



FOREST HILL SCHOOL

ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

SPECIALIST SCHOOL IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

4 March 2022

Welcome to Forest Hill School

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are delighted that your son has been offered a place at Forest Hill School to start with us in September 2022 and I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome you to our community. It is a community that is caring and safe and one that will provide your son with many varied and exciting learning opportunities over the years to come.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on schools and it has been a very difficult couple of years for young people. We realise that this is a crucial time for Year 6 pupils who will be transitioning to secondary school in September and we can assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure our new students have a smooth transition to Forest Hill School. I look forward to meeting the new pupils soon.

Please find below some key information and dates regarding transition to Forest Hill School.

Ofsted Outcome Information Meeting

You may be aware that the outcome of a recent Ofsted inspection is that Forest Hill School is judged to be not yet good. Whilst we were pleased to receive 'good' judgements for personal development and sixth form provision, we were disappointed that the inspection team did not recognise the many other strengths of the school, or the significant progress which has been made in all areas since the 2017 inspection. Please see the school website for a copy of the report and the accompanying letter that I sent to current parents.

I understand that the outcome of this inspection is not what any of us would have wanted, and that you may wish to know more about how we intend to respond to it. I would, therefore, like to invite you to attend an information meeting on **Wednesday 9 March at 6.15pm (doors open at 6.00pm)**. It will be held in the school atrium (entry via Dacres Road) and will last approximately one hour. I will be joined by other members of the Senior Leadership Team and the School Governors and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. We kindly ask that only parents/carers attend. Please see below for the formal Welcome Meeting, which pupils are also invited to attend.

To give us an idea of numbers, parents wishing to attend this Ofsted information meeting are kindly asked to register to attend via this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/3aRbF9MhLn>

Welcome Meeting

I would like to invite you and your son to attend a welcome meeting on **Tuesday 26 April at 6.00pm (doors open at 5.45pm)**. This will give us the opportunity to formally welcome you and your son to the school and to explain the process of induction. The meeting will last approximately one hour.

Induction Assessments

As part of the induction process we will ask your son to take some simple web-based assessments. These will ensure he is placed in the right groups from the beginning of his time at the school and will allow his teachers to make sure he is receiving the appropriate challenge and level of support. These assessments will take place after school during the week commencing **2 May 2022**. Your son will need to attend one session at Forest Hill School on one of these dates. We will write to you separately with your appointment details and more information.

Interview

You and your son will be invited to a formal face-to-face interview in late June/early. A letter will be sent to you nearer the time to confirm your appointment time and date. **Please note that pupils cannot start school without this interview. If the time is not suitable for you, please contact Simone McFarlane, Office Manager, and she will endeavour to rearrange the appointment.**

First Day of School

Term begins on **Monday 5 September 2022** for Year 7 students. Your son should arrive from 8.00am for an 8.30am start. All other year groups will arrive at breaktime.

Summer Activity Days

We realise that many pupils joining us in September will not have been able to visit the school previously and may be feeling apprehensive and nervous about September. Due to essential building work taking place in the main school building over the summer holidays, we are unable to host an activity week as we did last year. However, to ease their transition and to give our Year 7 students a chance to get to know the school buildings and meet new friends, we will be hosting a series of activity days towards the end of the summer term. The proposed dates are:

- Saturday 25 June
- Saturday 2 July
- Saturday 9 July
- Saturday 16 July

Each day will run from **10.00am until 3.00pm** with lunch included, and activities will range from fun Science and Maths to basketball and cooking. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Residential Trip to Grosvenor Hall, Kent

To further ease the transition and to encourage team building and bonding with new peers, all Year 7 pupils have the opportunity to spend a few days away from school and home at one of the Kingswood outdoor education centres. The year group will be divided into two groups and provisional dates for these trips are **Monday 10 – Wednesday 12 October** and **Wednesday 12 – Friday 14 October 2022**.

Future Correspondence

This letter has been sent to you via email and post. Please note that all future correspondence from Forest Hill School will be sent via email only. If you do not receive this letter by email or have changed 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.

I very much look forward to welcoming you and your son in May but if you have any queries in the meantime, please feel free to email admissions@foresthillschool.co.uk or contact the school on 020 8699 9343.

Yours sincerely



Michael Sullivan
Headteacher



Headteacher: Michael Sullivan BSc (Hons)

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