuesday 31 August.

September

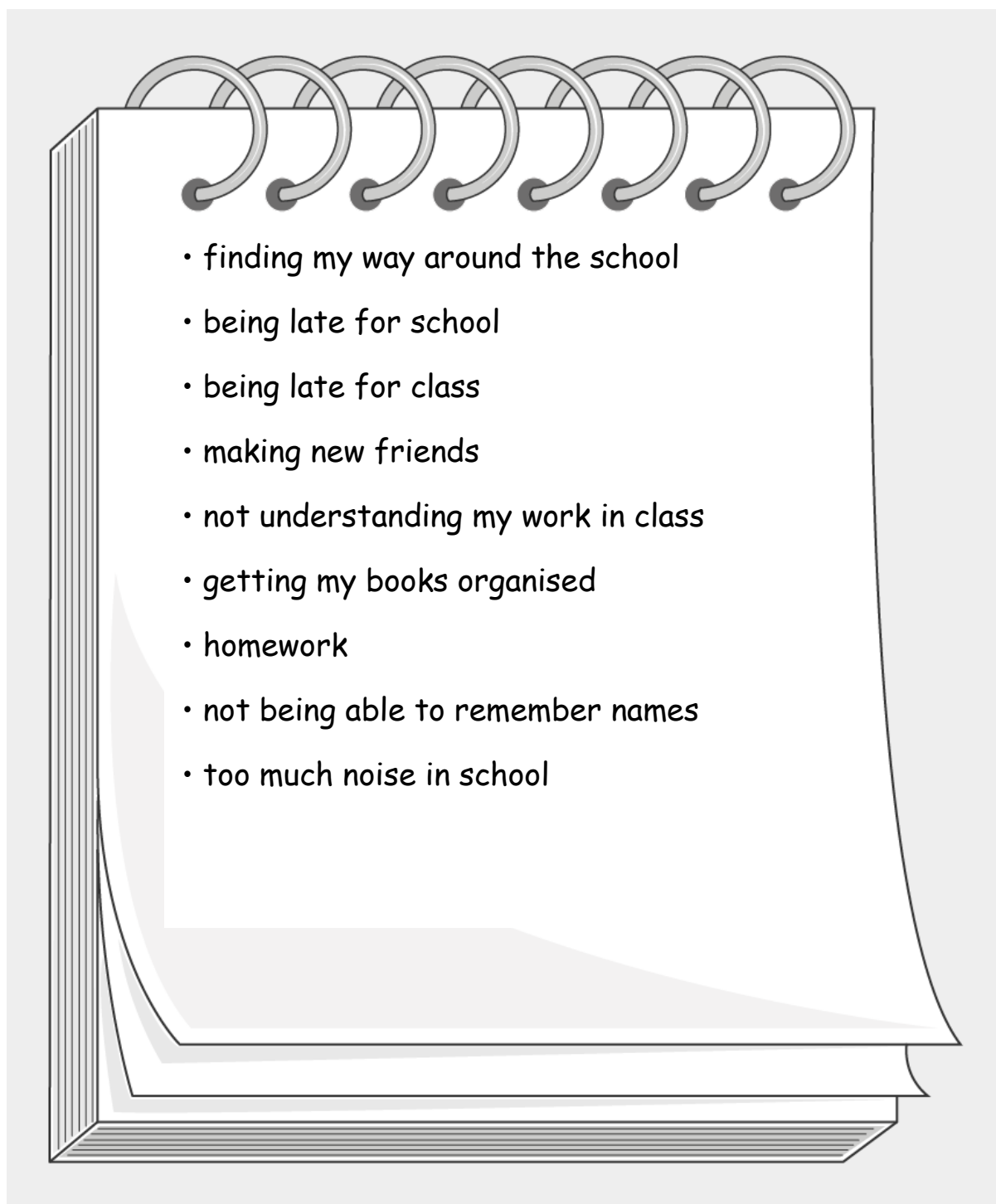
St Pius X College opens for all students in September as follows:

Thursday	26 August	Year 8 - 90 pupils: testing and lunch - half day
Friday	27 August	Year 8 - 90 pupils: testing and lunch - half day
Monday	30 August	BANK HOLIDAY - no school
Tuesday	31 August	Year 8 Induction - 180 pupils - full day
Wednesday	1 September	Year 8 not in school
Thursday	2 September	Year 8 not in school
Friday	3 September	Year 8 in school with every other year group. First day in uniform. Form classes assigned.

Things That I Want to Know More About

Moving to a new school may have some challenges, however, there are lots of people here in St Pius X College who can help you in your new school.

Look at the list and you might see things that you may want to ask questions about.



- finding my way around the school
- being late for school
- being late for class
- making new friends
- not understanding my work in class
- getting my books organised
- homework
- not being able to remember names
- too much noise in school

Remember, your teachers and other staff are here in school to help you if you need it.

Don't be afraid to ask "Can you please help me?"



On the table below create 2 lists: Things I am looking forward to and Things that I am concerned about.

Things I am looking forward to	Things that I am concerned about

What Happens If I Get Lost?

St Pius X College is much bigger than your primary school. Sometimes you might not be able to find where you are supposed to go. This is OK, it happens to every new pupil at some time.

All the teachers know it can be hard to find your way. You will not get into trouble if you get lost. If you do get lost, there are lots of people to help such as...

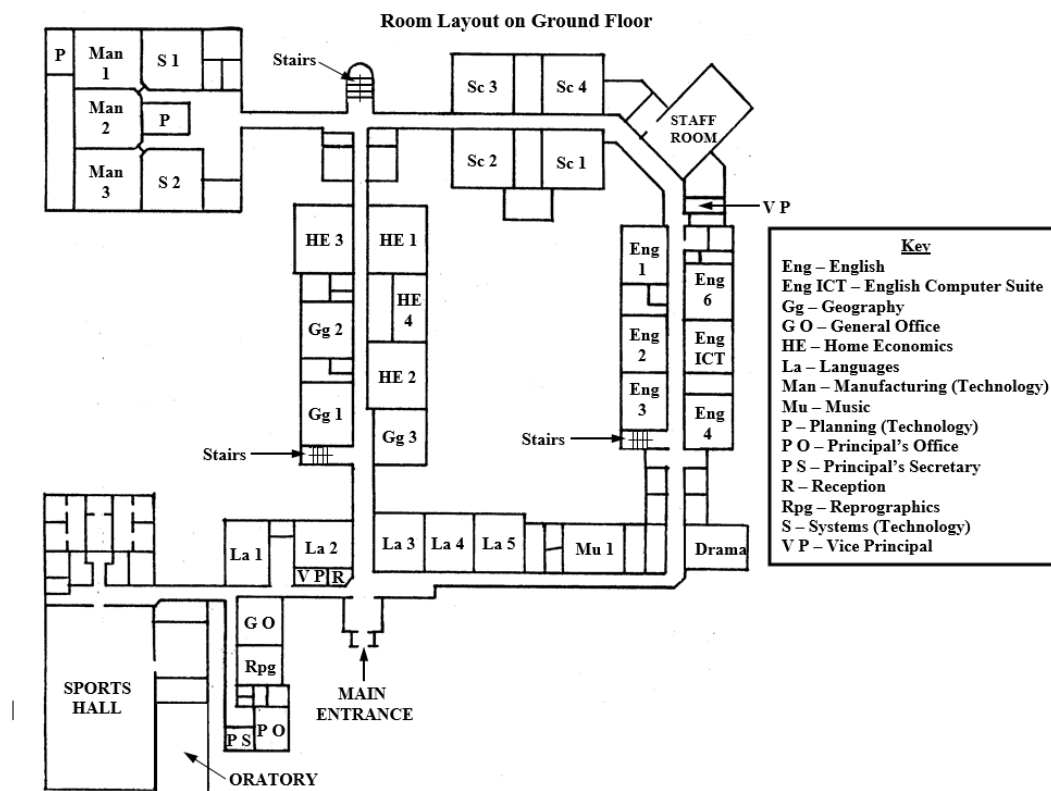
- Older students
- Mentors and Prefects
- Students from my class
- Teachers
- Learning Support Assistants
- People in the office
- Dinner ladies
- Cleaners

All these people will try to help. It is good to ask for help.

