



Castle Donington College

Principal: Mrs Julie Sheppard

Vice Principal: Mr Nathan Barratt

Assistant Principal: Mr Ben Wilkinson

JS/LD/

15th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 6 pupils

Year 6 Induction Programme

I write to update you with details of the induction activities we are planning for your child as we welcome them to Castle Donington College. You will be aware that secondary schools have a very different set up regarding Covid-safe procedures and so we have had to think very carefully about what is safe for your child, our pupils, staff and their families within the context of our site and buildings.

We have record numbers of pupils starting at the College this year, joining us from 23 different feeder schools. Having assessed the risk, we believe one positive case in any group could impact on pupils from several schools and their families. Unlike secondary aged pupils, primary children are not being asked to carry our lateral flow tests and so it would be impossible to detect an asymptomatic child in the cohort. It could result in individuals and/or families having to isolate for 10 days, which would include the first week of the summer holiday.

Last year the whole Induction Programme was done virtually. Our current Year 7 pupils tell us they found our activities helpful and fun. This year, we desperately want the children to see the College, engage with our staff and get a feel for their new school but we must take a sensible approach within the context of a global pandemic. We have therefore arranged for each primary school with more than 12 pupils to visit separately. Those with less than 12 pupils will be grouped together in small groups to allow us to implement social distancing.

When Year 6 pupils visit they will be separated from College pupils and restricted to a suite of classrooms. They will participate in a number of activities, meet key staff including their Form Tutor and have an opportunity to access the outdoor space and some of the site in a 'walk about'

Rest assured we will look after your child and ensure they have a fabulous visit. We have also arranged that on the first day of the autumn term (25th August) only Year 7 and 8 pupils will be in College. This will be a further opportunity for us to give them lots of support and attention before the older pupils arrive.

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We found out yesterday that there has been a delay to the lifting of restriction nationally, and we know there are rising cases in secondary schools locally so we believe it is the safest option to remain cautious. I hope you understand the reasons for our decision. Mrs Danes, Head of Year 7, will be writing to you shortly with more details about the visits.

We are very excited about meeting your child at the start of their secondary school journey.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Sheppard
Principal