

Welcome to The Bridge, a College dedicated purely for Year 7 students! We understand that choosing a secondary school for your child and getting the best possible start is a high priority for parents.

The Bridge has been welcoming Year 7 students into its dedicated school with its own outside play area, garden and art studio for over ten years. In that time, The Bridge has been widely praised by parents, the educational press, OFSTED and education specialists for setting the national standard for transition between primary school, secondary school and regularly hosts visitors from schools all over the country.

The Bridge's team of specialist staff have developed a reputation for providing the very best educational achievement for each and every one of its students. You will, of course, be able to tour The Bridge and speak to our Year 7 specialists. In the meantime, I hope this leaflet will provide you with a flavour of what The Bridge is about and why we are so successful.

**Mrs Alexander-Weller,
Director of the Bridge**

"All Year 7 students have the opportunity to graduate at the end of the year at a special ceremony. The programme tracks and celebrates each student's achievements, including their academic success and their extra curricular accomplishments within school" **Ofsted**



Specialised Curriculum

All Year 7 students will take part in a carefully crafted curriculum that encompasses traditional academic subjects such as English, Maths and Science taught by our specialist teachers plus a range of cross curricular learning experiences.

The key to success is careful assessment when the children arrive at President Kennedy School which enables us to identify strengths and weaknesses early. We then devise highly personalised timetables for each student based on their particular needs to make sure that every child is stretched to reach their full potential.

Students are quickly placed in sets according to their ability in English and Maths.

Students who arrive below national average in key subjects such as English and Maths are often offered additional lessons such as our Fresh Start & Guided Reading Programme in small groups which give them just the boost they need.



"All students now join the school in Year 7 by entering "The Bridge", a dedicated area of the school. It is a very safe and supportive environment which helps students to make the transition from primary school to secondary school, and where teachers can provide extremely skilled and effective intervention to quickly improve reading, handwriting, spelling and grammar or numeracy skills that might hold students back in other subjects." **Ofsted**



Extra curricular activities

Part of school life at The Bridge is participation in a wide range of experiences to develop our pupils both academically and socially. Activities include extending academic interests, sports, performing arts, community projects and the media, preserving the environment and student leadership. Students participate in the annual 'Bridge Performance'.

Past performances include 'Grease' In 2014, 'Wizard of Oz' in 2015, 'Annie' in 2016, 'Aladdin' in 2017, Bugsy Malone in 2018, Beauty and the Beast in 2019 and Matilda Jr in 2022.

Sports team and activities at The Bridge:

- Rugby
- Cricket Academy
- Tennis
- Netball Academy
- Athletics
- Judo
- Basketball
- Trampolineing
- Dance
- Table Tennis

Arts activities at The Bridge:

- The Bridge Production
- Drama Club
- Debating Club
- Band
- Film Club
- Performing Arts Academy

Homework and learning at The Bridge:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Club featured on BBC Midlands Today
- Homework Club (supervised provision after school)
- Learning Ambassadors
- Maths Puzzle Club
- Handwriting Club
- Time Tables Rockstars
- Fresh Start Reading Intervention
- Nessy Spelling Intervention
- Lexonik Vocabulary Intervention

Environmental activities at The Bridge:

- Eco Club
- Bridge Allotment
- Recycling Scheme
- Outdoor Classroom
- Gardening Club

"The opportunities afforded to students in The Bridge are most inspiring. There are so many clubs to choose from and everyone is encouraged to become involved. Students are given extra support based on their earning ability and the chance to visit places like Cambridge University."

Parent

Staff at the Bridge

The Bridge boasts an experienced team who are all educational professionals dedicated to the Year 7 students in their care. The Bridge is led by Mrs Alexander-Weller, Director of the Bridge, who has many years experience in school leading and developing Year 7 students. There is also a Bridge Pastoral Leader who specialises in the Pastoral Care of 11-12 year olds.

The Bridge staff are always on hand to answer questions and ensure the students feel secure and happy. The team is greatly enhanced by a full time literacy specialist, Miss Griffin, and several numeracy teachers who assess children's ability, monitor progress and organise additional lessons which increase attainment in these important subjects. There is also a strong team of Bridge teaching assistants who specialise in supporting Year 7s.

Parents and Carers

At every stage of our Transition Programme we go out of our way to meet and engage with prospective parents and carers. This is important to us for two reasons. Firstly, parents and carers are a vital source of information and this input helps us understand the individual needs of children early on. Secondly, parents and carers are an essential part of the process of education. We know that close relationships between parents/carers and our staff greatly enhances the success of your child through their time at President Kennedy School. Year 7 Parents are invited to join a Parental Partnership group to provide us with continual feedback and ideas for improvement. We also offer regular events where parents can join us and learn alongside their child.

Together, we are Building Brighter Futures!

"I couldn't have asked for a more supportive staff team to help my child settle into Year 7. Ask them anything, it's never too much."
Year 7 Parent

