



St John the Baptist School

YEAR 6-7 TRANSITION BOOKLET

2023

## Welcome to SJB

Good Morning Year 6,

Thank you for taking the time out to read our transition booklet and familiarise yourself with life at St John the Baptist School, or SJB as we like to say! My name is Mrs Alder and I would like to start by introducing myself as your Head of Year from September 2023. When I am not out in the playground and visiting Year 7 lessons, I enjoy teaching RE at the school... so may have taught some of your older siblings.

We have produced this guide and the digital activities to help ease the transition process so that you can start to get to know your new school, our friendly staff and some of the other students.

Over the coming weeks, we hope that you will spend time together as a family reading this booklet, so that you can familiarise yourself with life here at SJB and start to look forward to September! If you have any pressing questions, please email us at [info@sjb.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@sjb.surrey.sch.uk)

We would also strongly encourage you to follow us on social media as a family to see some of the things that we do. We love to celebrate our students work and share our news with home!



@SJBYear7



sjb\_surrey



@sjbwoking



Please also check out our website [www.sjb.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.sjb.surrey.sch.uk) which is a great source of information for both parents and students alike!

Understandably as a family you might be feeling a range of emotions about starting secondary school, moving from primary school to secondary school can be a bit scary as there are lots of changes! This includes parents too, as they are expected to offer reassurance and have all the answers to your questions! Both Mr Granville Hamshar and I, have every faith in our newest students to rise to the challenge. We continue to look forward to September when we can welcome you officially into our school community and work to secure your progress, well-being and happiness as a student!

All the best for the days ahead

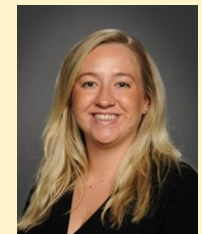
Mrs S Alder  
Head of Year 7

## Familiar faces

These are the faces of our Year 7 Pastoral Team who will first welcome you to SJB, and who, over time, will help you to settle into your routine and cement new friendships. These are the adults who you can go to if you feel worried or overwhelmed! They will always answer your questions and be ready to help!



Mrs Alder  
Head of Year 7

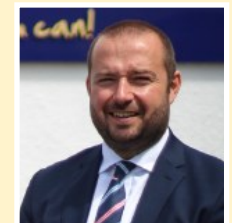


Mrs McLaughlin  
Asst. Head i/c KS3

You will meet lots of new teachers in your first week, do not worry about remembering all of our names. You can use your school timetable to remind yourself and our photos are on the wall in the school entrance.

Mr Granville Hamshar the Headteacher at SJB looks forward to meeting you all and sharing in your future achievements.

Have Faith, Believe you can!



Mr Granville Hamshar  
Headteacher



# A “Normal” Week at SJB

At SJB we like to keep a healthy structure and routine for everyone. This means that our school days and our school weeks are nice and predictable, allowing new students to settle quickly and stay organised.

When you arrive in school in the morning, you will go to your form room where you will line up outside and be met by your Form Tutor. You will spend the first 25 minutes of each day together as a group; this is an opportunity to meet with your friends and get ready for the day ahead. We start our days with prayer where everyone listens and reflects respectfully. There is time for your tutor to read out any important messages. Sometimes you will be asked to bring in a book to do some silent reading.

Every other week, on Mondays, we have Key Stage assembly in the Main Hall. After registration, all the students sit quietly on chairs and listen to Mr Granville Hamshar, or a member of staff, lead our reflection and prayer centred around the theme of the week.

We also have a Year Assembly on Fridays, where we explore themes important to our year group such as friendship, kindness, and feelings. This is also a time when we reward the students and share some of the exciting things that the year group have been up to.

After form, we set off for lessons. This means moving between classrooms – there are 6 lessons every day! There will be teachers in the corridors during lesson changeover and a one-way system which makes the journey to your next lesson a bit easier.

