



Transition Special Watling Academy Newsletter

Message to Students from Mrs Barford Deputy Head



I cannot tell you how excited I am to actually meet you all and work with you to create the future of Watling Academy. One of the most important times of your lives is moving from primary school to secondary school, and I want you to know everything that I have planned for this transition.

I am Mrs Barford and I am the Deputy Headteacher at Watling Academy. I know that you may be feeling a little nervous since your transition to Year 7 will be different this year, because we are all practising social distancing at the moment to keep everyone safe.

However, to make sure you are ready to kick off a brilliant year, we have lots of things planned.

I will be contacting your parents regularly with details of each task on the dates shown on page 2. I am hoping that these activities will inspire you and give you a flavour of what to expect at Watling.

I know that joining Year 7 can feel daunting, so do not bottle up how you are feeling. Instead, make sure you tell someone so we can support you. Year 7 can also be an exciting fresh start, and we cannot wait to see you flourish.

I am aware that many of you have returned to your primary schools this week and will be catching up and preparing for transition. I am also aware that some students have not returned. We will make sure we have the right support in place for every one of you, when you return to school in September.

While we are unable to say yet exactly what it will look like in September, we will keep your parents/carers updated so that you know what is going on.

Mrs J Barford

Words from Mr Bacon Head of School

I've spent time over the last week reading through every one of your nominations for the House names at Watling Academy. I have been blown away by the quality of the work you have produced and the huge range of inspirational people and artefacts you have chosen. Every nomination has been clearly linked to our ethos or one of our values and many have covered the whole range.

I want to thank you for all the time, effort, thought and passion that has gone into your work and know that with students like you, our first year at Watling will prove to be successful, fun and memorable.

Because of the way you have engaged with the competition and the sheer number of students that have responded, you have made the job of choosing our House names very difficult. What I can assure you is that the names, when revealed, embody everything we believe in at Watling Academy and reflect superbly on you as a student community. Our plan is to reveal the House names in a naming ceremony during the first week of term in September. All students who have submitted work will have their achievements rewarded and your entries will be prominently displayed in our Reception at Fairfield.

In this newsletter, I am introducing you to Mrs Barford, the Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Barford will be the member of the Leadership Team who is masterminding your transition from Primary School to Watling Academy; she is the person who is responsible for the pastoral elements of the Academy—which means ensuring you are well looked after and cared for when you join us. Mrs Barford is very proud and honoured to be your Deputy Headteacher and is getting to know much more about many of you already after talking to teachers at your Primary Schools. I hope you find the transition activities we have planned for you exciting and fun!

I look forward to meeting you all very soon, enjoy the last few weeks of Year 6.

Mr I Bacon



Thank you for all the fantastic and varied entries we have received for our two competitions:

“Name the House” and
“Design your own Postcard”

We will be announcing the winning House Names and Postcard designs in a special event in September.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Transition booklet “All about me” (that’s you, not me!) – week beginning 15th June
- Online information evenings for you and your parents – 30th June
- Transition week – week beginning 6th July (please see details below)
- What to pack in your bag – week beginning 13th July
- Read a book over the holidays – week beginning 20th July

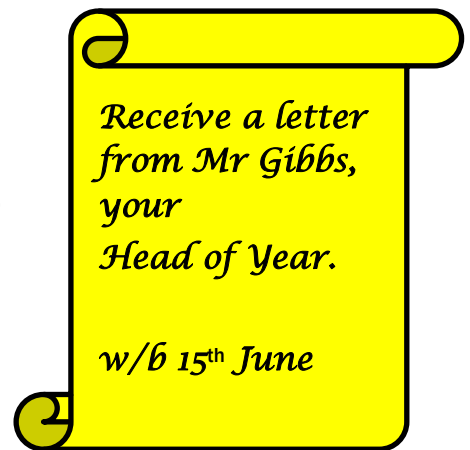
PLUS



TUTOR GROUP T SHIRT TASK

The idea is that you produce a colourful T-shirt that tells us all about you and your interests (see example on the left). Also see the email sent to Parents/Carers on 8th June.

We look forward to seeing these colourful designs in September!



Transition Week Activities

Further details will be provided to you all to complete during week beginning 6th July



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Activity

Poem Task



ON-LINE ASSEMBLY

Send your Tutor a Postcard



Challenge your Tutor opportunity

Year 7 Subject Challenges



Please email any photos of your plants that you have grown from the seeds which were given to you at the Watling Open Evening,

Email:
admin@watling.academy



Starting Secondary School



Lots of advice for Parents and students starting secondary school in September.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zh4wy9q/starting-secondary-school/1>

Message to Parents/Carers From Mrs Barford, Deputy Head

I extend Mr Bacon's previous welcome and say how delighted I am that you have chosen Watling Academy as your secondary school. I cannot wait to invite all students into school in September.

Whilst we find ourselves in very different circumstances, one thing has not changed. That is the importance of young people transitioning through to the next stage of their education. The excitement, the anxieties, the challenges, the thrills, all still exist, and I am absolutely determined to meet any challenges head on and give your child the best possible transition experience that I can at this time.

As you are aware, this time of year we would normally be putting in place opportunities for students to meet their new classmates, meet their new teachers and experience Watling Academy 'lessons'. Furthermore, we would normally have additional transition activities for students with additional needs.

With this in mind, I have already contacted every single primary school that a Watling Academy student currently attends. I have spoken to many of our students' Year 6 teachers and their Heads of Year. Miss Hunt Watling Academy Special Education Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) has also spoken to many primary school teachers and SENDCOs where appropriate to do so.

This means I have a wealth of knowledge regarding all students' work and experiences at their primary schools and I will use some of this to help me put students into tutor groups. I also have the personalised sheet that students completed and returned as part of our welcome pack.

I am aware that some students have returned to their primary school and I am working closely with primary schools to plan alternative transition processes which will initially take place virtually. I am also aware that not all Year 6 students have returned to school and I will make sure that all transition activities can be completed at home. I am confident that students will find our virtual transition programme helpful, and it will support them to have a smooth start at Watling Academy.

I am hoping that a limited number of physical transition activities including visits and meetings may still be able to take place before September on a priority basis for students with additional needs. We will work with primary schools and families to plan bespoke transitions on a case by case basis.

The student section to this newsletter will provide further information about our virtual transition process over the coming weeks and I remain hopeful that I will be able to visit some primary schools.

Mrs J Barford

Dates for your Diary:

New Intake Parents Evening

Tuesday 30th June
(online presentations will
be released)

Year 7 Transition Activities w/b Monday 6th July

INSET Days
Thursday and Friday
3rd and 4th September

First day of Autumn term
Monday 7th September

School Photos
Friday 11th September

**Year 7
Tutor Consultation Evening**
Wednesday 30th September

September Transition

Once again, I can only hope to assure you that we will be putting everything in place to facilitate a smooth transition in September. The well-being and safety of all members of the Watling Community remain paramount as we consider different options for our opening. Of course, we do not know what the National context will be in September, and we have already written plans that will cover all possible scenarios. We will be reviewing our plans regularly, and particularly in July/August when we are clearer about how the landscape will look after September.

What I can assure you is that in no way will we compromise on our vision for Watling, including the importance of:

- Building a community
- Creating a Culture
- Planting the seeds of success
- Respect, Responsibility, Kindness
- STEM/MK/Environment

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

During these unprecedented times look after yourselves and others by adhering to the Government guidance. Advice is available on protection measures, employment and financial support, education, travel and public services.

Together we can make a difference. Follow the guidance, support each other and take care.

The latest advice and information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

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Contact us at admin@watling.academy or on 01908 330518.