



Monday 29th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: 2021 Year 6 Transition to GSHS

It is our great pleasure to officially welcome you to Great Sankey High School, where we are looking forward to working with you in supporting your child's education over the next seven years and encouraging them to **Dare for Greatness**. My name is Mrs Katrina Masher, Head of Austen House & Year 7 Transition Lead, and, working closely with Mr Ian McNulty, Assistant Headteacher Pastoral, we are delighted to have been informed by the Local Authority that your child has been allocated one of our coveted places and will be joining us here as a Year 7 student from September 2021.

Most importantly, we hope that this letter finds you and your families all safe and well during this unprecedented time of Covid-19 and, whilst all parents are understandably anxious about the current situation, we are mindful that you, our new Year 7 parents, will be especially concerned about your child's transition to High School.

What will the transition process look like this year?

We are planning for our typical on-site physical Year 7 Transition for students and parents in July, although, due to the current restrictions, we have a virtual Year 7 Transition programme in reserve. Please be assured, however, whichever programme we pursue, our absolute priority is to help support you and your child and alleviate any concerns you may have around transition, as well as gathering as much useful information about your child as possible.

In preparation for your child joining us in September, we are working closely with your child's Year 6 teachers to gather as much information as possible to help us get to know your child and ensure a successful start to life as a GSHS student. The details we receive include academic information, who your child works well with, details of hobbies, interests and talents, as well as any Pastoral, Safeguarding or SEND information that we need to be aware of to best support your child.

Whilst all of this information from the Primary Schools is critical to us, we would also appreciate you and your child completing our online '**Transition 2021 Passport**', which we can share with your child's Head of House and Form Tutor. This can be found on our updated school website, www.greatsankey.org, under the '**Transition**' section of Student Support, from **Thursday 1st April**, alongside other useful information and links for you and your child to access via our '**Virtual Open Evening**' tab in the Information section of our website.

On our website, <https://www.greatsankey.org/> you will find key information you will need to be aware of, such as, our House system, our school day, our curriculum, our uniform policy, our standards & expectations, the extra-curricular opportunities available, key staff to contact and much more.



Will my child be in a Form with their friends?

This is a common enquiry we have from Year 6 parents and, in discussion with your child's Year 6 teacher when setting up our Forms, we establish who your child works well with, as opposed to who they are friends with. As we are sure you can appreciate, sometimes a best friend may not always be the best person to work with as they may present a distraction.

We have 375 students joining us in Year 7 from 32 different Primary Schools and balancing students across our six Houses and twelve Forms is a challenging jigsaw for our Transition Team. We will, however, ensure that your child is with someone they know and have a positive working relationship with, based on the information from your child's Primary School.

SEND provision at Great Sankey High School

Throughout our Transition Programme, our SENDCo, Mrs Edwards, and the SEND Team will be liaising directly with your child's Primary SENDCo to discuss what provision is necessary to best support your child. If you wish to directly discuss any SEND concerns you may have, please contact our SEND Team at sendco@greatsankey.org.

Admissions Data Collection and Medical Information Booklet

In our next communication with you after the Easter break, we will be sharing the link to our newly created online Admissions Data Collection and Medical Information Booklet. We ask that this be completed as fully and accurately as possible, as this information is important to us to ensure we have accurate emergency contact details and medical information for your child, as well as ensuring that we are compliant from a GDPR perspective.

We appreciate that you may have many questions at this time and we hope that these will be answered via this short introduction and through accessing our school website. Can we also encourage you to follow our social media feeds, where you will receive regular updates from school and key links to information shared with parents: You can find us on Twitter - @GreatSankeyHS

We will continue to write to you across the next half term to keep you informed of developments, including confirmation of our Transition Programme in July, as well as sharing updated information in preparation for your child joining us here at GSHS. In the meantime, if you do have any queries or concerns surrounding your child's transition to GSHS which you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us via our Transition Team email at transition@greatsankey.org or via telephone on 01925 724118.

Again, it is our great pleasure, on behalf of Mr Shannon, Headteacher, and all GSHS staff, to welcome you and your child to the supportive, vibrant and inspiring learning community of Great Sankey High School. We look forward to meeting you and we are confident that we will engage in a successful journey together to ensure the brightest future for your child and, as our school motto states, stay ***Great in name, Greatest together.***

Yours sincerely,

Katrina Masher

Mrs Katrina Masher
Head of Austen House & Year 7 Transition Lead

Mr Ian McNulty
Assistant Headteacher Pastoral