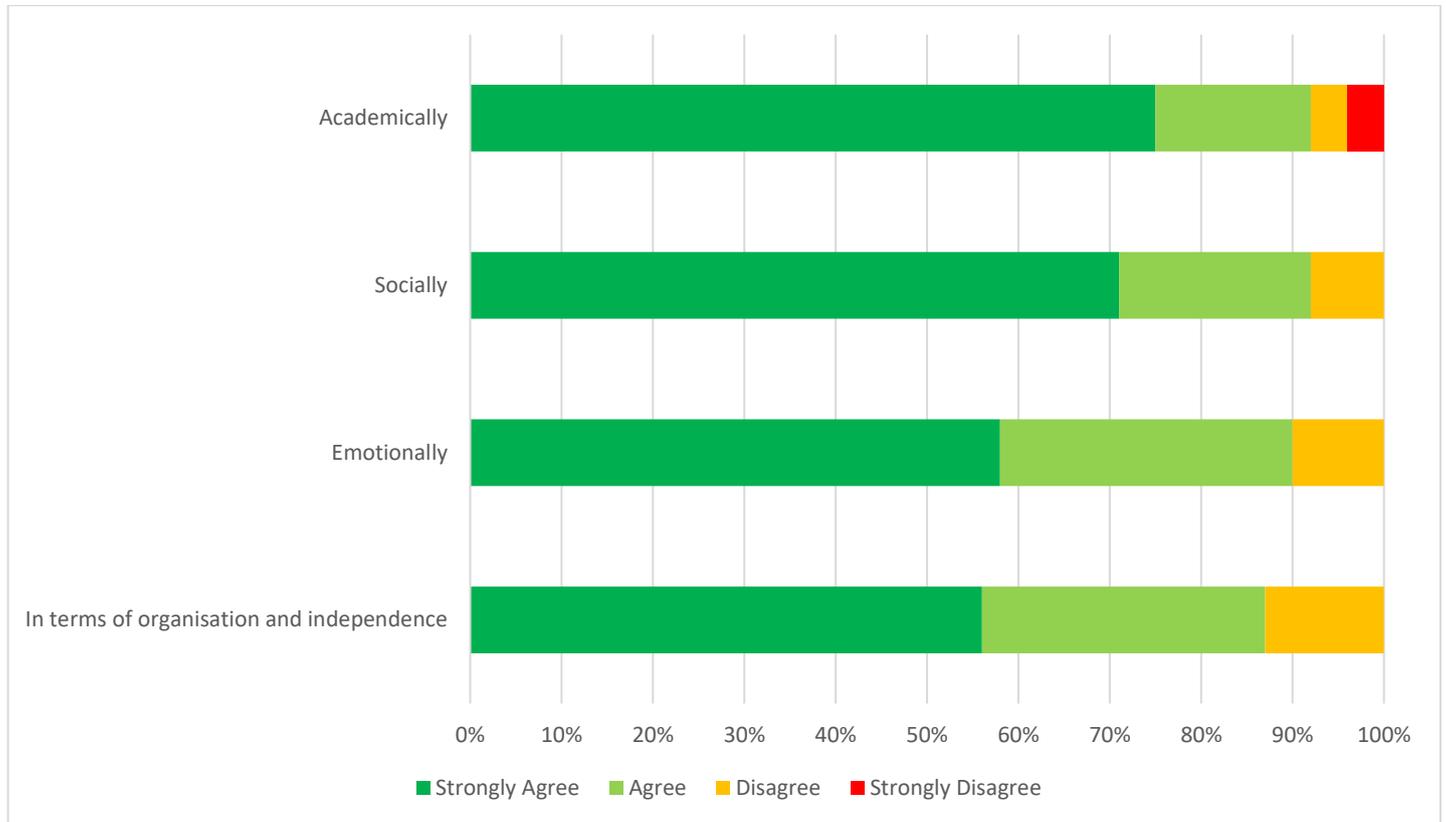


# Thomas Russell Junior School

## Y6-7 Transition Questionnaire Feedback

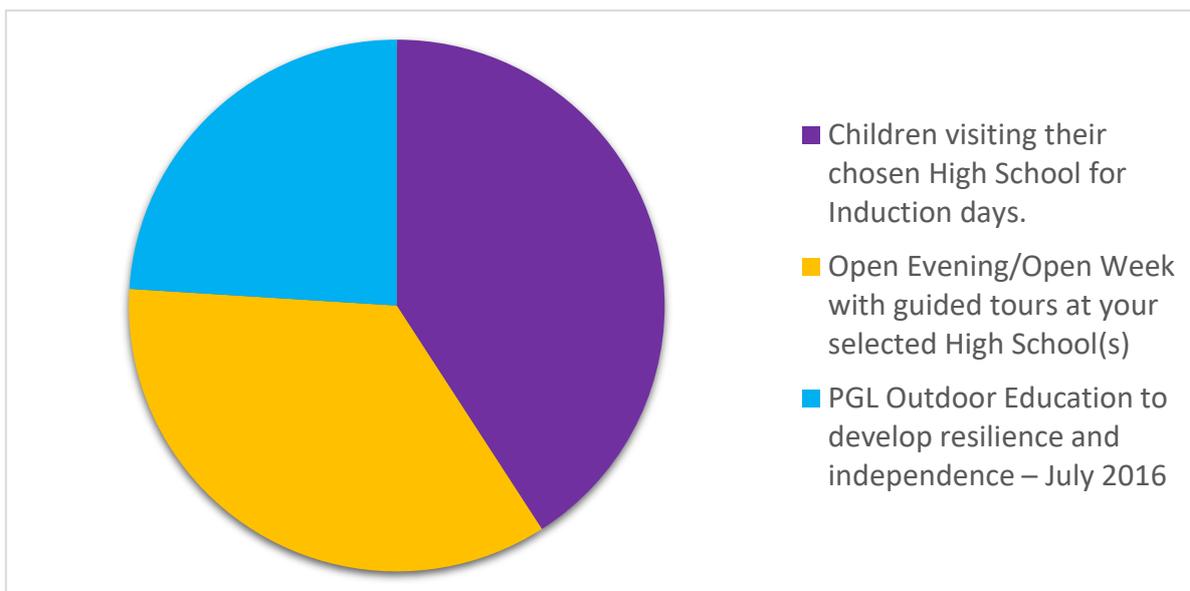
Do you feel your child was ready for High School at the end of Year 6?



- As ready as possible.
- It is always hard for a parent to answer this question at the end of Y6, because any move seems massive for the parents, but seeing how my daughter has settled in to life at JTTHS, I am very happy that she was well prepared and ready for secondary school.
- It helped my daughter immensely that her mum worked at JT and older siblings - familiarity.
- Thomas Russell really prepared my son for the change of school.
- The things that caused the most problem for my daughter was the big change in that all friends got mobile phones and some of the communication was quite harsh and lead to lots of upset and almost continuous stream of communication.
- The change in my son from Y3 was just amazing.
- We were really impressed with how brilliant TRJS was with him, worked wonders academically.
- Older child so very ready.
- My daughter is young in her year group and lags behind in terms of savvy - she's naïve.
- He was ready for a fresh start.
- Definitely independent, just normal disorganisation.
- I wish she could have had another year at junior school, just to consolidate the new curriculum and gain more confidence in learning.

We are really pleased with how well prepared our children were academically and will continue to work with parents to support the development of independence and organisation.

