

TRANSITION 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is The Dukeries Academy doing to get ready for the new Year 7s?

Even while schools are closed, we are still busy preparing everything for Year 7 to start at The Dukeries Academy in September. Normally, Mr Mellors and Miss Watson would visit our partner primary schools to meet Year 6s and their teachers face-to-face. Even though this isn't possible currently, they have been in touch with Year 6 teachers by phone, email and video call. This has allowed us to gather information about every pupil who will be starting with us. This means we will know about the strengths and interests of all our new Year 7s, and where they might need more bespoke support. We will also be sending out a set of information collection forms to all parents and carers so that we have up-to-date contact information for everybody. This information will give us a fuller understanding of our future students before we meet them face-to-face, allowing us to plan for them to make a successful start.

Will there be a transition week?

The Dukeries Academy and partner primaries are planning how they might re-open, to specific year groups, prior to the summer holidays. When making these plans, the safety of our students, their families and our staff is our number one priority. We are still unsure as to what kind of transition events we will be able to offer. We will contact you as soon as we have any news about this.

What can pupils do to get ready to come to The Dukeries Academy?

We would encourage pupils to look after themselves, their families and friends in this difficult time. They should also continue to do the work their primary schools have set as best they can to reduce learning loss before they start in Year 7. Pupils should look through The Dukeries transition booklets, when they arrive, and read about the Academy on our websites. Pupils may wish to access the private Year 6 Parents' Facebook group with their parent or carer where they will find lots of information on a variety of topics: uniform, attendance, rewards, staff who's who, behaviour and expectations.

What is the private Year 6 Parents' Facebook group?

We have set this up to work as a forum for accessing information prior to your child joining us mainly because of the current school closures. To gain access:

- Search "Dukeries Academy News" on Facebook.
- Follow and like the page.
- Click on the Year 6 Transition Group link
- Request access. You will be prompted to respond to some security verification questions.

Once you have been verified by our admin team, you will be able to access the group to discuss transition, ask questions and find out key information.

Pupils are put into tutor groups in secondary school. Can we give the names of friends who our child would prefer to be placed with?

This has already been discussed with Year 6 teachers, but of course we are considerate of parent requests. It's helpful to know who students would prefer to be placed with in a tutor group. We can usually accommodate some of students' preferences when we construct tutor groups. However, parents and children should be aware that, although we do our very best, this cannot always be guaranteed. Any requests can be emailed to office@dukeries.atrust.org.uk . It's also important to know that students won't be taught as a tutor group for very many of their lessons, so they will mix with students from lots of different tutor groups as they follow their timetable. Within the first few days of starting The Dukeries Academy, most students will have made lots of new friends too.

What if I have any questions that aren't answered on the website?

There will be lots of updates on our private Facebook group and through the Academy's Facebook page (Dukeries Academy News), including messages from key members of staff. Please keep an eye out for any updates. You will also receive an induction pack with lots of important information prior to the start of Year 7 – we are currently updating this. If you have any urgent questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.