

# Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

Principal: Ms Lisa Boorman

Telephone: (01752) 338373

Email: [enquiries@plympton.academy](mailto:enquiries@plympton.academy)

[www.plympton.academy](http://www.plympton.academy)



Thursday, 11 June 2020

Our ref: SGL/AHO/Y7/«Forename»«Surname»

Dear

We are delighted that your son/daughter has been offered a place at Plympton Academy for September 2020 and we hope that they are excited about joining us. It has been wonderful to receive emails from students introducing themselves or sending through examples of work they are proud of. Thank you, too, to those of you who have encouraged your son/daughter to enter our art challenges and read our fortnightly newsletters.

## Welcome Pack

In the enclosed Welcome Pack you will find a wealth of information to help you and your son/daughter prepare for the transition to secondary school. Please find enclosed:

- a letter from our Finance Team explaining how to use our E-Payment system - ParentPay - and your personal login details
- a flyer with information regarding the Academy's transport service
- a leaflet providing key information about the Year 7 residential trip to Bude in November
- a leaflet outlining uniform requirements and ordering information, to be read in conjunction with the Uniform FAQs document
- an infographic with suggestions as to how, as parents, you can best support your son/daughter with their start at secondary school
- a New Starter Form to be completed and returned. **All New Starter Forms should be returned to Plympton Academy by Wednesday 1st July.**

In addition, some of you will find enclosed a £50.00 uniform voucher. We are very conscious that purchasing uniform is a significant cost for parents. Therefore, for all new students in receipt of Pupil Premium support, the Academy offers a contribution towards this expenditure. Further information as to how this voucher can be redeemed is included in the Uniform FAQs document.

## Transition

At the time of writing, there is much uncertainty about when schools will be back to 'normal'. We are really disappointed to have to cancel our three induction days in July, and the induction evening for parents, but the health and safety of students, staff and the wider community is of paramount importance. Transition will therefore look very different this year but please be assured we are committed to doing everything we can to make your son/daughter's start at Plympton Academy as positive an experience as possible.

Universal transition - for all students - will involve the following:

1. Members of the transition team at PA speaking to or meeting (virtually) Year 6 class teachers, and other key primary staff, to gather detailed information about our new students, including academic progress, friendship groups, learning behaviours, and interests



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2. In liaison with each primary school, a virtual 'meet and greet' with incoming students. This will take the form of a brief talk and then a Q&A session led by either Mr Strachan (Head of Year), Mrs Keane (Pastoral Mentor) or Miss Glover (Assistant Principal - KS3 Lead).
3. The continued publication of fortnightly newsletters with competitions for your son/daughter to enter, introductions to key members of staff etc
4. Amending our Academy calendar for the start of the Autumn term to ensure Year 7 students have time on site prior to students in other year groups. Plans for 'orientation days' in September will be shared with you shortly but, please note, they will be dependent on the DfE guidance for schools at that time and can therefore only be provisional at this stage
5. Further information posted to you later this half-term, including a student handbook written by our current KS3 students
6. A virtual tour of the Academy site.

We have set up on the Academy's website a page dedicated for transition ([www.plympton.academy/parents/transition](http://www.plympton.academy/parents/transition)). Here we will share copies of all of the correspondence that has been sent home to date, as well as links to any other useful documents / resources.

In addition to the above universal transition offer for all students, a small number of students will be invited to partake in our Enhanced Transition sessions. These are only available to students with significant SEND needs (for example, students with an EHCP) or to those who are particularly vulnerable (for example, students living in care). The students chosen will be selected from primary schools' recommendations. The students will be invited to visit the Academy site for a two hour session the week beginning Monday 13th July. Parents/carers of those students will be contacted by a member of the transition team shortly with more details.

### **Bude**

Information regarding the residential trip to Bude, Cornwall is included in the Welcome Pack. The residential is taking place Tuesday 3rd - Thursday 5th November, and it will involve students being away from home for two nights. The total cost of the trip is £185.00. If your son/daughter is in receipt of Pupil Premium support, the Academy will pay a contribution of 50% towards the total cost.

At the time of writing, we are hopeful that the trip will go ahead as planned. Many students will have missed out on their Year 6 residential and we therefore believe that this opportunity is more important than ever: residential provide young people with a wealth of valuable experiences. We do not require, however, the £50.00 deposit to be paid until September, by which time we will hopefully have a clearer indication as to the viability of the trip in light of updated government guidance / restrictions.

Having read through the information contained in this Welcome Pack, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact a member of the transition team (details below). Thank you for choosing Plympton Academy: we look forward to working alongside you and your son/daughter.

Yours sincerely

Miss Sarah Glover  
Assistant Principal  
glovers@plympton.academy

Mr Jim Strachan  
Head of Year 7  
strachanj@plympton.academy

Mrs Michelle Keane  
Pastoral Mentor  
keanem@plympton.academy