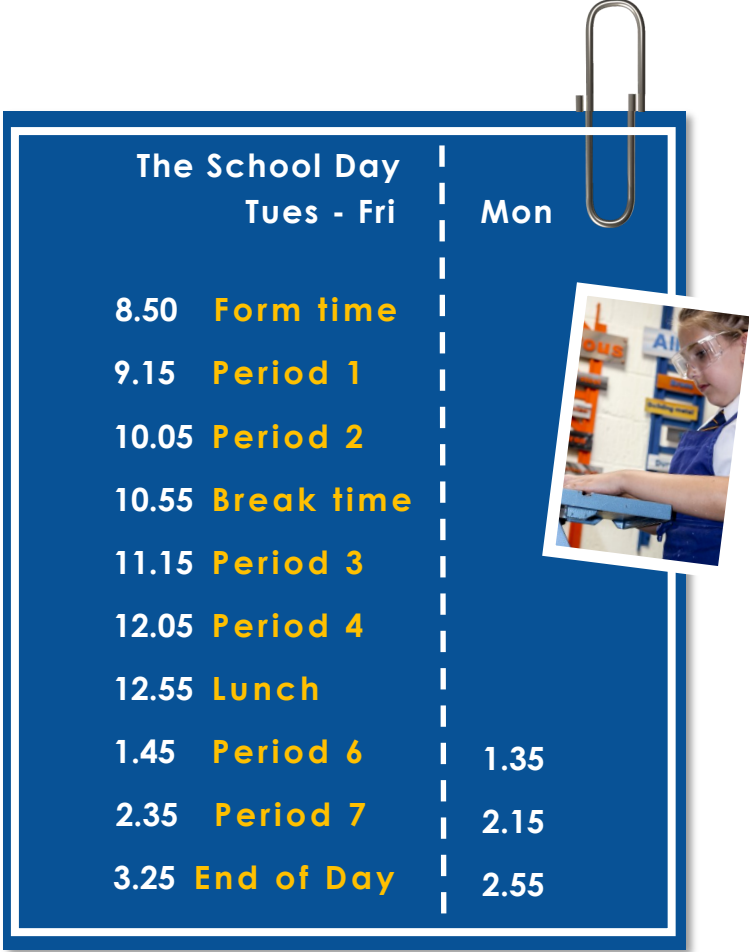
If you get lost please do not panic, you can ask anyone, and they will show you the way! You can also start to familiarise yourself with what the SJB site looks like by watching Mrs Alder's video later!

At break time and lunch time you will be allowed to go into the playground where you can talk to your friends. Some students bring a football or basketball into school so that they can play on the field or courts. There are also table tennis tables by the sports hall for you to use.

From Easter to October half term you can go onto the field. Some students also choose to sit inside the Year 7 indoor area with friends; this is a quiet space where you can socialise with friends.

Break times and lunchtimes are also when most students visit the bathroom or head to their locker to get organised. You can also go to the Fast Supper Canteen in the Main Hall or the Snack Shack in the playground to buy tasty snacks, school dinners and drinks.

At the end of the day you will be dismissed from your last lesson. Most students then head straight home on foot. Some walk straight home, many get the coaches and a small number are picked up by car; we ask that parents pick you up by car in the leisure centre car park so that we can be mindful of student safety, congestion and our neighbours.

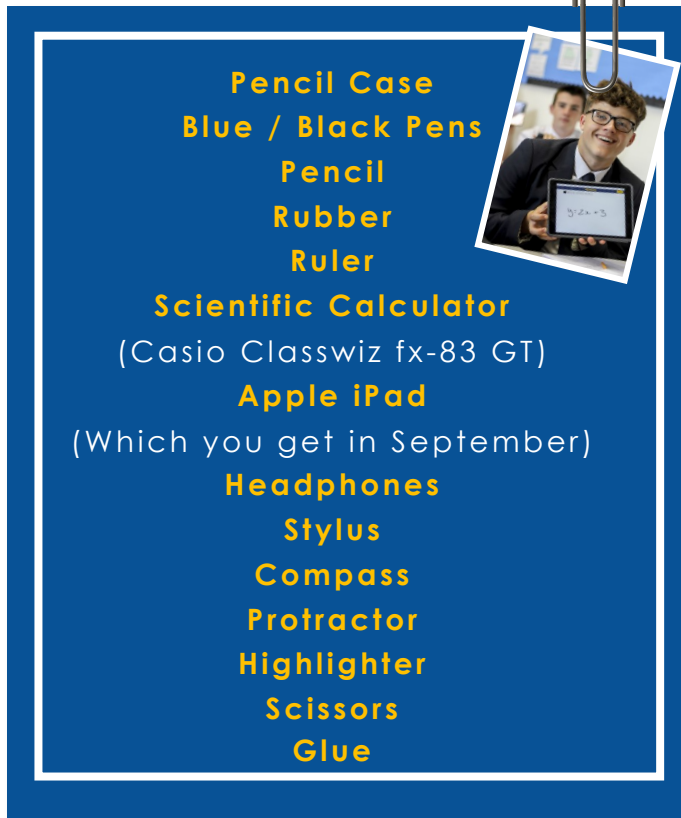


The School Day		
Tues - Fri		Mon
8.50	Form time	
9.15	Period 1	
10.05	Period 2	
10.55	Break time	
11.15	Period 3	
12.05	Period 4	
12.55	Lunch	
1.45	Period 6	1.35
2.35	Period 7	2.15
3.25	End of Day	2.55

For those who are waiting to be picked up or those who just want to stay in school to study a little longer, the school site stays open until 5:30pm; use the computers to complete and print your homework at Homework Club or get involved with one of our many extracurricular clubs.

