

Our ref: JFM/RG

8 July 2020

Dear Parent

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. We are pleased to be able to lay out the next stage of our plans for your son/daughter's transition to us in September. Additionally I would urge you to revisit the letter dated 15th June where I laid out some of our basic expectations.

I hope that your son/daughter has engaged with the resources that have been uploaded onto our website: Please visit, Parents & Students – Transition 2020. You will find links to our YouTube Channel that will take you on a virtual tour of the school, and meet some key faces in preparation for September. Included in this pack are the transition resources for Monday 13th July, alongside the DCCA Transition booklet that can be completed over the summer break.

We have made changes to the start date of term to enable a smooth transition for your son/daughter reducing any worries that he/she may have. In order to facilitate this, the Academy will be opening for two days: Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September. For Thursday the Year 7 students will be the only group in attendance, whilst on the Friday they will be joined by our Year 10 students, however in line with new government regulations these students will be in a separate area of the school.

Thursday 3rd September – Year 7 only

Friday 4th September – Year 7 and Year 10

Monday 7th September – All Academy Students

Our school day will start at 08.50am, therefore we ask you to ensure that your son/daughter arrives at approximately 08.35am in full school uniform. We ask all of our students to be fully equipped with stationery for lessons, in addition we are requesting that your son/daughter also has a pack of 10 x colouring pencils and we strongly advise that students have their own calculator for Maths lessons, as we are limiting the amount of shared resources for our students. The calculator has to be a scientific model – Casio – FX-85 or similar.

Please note Year 7 students will have a separate entrance via the lower car park on the Academy site. Regrettably, no parent or guardians are permitted onto the school site without a prior appointment and we ask that you do not drop your son/daughter immediately outside of the school, or accompany them to the school gates.

There will be a queueing system in place on a daily basis and upon entry onto the school site students will be expected to wash their hands in our 'outdoor' wash stations. Thereafter frequent hand washing and the use of antibacterial cleanser will be mandatory following government guidelines.

We plan to accommodate our Year 7 students in one area of the school that will be bespoke to them and their needs for the whole of the first term. They will have their own entrance and exit and will be expected to remain in a designated 'pod' for all lessons. It is likely at this stage that they will be taught within this 'pod' in their respective tutor groups, however we will be carrying out baseline testing to ensure that your son/daughter has appropriate and individual aims set for his/her academic development.

Upon returning to school, all other year groups will remain in their bespoke pods, with provision and care made to maintain social distancing. Break times will be staggered to enable small numbers to have some fresh air, whilst lunchtimes will be based in the classroom. Unfortunately due to the layout of our school the central hall and the dining hall cannot be used. Therefore our lunchtime provision is currently under review and further details will be sent to you during the course of the summer.

Whilst this may seem daunting, I assure you the Academy is doing everything in its power to mitigate. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and inform you of any changes. I would suggest that you connect with us via Facebook – Dover Christ Church Academy as we will use this to update parents throughout the summer break.

There will be an opportunity early on to informally meet key staff to discuss your son/daughter's transition during a 'Meet the Tutors' evening on 8th October 2020. Parent's Evening is scheduled on 25th March 2021. Details will be provided for both events nearer the time.

Last month's letter provided you with key contacts within the Academy, therefore if you have any concerns or anxieties regarding the start of the term please contact us.

Yours sincerely



Mr J MacLean
Principal