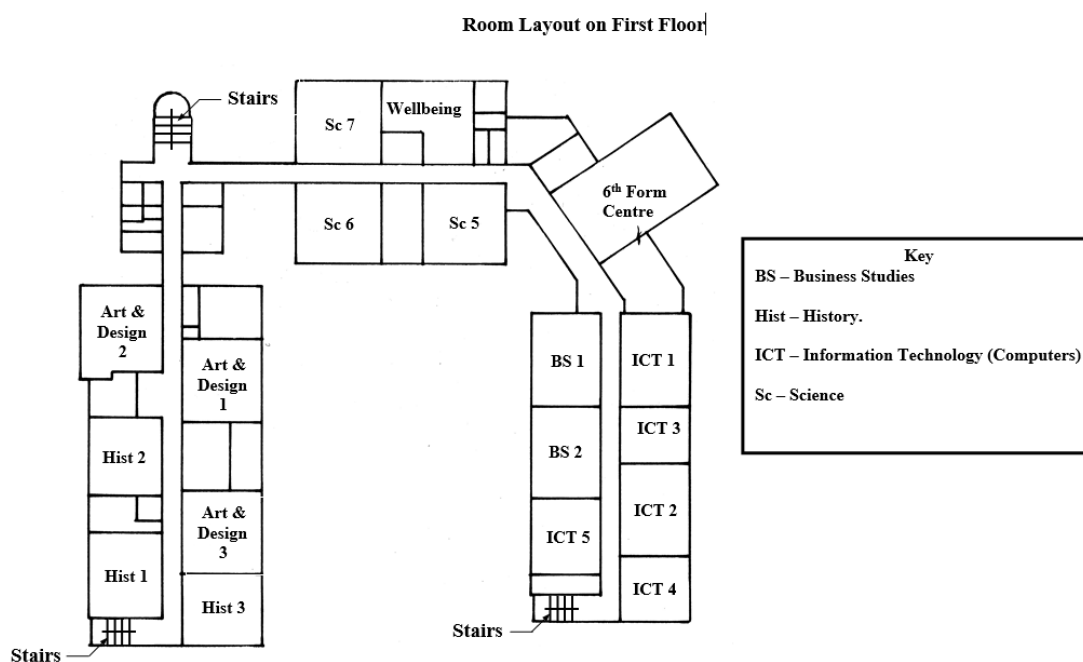
Use the maps on the following page to help you find your way around.

Finding my way around my new school

This is a map of the ground floor



This is a map of the first floor



A Visual Tour of the Ground Floor

Front Entrance



This is the front entrance to St Pius X College.

Reception



This is our reception. You will sign in here if you are late to school.

Languages Department



This is Languages room 5 where Ms McMEnamin teaches French. (Can you find La5 on the map? Colour it in red.)



Drama



This is the drama Classroom. Our last production was My Fair Lady. Could you be a star in our next big production?

English Department



This is English room 2 (En2)
Ms McNulty teaches in this
room. You can look forward
to reading the novel
“Wonder” by R J Palacio in
term 1. (Can you find En2
on the map? Colour it in
yellow).



Science Department



This is Science room 4. Mr
McGill and Mrs Toner teach
in this room. You shall
participate in many Biology,
Chemistry and Physics
experiments throughout
year 8 science. (Can you
find Sc4 on the map?
Colour it in blue).





Technology and Design has two different types of room. The picture opposite shows the systems room and below that the picture shows the manufacturing room. These rooms are called Systems room 1 (S1) and Manufacturing room 1 (Man 1). Colour both rooms green on the map.



Home Economics



This is a Home Economics classroom. (HE 3). At the end of term 1 in year 8 you make truffles! Colour HE3 in pink on the ground floor map.

Geography



This is Gg1. Mrs Diamond teaches Geography in this room. Her notice board displays the geography field trip to Iceland! Colour Gg1 brown on the ground floor map.



Physical Education Department



The Sports hall is where lots of your PE will take place. You can look forward to Gaelic football, camogie, basketball and dodge ball.

That is the ground floor visual tour complete. Now let's look at the first-floor classrooms.

Art and Design



This is Ar1 where Mrs Diamond teaches Art. Colour Ar1 grey on the first-floor map.

History Department



This is History 2 (Hi2). Throughout year 8 history you shall explore your own personal history and the history of Witchcraft. Colour Hi2 orange on the first-floor map.

Business Studies Department



This is BS1. You shall not study Business studies until year 10 however you may have other subjects in Business Studies rooms. Colour BS1 light green on the first-floor map.

ICT



This is ICT2. In year 8 ICT you will learn how to use various software packages including Excel and PowerPoint (Colour ICT2 light blue on the first-floor map.)



The Wellbeing Room



At St. Pius X College we are interested in your emotional wellbeing. This room is used for wellbeing activities. (Colour the Wellbeing room peach on the map)

School Subjects

In your new school you will have a lot of new teachers. Each teacher will teach you different subjects (although some teachers may teach you more than one subject).

Most teachers have his or her own classroom. Some subjects will be taught in special rooms such as a laboratory or an ICT suite.