## School Equipment

At SJB you will need to bring your own equipment with you every day and have it in the bag that you take to every lesson. These are all the things that you must have with you:



There may be times when something gets lost or broken, you can buy replacements in school from the Maths Department.



On the days when you have PE you will need to bring your PE kit into school with you.


If you have a locker you might decide to leave it in there for a few weeks at a time, but do not forget to take it home each week to wash! Lockers are managed by an external company, Parents can hire one through our 6 into 7 portal on the SJB website.

## School Subjects



- Art
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- English
- Food Technology
- Geography
- Mathematics
- History
- Modern Foreign Languages  
(carousel cycle through Spanish,  
French and Italian)
- Music
- Personal Social Health Education
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science  
(Biology, Physics and Chemistry)

## School Lunches



School lunches are eaten in the **'Fast Supper'** at the back of the main school hall. Students line up outside and wait patiently to be served.

We have lots of choice in the Fast Supper from soups to salads; sandwiches to wraps; pasta to hot meals and noodles. Our fantastic Innovate team cater for lots of dietary requirements.

We also have hot snacks served to go from our playground **Snack Shack**. We pay for our lunch using our biometric data from our fingerprint, which is scanned when you are at the check-out (parents this debits your family **ScoPay** account so it's important to make sure it is topped up weekly).


After choosing and paying for their lunch in the canteen, students then take their food on a tray to find a table to sit down and eat their food. The canteen is a happy place where we enjoy our food and chat to our friends. If you bring a packed lunch, you can also choose to eat it in the canteen or outside at one of the picnic tables. Your friends with hot meals can then join you!

Some students choose to eat their hot dinner or



packed lunch in the playground, and many enjoy sitting in our outside covered area as it is a little quieter and there is more space. Here the tables are round and students can often be seen talking or playing games like uno. It is another buzzing, fun area to meet new friends!

After eating we always take our rubbish and plates to the catering station for recycling or washing. We take pride in being independent at SJB and looking after our school together.



For students wanting a quieter place to spend their lunch time there is the HUB where you can read your book, the huge playground to explore or why not drop by Mrs Alder's office and say hello!

# Virtual Tour of the School

You will be able to visit SJB on your 6 into 7 day, before your tour of the school please take some time to watch our tour of the school filmed last year! Watch carefully before turning the page to complete Mrs Alder's fun quiz!

<https://youtu.be/iGvWqmMiWbU>

## Round one :

Can you put the places that Mrs Alder visits in order?

Place visited	Order
School field and MUGA	
Chapel	
Reception	
HUBB	
Canteen	
Outside seating area	
School Sport Hall	

## Round two :

Can you match up why each place is important

Place visited		Why did Mrs Alder visit?
Reception		A great place to complete homework or read a book quietly. There are computers here for printing and research. This is a safe and warm place to wait after school until 5:30pm
Canteen/ Snack Shack		The place to buy lunch or a snack. We pay for our lunch with our finger print.
HUB		Another place to sit if the sun is shining or the hall is too full.
Outside Seated area		This is where you must sign in or out of school when you have an appointment. You can collect a lunch slip, enquire about lost property, and inform an adult if you are feeling unwell.
Chapel		Bringing a ball to school, play football, basket ball and netball here. A great place to make new friends!
Main Play-		A quiet place for reflection and prayer. We are always welcome to spend time here.
Sports Hall		Home to the gym, dance studio, climbing wall and indoor sports courts. Lots of comfortable seating and the water fountain.

## Round Three:

How carefully can you watch the video?  
Can you spot a famous movie star hidden in the background? Hint: " Do or do not, there is no try".

