

Thursday 1st July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Update: Virtual Transition Day- Wednesday 7th July 2021

In relation to my recent communication with you regarding our Virtual Transition Day, I wanted to inform you about the logistics and arrangements on the day.

We are aware that before the government's announcement regarding the extension of restrictions, we would have had the entire cohort physically in to the academy and so you would not have had to supervise your child on this day. We know that this change (of students not able to come in anymore) may have now posed a challenge for you in terms of childcare and work.

We have therefore revised the plan for the day and, instead, the only element that we are encouraging all students to be a part of 'live' is the start of the day, from 8:30am-10am, where we will deliver a Virtual Transition Induction session via Teams. This will include:

- A live welcome from our Principal
- An interactive values assembly led by me and our student leaders
- A welcome from Ms Hart-Dyke, our Year 7 Progress Leader
- A chance to meet our Year 7 Learning Coaches
- A welcome from our Student Support and Inclusion Team
- Testimonials from some of our current students
- An introduction to how students can complete the transition activities and subject lessons (remotely)
- Exciting launch of our St Mark's values competition, with students having the opportunity of winning vouchers up to the values of £50, £30 and £10 for first, second and third places

There will also be an opportunity for you to post any questions or queries you may have and we will respond to them on the day.

We want this live element to be as interactive as possible with students and families and so you and your child will be able to interact in the Chat function on Teams. If, however, students are unable to make this live session (e.g. the student will be going in to primary school for a normal full day due to childcare issues), it will be recorded, and you will have the opportunity to watch it later (we will let you know when the recording will be available). Following the interactive 1.5 hour live session, students would be free to go back to their primary school for the rest of the day or they may want to engage with all the remote transition activities and lessons at home, if you are able to supervise them. It is completely up to them.

Principal Hannah Fahey

The taster lessons and activities are pre-recorded and can be completed in the students' own time. The deadline for completing them will be **Wednesday 21st July**.

To join the live virtual session at 8:30am and access all the activities on the day, all you need to do is visit our school website www.stmarksacademy.com, click on 'Menu' and then '**Virtual Transition Day 2021**'. Everything they need will be provided on this webpage. **Please note this page will only be visible and accessible from Wednesday 7th July.**

On the day, so we know your child has engaged with the experience, they will complete an online registration when they first visit the page and an evaluation once they have watched and taken part in all the activities. For the taster lessons and student activities, it will be helpful if your child has an exercise book or notebook and basic stationary (pen, pencil, ruler etc) to complete the activities. And please encourage them to complete the learning activities as they will have an opportunity to share them in September with their subject teachers who will give feedback.

We are really looking forward to having you visit our webpage and engaging in this day with us.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Andrew Wignal

Primary Transition Lead and Director of Personal Development

