



Dear Parents and Carers

Year 7 – The Holgate Academy 2020-21

As a parent or carer to a student from our September 2020 intake we know that you will be eager to find out about the transition from primary to secondary. New students bring new skills, knowledge and personalities and our staff are looking forward to meeting the next cohort of Holgate students.

At the Academy, we have a well-established process in place to ensure that the transition process goes smoothly for students **and** parents. The current national circumstances mean we are having to think and plan differently. The purpose of this letter is to set out to you our thoughts on how we will run transition in the current environment. We are determined to do everything we can to make this a supportive process for everyone despite having to adapt from our usual transition routine.

- 1) We have published a guide for Year 6 parents and students. **This will be sent to parents and carers and is also on the school website.** It may well be a good idea for you to sit with your child and go through the student guide together. Your child may also find it useful to have a look at our website which includes all the academy information. If they have any questions as a result of looking at these then please keep a note of them as there will be an opportunity to ask these later this term.
- 2) You can be reassured that the current school closure is not preventing us from working in partnership with your child's school. All of our work with primary schools and year 6 teachers is continuing through online forms and the use of video-conferencing meetings. Our pastoral and SEND teams will continue to work closely with year 6 teachers to identify any individual student who needs any additional support during the transition.
- 3) Usually, at this time of year, Mr Diamond would visit each of the family of primary schools and give a short presentation to year 6 and answer any questions that they have. As we will not be able to do that this year, we are going to make a short video for you to show to your child. This will be available on the school website later this half term and we will contact you when it is ready.
- 4) Your child will be able to contact us with any questions you have about the school or transition and we will use this to publish a Frequently Asked Questions document on our website.
- 5) At this stage, we are holding back on making a decision about the three induction days planned for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd July until we have a better understanding of the national picture. When we do know more about these we will contact you. If they cannot run we will put in place alternative arrangements and will contact you about these. This also applies to the Induction Evening for parents on the 2nd July.



6) Our main form of communication with you will be through “Weduc”, a secure system that has many benefits but at this stage will predominantly act as a messaging app that uses a parent/ carer email. If you have a more up to date email address or additional email addresses that you would like us to use, then please let us know this by emailing our data team as soon as possible at weduc@holgate-ac.org.uk and tell us your child’s name and their current primary school. We will not share this information with anyone else.

In this challenging time, we are determined to do all that we can to ensure that your child’s transition to Holgate is successful. Like you, we have limited information about how the national situation will evolve and what schools will look like in September. However, please be reassured that making this transition a success for you and your child is our priority in this challenging context.

Yours faithfully

Mr M. Pennington
Principal