



## Orchard Park High School

"Inspiring Lives, Building Futures"

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### Re: Secondary Transition

I am thrilled to welcome your child to Orchard Park High School. Congratulations on securing a place with us. We recognise that choosing a secondary school is a huge decision and I hope that they will be very happy and successful during their time with us here. We are wholly committed to ensuring that all students who attend Orchard Park will have a better chance of success than if they attend any other local school.

We believe that examination success is exceptionally important in order for students to access the best possible future opportunities they can but we are also very proud of our Character Education offer which we continue to build on and further establish year on year. The development of character in these crucially formative years of our young people's lives is vital, and we aim to do our very best to nurture students to become healthy and happy young people who thrive in our community – and beyond.

In these strange and unprecedented times, we are sorry that we will be unable to hold our annual Year 6 induction day in school, scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020, and know we would have loved to meet our new students joining us in September. This would have been an excellent start to your transition to secondary school and we will let you know of any change to our plans, should we receive guidance from the DfE and Public Health England that it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we are making plans to run an online alternative induction day on July 3<sup>rd</sup> instead, to give you a flavour of what is to come.

In the meantime, I write to outline some remote opportunities we are organising, to help get your induction at Orchard Park High School underway.

Firstly, we are reaching out to our primary colleagues in our feeder schools to build communication about your son/daughter's transition. It is so important to us that we are well informed and can prepare fully for the start of your son/daughter's time in secondary school. We are adamant that this current national situation should not disadvantage our students, so are seeking ways to adapt to the current climate of remote working, in order to aid the robust processes we are familiar with.

Secondly, we enclose a New Student Pack for you, outlining key information regarding things you might already be thinking about – student groupings, uniform, payment systems, required equipment etc. Please do read through this pack carefully and make use of the links we've included to start ordering necessary items in advance of September.

Please note: the deadline for ALL forms is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, by 2pm. Please post these to us at school, or drop into reception between the hours of 8.00am and 2.30pm Mon-Fri.

Thirdly, we are holding three 'Google Hangout' meetings with key staff next week – including myself, our Assistant Headteacher in charge of Transition, Head of Year 7, Head of Admissions, Assistant Headteacher in charge of SEND and our Year 7 tutors. We will run this same meeting three times during the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> June. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please complete the form to express your interest, and let us know which of the options listed you would prefer.

Orchard Way, Shirley, Croydon CR0 7NJ

T: 020 8776 0220

F: 020 8777 3904

E: [admin@orchardparkhigh.net](mailto:admin@orchardparkhigh.net)

W: [www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk](http://www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk)



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### Date and times options:

- a) Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 6pm
- b) Weds 24<sup>th</sup> June – 3pm
- c) Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June – 10am

Reserve your place using this form: <https://forms.gle/ZBextmnZ9jfdXh29A>

Finally, we have created a new area on our website for our new Year 7 students. Simply go to our school website ([www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk](http://www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk)) and click on the 'Transition' tab. There you will find a wealth of additional information which we hope will help you feel at home with us, before you even arrive! This will continue to be updated as we move through the Summer Term.

We hope you find the information pack useful and we very much look forward to getting to know you and your family more.

Kind regards,  
Mrs J. Mingay

Interim Headteacher

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