

26th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Having had the pleasure of meeting a large number of the children joining us in September 2020 we are keen to provide the best possible transition we can as your sons and daughters join our school. We would like to welcome you and your child as new members of the Thomas Becket Family and to invite you to **visit the school for a short induction meeting** so that your child can get a feeling for the school, meet staff and feel more confident in their move to the school.

In our discussions with the primary schools they have consistently recommended organising a visit to the school if we can. You and/or your child may have some worries about moving to Secondary School, particularly in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic. Let me assure you that it is normal to have those feelings as it is a big step, not only for the children, but for parents too. At Thomas Becket, we believe that it is our mission to love the children and make sure that they know it. We pride ourselves on being a Catholic, listening and learning school where the students are at the heart of everything that we do. Every decision we take is made with love at its centre and over the next seven years we will do all we can to ensure the education of our children.

We would normally run two Transition Days where the children would come into Thomas Becket and get involved in a range of activities but unfortunately, due to the current Health and Safety guidance, we have been unable to run our normal transition activities. We have put together a new programme to support your child, through Primary school visits, a video message and the transition booklet attached. Over the past few months, Mr McLaughlin and I have been visiting Primary Schools and holding video meetings to find out, from the Primary Schools, how we can best support your child. It has been amazing for Mr McLaughlin and I to meet many of your children face to face and we are really excited to welcome them into Thomas Becket Catholic School in September.

With the recent changes in Government guidelines and through stringent planning we are able to organise a number of small-scale school induction meetings for all students who wish to attend. All appropriate health and safety guidelines will be followed for the visit. These opportunities will be 30-minute appointments and we will have a maximum of 10 children (with 1 parent per child) in each group. With that in mind I must advise that this opportunity is dependent on the current national and local guidance – if there is a change in guidance we may need to adjust this offer – and I must request that if your family or yourself experience symptoms of COVID-19 then we must ask that you follow the guidance to self-isolate and advise us that you will not be able to attend. The safety of all our community is our number one priority, but very quickly after that is the opportunity to meet and welcome your children to the school to help them with this transition.

These sessions will take place on Monday 6th July, Tuesday 7th July and Wednesday 8th July.

In these meetings you will be able to meet Mr McLaughlin and I before having a short tour of the school for a short talk about transition. We will then take your children for a quick tour of the school and then return for a final chance to ask questions. This opportunity will have such a positive impact for the children to be able to see the school and meet some of the staff.

Please book a slot on the link below:

<https://tbcstransition2020.eventbrite.co.uk>

You may wish to take a look at our welcome video, featuring a message from our Headteacher, Head of Year 7 and lots of information and advice from our current Year 7 students:

<http://thomasbecket.ovw5.devwebsite.co.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=45>

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respect
truth
compassion
justice
faith

If you have any questions, please complete the questionnaire so that we can include them in the presentation with the Headteacher to avoid a queue for questions when you visit.

We are greatly excited for this opportunity and we hope that we will be in the fortunate position to open fully in September to make a successful start to your children's education here with us at Thomas Becket Catholic School.

Yours sincerely

G Jones

Mr Garry Jones
Head of Year 7 & Student Support Co-ordinator
Thomas Becket Catholic School