

27th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Transition from Year 6 to 7

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well during these very difficult and unusual times. I would very much like to thank you for choosing Budmouth Academy for your child, who will be joining us in September 2020 as a member of our new Year 7 cohort. I was delighted that we were once again oversubscribed and now that all 260 places have been allocated, there is a waiting list for those who were not successful with their first choice application.

I would normally send this welcome letter a little later in May and include several documents and much more detailed information about upcoming events such as Transition Day, or Transition Parents' Evening for example. However, we currently find ourselves being in the very unusual position of school closure! Further to this, we have no idea at this time as to when we might be going back. Despite these circumstances, I just want to reassure you that behind the scenes we are doing everything we can to ensure a successful transition from primary to secondary school.

To help us with this process you will be offered the opportunity to have a 'meeting' via video link with a member of the Budmouth Leadership Team. It will be a chance to answer any questions you may have and for us to 'meet' you and your child and to gather some useful information that will help us place them successfully into a tutor group and teaching groups. We would also like to find out more about them as individuals, their interests, friendship groups and what they are hoping to achieve at Budmouth. We aim to complete these conversations between Monday 4th and Friday 22nd May. You will receive an email of introduction from the member of staff who will be meeting with you. If you are not able to take part in a video call, or prefer not to, then we can simply make it a normal telephone conversation. If you have not heard anything by Wednesday 20th May please email transition2020@budmouth-aspirations.org to let us know. This email address can also be used for any other general enquiries you may have. Our new Transition Co-ordinator is Miss Guppy.

During this term, Miss Guppy (and other members of the Pastoral Team) will be in contact with our feeder primary schools to gather other important information. We are mindful that the school closure might make communication more difficult but we will endeavour to do our very best. We know that the children will not be sitting SATS in the summer, but we will still try to find out about their academic performance from the teachers who know them so well. If you have any questions about SEN support then you are very welcome to contact our SENDCo (Mrs Dooley) directly ndooley@budmouth-aspirations.org.

Important Dates

Please note the following dates that are in the calendar:

Transition Information Evening: 23rd June
Uniform fitting and collection: 1st & 2nd July
Transition Day: 7th July

At the present time these dates still stand, however if for any reason the ongoing health crisis gives us cause to reschedule these dates, then we will of course let you know as soon as possible. Later this term we will also send out the usual Transition Welcome Pack with further information and forms for you to fill in and sign.

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Message to your child!

I just wanted to end this letter by taking the chance to share a direct message to your child.

'I hope that you are coping well with your home schooling during this unusual time. Many of our students are finding it hard being at home and trying to manage their own studies; it is tough for everyone. I am really sorry that you are not getting to enjoy the full final term at your primary school and that you might well be missing out on some of the end of year activities that you have been looking forward to. I really hope that you are able to get back to school when it is safe and that you can enjoy some fun and farewells properly. You deserve it!

Some of you will be disappointed not to be doing your SATS. Some of you may not be disappointed that you will not be taking the tests! I only want to reassure you that not taking your SATS really does not matter and will not affect your education in the long term. Our staff will be speaking with your class teacher about your work and the progress you have been making. We will use this information and what you tell us when we have a video meeting, to help us put you into tutor groups and teaching groups that will be right for you. Please do not worry about this.

Finally, I hope that you have been able to enjoy some of the lovely weather we have been having. Sometimes new Year 7 students find the first few weeks at Budmouth physically demanding as they have to walk to different buildings on a big new site. Even though we are all being asked to follow strict social distancing rules, hopefully you are finding a way to get outside and have your important daily exercise. This will help you for now and for Budmouth in September!

I look forward to meeting you soon'.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mr Herbert', written in a cursive style.

Mr Herbert
Principal