

Be Your Best Self

May 2020

Dear Year 6,

I hope you and your families are keeping well. These are challenging times but I know that you'll be trying your hardest hard to be helpful at home and doing your very best on the work set by your Primary schools.

I want to also update you and your parents on where we are up to with your transition from primary school to Tadcaster Grammar School in September.



Self portrait competition

Thank you for your entries into our self portrait competition - we had over 40 entries and 15 Tadcaster staff were involved in judging the winners. There were a great variety of techniques and approaches in the entries and narrowing it down to the top 5 entries was very challenging.

Congratulations to all entrants who will receive House Points for their House and the 5 winners will receive a prize when you start school in September.



1st place: Tyler



2nd place: Samuel



3rd place: Charlotte



4th place: Poppy



5th place: Molly

Message from your new Head of Year - Miss Hodgson

Miss Hodgson, and some other key staff for Year 7, have recorded some messages for you that are now available on the [TGS transition website](#). Please take a few minutes to watch the videos and 'meet' some of the key people who will be working with you next year.

Teaching groups for Year 7

We have now finished the first draft of teaching groups for next year. We have listened carefully to your ideas about who you'd like to be with and those of your teachers. We are now going through a checking process (with over 260 of you there are lots of different combinations to check!) to see if we need to make any changes.

The good news is it looks like we have been able to place every student with at least 1 friend they nominated!

It is worth sharing that, in a survey we did with Year 7 in December last year, 99% of students said they had made new friends in their teaching group. You will too!

Transition Days

The Government has decided that transition day visits to secondary schools can not happen this year. This means, sadly, that your planned visits to TGS on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd July cannot go ahead as planned.

We are already working on how we can adjust your first days at Tadcaster in September to replicate some of the important features of the days we had lined up for you in July. We will write to you once those plans are finalised.

We know that one of the things that some students worry about when moving to secondary school is whether they will be with any of their friends in lessons. Transition day is usually when you would have found out your main teaching class and who was in it. We are not allowed to send you a list of everyone who is in your new class because of rules about sharing personal information but we plan to write to you individually in June with details of your teaching class. You will then be able to check with your friends to see if they have been put in the same classes as you for next year.

We know that a big part of transition day is meeting your new form tutor. When we write to you we will let you know who your form tutor is and we hope to be able to get each of them to record a short video which we will post on the [TGS transition website](#).

Parents information evening

Usually we would hold a meeting for your parents one evening during July. We can't run that evening meeting this year but aim to put an evening information event on for them near the start of next year. We have provisionally booked this for September 14th.

Chromebooks

There is an important letter attached to this update from Mr Dunphy about the Chromebook scheme. Please have a read of it.

Keeping in touch

We know that you and your parents may have questions about transition. If there is anything you want to know, or ideas you may have about how we could help smooth transition in this most exceptional of years, then please pop them on an email to s.wren@tgs.starmat.uk with TRANSITION in the subject heading and I will try and find out answers for you.

If any of your parents are on Twitter we have a school Twitter feed (@tgsTadcaster) that they may wish to follow for up to the minute school news including publication of our recent "Remote schooling" [newsletter](#).

I will write to you again in a few weeks, but in the meantime take care and make sure you are being helpful at home!

Best wishes

Mr S Wren
Assistant Headteacher