

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

7 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my last communication with you on 2nd June, I am now in a position to update you regarding what has already been done already to support transition into Year 7 and what we are planning moving forward.

Oaklands staff have visited the main feeder primaries and phone calls have been made to all other schools to collect the information required to support transition. It is unfortunate that due to the current restrictions around large gatherings, we have been unable to hold a parent information evening or transition visits but the activities, virtual tour of the school, welcome videos and taster lesson videos have been updated weekly for you and your child to access from the website.

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/parents/yr6-yr7-transition/>

The eight tutor groups are almost finalised and on Friday 17th July, you and your child will be able to see a video postcard welcome from their Form Tutor. Input from all Year 6 teachers from the 45 feeder primary schools has been used to determine the classes the children have been placed in. The tutor groups are therefore finely balanced, mixed ability groups. Any changes we make to the tutor groups will only be done at the end of the first term, based on our observations of the classes.

On Wednesday 2nd September, Year 7 will be the only year group in school (besides Sixth Form) so we have planned for them to access the full school site on that day to familiarise themselves with our campus. They will also have time with their form tutor doing activities and taster lessons. Across the next two days, as more students return in other year groups, they will continue to have time with their tutor group to undertake activities which will help them get to know each other and become familiar with school routines.

For parents, we will hold an information evening on Thursday 10th September, the details of which will be published nearer the time. This evening will enable parents to find out more about the systems we use at Oaklands and meet the key Year 7 staff.

Mrs Over has an email address as Head of Year, 20hoy@oaklandscatholicschool.org which will go live on 1st September 2020. Each tutor also has a dedicated email address and these will be shared with you during the information evening. These inboxes are checked once a day and can be used for non-urgent messages and enquiries. If the matter is more urgent, please do phone the school and ask to leave a message for Mrs Over.

The Oaklands Friends and Parents Association (OFPA) will be opening the nearly new uniform shop and further details of this will be sent to you so you can book a date / time to visit in July and August should you wish to do so.

There is further paperwork that will be posted home to you and we ask that you also regularly check the website for any updates.

We look forward to receiving the completed activities booklets that your children are doing so please make sure these are posted back to us by 22nd August so the form tutors have time to read them before the start of term.

I would like to thank you for the positive messages about the virtual activities and videos we have provided and for your understanding as we have negotiated our way through this challenging time. We look forward to welcoming your children to the Oaklands community in September and we will do all we can to help them settle into school and make a positive and happy start to their time in secondary education.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher