



WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Pride In Achievement

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Team Woodbridge! I really do believe that Woodbridge is a wonderful place; a kind, caring and happy community of students, staff and parents, and I am so pleased that your child will be joining us in September. It is my job to try to make sure that our values of kindness, tolerance, the celebration of our diversity, respect for ourselves and others, and aiming for excellence permeate everything we do. I hope they strike a chord with you and your child too.

I am reaching out now to give you some idea of all that we are doing to support our students, both current and future, at these uncertain times, as well as enclosing a message from Miss Moore, our amazing Head of Year 7, and the personal details forms that we need you to complete.

I know you will have some worries and anxieties about how we will support your child to make the transition to secondary school. It is always a scary time, but right now, while they are isolated from their friends and year 6 teachers, it must seem so much more uncertain for them. In normal times, we would be visiting their primary schools at the moment, speaking to them and their teachers, getting all the information we need, and inviting the students to our induction day in July so that they can meet their form tutors and the others in their class. We won't be able to go ahead with these plans this year, but we have planned some alternatives.

Miss Moore has already reached out to our partner primary schools and they have been busy completing forms telling us about your children. This is key information for us, as current teachers know your child's academic progress inside out. We will use this information to help us to place your child in a tutor group and plan the work we will need to do with them in September. Our form tutors are going to prepare some short video messages for their new tutees, so that you and the students can see who will be looking after our newest members of Team Woodbridge in September.

Our current year 7 students are eager to help too. They remember their nerves this time last year, and they know now how well they have settled in and been supported at Woodbridge. They are putting together some video messages for new students as well as planning an opportunity for our new students to send in questions for them to answer. I am sure they will have lots! We have all sorts of other plans too, and Miss Moore will be letting you know about these as soon as she can.

There are a few things I really don't want you to worry about. Many children in year 6 will be happy that SATS are not taking place this year, but they and their parents might also be wondering about how this affects their secondary school career. My answer is not in the slightest. The SATS information that we usually receive about students when they join us is just one small piece of information. Your child is much more than a number. More important for us are their interests, their passions, their hopes and dreams for the future. These are the things that help us to get to know your child and what we can do for them. SATS or no SATS, your child and their education, what they learn at school and how it will give them a firm basis for the future, are what matters. We are good at assessing what students can do, and how we can help them make progress, and we will do this in September when they get to us.

You should also not worry about your child coming on the first day in September and getting lost or confused with lots of older, and much bigger, students. As long as we are operating as normal by then, the first day of school for year 7 will be Friday 4 September. We will have no one else in school that day, and we will use the day to help them to get to know the school and the staff.



I thought you might also be interested in the work we are currently doing with our students while they are not in school. We have been setting them distance learning work each day, and also reaching out to them to look after their wellbeing. I am really proud of how they are managing. If you are interested in what they are doing now, and what their normal curriculum is, please do have a look on our website under 'Teaching and Learning'. Please do also follow us on social media to get a flavour of the school: on Instagram (woodbridgehighschool), on Facebook (@woodbridgehigh.uk) and on Twitter (@woodbrhigh).

At the moment life is very strange indeed for us, as I am sure it is for you, but we have tried to do our best to reach out to our students and parents and reassure them of our presence and care. Our students are a bit like the energy that keeps us going, the lifeblood of the school in many ways. Without them it is empty and seems to be missing its very essence. When I am missing our students at the moment, I have a look at our website or social media and flick through the pictures of them and the school in action. I am reminded of how wonderful Woodbridge is, and how wonderful our students are. I am so looking forward to the day they return, and when your child joins them. We will be back very soon and we will be as strong a community as ever.

We are really looking forward to meeting you and your child properly as soon as we can, but in the meantime, please do get in touch if you need any information, help or clarification. You may be able to find the answer on our website, but if not, we would be happy to help you. I am so looking forward to us working together over the next five (and hopefully seven) years. I am certain that in partnership we will be able help your child to make the very best of their secondary education.

Please do also read this letter with your child, or give it to them to read themselves. I am hoping it will be reassuring. They are welcome to get in touch if they have any questions; Miss Moore will soon let you know how to do this.

I send very best wishes to you and your family at this time. Do look after those around you, stay at home and stay safe. We will see you very soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hogan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Hogan
Headteacher

