



April 2020

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well during these most difficult of times. There will not be a person in the country unaffected by what has happened over the last 6 weeks and we are very aware that current Year 6 students have been affected much more than most. One minute they were preparing for and looking forward to a very special time in their lives, their final term at primary school - the next minute their school was closed, many summer term plans cancelled and at present they will not be sure when they will see their friends, their teachers and their classrooms again. This would be difficult enough for worldly-wise adults to deal with, let alone 11 year-olds already contemplating one of life's significant changes as they progress from primary to secondary education.

I just wanted to reassure you that our Year 6 transition arrangements will be even more of a priority for us this term than ever as a result of what has happened. What our transition programme will look like will need to be guided by national directives - I remain relatively confident that Year 6 students will be able to visit us at some stage this term but am less confident that our usual induction evenings for parents will be able to go ahead in their normal format for example - but we will do whatever we are able to do to ensure Year 6 students and their parents feel as confident as possible about joining us in September. We have very strong working relationships with our primary partners which will make this process as straightforward as possible though. For example I am in regular contact with primary headteachers and our Transition Lead, Mrs Jones, has already started a series of phone conversations with every single Year 6 teacher of our September 2020 cohort to discuss your child's individual transition. In her role, Mrs Jones will not just oversee the process this term, she will continue to oversee their transition as they settle into life with us in the Autumn Term and beyond.

Once the national situation allows us to finalise the many plans we have been working on in recent weeks we will be back in touch. In the meantime please do continue to process the information pack sent out in March and please do keep returning the Admissions and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) forms which were enclosed in the pack - thank you for those already received. Obviously a few of the details in the March information pack are now not applicable (such as the original May induction event dates) - we have left all of our transition details from Summer 2019 on the Key Stage 2-3 Transition page of our website (within the 'School Info' tab) to give you a flavour of the usual support we will endeavor to replicate in whatever manner is possible this term.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us about anything at any stage this term - no query will be too small and at a time of such wider uncertainty nationally we want there to be as little uncertainty as possible about this important time in your child's education. Our transition-specific e-mail address, transition@helsbyhigh.org.uk is probably the most efficient method but do please feel free to contact myself (head@helsbyhigh.org.uk) or leave a message by phone, 01928-723551, with our office currently open from 8.30am to 4pm (please hold to get through to reception or to leave a voice-message outside of these hours).

More than anything else, please do continue to keep safe as families in the coming weeks. Do say 'hello' and pass on our best wishes to our future students for us - I hope they are able to eventually enjoy this term as much as is possible. We always look forward to the arrival of our new Year 7 cohort but I know the anticipation is all the greater this year after what has happened over the last month or so and we very much want to work closely with their primary teachers to help them to deal with the unprecedented event they will have been through. We are therefore very much looking forward to meeting both them and yourselves, whenever and in whatever manner that eventually becomes possible.

With very best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher