

Date: 18 June 2021
Our Ref: DTC/3
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Dear Parent/Guardian

www.paigntonacademy.org

We hope you are well and have enjoyed the recent good weather, I wanted to provide you with a very short update.

Firstly, you will have now received your child's site, house and tutor group allocation. The positive feedback has been really reassuring and much appreciated, we tried our best to accommodate requests but logistically, it is an extremely difficult process. We are confident all students will quickly find new friends and as always, classes will differ from lesson to lesson.

Thank you for completing the Operoo Essential Information forms, we know it takes time and we now only have a small number that still need to be completed. We do need this information before children can start with us.

The Prime Minister's decision to delay the further easing of coronavirus restrictions has brought about a review of the events that have been planned for children within Torbay Schools. Our annual transition days for children moving from primary to secondary schools would bring together a large number of children from across multiple schools. This type of activity brings additional risks for the transmission of the Covid-19 virus. In consultation with the Local Authority Public Health Team, all secondary schools have had to take the difficult decision to cancel the transition days that were due to take place on the 1st and 2nd July 2021.

Dr Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health) supports this action and thanks all schools for their vigilance to risk assessing all activities and continuing to take difficult decisions that will help to manage the ongoing pandemic.

As you know we have offered a Free Summer School programme to support transition. This programme is designed to be fun, whilst creating an opportunity for students to become more familiar with the school and for new friendships to be formed. The Paignton Academy Summer School being organised by Sound Communities is now full with 180 children registered (thank you to those parents for making

their child's activity choices this week), but we are operating a waiting list for other interested children via summerschool@paigntonacademy.org

We are now considering planning a number of **Virtual** activities to be completed by incoming students on Thursday 1st July. We hope Year 6 students would be able to access some of these virtual activities whilst at their primary school but this is dependent on technology and the capacity within each primary school. If we are able to create and organise this offer in conjunction with the primary schools, we will communicate this to you and your child's primary school in due course.

Finally, we will be holding a new parents' information evening for you on **Wednesday 30th June at 5:30pm**. This will be a virtual event and we will email you the appropriate links nearer the time. We plan for you to meet our Principal, myself, the house teams and tutors. The evening is aimed at parents, however, children are welcome to listen in. It will last no longer than 1 hour.

Once again, we are looking forward to meeting you, working in partnership with you and educating your child.

Yours faithfully

David Carpenter
Assistant Principal