



Dear Parents and Carers

Kimberley School Year 7 September 2020 Update

Following my letter to you on the 21st May I thought it would be helpful to update you with the next stages of our planning for transition. The most recent updated government guidance for secondary schools does not allow us to invite any further year groups back at this point:

"We are unable to welcome back more children to secondary school at this time, beyond the face-to-face support schools can now offer year 10 and 12 pupils, and provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We are not asking secondary schools with the capacity to invite further year groups to return this term."

This does mean that we will be unable to host any on-site transition activities for Year 6 students. Whilst this is disappointing, I do want to take this opportunity to set out to you what additional actions we will be taking in the next few weeks to help prepare you and your child for September:

- In the next few days, we will be publishing the FAQ document using the questions that parents and students sent to us last half term
- During the week beginning 22nd June, we will send to the children and yourselves a video message from the Year 7 Performance Leader, Mr Bacon, where he will introduce himself and his team.
- This will be followed by a presentation from your child's tutor, introducing themselves to you and your child and giving students all the information they need.
- Our intention is to send you and your child the information you need to access our online learning platform "Show My Homework".
 - o Your child's tutor will then use this to ask your son or daughter to undertake and submit a series of mini-tasks designed to enable them to give us information about themselves before they start. This will include activities such as making a poster to introduce themselves to their tutor and writing a letter describing how they feel about coming to secondary school.
 - o We will also use this platform to set some activities for your child from across a range of subject areas they will be studying in September.

- Our pastoral teams have already held meetings with Year 6 teachers and have identified families where they think it would be beneficial to contact them directly now and start discussing transition. I do hope that you understand that we do not have the capacity currently to contact all 245 families directly in a meaningful way.
- Mr Bacon and the Year 7 team will also start to produce and share weekly video assemblies and newsletters designed to help support the transition to Kimberley next year.

We do have other ideas that we are exploring at the moment and we will be in touch about these in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please do monitor your email account and the transition page of the website as we will use these to share the information I have set out above as it is released. Once your son or daughter has access to Show My Homework we will also be able to send information to them directly. We will also be in touch soon about arrangements for purchasing school uniform and will shortly be sending you an online data collection form that will allow you to give us all the information we need about you and your child to help us make sure our records are up to date for September.

Finally, in this uncertain world, we cannot say with any certainty what September will look like for any student. However, I have already established with Senior Leaders that when Year 7 do return we will plan it so that they be the only year group in school for the first day which we will treat as an induction day and take all the steps we can to help prepare them for the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A George'.

Andrew George
Head Teacher
The Kimberley School