

Year 6 Open Evening 2020 - The Transition Process

Good evening everyone. My name is Mr Crawley and I am the Assistant Principal here at Rushcliffe School with the responsibility for transition.

Transition is something that we take very seriously. We acknowledge that the move from primary school to a large secondary school is a big step and a change for pupils that needs to be done with lots of care, consideration and a long term skilfully embedded plan. The transition process we provide is something we are extremely proud of and we believe that it forms the foundations to allow us to give every child the chance to shine brightly.

We want students to feel safe, secure and cared for. We want them to look forward to starting Rushcliffe and feel excited and at ease, alongside the inevitable nerves that come with starting secondary school. Transition is important to us, you and especially the children involved and this is why we try to ensure this runs as smoothly as possible.

To assist in this transition, it's important that we get to know the children as early as possible and that they get to meet staff here too. One strategy we use for this is the visit of the HOY to the primary school. They will spend time talking to the year 6 teachers, getting all the relevant information on each and every child, but also spending time with the children, helping to answer questions they may have and providing them with a familiar face that will in fact play a key part in your children's lives at Rushcliffe.

Secondly, the children will visit the school for their induction day. Here they will meet their tutors and fellow tutees. They will spend a significant amount of time with them and we hope that by getting to know them they can feel more at ease and comfortable in September when they start.

On this day they will make another big step. They will experience a few lessons also. Moving from one lesson to another and from room to room and teacher to teacher is often different to many primary schools and this gives them a chance to experience it and to take away any anxiety surrounding it they may have.

It's really important to recognise that transition does not end with the pupils starting school in September, but continues throughout year 7.

Form time learning forms a large part of this and the pupils will spend 20 minutes a day in tutor time. This is a fantastic opportunity to build positive relationships with other members of the form and also the tutor whom is the first port of call every day for the pupils. During this time pupils will also receive 2 assemblies. One delivered by a member of the school's leadership team around the whole school ethos and a second one from the HOY on the year group ethos and based around

there current needs. Assemblies are also used to bring the year group together as a collective community and to celebrate success.

Another key aspect to helping the pupils settle is a trip to Walesby, where pupils will participate in many outdoor adventurous activities, and team building exercises. This is a really well received trip and a really valuable experience that forms part of the transition process.

We also acknowledge that the move from primary school to secondary is also difficult for parents. It's not just the children who will feel anxious, but this is perfectly normal for parents too. This is one of the reasons for the parents evening following the transition day. You can come in that evening, hear a small presentation and then meet the tutors.

This is followed up by a meet the tutor evening early in the school year. The tutor is the closest person the pupils will experience to their primary school teachers. They are the only teachers who will have daily contact. So, it's important to us that you meet them and also know who they are, so that we can all work together.

Lastly, it's great to be reassured by me and listen to my thoughts. But let's hear it from some year 7 students only 3 weeks into their journey here at Rushcliffe.