



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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Wednesday 17th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

REF: Year 7 Transition Days

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your sons/daughters to Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre. Unfortunately, as you may expect, we have had to cancel our Year 7 Transition Day, scheduled for Thursday 25th June, and Welcome Evening, scheduled for Wednesday 1st July. In place of this we have planned the following presentations and talks, to ensure that all the information you would usually receive at these events continues to be provided.

1. Headteacher's Welcome and Presentations

On Thursday 25th June we will e-mail you a link to four pre-recorded video presentations about Highdown School:

- Presentation 1: Headteacher's welcome
- Presentation 2: Deputy Head welcome and keynote
- Presentation 3: Head of Achievement introduction and keynote
- Presentation 4: Student presentation

These presentations will then be uploaded onto the 'New Year 7' section of our [website](#) so you will be able to watch them again if you feel you have missed any information. If you do have any general questions after watching these video presentations please e-mail them to lamathews@highdown.reading.sch.uk so that we can address them in the 'live' meetings detailed below. You will also be told which mentor group your child has been assigned to in this e-mail.

2. Meet the Mentor Evening

On Wednesday 1st of July at 6.00pm you and your child will be invited to attend a virtual 'Meet the Mentor' evening via Microsoft Teams. This meeting will be hosted by your child's new mentor and by another member of Highdown staff. This will provide an opportunity for mentors to answer any questions e-mailed to us in advance, and to begin to give students a feel for their mentor groups in September.

These meetings will be recorded and shared later for parents and new year 7 students who were unable to 'attend'.

3. Year 7 Transition Day

To give our new students a smooth start at Highdown School, it is our usual practice that only Year 7 students and some Sixth Formers attend school on the first day. This year we have added an additional transition day for Year 7 to replace the one usually held in June. This will take place on Thursday 3rd September, subject to government guidance, and more details will follow in due course.

4. Special Educational Needs Transition

Unfortunately, we will not be running our normal extra transition for SEND students. We will update you when we have more information from the Government about how September might look for schools. We feel that showing students what Highdown *might* look like could be counterproductive to their transition. At the end of our 'New Year 7' web page are two photo stories (one male, one female) which have photographs of key locations and key staff in school if you would like your child to begin to recognise Highdown's facilities.

Transition into secondary school is always an uncertain and nerve-wracking time and this year more than ever. To support your child with their transition we have uploaded a number of resources on to our [website](#).

We look forward to meeting you 'virtually' in July and 'physically' in September.

Yours sincerely,



Ms R Cave

Headteacher

Transition Team: Ms L Mathews - Assistant Head Teacher
Mrs J Arnold – SENDCo
Mr. J Lester – Head of Achievement for Year 7

