

Ref: TransitionUpdate/BVN/hll

19th June 2020

Transition Update Induction Days, Summer School & Additional Information

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to write to you with an update regarding the transition plans for our new Year 7 students, in light of the current situation. I hope that you have already been able to watch our transition question and answer sessions, received information through our new starter email address and that your child has been able to complete the 'All About Me' questionnaire. Do not worry if you have not, as I will provide information within this letter about how you can access these transition resources.

What has happened so far?

I have been working, along with members of the SEN and Pastoral team, to contact all of your child's Year 6 teachers and key Primary staff to ensure we have the information we need to support your child when they start. I will be using this information to help place students into form groups, set them for lessons and to look at intervention groups for those students who require them.

We have a new starter email address – newstartersyear7@thegrangeacademy.co.uk, which you can use to contact us if you have any questions and I will be sending regular updates, information and activities for your child to access before they start with us. If you have not received any emails so far, please contact me using this email address and I will send you through the information and resources you may have missed.

I have already had 1-1 video calls with some families, which has been a fantastic opportunity for parents/carers and students to ask any questions they may have. If you would like a video call and have not booked one yet, please email us to arrange. Meetings can be arranged at evenings or weekends for parents/carers who are unavailable during normal school hours. If your child has additional needs and you would like a member of the SEN team to be present during the meeting, this can be arranged.

Induction Days & Summer School Update

We have taken the time to look carefully at the Government guidelines and our own school policies when deciding on whether our Induction Days, scheduled for 6th July and 7th July are able to take place. Whilst making this decision, we have considered the range of activities that students would take part in in order to make the days purposeful and helpful, the impact on The Grange students and staff who are already in school and above all else, the safety of everyone involved. We have particularly considered the nature of Induction Days, which involve students from a large number of schools combining together. The same thought and rationale has been used when making a decision about our planned Summer School.

After careful consideration, we have made the decision to cancel our Induction Days and Summer School and to instead look at how we can ensure students are prepared for their start at The Grange Academy both through the way we structure the first week when students begin with us, hopefully in September and through the remote activities we provide.

We, like all schools, cannot yet confirm what September will look like for any of our students, however, what we can confirm is that we will ensure that students get the support and time they need to make up for the loss of induction days.

Induction Evening

On Thursday 2nd July, we had planned to invite all parents/carers and students into school to attend our Induction Evening. This evening would have been an opportunity for you to meet your child's Progress Tutor, find out more information about our expectations for September and to ask any questions you may have had.

Whilst we cannot conduct our Induction Evening in the way we normally would, we will be hosting a virtual Induction Evening on Thursday 2nd July via a video presentation that will be available on our YouTube channel. Within the video you will be introduced to key members of staff within the school, hear from your child's Progress Tutor and receive all of the information you will need for September.

In addition to this, on Tuesday 2nd July, you will be contacted with information about what form group your child will be in and who their Progress Tutor will be.

Virtual Tours

Over the coming weeks, we will be releasing our Virtual Tours videos, which will be uploaded to our YouTube channel and the link will be shared with parents/carers via email. Students will be able to take part in a treasure hunt style activity based on the virtual tour videos with prizes for the winners.

SEND Students

We know that for a number of the students who are joining us who have additional needs, being familiar with staff and the new environment will be a key part of a successful transition. Due to this, we are currently preparing a range of additional resources that will be shared with parents/carers including staff profiles, an SEN department specific tour and an additional questionnaire allowing you to update us on any potential changes that have occurred since school closures. We know that for each child, a different approach may be needed when planning additional transition activities and we will be as flexible as possible when co-ordinating this to meet your child's needs when they begin with us.

Colomendy Trip

As you are aware, we are planning a residential trip for students to Colomendy as a team-building opportunity in October. On the original letter we sent out, the deadline for paying the £40 deposit for the trip was Tuesday 7th July.

At present, we are unable to confirm if the trip will take place or not. I would advise parents to keep hold of the deposit money and then I will be able to provide a further update closer to the payment deadline. We will be working with the travel company, local authority and Wade Deacon Trust to make a decision about the trip which is in the best interests of students and staff.

Uniform

Uniform can be purchased from Boydells in Widnes. I recommend to parents that they wait until the summer holidays to purchase uniform to allow for any growth spurts before starting. We would advise parents to ring Boydells and discuss the collection of uniform with them to ensure you can do so safely with the current measures in place.

Please ensure that in addition to the uniform, students have **BLACK POLISHABLE LEATHER** shoes. Some companies have released footwear that they advertise as school shoes, but they do not meet our guidelines. If you are unsure of whether or not a pair of shoes is acceptable, then please email us with a picture prior to purchasing them to check.

Thank you

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support during these challenging times. We know that students will be disappointed that they cannot attend the Induction Days and Summer School, however, I hope you can see from the measures outlined above and from the activities that have already taken place, that we are committed to ensuring your child has the support they need to make the best possible start here at The Grange Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mr J. Beavon
Director of Transition