



11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **Transition Arrangements for Y6 into Y7**

It is so very strange to be writing to you about transition in these unprecedented times and to be describing how the transition journey to The Gryphon School is going to have to adapt and be different this year. Typically, we would now be starting to go into primary schools, meeting lots of excited and curious Year 6s and having in depth discussions with their teachers. Instead, we are working out how to give you all the information you need at the same time as hoping that you are all keeping safe and healthy.

Transition to secondary school is one of the most significant changes in a child's life, which is why, at The Gryphon School, we place the utmost importance on getting it right to ensure all of our new Year 7 students are happy, motivated and primed to be 'the best that they can be'. This year's transition journey is going to be different to any other, with COVID-19, social distancing and school closures. It is still uncertain when schools will be fully re-open and what, if any, transition events can go ahead. What is certain is that we still want to offer the best, most meaningful transition that we can in these circumstances.

### **What has happened so far:**

- In our partner Primary Schools staff have been completing transition forms for us providing key information on each student.
- Our SEND team have been liaising with the SENCOs at the primary schools
- With this letter we are providing the information we would previously have shared during our visits to the primary schools students and a special transition task so that we can get to know your child.

### **Additional planned support:**

- The information that would have been shared at the New Parents Evening will be posted on the school website.
- For students who are in receipt of free school meals Anna Wujtowicz will be contacting to support parents and students through transition.
- The year team will be in contact with you in June to begin to get to know you personally.
- The "Moving up to Y7" booklet will be sent as soon as it is back from the printer

## When students start at The Gryphon:

We appreciate that this will be more challenging than normal for students and we will give the student's time to adapt and get to know their surroundings. We will continue to do the extra things for our Year 7 students, which help them to settle in, these include:

- Leaving lessons early for the first fortnight so they can find their next lesson room while the corridors are quieter.
- Having an earlier start lunchtime so they have time to get to know how the café works and they can find friends more easily.
- Leaving school a little earlier so staff can help them to find their bus home.
- A supply of maps for students to help them get to know their way around the site.
- A team of peer mentors who will be there to support the students during the transition.

## How can you help us?

In the pack, accompanying this letter is a data collection form. Please can you check that this form is correct? It is very important make sure we have the numbers for three different people that we can contact in an emergency as well as the details of your doctor's surgery. Please return the form, even it is all currently correct, to the school so that we have accurate information on the school system for your child when they begin school.

If we currently have no email contact for you please can you send this through to us as soon as possible to:

[transition@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:transition@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk)

Having an e-mail address for will enable us to communicate more frequently with you.

Please talk through the transition task in this pack with your child. Do they have any questions about moving to The Gryphon? What might they be worried about? What are they curious about? What would they like to know? They can then write these questions down in the booklet so that their tutor will be aware of their worries and can give them extra support when they begin.

In the meantime, if you have immediate queries please contact us by emailing [transition@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:transition@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk) .

Whilst this may not be the transition process we fully intended to deliver this year, we will do our utmost to make it as engaging and successful as possible for our young people. Please take care everybody and look after yourselves. We look forward to meeting you!

Yours sincerely,



Nicky Dodgson  
Assistant Headteacher (Students and Community)

