



Horizons Specialist Academy Trust
Providing infinite opportunities

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James Newman
Principal

Thursday, 11th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Principal of Westlands Academy. I know I have met some of you already, but if not, I am looking forward to doing so. Transition from Primary to Secondary school is a worrying time for all and whilst we are working under the COVID-19 regulations, I appreciate that this makes this transition time even more concerning, however I would like to re-assure you that your son/daughter's move to Westlands Academy will be as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

As far as is possible, we will be following our usual transition plans. We will ensure that all students starting in September, along with their families, will be provided with a good understanding as to what Westlands Academy is all about, what it looks like, and what it will be like for them on a day to day basis through the activities shown below. If at any time you feel like you need to ask any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. To reassure you, all activities will be fully compliant with COVID-19 social distancing policies and procedures.

Already happening

- Key staff from Westlands and Primary Schools have already started meeting to discuss individual students so that all student information is passed on
- Key documents and EHCP plans are available for Westlands staff to read.
- A virtual tour of the school is available on the school website.

April/May

- Key staff from Westlands will start to visit students so that we can start and build the positive relationships that we encourage.
- Senior Leaders at Westlands will arrange individual phone calls with parents and carers of Year 6 students to ensure you have a full opportunity to discuss any concerns.
- If COVID-19 restrictions allow, we will arrange for student visits to take place so that they can become familiar with the building, classrooms and staff.

June/July

- Continue with meetings between students, Westlands staff and primary school staff.
- Transition week activities to take place potentially week beginning 5th July in line with Stockton Local Authority guidance

As you will see, we have a comprehensive plan in place, and we are sure all students joining Westlands in September will have completed a thorough transition programme. We have a dedicated transition section on the school website that will provide you with information should you wish to know more.

I hope that this initial letter has helped to reduce any anxiety, and I would again say please contact us about any issues or concerns you have rather than yourself or your child becoming anxious. We actively encourage parental and carer contact as this is crucial to the success of students at Westlands Academy.

I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Yours Sincerely,

James Newman
Principal

