



June 2020

Dear Year 6 Parent/Carer

### **Updates on Transition 2020 - w/b 1st June**

I hope everyone is doing ok during this difficult time and able to get outside while the sun shines.

I said in my previous letter that I would write again early in June to give you and your children further updates about Transition 2020. I know you will be making individual decisions about whether or not to send your Year 6 child back to school over the coming weeks. I appreciate this will be a very challenging period of time for every one of you in making, what you believe, is the right call. I am in regular contact with all of my Primary Headteacher colleagues and we will make sure that, whatever your decision is, we will do our utmost to support you in terms of making sure we are all prepared to support your child now and when they arrive at DCHS in September.

So updates.....

- We now have an e mail address specifically for Transition questions, queries and sharing of information. Please use this rather than addresses linked to specific DCHS staff unless a staff member then emails back to you directly. The address is [TransitionContact@dchs-alnwick.uk](mailto:TransitionContact@dchs-alnwick.uk).
- First set of names of key DCHS staff involved in Transition:  
**Karen Hopper** - Head of Standards for Year 7  
**Anne Puddephatt** - Head of Special Needs (SENCO)  
**Diane Murphy** - Assistant Headteacher linked to children who are identified as Looked After, Post Looked After, Free School Meals / Ever 6, and children of Forces personnel  
**Laura Coxford** - Student Support Coordinator
- Our 2020 Transition webpage will be available from Monday 8th June - accessed through our main DCHS website. We hope that this will answer most of the questions that you and your children will have....in a style that will allow families to spend time together looking through it; questions such as uniform/pe kit, catering, school transport, medical information, lockers, music tuition, Chromebooks, etc.
- We have updated, with the support of our Primary School colleagues, all the information we have about your child so we are in a position to now move forward on:
  - Making contact with those parents and children who will need most support with transition

- Beginning the process of allocating everyone to tutor groups based on a variety of information including, where possible, friendship groupings. This is a complex process so please bear with us.
- Over the coming weeks we intend to have a number of activities that all Year 6 children and parents can engage with whether they are physically in school or not. They include:
  - A Pen Portrait activity that can be completed together with your child and then sent on to our Transition email address
  - A Treasure Chest activity that will allow your child a 'virtual' way of sharing their most treasured possessions and memories. My own colleagues will also share with your children our own virtual Treasure Chest so we can begin to build the two way relationships that are so important. I will need to dust off my 50 metre swimming badge to show everyone!
  - Asking Year 6 teachers to organise a list of questions from their pupils that can be sent to staff at DCHS. We will answer these through video recordings from key colleagues.
  - Possible summer activities from our core departments of Maths, English and Science.

So much of the above is going to be reliant on technology. This will be a challenge and we will not get everything right so I will get my apology in now. Traditionally this term is so special because we can meet your children and enjoy with them their excitement and sheer energy prior to them starting with us. This year the guidance is very clear that we should not be holding any large scale visits, transition days or evenings before the end of term. We are still looking at what could be done in terms of my colleagues visiting individual Primary Schools to meet your children and the possibility of individual family tours of our buildings if we believe this is appropriate and safe.

I think a two page letter is sufficient for now. I hope what I have said is useful and gives you growing confidence in what is happening in terms of transition.

Please share this letter with your children.

We are looking forward to working with you all and building those positive relationships that are so much a part of our DCHS community.

Take Care, Keep Safe, Be Kind.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. R. Hall', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

Maurice Hall  
Headteacher