



May 2020

Year 6 transition week cancellation May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are safe and well. I am writing to you to update you on our transition arrangements. We fully appreciate that moving to secondary school is an anxious but exciting period in a young person's education and we are fully committed to making this as smooth as possible.

Many of you will be preparing for a return to your son/daughter's primary school following the newest directive from the Government on school reopening plans. I have spoken to primary schools and they are working extremely hard to support students returning to school.

Transition

As a result of the ongoing epidemic, it is with regret that we will not be able to conduct our 'normal' transition arrangements in school. We will be unable to open for the planned Year 6 transition week on Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July or our 'new intake' evening on Thursday 2nd July. However, although we will be unable to run these events in school, with the help of technology we will still be running transition activities to support you and your son's/daughter's through this process to ensure a successful transition to secondary school.

We are offering a virtual 'new intake' event during the week beginning Monday 6th July and we will write to you closer to the time with full details. We are also busy creating virtual tours of the school and information videos about working at home including the online technologies that students will need to access; advice and guidance on routines and providing top tips for students to make a successful transition into Year 7. The videos will hopefully help student to familiarise themselves with the school building. Once students are able to return to school, we will go through everything again until students become confident and secure with their new routines and environment.

Keeping in contact

At King Charles I School, communication with our students and families is paramount to us. There can never be too much information. Over the next half term and throughout your son/daughter's time at King Charles I School, we will stay in contact with you in a variety of ways. One way is via letter and in May, I wrote to you to share our second set of information letters. These included; 'Year 6 information for schools', 'Year 6 stationery', 'Year 6 uniform contribution' and 'Year 6 uniform'. If you have not yet received these letters, you can access them on the 'Year 7 September entry' section of the website or by clicking the link below:

<https://kingcharlesschool.co.uk/index.php/year-7-september-2020>

Thank-you for the positive feedback that I have received regarding the communication of information, we will endeavour to continue a high level of information sharing as we progress through the summer term. If you have not returned the 'information for schools' reply please do so by sending it to office@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk or posting to Julie Hardy, Information for school, King Charles I School, Hillgrove House, Comberton Road, DY10 1XA.

Twitter forms another important way of keeping in touch. Hopefully, you will have seen my 'welcome to Year 6 students and their families' video posted on Twitter. By clicking [here](#), you can view the video. We will continue to post pre-recorded videos via Twitter as this is an excellent way for your son/daughter to become familiar with the teachers' faces as well as the information that we are sharing. If you have not yet started following us on Twitter, then please start now using @KC1school.

Part of The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust

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Getting to know your son/daughter

Getting to know you and your son/daughter is as important as you getting to know us and the school systems. The pastoral and SEND teams have already been working with your son/daughter's primary school teachers to transfer key information regarding students joining King Charles I School in September. This information will be used to support future correspondence and provision during the summer term. If you wish to get in contact with us, we have set up a specific Year 6 enquiry email year6enquiry@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk or alternatively you can use office@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk and someone will respond.

Looking ahead

In our opinion, Year 6 students are in a very unfortunate position. Having missed out on their SATs and not yet started secondary school, students can feel like they are in limbo. In order to support your son/daughter to have something to work towards, we have created a curriculum work pack. The pack contains work from the different subjects that your son/daughter will study next year and will give him/her a taste of what that subject will be like. These tasks have been designed so they can be accessed at home or in school.

You will also find two reading books in the pack. Reading underpins everything that our students do in school. Evidence suggests that children who read every day not only perform better in tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. A recent Department for Education study showed that there "is a difference in reading performance equivalent to just over a year's schooling between young people who never read for enjoyment and those who read for up to 30 minutes per day".

At King Charles I School we expect every student to read every day for a minimum of 30 minutes. This is best done at the same time every night, without distraction and with an adult who can ask simple questions about the book. We will be providing your son/daughter with two reading books – 'The Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson (to be read before September as it will form the first topic that students study in English) and 'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman. 'The Graveyard Book' will be the first tutor book that students will read in September, so we wanted to take this opportunity to ensure that all students have the book in advance. Please also find enclosed a booklet for each reading book, which contain a schedule, an overview of context, plot and characters, vocabulary support, chapter summaries and comprehension questions. In addition, the English department have also created a range of reading and writing tasks based on a number of excellent short stories, which have been issued in a separate booklet.

The packs, including the curriculum and English short story tasks, reading books and booklets, and an exercise book, will be shared with your son/daughters' primary school or will be posted to your home address in the week beginning Monday 8th June and electronic versions will be available on the King Charles I School website in the Year 7 September entry section.

How can I seek further information?

Please visit our website at www.kingcharles1school.sch.uk. As this is an excellent source of information and often answers many questions.

We hope that our continued correspondence will provide valuable support and information.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

James Wilkinson
Assistant headteacher