



To All Parents/Carers of Pupils Joining Year 7 in September 2021

June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Arrangements for Year 7 Induction

Following the Prime Minister's announcement that the current COVID restrictions will remain in place until July 19th 2021, we have had to review the Transition Day arrangements for the pupils who will be joining us in Year 7 in September. As you are aware, Year 7 Taster Day was due to take place on Wednesday July 7th. Due to the restrictions that remain in place in relation to gatherings and the COVID-safe operation of schools, Taster Day and the planned Parents' Talk will not take place on the site at Balcarras as planned.

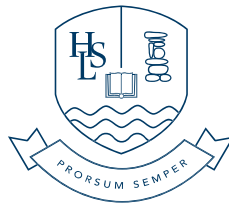
Please be assured that we have not taken this decision lightly. We were very much looking forward to welcoming the pupils into their new building, to meet their tutors and we had planned a wonderful day for them. As disappointing as this is for everyone, it is simply not possible to keep the new Year 7 pupils in their bubbles with Balcarras pupils already on-site and their Year 7 induction day taking place simultaneously. In my view, changing the date to later in the summer term does not remove these challenges and would also potentially cause us to ask pupils to isolate at the beginning of the summer holidays. I strongly believe that Taster Day should be an opportunity to mix and make new friends and this is clearly now impossible.

Since the announcement we have been working incredibly hard to modify our plans and are confident that we can give both pupils and you as parents a very good experience in the circumstances.

In summary our plans are as follows:

1. From **Monday June 21st 2021** there will be a **Year 7 Transition Information** page on our website. This will be updated regularly until the end of term with information for both pupils and parents, including:
 - Short films from key members of staff, including Tutors
 - Information about how to order PE kit
 - Information about how to sign up for Music Tuition and LAMDA/Public Speaking Club
 - Guidance for parents about how to support pupils during the Transition period
 - Copies of key letters/booklets and other information

Not all this information will be available immediately, therefore we will send an email to alert families every time there is an addition.



The High School
Leckhampton

2. On **Wednesday July 7th 2021** parents/carers are invited to drop into the school between **9:30am -6:30pm** to collect a pack of information for your child. The pack will include the Transition Booklet for pupils and the Summer Holiday Transition Work Booklet. It may also include a Maths pack for those families who order one (more details about ordering will follow).

Tutors will be on-site and parents will be able to meet them briefly and see the facilities when collecting the pack. Samples of PE kit will also be available if parents want to check sizes before ordering. We are not asking parents to make appointments and think by offering access over an extended day we will be able to guarantee that this can be done in a Covid secure way. We are also hoping that this approach avoids congestion around the site at Balcarras, as parents come at a time to suit them. I would therefore be grateful if you didn't arrange to come in groups.

Miss O'Riordan (Pastoral Lead Teacher) and I will be available all day to welcome you and answer any questions.

3. Children with SEND will be supported with their transition by Mrs Young (SENDCo) and she is contacting relevant families to make appointments.
4. The first day of term for Pupils is **Thursday September 2nd 2021**. This has always been planned as an Induction Day, with the pupils spending 2 hours with their tutor when they arrive. The school will only be open to Year 7 and Year 12 students in order for them to receive a full induction experience. Additionally, we have built in more time with their Tutors on **Friday September 3rd 2021** and we are confident that this will give pupils the reassurance and confidence they need to get off to a great start.

I appreciate that transferring to Secondary School can be an anxious time for all children and parents, particularly so following the disruption caused by the pandemic during the past 18 months. Miss Riordan and I are uniquely fortunate in having met all of our pupils during our Primary visits, so we hope that they already have a good idea about what to expect and are in a strong position. Please be assured that your child will be very well looked after when they join us.

If, during the process of transition, you have any further questions then please don't hesitate to make contact with us. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all the children the very best for the remainder of their time at Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher