



# Preston Lodge

## High School

Dear P7 parent/carer

17 June 2020

### P7 Update

Today is the start of our three-day virtual transition programme, and I hope your child enjoys the activities we have organised. We have already been really impressed by levels of engagement, and in today's P7 Assembly film I clarified that our main concern at the moment is the wellbeing of P7 students.

Whilst we are really disappointed not to have P7s in the school this week, we are certain our August provision will give our newest students the confidence they need to make a success of secondary school. Whatever the government's instruction, S1s will be in the building the first week back, and many June transition programme activities will now take place then. Our lovely S6 students will show your child around the school, and they will be able to resolve any concerns prior to lessons proper starting.

For now, this letter provides a few updates on key areas of transition. Parents and carers will, of course, be able to find out a lot more at next week's ...

### Virtual P7 Parents' Information Evening.

We have reorganised our normal Parents' Transition Evening into a Google Meeting, taking place at **7pm on Tuesday 23 June**. We will send invites to P7 parent/carer email accounts we currently have, but if that will not work for you then please email [admin@prestonlodge.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@prestonlodge.elcschool.org.uk) and we will send you an invite.

A presentation will cover key school information, and we will then open up to questions, either on screen, or using the chat function. We know parents and carers will have many individual concerns and queries and our intention is to provide clear answers that will give *you* confidence in your child's next steps. P7 students may join in, but this event is primarily aimed at parents and carers.

We have also arranged a separate Re-opening Parents' Forum for all PL parents tomorrow (Thursday) night at 7pm, with a focus on our re-opening plans, and many of you have already signed up for that. If you would still like to attend that event, then please email the admin email address above.

### Class Groupings

One of the biggest anxieties students face in moving to secondary school is finding out which class they will be in. This year, of course, we are not able to confirm class groupings in the usual way, because we cannot yet be clear how classes will actually look in August, as we await final local authority and government advice.

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In August it seems likeliest we will have *all* S1-6 students in groups of 10 or 15 on a temporary basis, decided by whether schools have to follow either 1 or 2 metre social distancing.

Normal class groupings of 30 have been planned out, but this week we are only sharing the House group students will be in. We have three houses: Grange, Seton and Gosford. This approach will allow an early connection to our school, without causing further student anxiety by chopping and changing class groupings over the summer break, as we respond to regularly changing government advice.

Prior to return to school in August we will, of course, know what is happening, and temporary class groupings will be shared with students.

## Handbook

How can you find out more about life at PL? Normally, we share our school handbook with P7 families in early spring. However, our school handbook was delayed this year, due to significant changes we were making in the structure of our school curriculum, and that delay was extended further by school closure.

We have now updated our handbook, and you can find a copy of it [here](#). This document provides students and families with a clear picture of life at PL in normal times, whilst also explaining that we are not yet clear when many of those features of school life will resume. We will share the handbook separately with students in our weekly P7 newsletter, but by all means share this link with your child now if you wish.

So, for example, the handbook details the clubs, activities and school trips that we organise. We know that clubs and trips *will* run, but we cannot yet be sure *when* or *how* they will run! I hope you enjoy looking through our handbook, and that it gives you a clear picture of our school.

## Uniform

It's been a complicated business resolving uniform issues this year, due to covid-related problems with our suppliers, but all P7 parents/carers will receive a much-delayed letter this week outlining our approach to uniform, and how items can be ordered. Many thanks for your patience around this issue.

We can't wait to welcome our new students and their families to PL in August, and I am confident that your child will thrive in our school. What an unusual and challenging three months it has been, but I know that we will be able to make your child's transition into Preston Lodge a happy one.

Best wishes, and take care,



Gavin Clark  
Headteacher

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