



Introduction to presentation on transfer to Senior School

We believe that Gresham's Prep is a very special school. We are constantly striving to improve the educational experience that we offer our pupils. This means that our curriculum and our teaching methods are constantly evolving.

Some important points:

1. Our primary motivation is always to give our pupils the best possible educational experience.
2. The changes and alterations that you will hear about in the second part of this presentation are aimed to make the educational process better for our pupils and the process of Senior School entry as transparent and easy to understand as possible. They are not aimed to make the school any more or less selective. There is no hidden agenda.
3. One of the things that makes our school so special is the diversity of our school population in terms of academic ability, interests and abilities outside the classroom and background

We have a number of children who are extremely academically able. We have some who find academic work very difficult. We have many who fall between the two.

We strive to provide all these children with an excellent educational experience

Children come to Gresham's Prep from a variety of backgrounds and their parents have differing aspirations and priorities for their future education. There are three main categories:

1. There are a large number of parents who send their children to Gresham's because it is a 3-18 school and it offers continuity and stability of education for their family. For these families the continuity that we offer and the security of knowing that children can progress through the school are very important.
2. There are some parents who choose Gresham's Prep (and often Pre-Prep) because they feel that it offers the best education and environment available for their children in the younger years, however they are undecided about the Senior School and they may want their children to move on to another Senior School other than Gresham's. For these families it is very important that the Prep School prepares their children extremely well for their secondary education at schools other than Gresham's.
3. A large number of children join us towards the end of the Prep School (mostly in Year 7). Many of these children come from local primary schools and some come from

overseas; this group of children have a very varied educational background. For these families it is very important that there is continuity of education through to the Senior School as well as the security of knowing that children have a long term future at Gresham's. Some of the children who join Gresham's at this stage find adapting to the academic curriculum quite difficult; for some the demands of Common Entrance are particularly hard, although there is often little doubt that they are academically able enough to thrive at Gresham's in the long run.

All these children and parents are equally important to us and we are determined to provide them with the best education possible.

James Quick May 2008