

## Transition FAQs

*Simply click on the question below and it will take you to the relevant section.*

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<b>Are you holding Open Events for Year 6 students? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How can I find out about your school if we are unable to visit? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How can I contact you with any questions I might have? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Can I contact the school's SENCo? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How do I apply to STS? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Does STS require me to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF)? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Is there an entrance exam at Sandwich Technology School? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Does Sandwich Technology School have feeder primary schools? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What is your Admissions Policy for 2021? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Does it matter where I place Sandwich Technology School on the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF)? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>We are applying for a grammar school place and will put this first on our Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF). Does this mean that we have less chance of a place at STS if we are not eligible for a grammar place? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A sibling already attends the school, will my other child be guaranteed a place at STS too? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What is your catchment area? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What happens if my child is not allocated a place at the school in March? Can I appeal? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Does the school hold a waiting list if my appeal is unsuccessful? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How many pupils do you have in a year group and how many in each class? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Does STS teach in mixed ability or streamed sets? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What were your exam results like this year? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How does Ofsted rate STS? .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What pastoral support is offered at STS? .....</b>	<b>4</b>

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### **Are you holding Open Events for Year 6 students?**

We understand the difficulty of choosing a secondary school without the opportunity to visit, but unfortunately this is not possible at the current time due to Covid-19. We usually welcome around 500 families to our open events each year and it is impossible to do this with the current restrictions.

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### **How can I find out about your school if we are unable to visit?**

Our website should answer many of the questions that you have. You may not be able to visit our fabulous facilities or see our staff and students at their daily best, but a wealth of information is already available on the STS website and we are here to answer your questions.

We have created a brand new video to give you a taste of life at STS. Please do take a look.

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### **How can I contact you with any questions I might have?**

We are happy to answer any questions. Please email your questions to [admin@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk) or telephone our Admissions Team on 01304 610016.

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### **Can I contact the school's SENCo?**

If you have any queries relating to how STS can help your child with special educational needs or disability please email our SENCo, Mrs Goodrich: [Judith.Goodrich@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Judith.Goodrich@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk).

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### **How do I apply to STS?**

The transfer from Year 6 to Year 7 is co-ordinated by the Local Authority and applications are made via their Admissions Team. To apply and for further information, please visit KCC's website at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-2>

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### **Does STS require me to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF)?**

No, this is not required.

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### **Is there an entrance exam at Sandwich Technology School?**

In the past we held a Technological Aptitude Test, but we no longer do so.

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### **Does Sandwich Technology School have feeder primary schools?**

No, we had feeder schools previously, but no longer do so.

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### **What is your Admissions Policy for 2021?**

Our Admissions Policy can be found here: [Admissions Policy 2021/2022](#)

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### **Does it matter where I place Sandwich Technology School on the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF)?**

STS will not know where you placed us in your list of preferences. If we are your first choice then, for the best opportunity of a place, you must place us number one on your list. If we are your second choice then place us second, etc. It is as simple as that. Only KCC will know the order of your preferences and they will take account of this when allocating places.

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**We are applying for a grammar school place and will put this first on our Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF). Does this mean that we have less chance of a place at STS if we are not eligible for a grammar place?**

This year is unusual in that you will not know the results of the Kent/Dover Grammar Tests until after you submit your Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF). This year KCC have provided the option of 6 school choices, rather than the usual 4, to allow you to choose both grammar and non-grammar places. If you are hoping for a grammar place put the grammar school(s) as higher choices on your SCAF. We will not know where we were placed on your list and will rank your application against the school's over-subscription criteria as we would for any other applicant.

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**A sibling already attends the school, will my other child be guaranteed a place at STS too?**

According to our over-subscription criteria, where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, siblings will be offered a place before those students with a medical need and those students living nearer to the school (but after those in/previously in Local Authority Care).

It would be highly unusual for a sibling not to be allocated a place at the school. It is essential, however, that you enter the sibling's details on the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) - please remember to do this!

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**What is your catchment area?**

We do not have a designated catchment area. The last distance offered each year will vary year on year depending on where our applicants live, how many siblings apply, etc. However, as a guide, in 2020 the last admitted distance offered was approximately 7 miles as the crow flies.

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**What happens if my child is not allocated a place at the school in March? Can I appeal?**

Yes. On 1 March 2021 the Local Authority will inform parents of the place that has been allocated for their child. At this point, if they are disappointed with the place offered, parents will be given the opportunity to appeal against the decision and/or join the waiting list for their preferred school.

Details of how to do this will be provided with the offer.

For September 2021 admission, appeals can be lodged between 1 March 2021 and 26 March 2021 and must be heard by 15 June 2021. Where parents have lodged an appeal and a place becomes available at their chosen school, the place can be offered without the appeal being heard provided there are no other applicants ranked higher on the school's waiting list.

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**Does the school hold a waiting list if my appeal is unsuccessful?**

In the case of over-subscription into Year 7, a waiting list will be compiled from March 2021 for those unable to gain entry. Eligible students will be placed on the list according to the over-subscription criteria. The waiting list will continue until everyone on it is allocated a place or until 1 September 2021 when it will then be reviewed.

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**How many pupils do you have in a year group and how many in each class?**

STS has 255 students in each year group which are split between 10 teaching groups

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**Does STS teach in mixed ability or streamed sets?**

For details of how lessons are taught in the school please take a look at our Curriculum Statement here: <https://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk/31/curriculum-overview>

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**What were your exam results like this year?**

Please view our 2020 results here: <https://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk/168/examination-results>

### **How does Ofsted rate STS?**

Ofsted last visited us in May 2019 and we were delighted with their judgement that we are a “good school”. You can read the full report here: <https://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk/172/ofsted-reports>

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### **What pastoral support is offered at STS?**

Pastoral support is taken very seriously for ALL of our students. We have a full and effective range of pastoral support mechanisms in place which we feel provide our students with a safe and supportive environment. We have a specialist Year 7 team which includes staff who are well versed in what’s needed to make transition work well.

Whilst ensuring the academic progress made by our students is as good as it can be, that goes hand-in-hand with appropriate pastoral support. In school we have a Youth Support Worker, who is in most days working with our students on a range of things (anger management, bereavement, anxiety etc.) and we also have a full-time school counsellor who offers both drop-in sessions and regular scheduled appointments. Our SEN department also offers a quiet space to work if a child needs it alongside tailored support for any learning needs.

Also, every child is part of a tutor group and they see their tutor daily for registration, but this is also a great source of early intervention and a ‘quick chat’ if it’s needed! Our aim is for the students to feel they are supported and valued as members of the year group.

For more information visit: <https://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk/201/pastoral-teams>

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