The Wellbeing room will be open at lunchtime; ask your Form Teacher what activities are available in this room during lunch.

Some subjects will be new to you and some you will already have done in primary school (even though they may have a different name).

You will have a range of different subjects each day. Your timetable will show you which subjects you have on any given day. Your school day is divided into blocks of time, these are called periods. Some classes will last for 1 period, while others may last for 2 periods. A class that lasts for 2 periods is called a "double period", and is in place for practical subjects such as Home Economics.

You will probably have a few favourite subjects as well as subjects that you like slightly more than others



My New Subjects

1. Write all the subjects you can think of on a page.
You can have a look at a timetable to help you with this if you need to or use the list below
2. In Post Primary School, subject names are sometimes shortened... try to write the subject name in its shortened version (you can use the timetable to help you).

Your subjects in Year 8 will include:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Art
- Home Economics
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Personal and Social Education
- Irish
- French
- Information Communication Technology
- Technology and Design
- History
- Geography
- Music
- Drama
- Learning for Life and Work

Understanding Your Timetable

Your timetable is very important and it will tell you lots of important information including:

- Which subject you have
- Who your teacher will be for that class
- What room you have to go to
- When it is time for break and lunch



In St Pius X College, we have a 2 week timetable. Your form teacher will tell you when it is week one and when it is week 2. Your timetable will have the teacher's initial underneath the name of the class.

Your teachers will help you understand your timetable.

A sample timetable is shown on the next page.

Week 1

	MON 1	TUES 1	WED 1	THUR 1	FRI 1
REG	Rg TMC MA3	Rg TMC MA3	Rg TMC MA3	Rg TMC MA3	Rg TMC MA3
1	He EDO HE3	Gc PHA SC2	Ps TMC MA3	Te AKE TE2	Ma TMC MA3
2	He EDO HE2	Ir SMS LA4	En MMC EN8	Ar PMV AR3	Ir SMS LA4
Break Time					
3	Gc PHA SC2	Hi KCO HI1	Ma TMC MA4	Pe POK	Fr UMM LA5
4	MA TMC MA3	Gg CIC LA1	HE EDO HE 4	MU CMG MUI	LF TMC MA3
Dinner Time					
5	Fr UMM LA5	En MMC EN8	Gg CIC LA1	Ma TMC MA3	It JCO EN5
6	Re EDO HE2	Dr AME IT4	Gc PHA SC2	Hi KCO HI1	En MMC EN8

Week 2

	MON 2	TUES 2	WED 2	THUR 2	FRI 2
REG	Rg TMC MA3	Rg BOC MA3	Rg TMC MA3	Rg TMC MA3	Rg TMC MA3
1	En MMC EN8	Gg CIC LA1	Ps TMC MA3	Ir SMS LA4	Ma TMC MA4
2	Lf TMC MA3	Fr UMM LA5	Dr AME IT4	En MMC EN8	Hi KCO HI1
Break Time					
3	Fr UMM LA5	En MMC EN8	Te AKE TE2	Ma TMC MA3	En MMC EN8
4	Ma TMC MA3	Hi KCO HI1	It JCO IT1	Gc PHA SC2	Gg CIC LA1
Dinner Time					
5	Gc BOC SC6	Ir SMS LA4	Mu CMG MU1	Pe POK	Re EDO HE2
6	Ar PMV AR3	Re EDO MA2	Re EDO GG2	Pe POK	Te AKE TE2

Practice reading a timetable using the example shown on the previous page.....

1. Name one thing that you would need to pack on Week 1 Tuesday night.

2. How many periods of English do you have over the 2 weeks?

3. What is the room number for the French lesson?

You should always keep your timetable with you in school (perhaps in your blazer pocket or pencil case)

Looking at your timetable when you are packing your school bag at home, helps to make sure that you have all the correct books and materials with you. You should consider having a bag packing checklist for each night of the week.

Uniform

When you come to St Pius X College you will be wearing a new uniform.

This is an example of the St Pius X College uniform. The blazer is dark maroon. There is a badge on the pocket of the blazer which is unique to our school. You will also have to wear a tie. It is a good idea to practice putting your own tie on before you go to your new school.



Everyone in your school from years 8 to 12 will wear the same uniform. This means it is very important to have a label with your name on all parts of your uniform (even your tie). This way, if anything gets lost then it is easier to find.

Practice wearing your whole uniform a few times in the holidays too; this will help you get used to it.

