

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 6 Transition Programme**

Over the last few weeks we have been in contact with 180 Year 6 students and their parents as part of St. Julie's Catholic High School's transition programme. It was great to learn so much about your daughter's strengths and qualities. Under the current circumstances we want to continue to ensure that your daughter's transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible. All teachers and parents are aware that the move from primary to secondary school can be quite a daunting experience for most children. We aim to ensure that the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is a stress free and efficient process.

We have established excellent working relationships with all local feeder primary schools and our teachers regularly visit schools and assist in lessons, with pupils also visiting us here at St. Julie's Catholic High School to take part in numerous curriculum taster sessions, prior to national school closures.

**Well-being and Support**

Over the last few months school has been extremely busy ensuring that social distancing and hygiene measures are in place for all students and staff. Alongside this, we have continued to maintain a thriving community which is reflected in the weekly newsletters [www.stjulies.org.uk](http://www.stjulies.org.uk). This captures a snapshot of the work which has taken place over the last few months to engage students in remote learning as well as take part in a range of activities.

From September we want to reassure you that your daughter's well-being is of the utmost importance to us. It is essential that as a Catholic community your daughter has the opportunity to reflect on the last few months and for staff to support your daughter's individual needs. We fully appreciate that during this global pandemic, families may have faced great adversity and trauma. Through our transition programme we will ensure that each student can share their experiences and have access to appropriate support, if required. We will focus on the importance of kindness, friendship, respect and resilience.

**Curriculum**

Over the last few months, our curriculum teams have reviewed and adjusted curriculum maps in preparation for the start of the new academic year. This will give students the opportunity to review, retrieve, reconnect and understand aspects of their Key Stage 2 curriculum and how this links with the Key Stage 3 curriculum. These adjustments will ensure that any gaps in knowledge and understanding are addressed quickly to support progress in the classroom. Alongside this, students will not be placed in any sets until we have a clearer understanding of individual needs. Standardised assessments will take place during September in English, Mathematics and Science. Students are not required to revise for these tests but they will provide an overview for staff to identify your daughter's strengths and areas for development.

A full curriculum overview for each department can be accessed via the school website [www.stjulies.org.uk](http://www.stjulies.org.uk). This includes key information for each department which also includes prior

knowledge and how we build on skills from KS2 and enhance at KS3. A copy of the curriculum booklet for 2020/21 can also be viewed via the website.

During September (w/c 14/9/20), your daughter will complete GL assessments [www.gl-assessment.co.uk](http://www.gl-assessment.co.uk) in the following areas:

- English – 70 minute test
- Mathematics – 70 minute test
- Science – 70 minute test
- Reading and Spelling – 20-30minutes
- CAT testing (Cognitive Ability Tests) – 3 part test (45minutes)

CAT4 is the UK's most widely used test of reasoning abilities for children aged 6 – 17+ years.

It is an assessment of developed abilities in areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement – namely verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning – and it provides an objective perspective on potential student achievement.

Importantly, CAT4 also provides indicators for national tests and examinations, which will be particularly useful given the absence of national data this year. For schools in England, this includes retrospective Key Stage 2 indicators, as well as 9-1 GCSE and A level indicators.

Given schools have been closed for the majority of students for a number of months this year, CAT4 can provide valuable baselining and transition data as schools reopen, all with national benchmarks.

Each assessment will be completed digitally and will provide instant feedback for schools. This information will be used to support setting but most importantly identify your daughter's strengths and areas which may require additional support and/or gaps in learning. We will reassure your daughter that the assessments will be used to support her learning moving forward. **Please be assured that your daughter does not need to prepare or revise for any of the above tests.**

### **Assessment**

To support your daughter's progress at St. Julie's, we have developed a Knowledge Assessment Framework. This new framework is less data driven and more focused on your daughter's knowledge and understanding. A copy of this booklet can be found in the Assessment section of the school website. Your daughter will receive further guidance in September about the Knowledge Assessment Framework.

### **Extra-curricular**

From September, your daughter will receive an extra-curricular timetable for all curriculum areas. Extra-curricular clubs are available at lunchtimes and after-school. Approximately over 500 students take part in extra-curricular activities each week. We actively encourage students to take part in extra-curricular activities because it develops many skills in young people such as: leadership; teamwork; resilience; dedication; commitment and communication skills.

### **Other key information**

Information regarding school uniform, behaviour for learning and general school rules was published in the previous transition pack. All information can also be accessed via the school website.

### **Chaplaincy website**

We actively encourage families to access the Chaplaincy website which features a Thought for the Day – every day - as well as topical weekly resources and other information about our school ethos <http://chaplaincy.stjulies.org.uk/>

## Key contacts

We understand that you may have additional questions in preparation for the start of term, please use the contact details below if you require any further information.

Mrs Middleman – Transition Coordinator [hmiddleman@stjulies.org.uk](mailto:hmiddleman@stjulies.org.uk)

Mrs Rainey – Progress Leader [lrainey@stjulies.org.uk](mailto:lrainey@stjulies.org.uk)

Mrs Rooney – Head of Lower School [krooney@stjulies.org.uk](mailto: krooney@stjulies.org.uk)

Mrs McCourt – Deputy Headteacher [kmccourt@stjulies.org.uk](mailto:kmccourt@stjulies.org.uk)

## Transition booklet

Liverpool Learning Partnership has produced a transition booklet for students to complete over the summer holiday. Please find enclosed a copy of this document. This can be completed and returned to your daughter's form tutor in September.

## September

In September your daughter will begin her education at St. Julie's Catholic High School in a mixed ability tutor group. She will remain in this tutor group for five years. This system allows the form tutor to build up a detailed knowledge of your child and also provides you with a clearly identified point of contact if you have any concerns, ensuring the continuity and stability we think is so vital for success.

During September, your daughter will remain in a mixed ability group during lessons. However, once the baseline assessments have been completed, your daughter will be moved into sets from the end of September. Due to Covid-19 and the cancellation of SATS we do not have sufficient data to place your daughter into an appropriate set at the start of term and we want to ensure that any decisions made regarding setting are made fairly and equitably.

## INSET day – Tuesday 1 September

### First Day at St. Julie's Catholic High School – Year 7 Induction Day: Wednesday 2 September

Your daughter's first day at St. Julie's Catholic High School will start from Wednesday 2 September from 8.30am. The first couple of days will focus on well-being, support, team building and orientation activities around the building. Each form group will have a Sixth Form 1804 Society student assigned who will be there to guide and support your daughter alongside their Form Tutor. All calendar dates and weekly updates will be published via the school website [www.stjulies.org.uk](http://www.stjulies.org.uk). To support the first month of school, please see below a copy of the academic calendar. The academic calendar for 2020/21 will be published on the school website.

Advent Term – September		
Date	Day	Events
31/08/2020	Monday	
01/09/2020	Tuesday	<b>INSET Day 1</b>
02/09/2020	Wednesday	<b>Year 7 – Induction Day:</b> First Day at St. Julie's Catholic High School – well-being, teamwork and orientation activities
03/09/2020	Thursday	All students return to school Year 13 Mock exam re-sits begin 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students return
04/09/2020	Friday	Summer Bridging work deadline
05/09/2020	Saturday	

06/09/2020	Sunday	
07/09/2020	Monday	<b>Baseline assessments begin – Year 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 School photographs</b>
08/09/2020	Tuesday	International Literacy Day
09/09/2020	Wednesday	
10/09/2020	Thursday	Year 7 SEN Welcome Event
11/09/2020	Friday	
12/09/2020	Saturday	
13/09/2020	Sunday	
14/09/2020	Monday	<b>Year 7 GL Assessments, reading, spelling and CAT4</b> Year 11 Revision Programme starts Year 9 Lucid testing and Year 12 Access Arrangements Year 8 – 13 Target setting letters published
15/09/2020	Tuesday	International Day of Democracy
16/09/2020	Wednesday	National Teaching Assistants Day
17/09/2020	Thursday	<b>Year 4, 5 and 6 Open Evening – 3.30-6.00pm</b>
18/09/2020	Friday	
19/09/2020	Saturday	
20/09/2020	Sunday	
21/09/2020	Monday	International Day of Peace
22/09/2020	Tuesday	<b>Staff training from 3.30pm</b>
23/09/2020	Wednesday	
24/09/2020	Thursday	<b>Year 11 Prefects Inauguration Ceremony 6pm</b>
25/09/2020	Friday	
26/09/2020	Saturday	
27/09/2020	Sunday	
28/09/2020	Monday	Year 7 Targets and Setting letters published to parents
29/09/2020	Tuesday	Sixth Form Attitude to Learning survey ADHD Awareness Month <b>PSHE lesson 1 – Period 1</b> <b>Year 9 SEN Parent event</b>
30/09/2020	Wednesday	

We look forward to welcoming your daughter to St. Julie's in September. Once we receive further guidance from the government regarding the wider reopening of schools, I will communicate this information with you. In the meantime, I hope you and your family take time to rest and enjoy the summer holidays. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K McCourt  
**Deputy Headteacher**