



11 June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

First and foremost, I sincerely hope that you and your family are keeping well.

I write to welcome your child to Plymstock School. We very much look forward to meeting them in the autumn term and to be able to support and encourage them in their learning journey for the next five or even, seven years. I always write to all new parents at this time of year, however, this year is somewhat different. Due to the current situation, I am unable to invite you to a New Parent Welcome Evening or enable your child to attend his or her induction day here at Plymstock School.

Like us, I am sure that you have been eager for news and information from the Government and the DfE regarding when and how students will be re-introduced back into schools in September.

Following the recent DfE announcements, I am delighted that Year 6 now have some time back with their teachers; to not only complete their learning before transition; but to also have the opportunity to celebrate these much loved and valuable formative years of learning with their teachers and friends.

Last week the Department for Education (DfE), released further guidance to assist with the partial re-opening of secondary schools, Plymstock School will be re-opened, on a limited basis, for Years 10 and 12 only, from Monday 15 June. You will find the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Government guidelines now require that only 25% of these year groups be in school at any one time.

## **Year 7 Induction Days July 2020**

It is therefore with much regret that I can now confirm like, all WeST secondary schools, Plymstock School, will not host any on site primary induction in the summer term. Traditional induction would render the 'bubbles' set up in both primary and secondary schools redundant. It would not help us *'limit the risk of increasing the rate of transmission'* and would go against the clear guidance to *'take a phased approach that limits both the number of children and young people in school and how much they mix with other pupils and staff'*.

For this reason, as you read in Mrs Kirk's updates, the transition programme is being remodelled and we have developed creative 'virtual' ways to support this process. I want to reassure you, that your child won't be at a disadvantage as a result of these changes and Mrs Kirk and the experienced team of staff will ensure, whatever the eventual programme looks like, it will be as good as with previous year groups. Above all, your child will feel welcomed and prepared for the start of secondary school.

The first days at secondary school are exciting; they create memories for a lifetime and are about the next steps in a five-year journey. Students make new friendships; meet new teachers and most importantly, the mixing of primary schools to create a new cohort for a new school. What could be offered as an induction day at this time, even if feasible, given social distancing measures, may actually increase anxiety about secondary transition. Therefore, we will ensure that this important process is given the time and care it deserves and your child will be supported whole-heartedly to embrace a new era at Plymstock School.

We will continue to stay in touch with you to ensure that you have all the information you need in order to prepare for the new start and support your child.

Traditionally, in the first week of July, our staff would have met many of you for the first time at our **Year 7 New Parent Welcome Evening**. We are so disappointed that we have also had to cancel this event. We had planned to introduce you to key members of staff and give you another insight into your child's wonderful new school. However, I was delighted to announce just before half term that our new 'Plymstock Transition Year 7 cohort 2020' webpage is now live. Although current circumstances do not allow us to meet in person, we hope this webpage will help to show you what it means to be a Plymstock School student and to understand our values and ethos.

In the coming weeks, I hope the details of our transition process will become clearer. However, in the meantime, I have attached a summary of some recent updates and some other information to support you with the changes that have been forced upon us.

I very much look forward to meeting you all in the future, in the meantime, welcome to our Plymstock School family.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Please take care, stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall  
HEADTEACHER