

Transition Summer School 2021

Context and Aims

Students transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7 in 2021 did not have the opportunity to experience normal transition days due to Covid restrictions. The Summer School was offered to 221 students from 77 feeder schools, with many students being the only one coming to Hillview School for Girls from their Primary School.

The aims of the Summer School were to allow students arriving as Year 7s in September 2021 to get to know the school, get to know some of the teachers and make friends with the students they would be in classes with; to enable students to approach the transition from Primary School to Secondary school without unnecessary stress or anxiety.

Provision Offered

After consultation with parents, students had a choice of two Summer Schools, each running from 9.30am-3.00pm for three days in consecutive weeks. 140 places were available and the Summer School was fully booked. A variety of activities were undertaken including English, Science, Humanities, Food, Textiles, Team Building, Craft and Ice breakers. Pastoral staff were also in attendance to provide support for those that were nervous. All students were offered lunch in our canteen, each day.

Outline of Spending

£16,329 was used to provide the Summer School. The breakdown of spending is as follows:

- Cost of staffing to deliver sessions and supervise social time - £13,950
- Lunches provided for students - £2062
- Cost of materials to deliver sessions – £317

Impact

Attendance at the Summer School was excellent. Teachers described the students as happy and reported they showed engagement and enjoyment throughout the activities. There were no behaviour issues reported during the Summer School.

Positive feedback was received from parents and students throughout the summer school and in subsequent email communication. For example, this email received from a parent: 'I would like to say how impressed I was with the year 6-7 summer school. Thank you so much for providing such a welcoming, well organised and stimulating three days for my daughter, who is so excited about joining your school community in September.'

Students who attended the Summer School were noticeably more confident when arriving at school in September. They were able to find their own way to lessons without the need to rely upon their buddy. We were able to reduce the amount of older buddies meaning there was less of an impact on the education of the Year 8 students. Incidences of recorded lateness to lessons in the first three weeks were also reduced in comparison to last academic year.