



Dear Student

04 April 2025

**Welcome**

We are delighted that you have secured a highly sought-after place at The Dukeries Academy and would like to welcome you to our September 2025 Cohort. As you prepare for this important transition, we hope you feel excited about the opportunities and challenges ahead of you.

There has never been a more exciting time to join The Dukeries Academy, with improving academic results year on year, outstanding pastoral care and a unique transition strategy, an exciting journey of secondary education starts here. We also have the excitement of a new state-of-the-art building and facilities in process. These are projected to be ready some time toward the end of 2026 into early 2027, so you will feel the full benefit of these during your time with us.

We were proud to be one of the top three most improved school for pupil progress in the county of Nottinghamshire in 2024. You will benefit from every improvement we are making during your time here.

At The Dukeries Academy, our core values of Integrity, Ambition, and Excellence are at the heart of everything we do. We strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every student can thrive, regardless of their background or abilities.

We know that starting secondary school can be both exciting and daunting but rest assured that our experienced and dedicated staff will be there to support you every step of the way. You will have access to a wide range of academic, personal, and enrichment opportunities that will help you to develop your skills and interests, make new friends, and achieve your full potential.

**The Year 7 Bridge**

We also do transition very differently at The Dukeries Academy. In Year 7, all pupils are inducted into our Year 7 Bridge. We know that change can be exciting, but we also know that our pupils need excellent support so that they can transition effectively into secondary school. Our transition offer is unique in the local area and highly sought-after by families. In summary:

- You will be based in the Year 7 Bridge with your own suite of “home” classrooms. Here, pupils engage in warm, organised line-ups, where they receive key messages for the day from the Head of Bridge and where we check uniform and equipment. We also do lots of celebrating success! You will also experience Morning Meeting every day with your coach, where you will learn the essential knowledge you need to be successful. The Bridge is a calm and safe environment for Year 7 pupils – they tell us regularly as part of pupil voice.
- Coaching time, as well as all English, Mathematics and Humanities lessons, will be based in The Bridge, reducing the need for movement around the Academy, and maintaining some similarities to Primary school.
- For other subjects that require specialist facilities or equipment, you will line-up, and be met by your teachers, who will take you to the correct place. Again, reducing any anxiety about where to go or how to get there.

- Year 7 pupils have their own yard, away from older pupils, as they grow in confidence within the community. This means that during break and lunch, they will socialise within their Year Group and be supervised by trusted members of staff.
- The Year 7 Bridge has developed into an Outstanding provision, and we are working hard to make further improvements for our next cohort; the third through this form of transition.

### **Beyond The Bridge**

Whether you are interested in science, sports, music, drama, or any other subject or activity, there is something for everyone at The Dukeries Academy. We encourage you to get involved, try new things, and embrace all that secondary education has to offer.

During your transition to our school, you will be inducted into The Dukeries Academy Way. During these activities, you will learn our expectations for academic success and high standards of behaviour to ensure you have the best possible start here.

You will be able to select an extra-curricular activity as part of our superb Enrich programme. These activities rotate three times a year and including anything from chess, coding and drama, to choir, construction, volunteering and debate club. Making the most of this offer is key in our commitment to personal development excellence. We include this as part of your timetable because we think it is so important.

### **What Next**

Over the coming weeks and months, there are several important events that will lead up to Transition 2025 in September. I have detailed them here so that you know what to expect:

- 1) Our annual Transition Booklet will be shared with all of you, detailing all key information for Transition 2025. This will include plans for Transition Week in the first week in July.
- 2) Senior Leaders from the Academy will visit feeder primaries, share our Academy video, present to pupils and answer any questions they might have.
- 3) Transition for pupils with Special Education Needs (SEND) or those requiring any other bespoke support will begin first, ensuring the maximum possible time for the Academy to plan effectively for success.
- 4) Pupils will be invited to Transition Week, which will involve time in the Academy learning and experiencing The Bridge, as well as an off-site activity.
- 5) Parents will attend Transition Evening, where they can seek further clarification, advice or support.

We look forward to meeting you in person and getting to know you as an individual. Together, we will create a dynamic, caring community in which all members can succeed.

My very best wishes,



Mr M Brett  
Principal

