Year 7 @ St Andrew’s: The Survival Guide
what you need to remember each day:

- bus pass/train pass
- diary
- exercise books
- pencil case
- Band-aids (just in case!)
- emergency money
- your trusty St Andrew’s backpack
- lunch and recess
- iPad
Nervous about beginning high school? You don’t have to be! We asked Year 7 SACS student Jason Cleary-Gorton for some helpful hints on the differences between primary and secondary education to get you up to speed.

As winner of the Lionel Bowen Young Writers’ Award in 2012, a published writer in the Sydney Morning Herald and most importantly, someone who is experiencing Year 7 first hand, he’s the perfect candidate to share some insider knowledge!

**Jason on the changes from Year 6 to Year 7:**

“If you are nervous about starting high school, let me assure you that there’s nothing to be afraid of. Most of the other kids are new as well, so you can easily make new friends.

You’ll have a timetable, which has been prepared especially for you, and a diary, so you don’t have to worry about missing classes. You are much more mobile, moving to different classrooms and even different buildings for different subjects! There’s more variety in the subjects than before and not all the kids in Year 7 are doing the same subject at the same time. It’s a great feeling asking a friend ‘what subject do you have this period?’ or ‘what subject do you have in the final period?’ I can’t describe why I like it so much, but it just feels great.

The biggest difference for me is having a different teacher for each subject. In my opinion, it’s a positive… you will always find one or two who you can build a good relationship with.

We also move around a lot each day and don’t have desks allocated. Instead we have lockers.”

**How to make the most out of SACS:**

“I do quite a few cocurricular activities, including theatre sports, fencing, debating, book club and drama club. My favourite is fencing because it’s such a quick and honourable sport. Our coach used to be an Australian Olympic Coach – which is really cool!

To stay organised with homework and assignments, I try to do my homework the day I get it. For assignments, I have a timetable. If you set up a timetable, it should be fine. I’ve never been late handing anything in, so clearly it’s not that hard. I generally ask my parents for help with assignments. With your parents you can spend time discussing the issues and working out the best approach to take. Sometimes I don’t agree with them, but that’s okay too.

The things you need in class every day are your diary, iPad, a pen, a ruler, textbook and workbook. The best apps you can have [on your iPad] are PDF Expert and Schoology.”

**Keeping it all in perspective:**

“For me the best thing about high school is all the new friends I’ve made.”
# sample Year Seven timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Periods</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Fridayyeeal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>8.30-9.30</td>
<td>7SGL Ms Colusso</td>
<td>7MGL Mrs Courtney</td>
<td>7PEGL Mrs Hall</td>
<td>7MGL Mrs Courtney</td>
<td>7TECHR Mr Bacewicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>9.35-10.35</td>
<td>7TECHR Mr Bacewicz</td>
<td>7VAR Ms Coffee</td>
<td>7PEGL Mrs Hall</td>
<td>7GNR Mrs Roper</td>
<td>7SGL Ms Colusso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>10.55-11.55</td>
<td>7HGL Mr Ford</td>
<td>7ENGL Mr Cook</td>
<td>7PEGL Mrs Hall</td>
<td>7PEGL Mrs Hall</td>
<td>7HGL Mr Ford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral</td>
<td>12.00-12.30</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Tutor group</td>
<td>Tutor group</td>
<td>Assembly/Year Meeting</td>
<td>Middle School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>1.10-2.10</td>
<td>7VAR Ms Coffee</td>
<td>7TECHR Mr Bacewicz</td>
<td>7MUR Ms Anderson</td>
<td>7ENGL Mr Cook</td>
<td>7MUR Ms Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>2.15-3.15</td>
<td>7MGL Mrs Courtney</td>
<td>7HGL Mr Ford</td>
<td>7CDGL Mrs Argall</td>
<td>7SGL Ms Colusso</td>
<td>7ENGL Mr Cook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading your timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>GL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year Group</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Class name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subject Abreviations**

- **EN** – English / **M** – Maths / **S** – Science / **PE** – PDHPE / **MU** – Music / **TECH** – Technology / **GL** – Geography
It’s always nice to recognise a familiar face. At St Andrew’s, the very nature of our dynamic city campus means that spaces work differently, with students of all different grades often in contact with each other.

Friendships will often be forged with students across the Middle School. For this reason, we interviewed a bunch of current Year 7 students at SACS – faces you’ll recognise in 2014.

We discovered how they’re making the SACS experience their own..

Ivry Barker

Why did you choose to come to SACS in Year 7?