## Top 3 activities which helped to support your High School choice and child's transition.



- I think the transition process is brilliant.
- Any opportunity to get Juniors over to JT to visit, play, meet, watch performances - all invaluable.
- All of the activities were so valuable and much appreciated but I would say it was the JTHS Open Evening that really fired my daughter's imagination and enthusiasm.
- My son absolutely loved the PGL trip and a great thing to do after all the SATs tests.
- All year there were things going on to introduce to and build up to going to JT.
- Visits to JTHS for sports competitions and festivals during time at TRJS also helped my daughter's familiarity with JTHS.

The joint production of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat involving TRJS choir and Y7-8 pupils from JTHS was an excellent opportunity to support transition.

## Is there anything else that could have been useful to aid transition?

- No - despite me not thinking my daughter was ready, she settled in really well and fast. Her biggest fear was getting lost but very soon got over that. If a Y6 shows signs of stressing out about getting around, maybe an orienteering session could help?
- No - she is trying really hard to be more organised.
- Maybe invite newly appointed senior house students to help with Sports Day or other Summer Activities - read to students etc. Maybe more visits to JT for less confident students or those with less familiarity.
- Only more transition days.
- No perfectly fine.

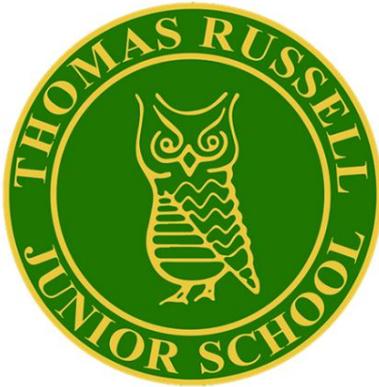
Great idea! We'll be incorporating some map skills and orienteering into our PE lessons using JTHS site map.

