



FAQs



Stoke Newington School
& Sixth Form

What subjects do you offer?

We are immensely proud of the portfolio of courses we offer from Year 7 to Year 13. At SNS, students study a range of subjects including Art, Science, Business, Drama, Computer Science, Food and Nutrition, Textiles, Photography, Geography, History, Languages. The full list of subjects can be found on our school website.

Will my child need to sit a test for their admission?

We use a process of banding to ensure we admit a wide range of children of different abilities. Every child who applies must sit a cognitive ability test (CAT), organised by Hackney Education, and the results are used to group applications into different ability bands. If your child attends a Hackney primary school (in Year 6) they will take the CAT at their current primary school. If your child attends a primary school outside Hackney, your child will be invited to sit the CAT at a Hackney secondary school. Hackney Education manage the CAT process so will be the main contact for parent/carers regarding the process.

Will there be a summer school programme for incoming Year 7 students?

Yes, in previous years we have run a very busy successful Summer School. The purpose of summer school is to help students familiarise themselves with the school, staff and new peers, together with an opportunity to engage in exciting sessions. This programme will entail a blend of academic education and enrichment activities.

What support is available for Year 7 students during the transition?

We have a pastoral support team who provide group and 1:1 sessions for Key Stage 3 students, as well as a pastoral counselling team. We also work in partnership with external agencies. Form tutors are the first port of call for any queries in relation to your child. If the concern is across several areas, then the Head of Year will be the appropriate contact. Beyond this, more serious concerns or matters that are unresolved will be addressed by the Head of Lower School or the Deputy Head of Lower School.

What support is available for my child who has additional learning needs?

We have a large number of students on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Register who have a wide variety of support needs, from specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, to physical disabilities. Some of our students with support needs benefit from small group support with Maths, English and development of social skills. Students with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) will have staff from our Inclusion Team supporting their learning in lessons. We hold SEND specific transition mornings in the summer term so that students can familiarise themselves with the school environment and meet key members of staff. We also hold a Year 6 SEND Family Forum where families can discuss support with the Inclusion Team.

How are classes decided?

Tutor group allocation is a decision made by inclusion and pastoral staff; overseen by the Head of Lower School. The objective is to ensure each group is mixed ability, a relative balance of girls and boys, has students from a range of primary schools, and reflects the diversity of our school community. We have 255 students join us in Year 7 from over 30 primary schools; our aim is for our students to be part of a new SNS community. We do not place friends together but will avoid combinations based on information from primary schools. We teach in mixed ability groupings for all subjects at Key Stage 3. There is some small nurture group provision for those learners who have complex additional learning needs.

Compassion



Ambition



Resilience



Excellence



How is my child's progress measured?

There are three progress checks each year. In Year 7, students are given a GCSE target grade based upon their Cognitive Ability Test (CAT) results. In every subject, students will be assessed against expected key skills, attitude to learning, and subject knowledge. Year 7 curriculum maps and assessment grids can be found on the school website curriculum page.

What enrichment opportunities do you offer?

Our enrichment offer enhances the school curriculum leading to our young people strengthening their skills in creativity, compassion and confidence. There are a wide variety of ways to get involved from weekly clubs to whole school drama performances. Our extensive clubs programme allows students to learn new skills, make friends, find a hobby and discover what brings them joy beyond their academic studies. We run over 80 lunchtime and after-school clubs which our students can choose from, as well as daily afterschool homework club where students have access to ICT. We also work with a range of external partners on exciting projects.

When do students start their GCSE options?

Students start their GCSE options in Year 9. Students will select their chosen options to study at the end of Year 8 and will be asked to select the four options. The subjects are arranged in blocks and students must select one from each block. They are also asked to provide three second-preference choices. It is compulsory that students select one of Computer Science, History, Geography, French, or Spanish. The available options in each block will be constructed to give students as many subject and combination choices as our resources and staffing will allow. Student will be told of their final options at the end of Year 8, ready to start studying from the start of Year 9.

What digital platforms does the school use?

Class Charts acts as our primary method of communication home for general notifications and reminders, homework updates and behaviour alerts, both positive and negative. For behaviour, staff use Class Charts to record the positive or negative incident, and if a detention is issued. Staff will also use Class Charts to set homework.

As a cashless school we use ParentPay - an e-payment system - to pay for dinner money, club fees, music lessons, donations and school equipment. The website is also used to give consent for school trips and enables you to monitor what food and drink your child has purchased. Each student will be issued with an ID card which will link to their ParentPay account. If your child is free school meals, they will be issued with an allowance each day to purchase a hot meal.

**If you have any further questions,
please feel free to contact us on:
Year6Transition@sns.hackney.sch.uk**

Scan this QR code to:

- **find more information about the admissions process.**
- **view our prospectus.**
- **watch our Welcome to SNS film.**