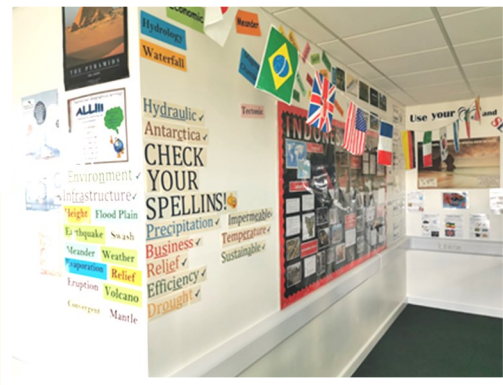


# Virtual Tour of the School

## Round Four: I spy

Can you guess the department?

All the answers to Mrs Alder's Quiz can be found in the back pages of this booklet... except for Round 3! Can you tweet your answer to @SJBYear7 and introduce yourself?



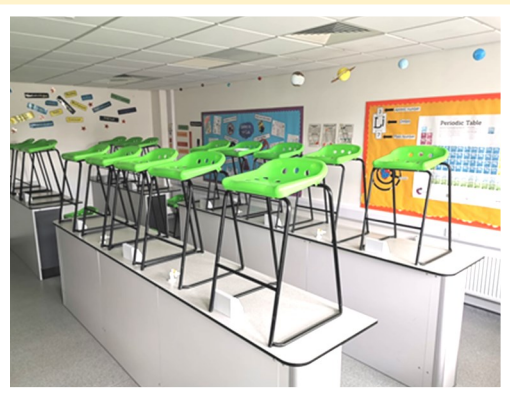
1 \_\_\_\_\_



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_



6 \_\_\_\_\_

## Arbor

Arbor is the portal that we use to facilitate communication between staff, parents, and students. Here are some examples of what Arbor will allow you and your parents to see:

- The nominations and House Points awarded for your effort and achievement.
- View your fortnightly timetable
- View homework that has been set by a teacher online
- Sign up to extracurricular activities

You will be given your login and details on how to access it during the first week of September. Do not worry there will be someone to help you if you get stuck!

Parents you will be able to access the app independently on your own devices. Students you will start your year with computer access and your paper planner until you receive your SJB iPad which is typically after half term.

## Homework

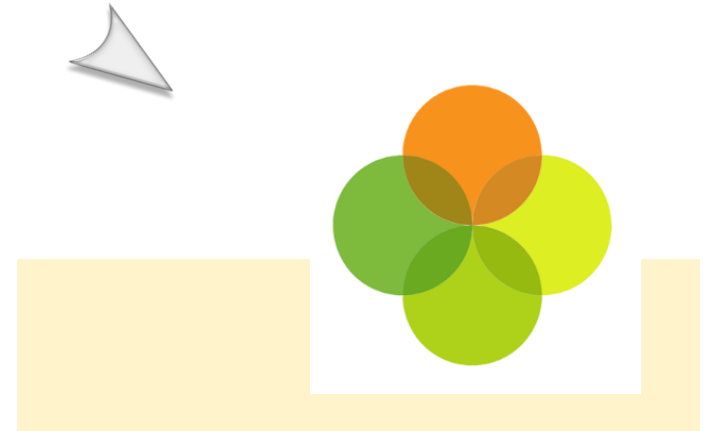
We believe that homework should be both purposeful and enjoyable – we do not want you spending time completing tasks all evening when you could be out having fun after school! However, we also believe it is important to support you in establishing good working habits outside school so that you can be best prepared for the additional work required as you move further up the school.

You will receive 40 minutes each night in Year 7. You will have a homework timetable to help guide you on which subjects to complete on which days.

All homework is set on Arbor during class. This task then becomes visible on your parents app. It is important to check it every day after school to see what is due the next day! It is very important to write the homework instructions down clearly so that you remember what to do later – it is your responsibility! If you have missed some instructions or you do not really understand what the task is, you should ask the teacher directly or via email to explain it. This might take time, so it's always best to complete homework when set and not to leave it until the night before!

Never go home worrying about homework, always find your form tutor, or your teacher. There is always someone willing to help at SJB.

Homework club runs daily 3:30-4:30pm in the Hub. There is always an adult and everyone is welcome with no need to sign up.





## iPads for Learning & responsible use of technology

All students have iPads and love using them each lesson. Your iPad will give you access to your timetable and to Arbor. It is important you bring your iPad to school fully charged every day. You are responsible for keeping your iPad; the best way to do this is to keep it in its protective case. iPads must be kept in the plain black case at all times for insurance purposes and put it into your locker during break and lunch. You are not allowed to use your iPad in the corridors between lessons. But, at break time and lunch time you can use them, but we encourage all year 7s to play and socialise rather than use their iPads.

You will be able to get technical advice from the technicians who are in the middle corridor.

