

BISHOP HEBER HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know what we are doing in school to prepare for your child moving up to Bishop Heber in September.

This is now the start of the final half term of primary school for Year 6 children before moving on to secondary school in September and we do understand that there will be a mixture of emotions ranging from excitement with perhaps some anxiety too. Inevitably our usual programme of transition activities has been affected by the lockdown restrictions and guidance on social distancing. The government has advised against Year 6 children visiting secondary schools at the moment. We also appreciate that only a proportion of Year 6 children may be going into their primary schools over the next half term, and that this will vary from school to school.

Due to the recently published Government guidance we have had to reluctantly make the decision that our traditional New Intake Day and Evening for families can no longer take place as scheduled in July. Therefore, we have revised our plans which we hope will help and support the transition for all Year 6 children and their families.

I have written a booklet to support your child's transition to Heber and these booklets will be sent directly to the Primary School in advance of the Year 6's returning to school. I have attached an electronic version for you just in case your child is not attending school at this time. I hope that you find this resource helpful.

In the booklet I have attempted to answer the most frequently asked questions asked by Year 6's and have based my answers on my 38 years of experience of working with Year 6 and Year 7 students.

I am also compiling two Powerpoint presentations based on the following;

1. **First Day at School:** What the children can expect and a rough guideline of their first day in September.
2. **Starting Bishop Heber:** Images of key areas around school and video clips from current students who have been asked to reflect on their own experiences of moving up to High School.

These presentations will be sent to Primary Schools on June 22nd and then forwarded onto parents.

Mrs Willis (SENDCo) and myself will communicate with every child's Year 6 teacher and SENDCo in order to further support their transition. We have managed to meet with three Partner Primaries so far and all three meetings have been invaluable. Any information that you would like me to be aware of at this time should be forwarded to me via your child's teacher.

Year 6 teachers and SENDCo's have worked hard to provide me with information which will support your child's move up to High School. Mrs Willis will contact parents of any child who has been identified by their primary school as requiring extra transition support by the first week in July.



Headteacher Mr. D.A. Curry B.Sc., (Hons), M.Sc., NPQH
Chester Road, MALPAS, Cheshire, SY14 8JD
Tel: 01948 860571; Fax: 01948 860962
E-Mail - mainschooloffice@bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk
Website: www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk



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I have started on working on the tutor groups and have so far received over 600 different requests from students, parents and teachers regarding student placement. I will do my very best to ensure that all children are placed in a tutor group with at least one person of their choice but I am unable to make any firm guarantees at this stage. Children will be notified as to which class they are in and who their form tutor is on the first day of term in September. This is a wonderful opportunity for a fresh start and for making new friends as well as building on the friendships that have developed at Primary School. 210 students joined Heber last September from 35 different Primary Schools. Ten students came from schools not knowing anyone and everyone settled in remarkably quickly. I will explain the tutor group and banding system in my power point presentation.

We are very excited to be working with **Healthbox CIC** to provide a bespoke physical, mental & emotional wellbeing package for all our students, including Year 6. This will be delivered and designed in conjunction with both teaching staff and students. **Healthbox CIC** have been funded by the Westminster Foundation to deliver a 5 year wellbeing project across rural west Cheshire. They offer nationally recognised Mental Health First Aid training for teachers and older students to become mental health first aiders. They also offer counselling and emotional wellbeing support within the school setting. During these challenging times we are extremely fortunate to be supported by the expertise within this team and over the next few weeks we will be sharing some of their work with Year 6 students to support them with their move to High School.

I am confident that we will be well prepared and ready to welcome your child to Bishop Heber in September. I know that every Primary School will have done their very best to prepare your child for this next important stage in their life. Final details surrounding arrangements for the new year will be issued at a later date by Mr Curry.

Kind Regards,

Mrs L Robinson
Head of Year 7

Mrs C Willis
SENDCo



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