



Dear Parent

Re: **Year 6 Students**

Welcome to St Matthias.

I don't think we could have imagined a more complicated and maybe worrying environment for the move to secondary school.

Our plan is to get started with the transition from a year 6 that has been cut short with lockdown to St Matthias emerging from lockdown.

If I had my way we would see your child in school every day for the next three weeks and then some time during the summer. Instead we will have to start small

At the moment we are primarily teaching small group of students who are going to sit their GCSEs next year. It's going well. St Matthias has had no cases of Covid and I think that the checks and cleaning in place will continue to keep us safe.

The plan for our year 6 into 7 children is to offer some 2 hour sessions in school. Where possible these are groups from the same primary school. We want your child to get to know us and for us to start understanding them. We need to have some fun, play some games and at some point talk about school work.

I anticipate that many parents and children might be worried about coming into school. Moving to secondary school can be a bit daunting at any time, so we expect you want some reassurances.

The reassurance I can give is that we will look after your child by making sure they are happy and by keeping our school free from the virus.

To start with we have allocated every new student a time to come into school each week. They will be part of a group of 10. There will be space for them to sit at a distance of 2 meters. Activities will be planned with social distancing in mind.

Your child has been allocated a date and time to attend.

We have been talking to primary schools and have lots of information. There are forms with the letter that will help us too. Please could you complete and return these to school with your child.

I look forward to seeing them for two hours on the allocated day. No uniform please. Clothes that they could play a game of rounders in are perfect - T shirt, joggers and trainers for example.

If they could bring some water and a pen and pencil we can sort the rest.

The school risk assessment is on our school website.

If you drive you can drop off through the blue gates at the front of school but I suggest you stay in your car and do hugs and kisses before or in the car. If your child walks they can come in themselves through the front pedestrian gate or you can leave them on the paved area at the front of school. Please keep your distance from other families and try to avoid hanging about.

When they are finished they will leave in small groups and I ask you to again to keep a distance from others and avoid hanging around. Sounds unfriendly I know. Strange times for us all.

This is of course just the start but we need to do just that. Get started.

If you child has specific needs or there is something you might want to tell us then make contact with us at school. Otherwise it should all just happen.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Dean', written in a cursive style.

Dean