



15th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: 2020 Year 6 Transition to GSHS

It is my 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 Paul Masher, Deputy Headteacher for Pastoral Care & Welfare, and 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 2020.

Most importantly, I hope that this letter finds you and your families all safe and well during this unprecedented time of Covid-19 and partial school closures. As well as getting to grips with remote learning and support in school for our most vulnerable students and those of key workers, we have been busy planning our Year 6 Transition and any potential date for a phased return to school, especially following the Prime Minister's announcements this past week.

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 Great Sankey High School and how their end to Year 6 has not been what any of us would have thought. As a parent myself who is working at home with my two children (Year 8 & Year 4) on the days I'm not in school, I also fully appreciate the position you are in with regards to current 'home schooling', how challenging it can be and concerns you may have about your child returning to school.

What will the transition process look like this year?

Due to the current restrictions, our transition process for this year may look very different to that of previous years. Please be rest assured, however, 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 as best as possible and ensure a successful start to life as a GSHS student. This includes academic information, who your child works well with, details of hobbies, interests and talents, as well as any Pastoral, Safeguarding or SEND information which 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 2020 Passport**', which we can share with your child's Head of House and Form Tutor. This can be found on our school website, www.greatsankey.org, under the '**2020 Transition Support**' section, which will be live from *Monday 25th May*, alongside other useful information and links for you and your child to access.

Within this section of our website, we are developing our current **Parents' Guide** and creating an '**A-Z Parents' Guide to GSHS**', which contains key information you will need to be aware of, such as, our House system, our school day, our curriculum, our updated uniform policy, our standards & expectations, the extra-curricular opportunities available, key staff to contact and much more.



In addition to this, we will be updating this area on a weekly basis with blogs and vlogs from staff and current students to help forge the links between school and home. This will include a virtual tour of the school, video presentations from key staff to welcome you to Great Sankey High School and examples of our Year 7 curriculum and lessons for Year 6 students to engage with and sample what it is like to be a student at Great Sankey High School.

“Will my child be in a Form with their friends?”

This is a common enquiry we have from Year 6 parents and one key element for us to establish with Year 6 teachers when setting up our Forms is ***who your child works well with***, as opposed to ***who they are friends with***. As I'm 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 27 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 above from your child's Primary School.

SEND provision at Great Sankey High School

Throughout our Transition Programme, our SENDCo, Miss 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

Our Admissions Data Collection and Medical Information Booklet will be available to complete online and can be found in our ***'2020 Transition Support'*** section of our website from *Monday 1st June*. We ask that this is completed as fully and accurately as possible by *Monday 15th June*. 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. If, alternatively, you require a paper copy, this can be requested by contacting the school.

I appreciate that you may have many questions and I hope that these will be answered via this short intro or through accessing the ***'2020 Transition Support'*** section of our school website. Can I 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 and on Facebook – Great Sankey High School.

As any further information on fully re-opening, distancing in schools or other developments from the Government come to light, we will write to you and also share information through our social media feeds and the school website.

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 me via our Transition Team email at transition@greatsankey.org or via telephone on 01925 724118.

Again, may I take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the supportive, vibrant and inspiring learning community of Great Sankey High School. Although the current situation presents some challenges to our 2020 Transition, I am confident that we will engage in a successful journey together to ensure the brightest future for your child and I look forward to working with you and your child.

Please take care of you and your families, stay safe and, as our school motto states, stay **Great in name, Greatest together**.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Masher



Deputy Headteacher