

# YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL IN 2022



## Parent Update Week 6, Term 3 – 2021

### Student wellbeing during the 7 to high school move

Your child's wellbeing is just as important in high school as it is in primary school. Our public high schools will have a strong focus on pastoral care and orientation as part of their planning to ensure the move to high school is successful for year 6 and 7 students and their families.

### Making friends

New year 7 students starting high school in our pilot program were initially concerned about making friends. But by the end of Term 1, 97% of them reported that they had made friends, and for many, this was a highlight of their high school experience.

Of course, making new friends is not a unique concern for those entering high school. A student starting at a new school at any year level will have this experience. Our schools know how to support students through this time.

Later this year, our high schools will begin offering transition programs to help year 6 and 7 students moving to high school in 2022 feel confident, welcome and ready for the new year.

Transition programs are organised individually by our schools to suit their communities, but they all have an emphasis on forming friendships and connections with their new teachers.

Our pilot schools held transition visits and camps, and ran peer mentor programs to help their new year 7 and 8 students connect with others.

**"You've got to take advantage of every option that's out there for your kids to feel comfortable."** – pilot program parent

**"She has settled in quickly, made great friends and feels safe and supported in the school community."** – pilot program parent

### Support people within our schools

Students will be supported to adjust to new routines and different academic demands through dedicated wellbeing support provided by their high school.

Teachers will also help your child to adjust to high school expectations and help them to build confidence in their learning.

While schools are staffed to suit their individual needs, they all offer wellbeing support for students. This is often in the form of staff counsellors (also known as wellbeing leaders) and dedicated home group teachers.

Peer mentor programs are common across most of our schools, where older students are on hand to support new students and answer their questions.

**"Peer leaders guided us through things and answered all our questions and made us feel better."** - pilot program student

### Don't just take our word for it

Watch our new short video, '[Feeling comfortable in high school](#)' on the Year 7 to High School section of the Department for Education website. You will find it under the heading 'Benefits for your child' at [www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS](http://www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS). Click on the 'Safety and wellbeing in high school' tab.

### Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website: [www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS](http://www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS).

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: [Year7toHS@sa.gov.au](mailto:Year7toHS@sa.gov.au).