Meet the Year 8 Team

Principal: Mr Friel	Mr Friel is in charge of running our school. He is helped by the Vice Principals - Mrs Toner and Mr Mulholland	
Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator: Mrs McCann	Mrs McCann looks after all of the pupils in years 8, 9 and 10. She will work closely with Form teachers and Mrs Moore.	
Head of Year 8	Mrs Moore is our Head of Year 8. She helps the Year 8 pupils to settle into their new school and makes sure everyone is happy and content.	
Subject Teachers	You will have many different subject teachers who will help you learn. If you have any questions about your work, ask your teacher.	
Form Teachers	I will see my form teacher every day. This is the main person I go to if I have a problem. My parents can also write to or phone my form teacher if they need to.	
SENCO and the Learning Support Assistants	Mrs Corr is our SENCO. She supports pupils with additional needs. She is helped by assistants who also help students if they need any help, advice or support.	
Mentors	These are a group of Year 13 students who help to look after Year 8 pupils. You will see them in the playground at break and lunch times.	

A Day at St Pius X College

Time	Classes / breaks
8.55 - 9.10am	Registration with your Form Teacher
9.10 - 10.00am	Period 1
10.00 - 10.55am	Period 2
10.55 - 11.10am	Break Year 8 have Assembly on a Monday
11.10 - 12.00 noon	Period 3
12.00 - 12.55pm	Period 4
12.55 - 1.40pm	Lunch time
1.45 - 2.35pm	Period 5
2.35 - 3.20pm	Period 6
3.25-3.30pm	Home time - bus or walk

When the school day begins pupils go to their Form Class at 8.55am.

The teacher who takes this period is called the Form Teacher.

You will find out who your Form Teacher is when you start in September.

Your Form Teacher records your attendance in school and lets you know about important information that you need to know. You will then follow your timetable for the rest of the school day.

Some teachers might give homework to complete. They will tell you when the homework is to be brought back into school. This will usually be the next time I have this subject. It is important to record this information in your homework diary.

If you need to ask questions about your homework, try to do this before you leave the lesson and your teacher will be happy to help you.

When you get home you should use your homework diary to remind you what your homework tasks are. You should tick them off as they are completed. It is a good idea to try to do your homework on the day you get it.

Some students find it helpful to have a set area at home to complete their homework in. It is important to bring your homework in on the day that your teacher has asked you to.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Most schools offer extra-curricular activities. Below is a list of some activities that happen in St Pius X College. Sometimes these happen after school and some are held at lunchtime.

Your Form Teacher can help you find out more about these activities.

There will be so many others that are not on this list.

Football	Library	Homework Club	Soccer
Biodiversity club	Music lessons	Camogie	Drama
Art club	Minecraft	School council	Science club



What extra-curricular activities might you like to do in your new school?

Meeting New People

To think about...

How many people were in your class in Year 7?

How many years had you known them?

How many adults were in the room?

The answer to these questions might be different for each student.

Most of your class will have felt comfortable and happy because you knew everyone and felt like you belonged. Just having one teacher was helpful.

Going to Post Primary school may feel different for a while because you will not know everyone at first and it may take a little while until you settle.

It is important to remember that everyone will feel a little like this as it is a new school for everyone in Year 8.

It is an opportunity to make new friends.

Some Suggestions about How to Make a New Friend

- ✓ Tell people your name and ask them what they are called.
- ✓ Find out what the other person is interested in and talk to them about those things, for example, computers, sport, TV programmes etc.
- ✓ Join your new friend at break and lunch time.
- ✓ Join a school club
- ✓ Remember this new friend will have other friends too.

Lunch Time

Lots of students will take their dinner in the school canteen. You are allowed to bring a lunch instead if you prefer, but you still get to eat in the school canteen.

Year 8 go to lunch early so you do not have to wait long for your dinner.

Your form teacher will let you know how the canteen works on your first day.







Lunchtime supervisors are available at lunch time to help you and to answer any questions that you might have.



The photos show the year 8 yard. You will spend break and lunch time in this area.

Equipment

You will need to bring your own equipment to St Pius X College and you will also need to bring these to each class with you. Your teacher will tell you exactly what you need for each type of lesson, however, the following list will be helpful in getting started.

Pens 	Pencils 	Sharpener 
Calculator 	Ruler 	PE Kit 

Consider writing out your own bag packing checklist to help you check you have all you need for school every day.



4. List 3 things you might need help with:

We hope that you really enjoy your time in St Pius X College.