Last year we introduced setting homework for the last term on a JTHS planner page which we'll be doing again as it seemed to help.

- Encourage independence through Y6.
- I think the current programme is excellent. I only wish my son's new school had such a comprehensive transition programme. I think theirs could be improved.
- If it is known what children are going to what schools then maybe integrating the children from all schools on a bonding day sooner than the one in high school, may aid the transition having other familiar faces.

- Given the comprehensive transition programme, it's hard to think of anything else that could have been included.
- Organisation of all new books now to be kept at home and managing homework better. Explaining to parents about how much to be involved in homework etc.
- Dangers of social media as this is a huge issue once they move on to senior school.

This year we will be trialling a new project. We will be sending the children home with some of their Junior School books and a timetable to help them get into the routine of bringing the correct books to school on specific days.



### Is there anything else the Junior School could have done to prepare the children further for their transition?

- No - so much was done in Y6 to allow an easy transition.
- Maybe a term of longer days to help get used to new routines.
- No - you want to be as positive as possible. Discipline has been cranked up and Y7s did get detentions in the first week for forgetting stuff, not necessarily 'naughty' behaviour. But I don't think Y6 need to know that - if you forget something - you forget it. My daughter didn't take in some completed homework. She took it well, but 2 weeks later 'forgot' her PE kit.
  - Described the expectations of secondary school in a bit more detail.
- Some struggle with rigidity and strictness of high school. Not sure though how you could prepare for that.
- I would love there to be as much liaison and communication between all schools as possible. Many of our junior aged children don't 'play out' like previous generations. It is, for some, a shock to be alone walking to school (transition days and Y7). Geography / PHSE work including safer routes to school and familiarity with Barton may be useful.
- Maybe invite older (former) pupils for question and answer sessions. Obviously a positive and emotionally intelligent one!
- Keeping them a bit calm about getting lost at secondary school.
- No I think Y6s were well prepared for the move to their new schools. They have lots of additional responsibilities in Year 6 which really helps with this.
- My child struggled with the changeover between classes, maybe in Year 6 children could move to different classes etc. to get used to doing it before they head up to High School.
- As above. We're delighted with how well our daughter has coped with the transition and we're convinced that is in large part due to the education and experiences at TRJS.
- Discuss with them how friendship groups may well change in such a bigger environment and not to be surprised / upset by it.
- I cannot fault the transition and the way the school approached it and gave the children a lovely last few weeks at the end of term.

We already hold a Q&A session with former pupils which children find both useful and reassuring. A Year 7 pupil talks to the children as they are able to recollect their fears and concerns and help to alleviate them. If possible an older student talks to the children too which helps to break down barriers. Vertical tutoring at JTHS is a great introduction for the children to older students.

## Any further comments regarding transition?

- Both my first son going to JTHS and second to Denstone in Y7 were really confident and positive. A great sign that the juniors did the job well.
- Transition was great - lots of support for the move - I feel everything needed was done to introduce them into JT.
- I would have preferred my daughter to join the current Y6 and repeat the year to ensure readiness.
- Although my daughter was placed with children from TRJS the children were not within her friendship group and had previously been unkind to her. It would have been nice to feel JT had listened to TRJS regarding friendships and concerns.
- No - I feel how the junior school deal with transition both from Infants and to High School is very positive.
- I feel the current programme is very good.
- 3 days in July is not enough. Maybe the children should have a week to get the layout and rules of the school.
- I feel that the children in my daughter's year and the atmosphere at Juniors was very nurturing. This was a positive, but did not prepare them for the bigger world of other children. I think an input on bullying and social media would be good before they go up.

We have a comprehensive anti-bullying programme at TRJS and also cover social media, mobile phones and E-safety in depth in our ICT and PHSE curriculum. We are pleased with the nurturing atmosphere that this generates, but will also ensure children are given strategies for managing transition issues and know how to keep themselves safe.

## Want to find out more about how parents can keep their children safe online?

The NSPCC logo is displayed in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

There is a huge amount of information out there for parents and it is well worth finding out as much as you can. Find out about what the risks are, how to protect against them, parental controls, how to talk to your child about concerns and what support there is out there for parents.

Access to the internet and social media can open up a whole world of opportunities, but also a whole host of risks.

Thank you very much for your feedback.

Mrs Sharpe