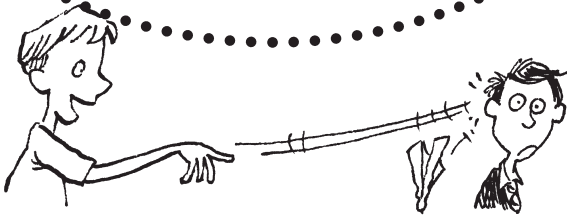


Advice about peer pressure and influence

When you go to secondary school, your relationships with your teachers and your friends change. In some ways your friends become more important and you know your teachers less well because you have more teachers and spend less time with each one. This can mean your friends have more influence on you. This can be a good thing but it can also be a bad thing.



What advice would you give the following secondary school pupils?

"My friend Gary has started to mess about a lot in lessons. He calls me a swot when I get on with my work. I am sick of him teasing me and I really don't want to get into trouble."
Eric Year 7



"Lots of the pupils in my French lessons have started picking on this boy called Charlie. He's alright but they are always teasing him and calling him names. Last French lesson I joined in but now I feel really bad about it. I think everyone will expect me to carry on joining in because they thought it was really funny."
Sandeep Year 7



"I was nominated to be the year group rep for the school council and I am really pleased. My friend Sam keeps saying that being on the school council is for losers. I really want to be the rep but if Sam keeps on at me I might have to change my mind."
Ashley Year 9



"On my way home from school my friend Olivia keeps trying to persuade me to try a cigarette. I know that I don't want to become a smoker but I also think Olivia won't be my friend anymore if I keep refusing."
Tansy Year 8



"I have just been chosen to play in the school orchestra. I am really pleased about this but my friend Terry says I shouldn't be playing music - I should be trying out for the school football team. He says sport is for boys - not music."
Pablo Year 7

