

3rd March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcoming our new Year 9 to Wootton Upper School

I am writing to extend a warm welcome from our pupils, staff and governors to you and your child. We are delighted that your child has been offered a place at Wootton Upper School from September 2023.

Our three core values are: **aspiration, opportunity for all** and **belief in ourselves**. Our values underpin the Trust motto "*the pursuit of excellence*". As you and your children prepare to embark on their journey through our upper school, we hope you and they are excited by the opportunities that are available to all and are ambitious to do well.

The vast majority of our Year 9 pupils are currently at Marston Vale Middle School (124) or Holywell School (173). Seven pupils currently attend other schools. Our Year 9 for September is full.

We work with middle schools to group our new intake into appropriate form groups, and ensure that those from other schools are placed carefully to support their transition. If your child currently attends another school we will make sure we liaise fully with them too, and closely with you regarding supporting their move.

We want you to feel informed and confident in preparing your child for their start at Wootton Upper School.

Getting to know your child

We would like to start this process with you and your child filling in the following survey. This is our first step in getting to know your child! Do try and get this completed by Friday 24th March. <https://forms.office.com/e/9uMVWhPdPq>

Post offer assembly which includes information about our curriculum

We will deliver an assembly at Marston Vale Middle School and Holywell School in coming weeks. This will further introduce your child to Wootton Upper School and will give information about our taught curriculum and wider opportunities, such as our programme of Enrichment Days and our range of opportunities and visits.

Please note we have reviewed our Year 9 curriculum and it will have some differences from previous years. Many of our families know us well, so do be mindful that there will be some changes. We will share these with you after Easter.

We will post this assembly information on our website, and ensure that we contact pupils who are coming from other schools.

How can I contact the school?

We have a dedicated email address: y9transition@wootton.beds.sch.uk. This is monitored daily during term time and emails passed to the relevant staff. You can also telephone the school on 01234 767123.

Further information?

You and your child can revisit the information we shared before you made your selection of school. This information can still be found on our website.

All our current communication is also uploaded onto our website and I would encourage you to dip into this: We share curriculum maps for each subject, as well as links to the Apps we use, and letters sent to our families.

What happens next?

We will write to you in the summer term regarding our Year 9 curriculum, our Year 8 parent/carer information evening in June and arrangements for transition.

Our Executive Principal, Mr Gleeson, looks forward to meeting you and your children in June.

Our pastoral staff and SENDCo will work with colleagues from all our feeder schools to ensure we have information about pupils to support their transition.

We will identify children who may need more support through the transition process to upper school, in particular considering children with barriers to learning, those who may be more anxious than others, as well as pupils who are not currently attending our two main feeder schools.

We will communicate with you in the summer term regarding purchasing the Wootton uniform for your child for September 2023, and other practical arrangements.

This is the beginning of what we hope for many of our pupils will be a five-year journey with Wootton Academy Trust. I hope you and your child are as excited about that as we are.

Yours faithfully



Mrs McMorn
Head of School