

11th June 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and our new Year 7 pupils,

Welcome to Oakwood Park Grammar School!

I wanted to take this opportunity to formally welcome all of you to our school community and wish you seven happy and fulfilling years with us.

Clearly, this has not been (to say the least!) the most ideal of beginnings for our new pupils. I hope you and your families have kept well during this pandemic. Please be assured that we haven't forgotten you!

Usually, by now, we would have been well into the process of visiting each and every one of you in your Primary Schools; finding out about your interests and answering your questions about OPGS. We would have also been preparing for a taster day where you would have come into school, experienced five lessons to give you a sense of what a normal school day would be like and have had some time to explore and find your way around the school.

For Parents and Carers, we would have hosted an Information Evening led by myself, Mrs Lewell (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Beeney (Director of Study for Year 7) and you would have met your son's Form Tutor. You would have also had the opportunity to visit the school on a Saturday morning, in order to try on and purchase uniform from Simmonds, our uniform supplier.

Current Department for Education guidance states that:

"all Year 6 pupils visiting secondary schools for induction activities should remain within their existing bubbles and not mix with other children..."

Sadly, this means that our usual transition day, parent information evening and other activities have not been possible again this year.

So, what are we intending to do, from a distance, to help you and your son prepare for his secondary school career?

1. Your son may have already been working on a transition booklet in partnership with his primary school. If you have not yet looked at this it is available to download from the bottom of this page <https://www.opgs.org/year-6-7-transition/transition-tips-2021/transition-tips-2021-week-1/>
2. The weekly tips and activities will continue to run alongside the other activities we are putting in place.
If you have missed any of the weekly emails from Miss Beeney and Mr Keeling-Jones so far you can catch up on these here: <https://www.opgs.org/year-6-7-transition/transition-tips-2021/>

3. Our school website has a dedicated section to Year 6 transition; here is the link <https://www.opgs.org/year-6-7-transition/>
4. This week's transition tips email contains information about how to sign up the students for a small group session via Microsoft Teams to meet with around ten other new students and either Miss Beeney or Mr Keeling-Jones, who will be giving the boys some important information to think about to help them prepare for September. This is also a fantastic opportunity for your son to ask any questions he may have, and to 'meet' some other students who will be joining the school with him next year. Please encourage your son to participate in one of these sessions as students last year found them a valuable experience.
5. We will record a presentation for parents which will go through all the basic routines and details that you will need to know before September. We will send you this in the next few weeks.
6. We are also looking at ways in which we can engage further with our new pupils through some new video content and taster activities. We fully appreciate that these cannot replace experiencing the school in person, however we hope they will go some way towards allowing the new students to experience what life in Year 7 may be like next year. The taster activities will be published on our website on the original taster day date of 8th July and the new video content will be distributed over the remainder of this term, via the weekly tips emails.
7. At the start of the year in September, we will have a dedicated Year 7 programme of activities running, designed around helping the students to settle in to OPGS. This will begin with an induction day on 3rd September, when only Year 7 and Year 12 will be in school.
8. Also, at the start of September, we are hoping to be allowed to meet you all in person for in lieu of the postponed Parents' Information Evening. The proposed date for this is 7th September; this will go ahead as long as regulations permit us to meet in person.

We hope that these transition activities will make your son feel more confident about joining our school community. We look forward to the time that we are able to meet you in person.

Best wishes and stay safe,



Mr Moody

Headteacher

Oakwood Park Grammar School