

July 2020

Welcome from the Principal

A very warm welcome to our new Year 7 intake! We are very much looking forward to meeting you all this September. These are strange times indeed and of course, under normal circumstance I would be delivering this welcome personally as part of the Year 6 Information Evening. Disappointingly, this has not proved possible this year so instead - a short message of welcome from all at Hellesdon High.

The move to high school can seem a rather daunting prospect, especially for parents who might be thinking about how their child will cope in such a large school with a population in the region of 1500 students. Rest assured that, whilst there may be one or two children that initially struggle, the majority of students just take the transition in their stride and wonder what on earth all the fuss was about!

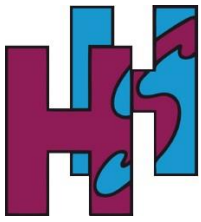
Most students will be moving from a relatively small Primary or Junior School into a year group that is bigger than the whole of their last school. With each year group now containing 250+ students, the opportunity to get together as a whole school is near on impossible, so we decided to move away from our traditional *Year Group* structure to a more collegiate *House System* to create a school within a school environment.

There is no doubt about it that this is an incredibly exciting time for your child. It's a new chapter in their very own book, with the pages on Primary School coming to an end, and their next new adventure in the pages ahead. Exciting times indeed, as they get to make the story up as they go along, they get to make new friends, get to learn new subjects, and get to know new teachers. Of course, to make this a truly successful transition they are going to need plenty of guidance, help, and support.

The three partners in this fantastic adventure are the students, staff and parents. We will all need to ensure that we are pulling in the same direction. Otherwise we, as a partnership, run the risk of unintentionally heading towards some stormy waters, and that is never particularly pleasant as it makes for a very choppy journey indeed!

It is not so long ago (two years now) that my youngest daughter was in Year 6 of a very small, rural primary school and getting ready to join our local High School. On the Year 6 New Intake evening, I can still remember sitting in the main hall and feeling quite apprehensive about the path my daughter was about to step foot on. The following thoughts were crossing my mind at the time, and you may wish to share them with your children as they prepare for the move to high school...

- How will she make sure this chapter is full of hope, excitement and success?
- Will she be prepared to embrace new ideas?
- Will she learn from her mistakes, as there will be many along the way? We all make mistakes none of us are perfect all of the time! The trick is to learn something from each one and move on, better, more informed and ready for the next challenge



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- Will she enjoy this chapter in her life? Let's face it, life is exciting, daunting, and at times even intimidating! Is she really up for the trip and will she enjoy the experience to the full?
- Will she help others along the way? Never underestimate the power of helping others, the feeling you get is amazing. It gives you a buzz - that's the adrenaline pumping through your veins and that's so rewarding and it's all for free.
- Will she show resilience? There will be tough times ahead, she will meet topics that she finds hard, that don't necessarily come naturally. Will she give up at the first hurdle or is she made of sterner stuff? Is she somebody who never gives in, a person who perseveres and gets there in the end, no matter how difficult the journey? *That's when you are truly learning, that's when you really understand and now you have the tools to move on to the next challenge!*
- Will she take responsibility? There will be times ahead when she gets it wrong, like I said - none of us are perfect! It's how they deal with it which will make the difference. Will she take responsibility with all of its consequences, or will she look to blame others?

I can report that my daughter had a fantastic first year at high school. Yes, initially she missed the small, intimate, familiar environment of her former primary school, where she knew who everyone was, but remarkably, this was quickly replaced with a resilience, independency and maturity I never knew she was even capable of. Different subjects have brought out different qualities in her, qualities she didn't know she possessed, and she has fully embraced all the lunchtime and after school activities, with not a moment's thought set aside to who is picking her up afterwards!

So to all the Year 7 children joining us this year – you have an exciting journey ahead so do make sure you embrace it and give it your absolute best. As I said at the start, we are very much looking forward to greeting all of you in September for the beginning of what I am sure will be the next exciting installment in the next chapter of your young lives.

Yours faithfully

Mr Earl
Principal