



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr D. Waugh

18th June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and young people,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I am writing to you to give you a general update on where we are with the transition process and what the next steps are. The advice that we are given by government changes constantly but I hope that the information given in this letter will give you a clear idea of what actions we are taking to make sure that we are all ready for school life in September.

May I start by thanking all of Year 6 for the way that they have engaged with the Transition Challenges that we have been sharing on the [Transition 2020](#) page of our website. It has been fantastic to continue to see the enthusiasm and engagement of all of you. Don't forget that I am continually updating the [Questions & Answers](#) webpage when new questions are asked. If you have any further questions that you would like to send into the transition email address, I will endeavour to add these to the page. Whilst the website will continue to have information added to it, we now have the ability to give all our new cohort access to Google Classroom which will now form the majority of our interactions with the students.

Google Classroom

On Monday you will receive an email with your login details for Google Classroom and a letter explaining how to use the platform. Every student will have their own account which is linked to our multi academy trust, The True Learning Partnership. This platform allows for students to have direct access to all of the transition content shared so far as well as give an improved level of interaction through the live stream and video conferencing features that come with the platform.

To give more detailed information I will be sending to you a separate letter with full information about how to use Google Classroom and the username and password that will be required to access the platform.

Initially, every student will be placed into a "classroom" that is linked to their current primary school, for students joining us from a feeder primary, or a classroom for students joining us from non-feeder primaries. The platform has a live stream, where students can interact with other members of the class and the teachers associated to it. This is likely to be the first place where students will head to be able to start a conversation and comment on challenges and work that is set.

As we go through the next few weeks more content will be added to the classroom. We will continue to provide challenges to the students and we will set up times where the transition team will hold live question and answer sessions (via Google Meet which is part of Google Classroom) for students to ask the questions that we would normally answer either during our visit to the Conway Centre or through primary school visits. In the final two weeks, once the form groups have been finalised, we will place each student into another classroom, dedicated to their form, where they will be able to interact with their new form mates.

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Please note, that Google Classroom is a platform that is used for the sharing of information and for receiving and submitting work, it is not designed to be used as a social media platform. The classrooms will be monitored by staff and I would request that no personal details such as phone numbers or addresses be exchanged via Google Classroom, as this would be viewed by everyone in the class. The classroom is for communication between staff and students, if parents wish to communicate with school please do this via the e-mail transition@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Induction Day

In the information that was sent to you in the original admissions pack, we advertised the Induction Day on Monday 13th July which we were very hopeful to be able to run in some way in school. Current government guidance is that we cannot have Year 6 students on the school site and therefore we will not be able to run this day. We hope that the transition challenges and Q&A sessions will give at least a small taste of every day school life. We are really disappointed not to be able to meet our new year group in person but we hope the live chat will give us chance to get to know your child before they join us in September. Also it should give them chance to meet some of the high school staff over the next few weeks.

On the Induction Day we normally do a tour of the school. In order to try to give this experience to the students, we have been looking at creating a virtual tour. As you can understand from the communications you may have seen from Mr Waugh on Twitter or from the communications from primary school, that schools look incredibly different from “normal”. We have therefore decided to not complete a tour at this time until we have a clearer idea of what the school will look like in September. We will ensure that pictures and/or a virtual tour is shared with our new Year 7s, once the school is physically ready to welcome students back. I realise that this could increase anxiety for some students but we don’t want to show the school in a way that will not be the experience students will have in September.

Parent Meeting – Monday 6th July

We have scheduled a virtual parents meeting for the 6th July. During this presentation we are planning to share more information before students start in September. We have moved this meeting forward so this will allow two weeks before the break for summer to answer any questions you have following the presentation.

Bridging Units

In my last letter, I spoke about the bridging units of work in English, maths and science. We will also be adding a bridging unit for modern foreign languages, to summarise their foreign language experience at primary. The work has been designed to give a level of challenge that is expected in Year 7 and provide a basis for the work that students will be attempting when they join us. This work will be shared via Google Classroom and will be completed during the final weeks of the school year (or over the summer holidays if students would prefer). More instructions will be shared about how to complete the tasks through Google Classroom.

Some primary schools may use time whilst Year 6s are in school to complete the units of work. This will be communicated with the instructions for the work if this is the case.

Forming

When students transition to high school, there is always the conversations about who students will be in a form with. We have been in contact with the primary schools over the last couple of months to gather as much information as possible about our new cohort. Included in this, is information on friendship groups, academic progress, who they work well with and areas of strength and targets. This will be used in order for us to create form groups. The form group gives each student a focal point within school and their form tutor will be their first point of contact each morning and will be available to support students every day in their high school life. Students



will remain in the same form group throughout their time at high school and this will also dictate the House that they are in, each form belonging to one House, Davenport, Legh, Newton or Vernon.

Whilst we understand that the form groupings will be very important to many of our students, please be aware that this does not dictate which classes students will be in for their general lessons in Year 7. We will always do our best to make sure that we use all the information available, especially this year when everything has been so challenging for everyone. We are planning for form groups to be created and ready to be shared in the week beginning 13th July and, as mentioned above, we will then allow students to interact with their new form via Google Classroom.

Uniform

We have two uniform suppliers.

PSU – www.phs.uniform4you.co.uk password: Yewtree1

Monkhouse – www.monkhouse.com

Both suppliers offer an online service. The suppliers have put an additional guide to buying uniform on their websites to help parents with their purchases. As part of our arrangements for reducing possible transmission of the virus we are expecting students to probably return in September not in full school uniform e.g. no ties and blazers. Please do not worry if you have any issues purchasing uniform as we recognise this might be difficult at the moment.

I apologise for the length of this letter but I want to make sure you are as informed as possible in such challenging times for education. Next week’s Transition Challenge will be centred around getting to know Google Classroom and there will be a couple of additional challenges waiting for students when they log on for the first time. I look forward to welcoming students into Google Classroom once you have received usernames on Monday morning.

I hope that you stay safe and well and please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Eddie Latch
Director of Learning
Year 7 & Transition

