



Friday 30 April 2021

Dear Year 6 Parents and Carers

We are all very excited about your children joining us in September. I am writing to you today to set out some of the ways that we hope to get to know one another in the weeks and months between now and the start of the term.

Transition Day – Friday 9 July 2021

On Friday 9 July 2021, we hope to welcome all of our new students into our school for the whole day. All other CNS students will be working from home and so the building will be pretty quiet and very COVID-secure. We assume that students will be working in classes that reflect their primary school bubbles - which means interaction with brand new students and future friends will not be taking place on that day. Nevertheless, it will be a great chance to get used to the buses, the dining facilities, teachers, rooms and the school layout, in a very peaceful environment. We will send you more details on that day in due course.

Induction Activities - April to July 2021

Behind the scenes, we are already carrying out visits to primary schools and your children may already have seen or met Mrs Faulkner (Head of Year) and Mrs O'Brien (Assistant Head of Year). It is possible that they have also met, or will meet, Mrs Smart (SENDCo) or Mrs Saxby (Assistant SENDCo). Lots of visits are taking place so that we can find out as much useful information as possible about your children before they get here. This allows us to make sure they are not alone in any classes next year (!), but also build up advice for their teachers on how to help them reach their potential in all the different lessons.

Taster Lessons – please see our website

Our website has a dedicated page for year 6 into 7 transition. You [can find that page here](#) and it includes a welcome video from Mrs Faulkner. Beneath that video you will see a growing range of taster lessons that we have devised with your primary school to complete over the summer term.

The taster lessons will help students get used to the wide range of subjects that they will encounter when they start in September. In addition, it is also our way of introducing the importance of our school values: courage, creativity, compassion and curiosity.



Continued...

Each week a new lesson will appear. Right now, there is [an English activity](#) that draws on compassion from Mr Gent (Assistant Headteacher). In addition there is another from Mrs Faulkner (Head of Year 7) on [computing](#) that is linked to creativity. Very shortly, there will also be an online history lesson from me that will explore historical figures who have shown immense courage. We all appear on screen so that you and your children can see us, hear us, and take part in some fun activities. Please [take a look](#).

Courage. Creativity. Compassion, Curiosity.

As I am sure you are aware, your children will be placed into one of four houses: Windrush, Glyme, Stour and Evenlode (named after local rivers that converge in Chipping Norton). Each house is attached to a local charity, but also to one of the four values that we seek to nurture in your children during the seven years at the school.

Summer School 2021

We are very excited to share news of the possibility of hosting a major summer school at Chipping Norton School for our new Year 7s at the end of the summer holiday. You may be aware of funding that the Government has provided to enable schools to create these opportunities so that we can all support year 6 children transition from primary to secondary school.

Before we can press ahead with this possibility, we have to gain a very strong understanding around the level of interest that might exist for such a programme. Normally, we might have doubts that students might want to start their school term a little earlier, but this year is different and what we propose will not be like an ordinary week at school!

What might it include?

- The summer school would take place over five days between Monday 23 August and Friday 27 August. That would still leave five days off between the end of the summer school and the start of term for year 7s on Thursday 2 September.
- Each day, the summer school would start at 9am and finish at 3pm.
- All summer schools will have a blend of academic and enrichment activities.
- We anticipate that the enrichment activities will include dance, badminton, drama (LAMDA), trampolining, table tennis, cookery, art, computing and squash.
- These enrichment activities would run alongside science experiments and literacy and numeracy lessons with our own science, English and mathematics teachers.
- Participating students would be able to choose their classmates and have free access to daily snacks and refreshments.
- The last day (Friday 27 August) would end with a graduation or awards event, to which family members would be invited.
- Students would dress casually, ideally in a sports kit to enable access to those enrichment activities.
- The entire summer school would be free of charge.

The summer school could be a perfect additional opportunity for you and your children to get to know us and for us to get to know your children.

Right now every secondary school will be asking their year 6 students and families if this is something they would welcome and take part in later this year.

Example: CNS Summer School Timetable

	9:00am	10:00am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	1:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm
Monday	Maths	English	Free Time	Biology Experiments		Free Time	Table Tennis	End of Day
Tuesday	Healthy Cookery		Free Time	English	Maths	Free Time	Arts & Crafts	End of Day
Wednesday	English	Maths	Free Time	Healthy Cookery		Free Time	Arts & Crafts	End of Day
Thursday	Chemistry Experiments		Free Time	English	Maths	Free Time	Table Tennis	End of Day
Friday	Physics Experiments		Free Time	Maths	English	Free Time	Celebration Event	End of Day

For this reason, may I now ask you to [follow this link](#) to complete a short survey that will enable us to gauge the level of interest. Please complete the survey whether or not you are interested. This is the only way for us to be 100% confident that every family is aware of the opportunity. Please be assured that by taking part in the survey you are not providing a firm commitment. We really do need to know if this is something our families wish us to pursue.

And finally...

I hope this letter reinforces your confidence that we are really looking forward to your children joining us in September – and that we do not wish to wait until then to help them feel settled and confident about that transition. We look forward to seeing your children all very soon and hope that the final term in primary is safe, happy and fun.

Yours faithfully



Mr Doherty

Headteacher