



18th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Transition Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to those who completed our transition questionnaire. As promised, below you will find frequently asked questions and our responses.

<p>How will Coronavirus impact on my child's transition to the College?</p>	<p>In normal circumstances, transition would start with the subject taster sessions known as The Horizons Project which commence in Year 5. In Year 6, before the end of October, parents apply to Cornwall Council School Admissions for their child's secondary school place. Once places are announced in early March, enrolment forms are sent to primary feeder schools. In April through to June, HCC staff visit feeder primary schools to meet with the Year 6 pupils and receive a handover from their class teacher. Towards the end of June to the beginning of July, HCC host a two-day transition for all Year 6 students joining us in September. The children would meet their tutor groups, key staff, take part in team building activities, attend humanities and technology subject taster sessions, have a tour of the campus and experience lunch and assembly. In the evenings, parents would be invited to attend the New Parents' Information Evenings for a key note address from the Headteacher and various senior members of staff, there would be the opportunity to try on and order uniform and the chance to meet your child's tutor. After this, you would be contacted to collect your child's uniform order when it had arrived and you would receive a letter detailing arrangements for the first day of term. In July, we would hold the SEND Welcome Event where parents would have the opportunity to meet the SEND team to discuss the many interventions available, and to talk to current students about their experience of SEND support at the College.</p> <p>In current circumstances, we are continuing to adapt transition to Coronavirus. Firstly, by making as many resources as possible available online. Please could I draw your attention to our website transition page: https://www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk/web/transition_advice_year_6_to_7/318317. Resources are continually being added to this webpage. You will find a new online order system for uniform, the 'All About Me' booklet for children to complete, links to BBC Bitesize Support, a suggested reading list, and further information is continually being added. A virtual tour of the College will soon to be uploaded and the PowerPoints from key staff and tutors, which you would have received at the New Parents' Information Evenings. We have obtained handovers from our primary colleagues and we are currently acting on the information received to ensure support is in place. We have also formed tutor groups, once these have been confirmed, parents will receive a detailed letter which will include contact details for their child's tutor.</p> <p>It is a different transition this year, but we are continuing to work to make it as positive as possible.</p>
<p>In light of Coronavirus, when will be my child's first day of school?</p>	<p>We are closely monitoring government guidance regarding the wider opening of schools and provision for the autumn term. Our hope is that we can provide the new intake with the opportunity to visit the College in early September for their transition days, before the rest of the College community attend. We have made plans which can be adapted when we receive further government guidance. In the meantime we are working to provide as much virtual contact as possible, converting many of our transition processes to this new way of working.</p>



<p>How do I apply for Free School Meals?</p>	<p>For Year 6 children transitioning to Helston in September, their FSM allocation will move with them and there is no need to do anything UNLESS their allocation has expired. Where this is the case, parents will need to reapply via Cornwall Council's FSM team. A copy of the county application form was included within the HCC Enrolment Form distributed in early March and is available on our College website transition page (under the 'parents' tab). Once completed, the application form should be sent to the following postal address: Free School Meals Team, Cornwall Council, New County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY.</p>
<p>What transition activities are currently available to my child?</p>	<p>A transition webpage has been created on our website - you will find it under the parents tab. We highly recommend you make use of the listed resources and activities, which include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transition 'All About Me' Booklet. Once complete this booklet can be posted to the College FAO Mr Richardson (Director KS3) or emailed direct to him via trichardson@helston.cornwall.sch.uk. 2. BBC Bitesize Support 3. Suggested Reading List <p>A virtual tour of the College is soon to be uploaded to this page and a welcome video from key staff. In addition, we will be adding work from Oak Academy to help lay the foundations for Year 7.</p>
<p>How can I order uniform and PE kit?</p>	<p>Under current restrictions we have had to amend how you order uniform and PE kit this year. Online orders are now available. Please see the 'Ordering Uniform and PE Kit – The Complete Guide' document on our transition webpage. There are several payment methods available. Please make your orders as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Once I have ordered uniform, how will I receive it?</p>	<p>PE Kit orders will be delivered to your home address by AGAME throughout July and August.</p> <p>Uniform orders which includes a blazer, badge and tie will arrive at Helston Community College. You will be contacted with a time slot to collect your order from North Site Reception once it has been delivered, in order to adhere to social distancing.</p>
<p>What tutor group will my child be in?</p>	<p>You will be advised of your child's tutor group, tutor and their contact email address before the end of term via letter.</p>
<p>I am concerned about supporting my child with their special educational needs and curious as to what pastoral support may be available to them.</p>	<p>With regards to concerns over SEND support, Mr McFadden is the Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 3. His teaching specialism is English and he is also our School SENCO, who is supported by a wider team of SEND staff. We have Learning Champions and Pastoral Support Assistants that the children can access throughout the College day. We remain in contact with feeder primaries who are completing various SEND paperwork and providing handovers, so we can meet the needs of the children when they join us. There are various Year 7 intervention projects which happen throughout the academic year. Mr McFadden will invite students to attend such interventions after reviewing their progress. Parents give consent via letter before each project commences. If you have any specific SEND questions, Mr McFadden's direct email address is EMcFadden@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.</p> <p>The SEND Welcome Event in July will still take place in the form of a Google Meet. Arrangements will be published on our website shortly.</p>



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<p>What stationery will my child need to bring on their first day?</p>	<p>Students simply need to bring a pencil case on their first day of school containing a pen, pencil, rubber and small ruler. Children are not permitted to share equipment due to Coronavirus. The College will provide workbooks. As the year progresses, there may be the opportunity to purchase a specific revision guide or scientific calculator for example, where this is the case, departments will write to you and orders can be made through the College. Items are delivered to the College and distributed to students via tutors unless parents state otherwise.</p>
<p>My child has a serious medical need, who can I speak to about it?</p>	<p>We are fortunate to have a College Nurse on site and a number of trained First Aiders. Our College Nurse, Mrs Bray can be contacted via email abray@helston.cornwall.sch.uk or by phoning the main line 01326 572685. There is a medical section in the Enrolment Form – if you have completed this section, notes will be attached to your child’s electronic record and the nurse will be advised so that teaching staff can be instructed accordingly in September. Care plans will be requested during the handover.</p>

If you have any further questions, please contact us via acann@helston.cornwall.sch.uk.