

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to introduce myself as a new Assistant Principal at Birchwood with the responsibility to oversee the Year 6/7 transition process. I have been at the school for 17 years now as a PE teacher and for the past 8 years as a Head of Year and I am relishing the opportunity to start in this new role.

This global pandemic has forced us to adapt many aspects of our lives however, I would like to take this time to reassure you that every step will be taken to ensure the best transition to secondary school is still put in place for your child. We will still cover everything that we had previously planned, however, we will just have to adapt the way in which we work to maintain the high standards of support that every Year 6 student coming to Birchwood deserves.

Following half term, myself, the Head of Year 7 and our SENCO will embark upon the process of visiting every primary school to learn about each student and their journey in education so far. This process of gathering information generally proves to be tremendously valuable. That being said, I have absolutely no doubt that there will be students all over the country seeking a fresh start from primary school and it is this transition to Secondary school can certainly provide them with the opportunity to reinvent themselves in education and rewrite their own narrative so far.

Following the visits, students will be provided with their first taste of life at Birchwood on Thursday 8th July when they can attend Induction day 1. After, what we hope will be an engaging and informative day for the students, yourselves as parents and carers will be invited up to school to meet your child's new form tutor, as well as, attend what we call a 'Faculty Fair'. This is an event that runs in the sports hall where you can get welcome to the day he unlikelyhood that this will be able to go ahead, we will plan a two day programme, to run at the beginning of September on two consecutive school days instead. I believe this will still prove to be a great introduction into life at Birchwood without the 6 week summer holiday in between.

Finally, we will ensure that you as parents are kept up to date with all the information you need. A 'Year 7 information booklet' will still be put together with everything you require, along with videos from the Principal, myself and the SENCO which will be posted on the Birchwood website and will be easy to access and of course letters and phone calls will still be made and sent out when required.

I do hope that this all makes sense and that you are feeling positive about your child starting at Birchwood in September. If you do have any queries at all please do not hesitate to get in contact with me on rherbert@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

Kind regards

Rob Herbert
Head of Year 7

