

# East Doncaster Secondary College

## Transition to Secondary School

*Care and Compassion, Curiosity, Excellence, Fairness, Resilience, Respect and Teamwork are the core values that underpin the culture of our school community as we embrace the challenges of 21st Century schooling.*

The move from primary to secondary school is another major milestone for your child. It's a time of big changes in their development, education and life.

Secondary school provides opportunities to challenge your child and to develop the valuable skills they will take into adulthood. Leaving primary school can be exciting and daunting, and there are ways we at EDSC help make this move as smooth as possible.

To help students adjust, we work together with primary schools to ease students through the transition period.

### **Grade 5**

The process begins when your child is in Grade 5. Students enrolled at one of our main feeder schools will visit EDSC for a day of engaging learning and a pizza lunch. The visits happen at the end of Term 3. This is the first step in giving Grade 5 students a chance to get to know the school environment including key meeting places, Year 7 rooms and outside areas and bathrooms. Year 7 Coordinators and the Transition Coordinator will be on hand to answer all their questions about secondary school in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Other opportunities for your child to get to know EDSC happen throughout the rest of the year in conjunction with Grade 6 events (see below).

### **Grade 6**

#### ***School visits***

In the year prior to your child starting secondary school, we recognize that primary schools need accurate and current information about EDSC. This is provided through phone calls and emails to schools and by school visits by the transition coordinator and one of the assistant principals. We also take EDSC students to revisit their old primary school to tell Grade 6 students what secondary school is like. Brochures about the school are handed out and time is given for student questions.

#### ***School tours***

EDSC School tours get underway a few weeks into first Term and bookings are available by contacting the school. Tours are a great way to get a 'feel' for the calm working environment at EDSC, to find out more about our innovative programs and to tour our excellent facilities.

## **ALPHA**

The ALPHA (Advanced Learning Program for High Achievers) entrance test takes place in March. Information about ALPHA is on our school web site or you can contact the school with any questions. Results from the testing are sent to families a couple of weeks after the test and ALPHA places are confirmed later in the year.

## ***School Open Night***

The school Open Night happens early Term 2. At this event the school welcomes families to experience learning at EDSC. With the theme of the evening being our school motto 'Creating a Culture of Curiosity', families will be guided around the school by members of staff and student leaders. Each location has activities, student demonstrations and performances. There are many opportunities to ask questions and get more specific information about your areas of interest.

## ***Application to enrol***

Families are asked to make a decision about enrolling at EDSC in May. Your Grade 6 teacher will provide the appropriate documentation to families. You will be asked to choose 3 preferences. Putting ESDC as your first preference gives you the best chance of a successful enrolment application.

## **LINKS**

LINKS is an after school program we offer to high achieving Grade 5 and 6 students in Term 3. Nominated by their teacher, selected students are provided with 5 sessions of learning by teachers at EDSC. There is a fee to cover the cost of materials and afternoon tea each week. More information about LINKS is available on the school website.

## ***Second School Visit***

Once enrolments have been finalized late in August, we visit each primary school that has students enrolling at EDSC. This time we chat to the grade 6 teachers about the students attending EDSC, making note of ways in which we can best support the learning needs of each student. We also spend time with the Grade 6 students attending EDSC the following year. We gather information on their interests, learning styles and the students they would like to learn with. 'Transition Packs' are distributed. There is time for questions and we make sure that we have ex-students (current Year 7's) on hand to provide a student perspective.

## ***Year 7 Information Evening***

This event provides families whose students are enrolled for the following year with all the information they need to begin school. The Principal team is introduced, as are key staff involved with Year 7 students. Information covered on the evening includes how classes have been worked out, what will happen on Orientation Day, the forms that need to be returned on Orientation Day, Compass explained and suggestions on how to best prepare your child to start at EDSC in the following year.

### ***Pre-Orientation Day Visits***

Some students will be attending EDSC as the only one or two from their Primary School. We hold an event, especially for these students, that assists in familiarizing them with the EDSC environment and provides an opportunity to meet others so they have a few familiar faces around of Orientation Day. Parents are also invited to attend at the close of the session to ask questions, meet other parents and have morning tea.

Other Pre-Orientation visits are held for other students where there may be other reasons where an extra orientation session would be valuable.

### ***Orientation Day***

All students in government secondary schools participate in an orientation day on the same day - often the second Tuesday of December. Orientation day is designed to make students more comfortable about attending EDSC the following year. Orientation Day is fun, but often challenging. It includes a home group session with their new classmates, two different subject classes that mimic what they will experience the next year and an 'Amazing Race' around the school. Current Year 7 students will also assist them throughout the day.

Students are not required to wear uniform on Orientation Day.

All forms from the 'Transition Pack' are to be returned on Orientation Day and placed in a box at the General Office.

### ***Day 1 - the first day of Year 7***

Year 7 students and Year 12 students are the only students required on the first day of school. This allows us to focus on settling the Year 7's into their classes, meeting their teachers, getting their lockers, having their iPads configured, and reminding them about the location of various spaces for Year 7's around the school.

### ***Year 7 Welcome Evening***

The Year 7 Parent/ALPHA Welcome evening happens in February. At this event, key staff members such as Year 7 and Middle School Coordinators and Principals provide parents with current information about EDSC and present our vision. Parents then move to 'home groups' where they chat with other parents and fill out our 'Parent Transition Survey'. Data from the survey is used to improve the transition process for the following year.

Students are also asked to complete a transition survey. Again this provides us with valuable data about the transition process.

### ***Year 7 Camp***

Year 7 Camp is early in March. This is a fantastic opportunity for getting to know other students and their teachers. Students are encouraged to make new friends and have fun but also challenge themselves to try new things.

Please feel free to contact the school with any transition enquiry. We look forward to working with you to assist your child in making a smooth transition to secondary school