



Heathcote School & Science College

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EHN/FAN



29th January 2018



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Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Transition for Year 7 Pupils

We have been looking at the impact of the Transition building and how it supports progress and behaviour in school and decided that we are going to start the transition of the Year 7 pupils into the mainstream school after half term. This is for a number of reasons including:

- Pupils will begin preparation for Year 8 and beyond
- Pupils will have older role models to set high behaviour standards
- Pupils will have a chance to get to know staff better
- Learning time will not be wasted in the changeover time
- Supervision between lessons will be more prevalent as more staff and prefects are based over in the main building



It is always a challenge adopting another Headteacher's vision and we are reviewing the 'Year 7/Transition' building idea to ensure it is best for the school at this current time. Mr Gallacher will be sending out a survey to you and parents who have chosen the school for next year as well as asking pupils and monitoring progress and behaviour data. There have been some great advantages to having Year 7 'separated' but also some disadvantages and as a school we need to be responsive to these issues. We are working incredibly hard to be the best we can be as you know and so need to take decisive action when processes are not supporting behaviour and progress. Teachers describe this year 7 as the best potential the school has ever had and we need to ensure that they are stretched and challenged without disruption to learning.



Year 7 will continue to benefit from the playground and dining area and have some lessons in the Transition building but it may be that in the future, the vision is reconsidered and the building becomes part of the main school provision. We will continue to look at ways of each new Year 7 having a 'soft' landing such as registering in the new building, having sole use of the playground and eating there.



I look forward to hearing your views and any concerns you may have. Please email rgallacher@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk or feed your views in via the survey that will be out shortly.



Best wishes and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Emma Hillman
Headteacher