My dad went here, but we checked out all the schools we were interested in and I liked this one. It was easy to access, a good place to go. Students were using iPads. It seemed nice – the people especially.

How have you found secondary school so far?

It’s been really good. iPads make everything a lot lighter. I don’t need to lug books around. Also the teachers and the students are actually nice.

Has it been easy to make friends?

Yes! Everyone is really easy to get along with and friendly. We went a camp to Kirrikee [St Andrew’s Outdoor Education property in the Southern Highlands] and a bunch of excursions and did things in our peer support groups which really helped getting to know each other outside the classroom.

What’s one piece of advice for Year 7’s 2014 to survive?

Put yourself out there. If there’s one thing I regret [from the first few weeks] it was being a bit shy.

Noah Oshiro

Tell us your favourite subjects at SACS...

I really like PDHPE, Music and History. They’re all different and I enjoy them.

What cocurricular activities are you involved in?

I’m in a lot of music ensembles: Middle School Orchestra, Senior Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Year 7 Choir and Senior Choir. I have morning and afternoon practice on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday! I also play rugby for the Under 13s. We train on Thursday’s after school.

Why are you involved in so many groups?

I have made lots of friends, particularly in the Senior College. It’s good to know older people too, for when your mates aren’t around.

What opportunities do you have to keep fit in the middle of the city?

I play touch footty on the roof every day. It’s pretty cool to be playing on the top of a building!
Izzy Balchin

Why did you choose to come to SACS in Year 7?

It was a coeducational school for one. I checked out a few schools, but there was lots of opportunities in drama and music here. I could tell from just the tours.

What is your favourite subject and why?

I like all my subjects; they’re all fun in their own way. I really like history at the moment; we have a prac teacher and he makes things fun. Also, Tech is great – we made bags and now in Robotics I’m learning to program! I’m told there will be lots of jobs in it in the future.

How do your teachers make classes engaging?

There are lots of discussions and group activities, like making a movie or creating presentations on Keynote. We use iPads every day.

What’s one piece of advice for Year 7s 2014 to survive?

Do whatever you can. Music ensembles? Do it. Drama? Do it. You can make new friends in your year group and others.

Lachlan Double

What do you like most about SACS?

I like that it’s open. The teachers are flexible and not too strict like I’ve had at other schools. Everyone is starting new and making friends.

What was different shifting from Year 6 to Year 7?

Navigating is difficult at first with the different stairs, but I got used to it quickly. Everyone is close together [in one building], so you see each other a lot.

Are you enjoying using your iPad in class?

I had one already, but I’ve learnt so much about how I can use it for learning.

What kind of opportunities are there to get involved outside the classroom?

You can do anything: I do drama ensemble, Middle School Drama ensemble, fencing, tennis, Debating and Year 7 Choir.

Camille Jackson

Why did you choose to come to SACS in Year 7?

I liked that it was coeducational, but also ran some classes separately. Also, there’s no gates here – you can just move around freely, but in one building you can’t get too lost!

How do your teachers integrate things iPads and smart boards into lessons?

We use them heaps. We make PowerPoint’s, iMovies, use them to write answers in maths and do quizzes on them. It’s really interactive.

What’s one piece of advice for Year 7s 2014 to survive?

You can save your lift pass until you really need it. For me, it’s this week. I’m tired!

NB: A week-long lift pass is granted upon receiving 30 merits.
When public transport feels like a big step and the way to your class is just a blurry memory – take a deep breath and remember it’s all part of the journey.

There are plenty of people willing to give a helping hand – from your Year Coordinator to teachers, tutors, counsellors and other students.

All you have to do is ask. We asked students from across Year 7 for the very best advice they had, from getting to school each day to being a good friend.

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Check out which bus stops go where. If you’re not sure just ask the bus driver.

If you don’t know where a room is, just ask someone: be it student or teacher.

Don’t worry about the first few weeks, the teachers help you out.

Think positive, the first term is a bit of a shock but you’ll get used to it.

Remember your sports kit on the right day! That can be pretty embarrassing!

Don’t play games on your iPad in class. It’s not worth it.

Get a fat, strong case for your iPad. It’s saved mine so many times!

Before leaving your classroom, go over everything you brought in to make sure you accidently don’t leave something behind.

Learn and practice your locker code. It’s a bit tricky at first.

If you have a problem, just tell the teacher.

Don’t stick with just your primary school friends, meet other people.

Check which week it is in your student diary before you pack your bag!

Have a go at everything, even if you don’t feel comfortable at first. You can change easily!
St Andrew’s:

St Andrew’s Cathedral School is a coeducational K-12 Anglican school, located in the heart of Sydney’s CBD.