

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Year 6 Transition Update

I hope this letter continues to find you safe and well. When I last wrote to you, it was to explain changes to our transition arrangements and share with you our timeline of actions.

We have since published two short videos to continue our transition process and I hope you have found these useful as you prepare as a family to join our Oak community – we're very much looking forward to working with you!

All transition information, including our videos, can be found on our website here:

<https://www.oak-academy.co.uk/new-year-7-students/>

Do know that you can contact us should you have any questions, using the details below:

Senior staff can all be reached at: OakSLT@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk

The safeguarding team can all be reached at: SafeguardingTeam@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for child protection is Emma Biles

Contact email: ebiles@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk

Our SENCO is Sarah Buxton

Contact email: sbuxton@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk

I'm sure that by now your son/daughter's primary school have been in contact to share arrangements for any return to Year 6, and it may be that they have already attended this week. Whatever offer is in place, I sincerely hope that the end to their year is a positive and peaceful one.

You may have seen on our social media pages a link to a video created by the NHS Mental Health Well-Being Team in our local area. It's a short video helping young people (and their parents) prepare for a return to school. I've included the link below should you find this helpful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MaVy8nLxuE&feature=youtu.be>

Similarly, the Department for Education has today published updated guidance on what parents and carers need to know about education settings during the Covid-19 outbreak that includes: information on the curriculum, after school activities, repeating a year for pupils, transport and keeping children safe online. The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

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In the meantime, we continue to prepare for an anticipated start date in September (although there remains no confirmation as to when schools will fully reopen) and I'm writing to share the following updates:

Year 6 Transition Evening – Tuesday 23rd June

Unfortunately we are no longer able to go ahead with our Transition Evening as planned, but do recognise the importance of information sharing and we are creating an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.

To facilitate this, the Transition Evening presentation will be recorded in advance and shared with you no later than Friday 20th June.

We will then hold a live online question and answer session in the evening of Tuesday 23rd June and instructions for parents wanting to take part will be shared when the video is published.

Uniform

Through discussion with our uniform supplier it is not currently possible to hold our usual sizing events prior to uniform orders being placed.

Uniform can still be ordered through the Brigade website and they have produced a helpful sizing guide for parents.

Online ordering is the only method of purchasing uniform at this time.

As you'd expect, current working practice has placed a significant demand on our uniform provider and they are actively encouraging parents to place orders as early as possible.

The final date for ordering uniform is Friday 7th August.

Orders placed after this date may not arrive in time for the start of term and it is important that all students begin the year feeling positive, wearing the correct uniform.

Similarly, orders placed on or close before this date may not arrive in time for you to make any returns, should any changes need to be made.

Full details, including the link to Brigade, can be found on our website here:

<https://www.oak-academy.co.uk/new-year-7-students/>

SEN Support

For students with an EHCP, or those who are currently receiving SEN support, Sarah Buxton (our SENCO) is offering personalised tours of Oak for these families and an opportunity to discuss any further support that will help make the process of transition as easy as possible.

Sarah will be contacting some families directly, but if you feel that your child meets the above criteria and would like the opportunity to discuss needs with us, do please contact Sarah as follows:

Sarah Buxton, SENCO: sbuxton@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk

Next Steps

Sam Williams, our Head of Year 7 from September, is currently filming his welcome video to you all and whilst I don't want to steal his thunder, I'm really excited to see already the energy and care he has given in preparing to receive and support our newest students – you are very much in safe hands.

We hope to publish this video by Friday 12th June at the latest.

By now we have received acceptance paperwork and admissions forms from nearly every family. Thank you so much for this – it really does help us meet our own deadlines!

If you have yet to do so, please ensure you've returned completed forms as soon as possible. If there are any problems, or if you would like support in completing these forms, do get in touch.

We are very much looking forward to working with you soon and know that the way in which your son/daughter is likely to start secondary education is not one that any of us could have predicted or would have wanted.

That said, I am utterly proud of the staff and students here at Oak for the way that they have collectively grown together over the last 10 weeks in meeting the challenges of remote learning.

It's been a personal journey for everyone and it gives me real confidence to say that you will be welcomed into a community school with a huge heart and an absolute focus on mental health and well-being.

We are all here support you. You can contact me directly should you have any questions about any aspect of transition, or the wider issue of how we are preparing to welcome students back when we are able – I am here to help.

I wish you and your family all the very best as primary education draws to a close.

Do continue to keep yourselves safe. Stick to your routine, structured learning for some part of every school day is better than none. Take exercise, at home or outdoors as a family if you choose to do so. Be kind to each other and take heart from the random acts of kindness and selflessness that are happening up and down our country as we continue to support each other through this unprecedented period in our lives.

Yours sincerely



Richard Burgas
Principal

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