



7 May 2020

Re: September 2020 Admission

Dear Parent / Carer,

It is almost exactly two months since I wrote to welcome you and your son to the Forest Hill School community. It hardly seems possible that so much has changed in the intervening period, and that all of our lives are now so very different. I truly hope that you and your loved ones are in good health and managing to follow government advice about staying safe, as well as coping with the challenges of home education! Our best wishes go out to you.

The current situation necessarily means that we have had to rethink the Y6-7 transition process. I'm writing now to let you know how we plan to proceed, and how the next few weeks will look for you and your son. Despite this, I absolutely stand by what I said in my previous letter. I'm confident that your son will enjoy joining our caring and vibrant community. I'm confident that he will thrive and enjoy a wide variety of stimulating and rewarding learning experiences. We're looking forward so much to welcoming him to the Forest Hill fold.

In the light of this please find below some new information and dates regarding the revised transition process. Our aim is to keep in touch with you as much as we can so that you are informed and reassured during a vital (and potentially anxious) time for you and your son. Please read the information carefully and don't hesitate to contact us at admissions@foresthillschool.co.uk if you need any clarification.

Admissions 2020 Webpage

We are so very sorry that we had to cancel the Welcome Meeting which was due to happen on 5 May 2020. The information which would have been shared at this meeting can now be found on the dedicated 'Year 7 Admissions 2020' page on our website:

<http://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/yr7-admissions/>. This letter, and other documentation will be on the page, as well as a welcome video message from me. Mr Haresign, Deputy Headteacher in charge of transition, has also posted a narrated presentation on this webpage, covering the key points you need to know at this point in the process.

Nothing beats actually visiting the school but we'd like you to get a really good feel for it remotely and so we're constantly trying to think of ways to do this. Bearing that in mind we'd like you to check the webpage regularly for updates and messages to help us stay connected.

Another useful place on the website is the CV-19 page (<http://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/covid-19-communications/>), which contains the weekly parent bulletins and lots of other information which may be useful to you at this time.

Admissions Forms

The admissions form (as well as two consent forms) can be found on the Year 7 Admissions 2020 webpage. Can you please complete this and return it to us by post or email by **Friday 22 May**. I

would be very grateful if you could get the form back to us by the deadline, as the information contained in it is essential in ensuring a smooth transition process for you and your son.

Induction Assessments

You will remember from my last letter that we had planned for your son to take some simple web-based assessments. These were to ensure he is placed in the right groups from the beginning of his time at the school and to allow his teachers to make sure he is receiving suitable challenge and level of support. Unfortunately, it is currently impossible for us to facilitate these and so we have taken the decision to run them in September when, hopefully, a degree of normality will have returned. They will be conducted as early as possible in the Autumn Term so that we can ensure your son is placed in appropriate teaching groups.

Interview

Normally, you would have been invited to a formal interview in school in late June/early July. You will appreciate that a face to face meeting is not currently possible. However, we plan to meet you, either via video conferencing or by telephone, in **weeks beginning 22 and 29 June 2020**. These meetings are very important as they allow us to obtain more detailed information about your son. They also give you the opportunity to gain clarity on anything you're unsure about. We will confirm your appointment time and date by email nearer to the time. ***Please note that your son cannot start school without this interview. If the time is not suitable for you, please email admissions@foresthillschool.co.uk and we will endeavour to rearrange the appointment.***

First Day of School

At the moment we are not sure about how far school will have returned to normal by the start of the Autumn Term, which begins on **Friday 4 September 2020** for Year 7 pupils. We currently plan for your son to arrive from 8:00am for an 8:30am start on that day. We will keep you informed if this arrangement changes.

Residential Trip to Grosvenor Hall, Kent

At present, if at all possible, we still plan to run a trip in the Autumn Term which encourages team building and bonding with new peers. We think it very important that all Year 7 pupils have the opportunity to spend a few days away from school (and home) at the Kingswood centre in Kent. If the trip goes ahead the year group will be divided into two groups, the provisional dates for these trips being **Monday 5 – Wednesday 7 October 2020** and **Wednesday 7 – Friday 9 October 2020**.

Clearly, the future of this trip will depend upon the social distancing protocols in force at the time, and we will inform you should we be required, reluctantly, to cancel it.

Future Correspondence

This letter has been sent to you via email. Please note that all correspondence from Forest Hill School will be sent via email only. If you change your email address, please notify the school.

If at any point you decide to withdraw your acceptance of this place, we would be grateful if you could inform us as soon as possible.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please feel free to email admissions@foresthillschool.co.uk or contact the school on 020 8613 8407.

It only remains for me to wish you the best for the coming weeks. Here's hoping you and yours are in good health and spirits the next time we meet.

Yours sincerely



Michael Sullivan
Headteacher



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