



Durham Federation
A Federation between Ushaw Moor &
Sacrison Sites
Mrs A Jobling
Bracken Court, Ushaw Moor, Durham, DH7 7NG
Findon Hill, Sacrison, Durham, DH7 6LU
Tel: 0191 3730336
Email: contact@durhamfederation.net

Transition Update July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you as a follow up to my previous correspondence about transition arrangements in preparation for September. Unless there are any major changes to guidelines this will be my last update before the new term.

Transition Planning

Further to the government announcement that all children should return to school in September I am pleased to share with you our plans for the new school year and reassure you that we fully appreciate the concerns your child may have about starting a new school after Lockdown. You will also be receiving a document being shared with all of our existing parents and carers as it explains how school will be organised in relation to the Government Guidelines before the Summer holidays.

Week 1 and 2 of September

The first day of school for your child will be **Wednesday 2nd of September** and unless the Local Authority travel arrangements dictate otherwise, your child will start school at **8.45am**. This applies to all Year 7 students unless they are part of the Nurture group and have different arrangements for induction.

We realise that it is a long time since the children have visited the site and so on **Tuesday the 1st of September** we will be hosting a tour of the school for parents and students which will enable us to meet you and your children. Please note that these visits will adhere strictly to the government guidelines on social distancing and will require you to have booked a place on the tour **no later than Wednesday the 15th of July**. Tours will be available at 12.30pm, 1.00pm, 1.30pm, 2.00pm, 2.30pm and 3pm and will be limited to one adult and one child per household. You will be in a tour group of no more than six people. Please email pastoral@durhamfederation.net if you would like to book a tour stating your name, child's name, preferred visit time and a contact telephone number. If you are unable to attend a tour there will be a virtual tour posted on the transition area of the school website. As I am sure you can appreciate, allocation for times will be on a first come, first served basis.

It is vital that you have returned your child's data handbook before the 2nd of September as no child can be on the school site without school having access to this information. Please ensure that this booklet is returned before Wednesday 15th of July. Please contact us if you require any support.

During the first two weeks your child will complete a full transition programme. This includes introductions to each other and school systems, e-safety, PSHCE and getting to know you activities. In the absence of SATs, your child will complete a CAT test in the second week of term to give us a more detailed understanding of their learning needs. We have asked our feeder primary schools for an update of what learning and topics have been covered and what has been missed due to lockdown. We are using this information to plan the first half term very carefully to close gaps and ensure that every child is ready to start their secondary school curriculum by October half term. We will be using government catch-up funding to meet the needs of every child.

Uniform

You should now have received your child's uniform with the exception of their school bag which will be issued on their first day at school. If you have accidentally ordered the wrong size we are happy to support you with returns. If this is the case, please bring the in-correctly sized item to the school reception **before Tuesday 14th of July** and we will place your new order at the same time. Alternatively, you can carry out the returns process on the Seghal's website but please note that this may incur a temporary charge for new items until they have received original ones from you.

Please remember that your child will need specific sports shoes for use of our astro-turf, for which guidance was shared in the parent/carers handbook and is also on the school website. Arrangements for the start of the year will include wearing a full Durham Federation PE kit on the days your child has PE. PE will not take place on the first day of term so it is full uniform on day 1.



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Communication

Our pastoral@durhamfederation.net email address is still available to you for any pastoral support and we ask that you now download the school gateway app in preparation for September. Your logins have been prepared in preparation for this.

School Food Payments

We use Parent Pay for all school payments. If you currently pay for school meals you will need to pay for each week in advance. Our IT team will send you a letter which contains your user name and password in order for you to do this. Please note that we will be using a pre-ordering system in September similar to that in primary school and you can find details about this in the document to all parents and carers which is to follow. If you are in receipt of free school meals, the system will be the same with the exception that your account will automatically deduct the allocated free school meals allowance.

Learning Activities

I hope that you and your child have found our virtual transition areas useful and if you have not yet visited them please do so before the summer holidays. They can be found in the 'Joining Us' section of the school website and contain helpful information and learning activities set by each subject area.

IT Equipment

Finally, I have great pleasure in informing you that we will be issuing every child in Year 7 with an electronic device such as a laptop or chrome book which will enable them to access online learning within the classroom and at home. They will receive this device during the Autumn Term and you will be asked to sign a user agreement in receipt of it. In the event of any future lockdowns this will mean that all students have access to all learning materials and within school, there will be a reduction in the use of paper based resources. This device will stay with your child during the five years they are with us and ensure that all students have equal access to learning and support and that completion of online home learning tasks is part of their weekly routine.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or support.

Kind regards,
Ali Jamieson
Deputy Headteacher