Phones are not allowed on site at SJB  
for students in KS3 and KS4.

Your phone should be switched off and  
in your bag during the school day.



# Extra-Curricular Clubs

At SJB there are a wide variety of clubs that you can join. These take place mainly during lunch time or after school. The extracurricular timetable will be provided in September and communicated via Arbor. Students will be able to sign up to activities in September.

Lots of students look forward to joining clubs and making new friends, here is a list of activities that we hope to be running in Autumn for Year 7, although there may be some changes to these:



Photography club	History club	Dance
Animation club	Mathletes	Badminton
Coding club	Film club	Climbing
Drama club	French club	Trampolining
Food club	Spanish club	Gymnastics
Textiles club	Lower school choir	Running
Creative writing	Junior orchestra	Cricket
Poetry club	Football	Cycling
Geography club	Chess club	Chaplaincy committee
	Musical Theatre	Martial Arts
	Lego club	Yoga

As well as some of the Music clubs in the list above, we also offer instrumental lessons at SJB. If you would like to learn an instrument, or already have lessons and wish to continue these at SJB, speak to your Music teacher in September, or go to the extracurricular section of the website and sign up.

# Houses

Houses are paired into four colours and work towards the coveted House Trophy at the end of the year.

**Kolbe & Seacole – Red**  
**King & Stang – Blue**  
**Romero & Curie – Yellow**  
**Bosco & Pankhurst – Green**

Every student will be in one of our eight houses and will compete in a variety of House Competitions to gain points. You can earn points for your house by being awarded house points. You can get these in a number of different ways including participating in big events like SJB Bake Off; participating in extra curricular clubs; attending school every day; achieving excellent monitoring grades; and receiving nominations and House Points in class.



# Student Rewards

The Student SJB 7 was devised by our current students. It is made up of ten learning behaviours they felt were important to encourage, recognise and reward:

1. Positive attitude
2. Participate fully
3. Creative and curious
4. Collaborate with others
5. Try your best to improve
6. Challenge yourself , don't give up
7. Think for yourself, be Independent

At SJB we recognise and reward students' effort and attitude to learning through nominations. Parents and students receive push notifications from Arbor when their child is awarded a nomination. All nominations are worth 5 house points. You can also earn House Points in lessons from going above and beyond expectations.

'Star badges' are awarded fortnightly across the school. Come top of the category to wear your badge with pride on your blazer.

## The Chapel

## Faith and Chaplaincy, A letter from Mrs Hodgson

We are very lucky to have our own chapel at SJB which is regularly used for prayer and quiet reflecting time; it is open to everyone in the school throughout the school day.

Mrs Hodgson is our Chaplain;

you will meet her early in the year when we go on our Year 7 reflection day which has the theme of friendship.



Faith underpins everything we do as a school and staff and students aim to live and work according to gospel values. These values of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, faith, integrity, humility, service, peace, hope and prayer enable you to become all that God has created you to be. Our school is filled with friendship and happiness. Care of others, within our community and those beyond it, means your time here with us can be very fulfilling.



Our motto, 'Have Faith...Believe you can!', encourages each student to grow in faith in God, themselves and in each other. Knowing that you are unique and special will encourage you to bring the combination of gifts and talents to the SJB family that only you can bring.

John the Baptist, as Jesus' cousin, paved the way for Jesus' ministry and provides for us a great role model as he demonstrated courage, humility, honesty, joy and generosity. Our house patrons, also provide inspiration for us to live lives of integrity and purpose.

Alongside the usual Masses and liturgies, there is a fun filled Year 7 Reflection Day near the start of the year which helps us all to get to know one another. The chapel is available for quiet prayer and each Year 7 form will have the opportunity to visit the chapel during tutor time and meet the 6th formers of the chaplaincy team. There is the opportunity to join this team as well as work towards a Faith in Action Award. There is Mass every Friday at 8am to which parents, students and staff are invited and the sacrament of reconciliation offered every Advent and Lent.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all and meantime you are in my prayers.



## The Learning Support Department

We have a fantastic Learning Support team at SJB, they have their own area on the ground floor. They run lots of different intervention sessions to help targeted students reach their potential with handwriting, spelling, and executive functioning to name a few. There are more than 25 members of staff in the learning support department and it's likely that you'll see them working in lessons supporting students with their learning. The learning support department also oversees Homework Club which runs every day in the school hub.

