

## **Year 6 parents' meeting FAQs**

### **Will my child be safe in September?**

Mr Brook explained that all the guidance from the government will be implemented by September. The safety of our students and our staff is of paramount importance too us. Unfortunately, student movement will be limited, so students may stay in the same room or corridor for several lessons and the staff will move between classrooms. There will be hand sanitising stations around the school and social times will be staggered so that contact between year groups is limited.

### **What does my child need for September?**

Please refer to the Y6 next steps year 7 handbook that has been posted to you and can be found on the website. This lists all the uniform expectations and the sports kit needed. You were given a voucher, with our initial letter to you when you were allocated Castle Hall Academy, for all the branded elements of the uniform. If you have lost this voucher you can get another by emailing [office@castlehall.com](mailto:office@castlehall.com). We provide all the stationary students need for lessons in the AfL kit and we provide students with a rucksack and PE kit bag, these can also in the handbook.

### **What will the first week look like?**

Year 7 students return to school on 7<sup>th</sup> September. They will have time in the school on their own to familiarise themselves with the layout of the school and get to know the other students and staff. They will get time to practice the normal routines of the school and learn about the Castle Hall Academy Culture and Ethos. Later in the week we will give them opportunities to visit places such as Malham. As we are still waiting for further guidance, we have provisionally booked these trips, which will be paid for by Castle Hall Academy, however our plans may need to change if the guidance does not allow us to take students out of school.

### **What happens if my child has a concern?**

Every morning your child will attend lesson 1 mastery. During this session they see their head of year, progress leader and the senior leader linked to their year group. They can contact their head of year at any point during the day and we have a designated safeguarding officer who can speak with you child at any point during the day. If they cannot find one of these people, any teacher will help them resolve any issues they have.

### **Which form will my child be in?**

Children are identified throughout the school by the English set they are in. We do not have a form time in school. They get their PSHCE curriculum through timetabled lessons with specialist teachers. They get key messages and rewards through the lesson 1 mastery and as we have said previously there are many staff involved with the year group who will know your child by name and be able to encourage and support them through year 7.

### **How do we pay for lunches?**

Parent pay is the only way to pay for lunches in school. During the first week (under normal circumstances, prior to COVID) we will take your child's finger print and this is used to access the account in school. You will receive a letter to log on to parent pay and you can add money to the account. If you are struggling to access this, please contact the school. If your child has no money on a given day, they will not go hungry, however the head of year may ring to remind you to put some money onto your child's account. Because we will not be able to use the fingerprints in

September, we think we will use a bar coded card. We will let you know once we have finalised plans.

### **How do we communicate with school?**

You can ring into school or email as normal. However, we are implementing a new communication app called SIMs parent app, this links to our school systems and will allow you to access attendance, rewards and sanctions data as well as any emails, letters and messages that we send out to parents. It is a two-way system and will allow you to contact the school too and update your personal details. You will receive an email with the log on details closer to September.

### **My child has additional needs what provision is there for them?**

We are aware of all the SEND students who are coming to us and have spoken to primary schools about your children. Parents have also had conversations with our SENDCo to ensure that we are prepared to support your child in September. When they arrive with us in September, they will get a special induction which allows them to walk around the school before the other students arrive. Our SENDCo will be in touch with further information. In school there is the FOCUS area, this is a quiet area away from the main school where students can go at social times if they want a quiet space and also go for specific interventions. Some students like to meet here before school starts to ensure they are settled and ready for the school day.

### **How much homework do students get?**

Home learning is done every night from the 100% book and students must hand it in the following day in lesson 1. They will be given time to practise this and the routines of meeting deadlines. They are then quizzed on the information they have learnt during lesson 1 mastery. They will also receive homework from subject teachers. Your child will get a home learning timetable in the 100% and as a parent you will know what home learning is due in on which day. The homework from subjects is when it is needed in the curriculum and doesn't follow a standard pattern. We are looking to implement a piece of software, called Classcharts, which will allow you to track homework in subjects and whether your child has completed it, this is being trialled during the first part of this academic year with the teachers and rolled out to parents later in the year, so watch this space!

### **What if my child is ill?**

Attendance at school is vital and linked directly to outcomes at GCSE, many studies have shown this. Students have missed a lot of school due to the lockdown and we would encourage you to send your child in to school every day. Obviously the current climate means that if COVID symptoms are seen you must keep your child at home and get them a test. If your child is confirmed they will have to self isolate for 7 days and the school must be informed. If the child comes back negative they may return to school and would be encouraged to do so if they are feeling well enough.