



21st June 2021

Dear Y6 parents and carers

It is with a heavy heart that I write to cancel our existing face-to-face plans for transition originally scheduled for Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th July. Following the Prime Minister's announcement to delay the full easing of restrictions, we were hopeful our plans could still go ahead. However, at the end of last week, we received clarification from the Department for Education that we can only run face-to-face transition events if we can preserve the existing primary school bubbles. Taking into account that, this year, we have 31 feeder primary schools, and 23 of those feeder schools have 3 or less students joining us, keeping each of those groups separate would be a logistical impossibility. Along with the other schools in our trust, and I am sure most schools across the country, we are having to cancel the days and have also written to the primary schools to let them know.

Our uniform sizing event on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th July are still going ahead as planned as they are by appointment and fully socially distanced. Key senior staff will also be available throughout those events to answer any questions you or your child may have.

In lieu of the traditional transition days, we will also be doing the following:

- ensuring a traditional transition day takes place on Monday 6th September (see below);
- adding more key information to the 'Transition to Year 7' area of our website, including video messages recorded by members of staff to share useful information (these will be emailed to you as well);
- sending you pen portraits written by your child's form tutor by way of introduction.

In addition, we would also like to remind you that the first day back to school on Monday 6th September is dedicated to Y7 and Y12 only; this gives your child a further opportunity to transition to secondary school without all of the other students here. Rest assured, a lot of what we would have done during this term's transition days, will be able to be moved to September instead, in a similar way to what we did successfully last year.

Mr Burns and Mr Hamer have already visited our largest feeder primary schools, and we are aiming to visit as many as we can before the summer term ends. We cannot wait to meet more of our new students on the uniform sizing days and will be making sure, as we always do, that they settle in well during the autumn term despite missing out on this earlier opportunity to spend time in their new school.

Yours faithfully

Hannah Millett
Headteacher

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