

30 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In the light of the current COVID-19 situation we are writing to let you know about the revised arrangements for the transition of Year 11 into Year 12. You will shortly be receiving a letter to confirm your son's/daughter's subject choices as they currently stand after individual mentoring meetings. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to outline details regarding the transition packs and the revised plans for Induction and Enrolment into Sixth Form.

Transition Days

These were scheduled for 23 and 24 June, but will **not** go ahead in their planned format because even if schools are open by then, we cannot run the event for such a large number of students with movement across three schools and with safe social distancing measures. Students will get the opportunities they would have had on those 2 days in three alternative formats: an information pack from their base school, virtual subject briefings and introductory lessons in September, assuming schools are open then.

Transition Work

Each year work is set in each subject for students to complete over the summer to help them prepare for their Sixth Form courses. This gives students a chance to maintain good work habits and get an idea of the type of work they are likely to be doing on the course. In addition, the Transition Work will give students and teachers a means of determining how well they have coped with that work. This is all part of our commitment to ensuring that each student is on the most suitable courses with the greatest chance of future success.

This year, we have brought the work forward and it will be available for students to start during the week beginning 4 May. The work can be found by looking at the SJSF website www.sleafordjsf.org/transition-packs. Staff have set slightly more work to ensure that students cover any missed work from their GCSE courses, so they are fully prepared for Level 3 courses. At the start of the course in September students will be given some form of assessment to determine their understanding of the work, and commitment and suitability for the course. However, it is important to note that if a student has met the SJSF entry requirement for a course this assessment will not be used to remove a student from a course.

Students who wish to be considered for an alternative course (or courses) or who are unsure of which subjects they want to study, should complete Transition Work for these subjects in addition to the courses that they have been allocated to above. The final decision regarding options will, of course, be dependent on the GCSE grades that students are awarded in August. A copy of the SJSF entry requirements has been included with this e-mail.

Virtual Subject Briefings

In place of the Induction Days we are currently making the necessary arrangements across the SJSF to run this as an online event which will involve, amongst other things, Virtual Subject Briefings from Sixth Form teachers. The Virtual Subject Briefings will be held across the two days Tuesday 23 June and Wednesday 24 June, the original Induction Day dates. The exact format of these is to be finalized but as a minimum, students will be able to access information about their courses and e-mail to request advice and help with their Transition Pack. It is an expectation that students will have made a good start on the Transition Work by this time so that they can ask relevant questions and seek guidance should they need it.

We are aiming to send a link via e-mail to allow students to sign up for these virtual sessions so **students should continue to check their school e-mail account**.

GCSE Results Day: 20 August

It has been confirmed by the government that GCSE results will be released on the original date. Schools will confirm nearer the time what the arrangements will be for the release of the results to students. This will be

based on government guidance on the opening of schools and social distancing. The SJSF Team will be on hand, either in person or remotely, to support students and offer advice on course choices in the light of these results.

Year 12 Enrolment Week: 2-9 September

Assuming schools are open in September we will have an Enrolment Week for Year 12, which will begin on **Wednesday 2 September**. Students will largely be in their base school on Wednesday 2 September, and have introductory lessons on Thursday and Friday. On Monday 7 September and Tuesday 8 September, lessons will include an assessment of the Transition Work that students have completed over the summer.

It is important to note that for students who achieved the entry requirements for that subject in their GCSEs, the assessments will be a chance to show their teachers what they have learnt and demonstrate their commitment to the course. For students who narrowly missed the criteria, for example they achieved a Grade 5 in a subject when a 6 was required, this will be a chance for teachers to gain additional information on which to judge their ability to cope with and succeed on the course before a final decision is made. For this reason, assessments across all 3 schools will be the same or very similar to ensure fairness. Based on student experiences of introductory lessons, GCSE results reviews and the outcomes of the assessments, those students who require it will have one-to-one meetings with a member of the Sixth Form team at their base school to determine final course options.

We hope you have found this information helpful, and that your son/daughter feels reassured that we are doing everything we can to ensure a smooth transition into Sixth Form during these challenging circumstances.

If you have any queries regarding this e-mail or the letter that will follow please contact Yvette Edwards, the Sixth Form Administrator at yvette.edwards@carres.uk

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