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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

24th June 2020

Dear parents & carers

I hope you and your families are well? I can say with certainty that we have never had a transition year like this.

Unfortunately, we are not able to visit primary schools and meet your children, which is by far the best way of learning about them. We are having a lot of electronic contact with primary schools, gathering information, and with the exception of SATs results, this process is the same as every year. We then create tutor groups ensuring as equal a spread as possible across the 8 tutor groups of gender, ability, need, feeder schools and general diversity. We will be able to inform you of your child's tutor when this process is complete.

We are also allocating the modern foreign language your child will be studying and once tutor groups are complete we will be able to inform you of their language as well.

I am enclosing details of our uniform suppliers who are now ready to assist with orders and have discount codes which might be of use to you. Please see the fliers attached.

With regards transition support. Your child's Year Group Achievement Leader, Mr Whitmore, is in contact with primary schools, he will, albeit virtually, speak to your child's teacher. He has recently recorded a video tour of Downlands, which has been sent to primary schools to show the children. Mrs Cornish our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) is also in contact with primary schools and has been gathering information from SENDCos.

Also enclosed is information about our locker system. This is managed by a private company and the attachment tells you how to go about booking a locker for your child if you wish.

Currently we are not able to invite your children on site. If this changes and is practical to organise with primary schools we will. When your children join us, hopefully in September, we do appoint Year 11 students to be Year 7 prefects, attached to tutor groups as guides for the first two weeks. The prefects voluntarily apply for the post in which they will visit tutor group registration time, escort the students from lesson to lesson and stay around them at break times. So even if your children are not able to visit the site before they join us, they will not get lost following their timetable.

I am attaching a link to our website, you may be familiar with this already? Under the 'Latest News' heading you will find Year 6 transition information, which includes video messages from Mr Whitmore and the year group's Pastoral Support Officer Ms Ridley.

<http://www.downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk/>

Take care

Yours faithfully

Mr G Odlin  
Assistant Headteacher

