

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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 2021.

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 or Holywell School. If your child currently attends another school we will make sure we liaise carefully with them too. 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.

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

#### **Event one – Post offer assembly which includes information regarding options choices.**

Our assembly this year will be pre-recorded. It will further introduce your child to Wootton Upper School and will give details about how to make option choices.

We are very proud of our Year 9 curriculum, which offers your child an opportunity to choose a number of subjects to study in preparation for choosing their GCSE subjects next academic year. We will post this assembly on our website, on 15 March, under **Key Documents** and **New Intake**. <https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/new-intake-2021>

You as parents and carers will be able to view this with your child. If your child currently attending Marston Vale Middle School or Holywell School they will have an opportunity to view this assembly during their school day.

#### **Completing your options:**

- ❖ Watch the assembly
- ❖ Watch the assembly again with your parents/carers!
- ❖ Read more information about each subject on our website (link above)

- ❖ Fill in the online options form (via the same link above)

**Important:** The deadline for your options choices to be completed is **Wednesday 24 March 2021**.

### **How can I contact the school?**

We have a dedicated email address: [y9transition@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:y9transition@wootton.beds.sch.uk) . This is monitored daily 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: <https://www.woottonupper.co.uk/learning2020>. We share a Summary of Work for each year group each half term, as well as links to the Apps we use, and letters sent to our families.

### **Event 2 – Parent/Carer information evening Monday 28 June**

Usually this event takes place in school, and is an opportunity for you and your child to meet key staff and is an information event. We don't know if this event can take place in the same way as usual and we will review this nearer the time.

### **Event 3 – New Intake Transfer Day Wednesday 7 July**

All new Year 9 pupils visit Wootton Upper School, to familiarise themselves with the school. Again, we really hope that this event is possible but will have to review this closer to the event.

If this event does go ahead, children living in one of our catchment area villages [i.e. Cranfield, Houghton Conquest, Kempston Hardwick, Lidlington, Marston Moretaine, Shelton and Stewartby] will be able to use Central Bedfordshire Council or Bedford Borough Council Wootton Upper School Transport, to travel to and from Wootton Upper School on these dates. Ideally, children living in Wootton will walk to and from the school. Children who live in other areas may be able to use public transport or parental transport.

On these days our new pupils will wear their new **Wootton Upper School uniform** so they do really feel part of their new school.

### **What happens next?**

Our pastoral staff and SENDCo will work with colleagues from 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 those 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 gather your option choices and finalise our timetable for 2021-2022.

We will communicate with you regarding our uniform and other practical arrangements.

Once the options choices have been made I will write to you again. This will be an opportunity to update you with next steps, once schools have fully reopened. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMcMorn'.

Mrs McMorn

Head of School