



THE KING'S SCHOOL

OTTERY ST. MARY • DEVON • EX11 1RA • TEL: 01404 812982 • FAX: 01404 815685

Founded 1545 • Headteacher Mr Rob Gammon BSc Hons PGCE NFQH



Dear Parent

Year 6 Induction at The King's School

We are currently working hard to ensure that our induction programme for your son/daughter is as smooth and as comprehensive as possible. Normally we would be carrying out visits to primary schools to meet the students joining us in September. Unfortunately this year, due to Covid restrictions, we are currently unable to make this happen in our traditional way and have to plan things differently.

Mrs Jacobs (with support from Mrs Curtis) has been collating information from the different feeder primary schools. For your information, there are five primary schools from which we are receiving ten or more students and of the rest there are:

- Five schools with between three and six students coming up
- Five schools where there are two students coming up
- Eight schools where one student is coming up

The reason for sharing this information with you is to make you aware that we are dealing with students from very different contexts and although some students will join us knowing lots of other students, there are a lot of students who will know very few others when they arrive at school. It is important that these students understand that there are lots of others in the same boat.

Mrs Jacobs, myself and Heads of House are liaising closely with the primary schools and they are advising us how it would be best to group students. Mrs Jacobs has the unenviable task of creating six mixed gender and mixed ability teaching groups of thirty students. Mrs Jacobs will also place all 180 students in a tutor group. We anticipate that we will be able to communicate which House, teaching group and tutor group your son/daughter is in by mid to late June.

We would normally hope to host a Year 6 Parents Evening towards the end of June and run an induction week in July but sadly we cannot hold these events this year either. Government guidance has not changed and therefore we are unable to run any event where students from different bubbles come together and then return to their primary schools. The decision not to run these visits and events has been incredibly frustrating and disappointing for us and I know it may cause upset for you and your child. However, I would like to re-assure you that we have thought very carefully about what we can do to provide the best possible induction in the circumstances and I will outline the plan to you.

The plan for our induction programme over the coming period will be as follows:

- In late June, we are planning that your son/daughter's new tutor will contact you and try to set up a meeting via Microsoft Teams.
- We are putting together several videos, which we will share with you. These will include key information that you need to be aware of.

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- We will be holding an Induction day for all new Year 7 students on Tuesday 7th September – the day before term begins for the rest of our students. It is very important that all new Year 7 students attend so please make a careful note of this date.
- We are starting to plan an off-site team building day for students which we will hope will take place during the first half of the autumn term. This will support each child in getting to know other students in their tutor group and house.

Very soon you will receive an e-mail regarding Edulink. This is our main way of collecting your data but also communicating with you. This is an incredibly useful tool and one that you need to become familiar with very quickly. This year, instead of filling out a paper form with all your contact details, we are asking you to fill in all your details via Edulink. Please could you ensure that you have read the attached guide on how to update your contact details and those of your child directly onto Edulink and make sure that you have completed this by Wednesday 16th June.

If you have any questions about this please contact Tara Curtis (tcurtis@thekings.devon.sch.uk).

Attached are several documents:

1. An information booklet, which will give you a range of background information to the school.
2. Instructions on how to update your details on Edulink.
3. A document which explains some of the background to photo consent, biometric consent, paracetamol consent and the ICT acceptable use agreement consent which must be “ticked” by you in Edulink.
4. Some specific information on uniform with information from the two retailers who stock all our uniform – Thomas Moore in Exeter and Honiton Sports. We have been working with these two local companies for many years and they have considerable knowledge and expertise in The King’s School uniform. Much of the uniform can be purchased from a variety of different shops but there are several parts of the uniform, including the blazer, tie and some of the PE kit, which are only stocked by these two shops.

If you require any of this documentation in paper form please contact Tara Curtis.

I hope that this gives you some clarification as to how we plan to support the induction process and will give you some re-assurance as well. We will be in contact with you again in the coming weeks and will endeavour to answer any questions that you might have.

Yours sincerely

Mike Garrick

Deputy Head – Student Support

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