



14th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome your child into our school community. After receiving the prestigious Times Education Supplement (TES) 'Secondary School of the Year' award in 2019, placing top of the Wakefield area school league tables the last two years and securing results within the top 10% of schools nationally over the last three years, we really believe there is no better time to be joining us.

In this pack you will find a booklet with all the information you will need prior to your child joining us in September. Please read this carefully, as even if you have a child who attends or has attended Cathedral Academy, there have been some changes made for this year.

In addition to the booklet, I wanted to highlight some important things for your consideration. Firstly, it is really important that we have the most up to date information on your child and that you give us permission for your child to access some of the systems within the academy; for example, without this they will not be able to purchase anything from the canteen. Before Tuesday 1st September, please ensure you have visited, and completed the form on the below link. **All students whose parents have completed this will receive a school tie free of charge when they enter the academy on their first day.**

<https://cathedral.trinitymat.org/key-info/year-6-transition/>

We understand that some students and their parent/carer might have concerns as they join the academy due to us not being able to run our usual transition programme. We have put a number of steps in to address this so that any concerns you have are somewhat addressed and alleviated. We have produced a transition video that you and your child can familiarise yourself with to support the release of the welcome booklet. You will find this video on the link above.

I also want to assure you that your child will have a full transition programme when they join the academy. The first three days will be spent learning all about our expectations, our routines, our values and why the aforementioned is so important with case studies from staff, current students, and people in the public eye that your child may consider as role models. We want your child to understand every aspect of life at Cathedral Academy, and understand that taking every opportunity that we give them will help them develop skills and qualities to support them in being successful in their futures.

During a student's first week with us, we will explore the challenges and initiatives outlined in the welcome booklet. We would really appreciate your support with these, and for you to encourage your child to always put their maximum effort into everything they do. We also want our young people to understand that getting something wrong is part of the learning process, and that how they develop their responses to this is the true measure of their growth in a learning sense and as an individual; perseverance is key to this.

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I also wanted to take this opportunity to clarify our first day expectations which I am sure might be causing some uncertainty. We expect all students to arrive at the academy on the first day by 8.15am. There will be lots of staff in orange jackets giving directions, and when they arrive on the school yard, they will be sorted into their form groups. On all other days we would encourage students to arrive at the academy at 8.00am to attend our breakfast club where they will receive a free breakfast. Students will finish each day at 2.40pm unless they join one of the many INVOLVE clubs that we offer; these will not run during the first half term. If you are picking up your child, we would encourage you to arrange a meeting point close to the academy, but not at the academy as it is very busy at the end of the day. If your child is in the CAPA Juniors Pathway, they will be expected to stay at the academy until 4.00pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; this will run from the first day.

No students will require their PE/practical kit on the first day, and they will be informed about when they need to bring it for the first time when they receive their timetables.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals this information should have been received during the transfer of documents from their primary school. For all other students, and for those students who receive Free School Meals but want to make additional purchases within the restaurant, they will need to have money pre-loaded onto their account. To add money to a student's account, you must sign up to ParentPay. Information about signing up to this will be given to your child on their first day at the academy. All students will receive free school meals during the first week, but will be expected to have money loaded onto a ParentPay account by Monday 7th September 2020 so that they can pay for their meals. We are a cashless school, so all payments for trips and events will also be made through this online platform.

Our success is built upon consistency in our high standards, so please ensure that all uniform expectations outlined in the welcome booklet are adhered to and your child is punctual.

We hope you have a good summer and look forward to seeing your child at **8.15am** on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Pickering". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mr R Pickering
Associate Assistant Principal