

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to write to you with final details of the Transition Week 2009. The week will commence on Monday 20th July and is a compulsory week for all students.

The aim of the week is to welcome new students in to the Academy and focus upon some key elements that include the Academy's Specialisms; Design and Enterprise, strengthening the Q3 Ethos and exploring some curriculum enrichment for all. We hope that it will be an exciting week full of new experiences and opportunities. In order to help students prepare for the week, please refer to the following programme:

Monday 20th July

Year 6 students report to the main Q3 Lecture Theatre (adjacent to the restaurant) for a welcome assembly that begins at 9.15am. All new students will be provided with a map of the site and will meet at least one 'Buddy' at this point who will look after them during this week.

Students will spend the day with their tutor exploring the Academy Ethos and making new friends. We are delighted to welcome some visitors to the Academy for the day who will facilitate sessions designed to get students working together. Parents/carers can expect to hear of some amazing experiences during this day to include drumming, salsa dancing and tai chi possibly.

Please provide a healthy packed lunch for students. Students eligible for free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch – please could parents/carers provide this information to the appropriate Company office. Thank you.

Tuesday 21st July

Year 6 students to report to the Sports Hall at 9.15am for Cognitive Ability Testing. These will last for most of the the morning. To remind you, no preparation can be done for this so try not to overly worry youngsters. A pencil and pen are required. A rubber will be useful also.

The remainder of the day will be spent in Social Design where students will work with a visiting company and staff understanding the needs of our developing world and developing an empathy for those less fortunate than themselves. This activity is called 'Our World'. This day will encourage reflection and thought about how fortunate most of us are.

Wednesday 22nd July

All Year 6 students report to the hall at 9.15am please.

We are delighted to have secured a company called Artis who work closely with the Specialist Status and Academies Trust (SSAT) to explore the whole theme of 'Transition' with the students through the Performing Arts. Students will spend half a day with Artis and half a day within the Arts Company following a project entitled 'Lost Island' and is part of a nationally recognised programme called 'Mind the Gap'. Part of this workshop will include face painting. Please let us know if you would prefer your child not to participate in this activity.

Thursday 23rd July

All students to report to the Sports Hall at 9.15am please.

During the day Year 6 students will experience a Lifestyle workshop entitled 'Healthy Mind and Body'. Activities will include yoga, Indian head massage and many others.

We look forward to welcoming some external sports coaches to work with the staff and children. A spare t-shirt is required for this session for hygiene purposes. The remainder of the day will include learning in the Discovery Company – Science. The children will also work with the 'Happy Puzzle Company' to developing their Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS). This is a key focus of the revised Key Stage Three National Curriculum that was launched in September this year. Most of the Academy are out on other educational trips during this day and so this is a really great chance for students to find their way around the Academy site.

Friday 24th July

Finally, the children will participate in a trip to the Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer. Please ensure all children are in the Lecture Theatre for 9.15am.

This trip aims to explore new friendships made over the week and create some healthy competition between the five Q3 companies!! Students will experience a variety of activities.

Please provide a packed lunch. For children eligible for a free school meal, please follow the same arrangements as Monday 20th July.

Can parents/carers please keep a close eye on the weather forecast for this day and provide appropriate additional clothing;

For sunshine – hats and sun screen.

For rain – a waterproof coat please.

Consent forms must be returned to secure a place on this trip. Places are free to all Year 6 students. Consent forms were issued at the April meeting in information packs given to all new parents/carers. Please see Company Administrators on July 14th for another copy if required.

Children will be expected to arrive at the Academy for a 9.15am start each day. During Transition Week, the Academy day will end at 3.05pm each day. We ask that all students wear the Academy tracksuit for the week. In the event of needing a change of polo shirt, please would parents ensure that this is a plain white or navy blue one please. Tracksuits can be obtained with the appropriate polo shirt from Clive Mark in Walsall. We understand that not all students will have the Academy bag for this week. This is understandable and we ask parents/carers just to ensure that the bag is part of the Business Dress for September. Other than Monday and Friday, students can choose to bring sandwiches (eaten in the Hall) or they may purchase food in our restaurant. Due to the activities during the week, the restaurant is more restricted and will only sell sandwiches/baguettes rather than hot meals. Lunch will be at 12.35pm each day.

During the week, we anticipate that we will generate some media interest. If you would prefer that your child is not filmed or photographed, please make this explicitly clear to the appropriate Company office again. Thank you. We are currently in talks with the children's BBC favourite 'News Round' to cover the exciting week our students will experience.

How can you help further?

- Please ensure that you child arrives on time each day during Transition Week.
- Let Companies know if your child will be absent for any reason during the week.
- Talk about your child's experiences throughout the week. They will certainly be very varied and perhaps a little alternative!

- Give things time! We hope that students will feel settled after meeting their tutor group on Monday 20th July but give things a few days to settle. Remember this is a huge change for many of them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me further if you have any questions. For a direct response, alternatively please contact the appropriate Company Administrator who will forward any concerns or questions to the appropriate Personalised Learning Director or Strategic Director.

I hope that you and your children are looking forward to Transition Week as much as we are!

Yours sincerely

S. Mellors
Transition Co-ordinator