

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Dear Parents and Carers

Just before the school closure, I wrote to all Year 6 parents confirming the Year 6 transition and induction process. I know that you will be delighted that your child is joining us in Year 7 in September 2020, and we are certainly looking forward to welcoming them. I suspect that you will be thinking about the next steps in the important transition process, especially in light of the current situation surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic and this is one of the main aims of my letter.

I hope that your family is healthy, safe and coping as best you can with lockdown and the uncertainty that we currently find ourselves in. I would like to set your minds at rest and assure you that the plans to ensure that your child has a smooth, happy and successful transfer to Oaklands will continue, although possibly in a different format, to ensure that we continue to follow Government guidelines to keep our community safe.

In normal circumstances, our staff would shortly be planning visits to primary schools to collate the comprehensive and essential information about the students transferring to us that we require to ensure the transition is successful. We will continue to talk to primary schools so that this important dialogue can continue, albeit remotely if necessary.

My Admissions Team will continue to send out the transition information and I would ask that this is returned when requested.

I sincerely hope that your child will, before the end of the summer term, will be able to join us on a transition visit. This, along with the Parent Induction Evening, is key to a smooth transfer between primary and secondary school. However, we need to be alive to the possibility that these visits may not be possible and now plan accordingly.

To support the smooth transition from primary school to us, we will be publishing a range of on-line activities.

The first of these will appear on our website no later than Monday 18th May under the **Parents/Admissions/New Year 7 Students Starting in September 2020** page or via the following link:

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/new-year-7-students-starting-in-september-2020/>

These activities are designed to achieve three goals:

- To ensure your child begins to feel part of the school, allaying any fears or anxieties that they may have.
- So we learn more about your child before they arrive and can put in place all the support, guidance and help needed so that they begin their time with us happily.
- To ensure teachers can have as much knowledge as possible about your child and their learning and academic development. This enables us to build on what they can already do, while also intervening and developing those areas of learning that still require further support.

I will contact you again near the time to remind you that the first activity has been published.

Under our normal transition process, we would have a procedure in place for parents to ask questions, discuss or share any immediate concerns, issues or anxieties through the session in school. If it is not possible to have a Parent Induction Evening, we will be putting on a number of web-based events, including sections on meeting the Form Tutor and Special Educational Needs. There will be an opportunity for parents to submit questions in advance and we will collate a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section.

Our website is important for communicating the wide range of school related topics; I would advise you to look through this in the coming weeks and months.

As I am sure you will be aware, our Catholic ethos is central to all we do for our students in their time with us. As such, each morning begins with a time of prayer, either within Form Groups or as Year Groups. While you and your family are at home, you might wish to join us in prayer. Resources are published daily on our school website: <https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/about-us/catholic-life/daily-prayer/>

I am sure you will understand that we are unable to give specific confirmed dates for any events in school at the time of writing, but please rest assured that we will let you know if and when are able to.

I am very much looking forward to working with you during the next important and exciting phase of your child's educational journey and hope to meet you once we are able to return to school.

Yours sincerely



Mr Matthew Quinn
Headteacher