If you enter our Learning Support Department by accident, don't panic, stop and say hello to the team it is a very inclusive, calm, and friendly place. Don't worry if the team ask to meet you in the first few weeks, they are here to help!

### Other sources of student support

We understand that the transition for some students can be an exciting but challenging time. We are really fortunate at SJB to have lots of people who can support you should you need it.



## The Year 8 letters

Hi,

And I am a student at SJB! The reason I like SJB is because of its supportive community. There are places like the hub or learning support where you can socialise and find new friends to meet. But that's not the only good thing about SJB, read on to find out. There are big difference between Primary and Secondary schools. First of all, the school is much bigger and you have to walk all the time to get to your next class, but its good exercise. The food is significantly better, but the line for the food isn't ! There's also more people you see! SJB has around 1500 students and 150 staff members. I know many of you will enjoy making friends, with lots of people to meet, and will engage with the school clubs such as: Basketball, Football, Gym, Netball, Badminton, Rugby, Dance etc. When I joined SJB I thought things were going to go smoothly, then I lost my PE Kit. Luckily thanks to Miss Bates, I got it back! Me and my friends were a bit lost most of the time, but there were many teachers to guide us to our lessons in the corridors. You should never be afraid to ask for help, nobody will judge you. If you do lose something, the first thing to do is to check lost property and keep going back. To finish, my top tips are: Push yourself to try new things like a club, be brave when asking for help, always try to make new friends, make a homework schedule, spend some time at break time walking around to remember where your classes are!

Hello Year 6. I really like SJB because all of the lessons are so fun, and so is break time and lunch time because there is so much space to run around. The food is good too!

In SJB this year I really like experimenting in science and I also like making my science project. All the experiments are really fun and we get to do a lot. I also liked in English when we put the tables and chairs aside and did a Shakespeare play. There's lots to look forward to!

In SJB it is different because after every class you have to pack up and go to a different room. You do get used to this quickly. You also have lots more choice at lunchtimes. You get to pick what you want for lunch, and where you want to spend your lunch time.

One of my worries was not knowing where to go, being late and getting a detention, its only took me a few days to learn my way around. The teachers are understanding if you are polite when you arrive at your lesson.

Ok to survive going to a new school, bring a watch and be calm. Leave enough time so that you know where to go and have enough time to get to lessons. Listen to the teachers when they tell you break and lunch is over so you don't need to rush. You are going to have so much fun at SJB, its the best! The teachers and students are so nice it will be amazing! Thank you for reading!

## Top Tips from Year 8s

- Don't be scared of trying new things! I wasn't a fan of Drama in Primary school but at SJB, I really enjoyed it. There are many different experiences that you can try. These include, the food at the cafeteria, sports and classes.
- Make as many new friends as you can! There are so many different types of people at SJB! Once you have as many connections as you can get, this will make your time at SJB enjoyable.
- Try you best and never give up! One o f the most valued things at SJB is hard-work and you don't have to be the best at everything, but you must try in everything you do.
- Always help others and be kind. When you help others, there is always a reward, whether that is the feeling of doing something good, a new friend or being rewarded with Nominations! Although you shouldn't just be kind to get a reward... it's a bonus!
- Have fun! SJB is a great place to have fun and enjoy the experience and freedom of secondary school. This doesn't mean that there aren't any boundaries for fun so listen to your teachers.
- Click [here](#): For the yr 6 - 7 Transition portal

Questions for my first Tutor time

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Answers

Round one :

Place visited	Order
School field and MUGA	6
Chapel	2
Reception	4
HUBB	7
Canteen	1
Outside seating area	3
School Sport Hall	5

Round two :

Place visited	Why did Mrs Alder visit?
Reception	A great place to complete homework or read a book quietly. There are computers here for printing and research. This is a safe and warm place to wait after school until 5:30pm
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Round four :



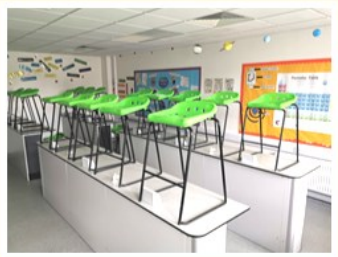
1 Geography with lots of flags



2 Cut-out of the Pope....The RE Department



3 BIDMAS and number lines... Maths!



4 Science.... planets and periodic table



5 Work benches in Design Technology



6 Displayed Art in the Art Department

Well done, do not forget to follow the Year 7 team on social media and to try and tweet your answers to @SJBYear7 and introduce yourself! (HINT: He might be a thirsty character!)

We look forward to meeting you all soon!