

May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

Further to my previous letter, I wanted to update you on the current situation and outline our transition arrangements for this term.

As I mentioned in my last letter, with the present situation of still being unsure exactly when Year 6 students will return to school and the ongoing social distancing measures in place, we are unfortunately not in a position to be able to visit primary schools this year, as we would normally do as part of our transition work. I know that this will be as disappointing for you and your child, as it is for us. As a result, we have adapted our current practice and I have outlined our planning below. We will continue to work extremely closely with your child's primary school, in order to ensure that transition is as smooth as possible.

Last week, I had a meeting with all the Primary Headteachers to discuss our transition arrangements for this year. Year 6 teachers are also currently busy preparing information for us about each of their students, which will help us get to know your child in preparation for the start of their secondary school career. After half term, Mrs Forbes (SENDCo) and I will be meeting and liaising with Year 6 teachers and SENDCos in order to be able to fully support your child when they start at Oakmoor School.

In addition to our work with Primary Headteachers and Year 6 teachers, we would like to establish strong and positive working relationships as quickly as possible with you and your child. We will be preparing a brief questionnaire for your child to complete after half term. This will aim to give us a little more information about them, including the subjects they like, sports and/or instruments they play. This will also provide an opportunity for your child to let us know of any worries that they may have. We understand that prior to starting secondary school, some children may be anxious, which is very natural indeed. We like to know about any worries, so that we can address them swiftly in order to sensitively and effectively support your child in their transition. As part of our pastoral system, your child will be placed in a mentor group in one of our four Houses, each of which is led by an Academic and Pastoral Leader. Your child's mentor will have daily contact with your child and will

be a very important person during their secondary school life, being the main contact between home and school. The information in the questionnaire will be shared with your child's mentor and their Academic and Pastoral Leader.

Our New Intake Evening would usually take place in July and we are finalising arrangements for a 2020 virtual 'New Intake Evening'. We hope to be able to create a video tour of our fantastic school site and outstanding facilities. For those students who are worried about transitioning to a new site, we hope that a video tour will help them visualise the buildings and the layout of our school, so that they are familiar with our site prior to arrival on their first day. We will also make available to you a presentation so that you can familiarise yourself with key staff, our ethos and our expectations. You can also expect a welcome phone call from your child's mentor which will provide you and your child with a further opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

In July, you will receive an information pack from us with a variety of handbooks and useful information for parents and there will be some forms that you will need to return when your child starts at Oakmoor School. We encourage you to read through the information pack carefully with your child so that your child becomes familiar with our Oakmoor routines and expectations as this will help them settle into life with us, as seamlessly as possible.

Transition from primary to secondary school is a big step for children (and parents!) and marks an important and exciting occasion in their education journey. Please rest assured that we will continue to work for the best interests of your child now, at this very challenging time and throughout their time with us, in order to enable them to reach their full potential. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child to our Oakmoor family.

Please also find enclosed a travel assistance letter, should you wish to apply for transport for your child.

I shall write to you again in due course but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to speak to your primary schools or to contact me if you have any further questions.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely



Miss K Lissoni
Assistant Headteacher