



May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer of a Year 6 Child/ren

Moving to The Duchess's Community High School

Northumberland County Council has now shared information informing us that your child has a place in our Year 7 from Sept20. They have also shared the email address you used to submit your initial admissions form. We are using this email to write to you about how we intend to successfully support your child to move to our fantastic school.

I know that there will be a higher level of anxiety than is normal about transition from Primary to Secondary. We appreciate this and we will do everything to make sure we offer as much support as we can, at an individual level, to reassure and build confidence at this very difficult time. I think we are all aware of the impact of not being in school is having on our children, the limited social contact, the loss of KS2 tests and most importantly the fact there is no continuity of being in school with skilled school staff, learning new skills and new knowledge.

This introductory letter is simply to say that your children are very much at the front of our minds. Over the coming weeks, and especially from the beginning of June we will be looking to do the following:

- Speak again to our Primary School colleagues about backgrounds of every Year 6 Child, especially SEND children and the most vulnerable / anxious. We will also ask about how your children are coping with the present, unique situation.
- Look at how we offer virtual meetings for parents and children where necessary.
- Updating our Transition web pages on our website. Even prior to this update you will find useful information about transition from the previous year (2019). Please feel free to use these pages with your child.
- Issue a dedicated email address that you will be able to use to communicate with us.
- Consider some fun and engaging activities that all children can be part of to help them prepare for September.
- Sharing names and email addresses of key staff + possible webcasts to introduce each of them.
- Creating a Frequently Asked Questions document for you to contribute to. Perhaps the one question that trumps all others is... which tutor group will I be in and will I be with some of my friends? We will do everything we can to make sure there are friendship links within tutor groups.

Much more detail will be coming before and after the Half Term break. However the importance of this letter is simply to say we are here and we are excited to have your children as DCHS students from September.

Please feel free to share this letter with your children. I will, however, write to them directly over the coming days.

Take Care, Keep Safe, Be Kind

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. R. Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Maurice Hall  
Headteacher