



Devonport High School for Boys

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Dear Parent or Carer

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce myself as the Transition Coordinator at Devonport High School for Boys, to provide you with access to documents and information that we require from you and offer some helpful links that will aid the transition process for your son joining our school in September 2021.

Firstly, my name is Melanie Walker and my contact details can be found at the end of this letter. If I can be of any further assistance regarding the information contained in this letter then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Documents we require:

- Emergency Closure** - please use this link to access and submit the form which tells us of your instructions/permissions should the school need to close in an emergency.
[Link to Emergency Closure Form](#)
- Agreement and Consent** - please use this link to access and submit the form detailing your agreement and consent preferences.
[Link to Agreement and Consent](#)
- Biometric Consent** - please read the information provided about our cashless catering system using the link below, if you are happy to consent then continue to complete the required fields and submit the form.
[Link to Biometric Consent](#)
- Student Profile** - please take some time to complete this with your son and return to us by March 15th. This profile will help us to understand more about your son and we can use this information along with the information we gather from your son's Primary School to assist with the form allocation process.
[Link to Student Profile](#)

Information for you:

- **Modern Foreign Languages** - Currently all students at DHSB study a foreign language in year 7 and 8 and then the language studied can be continued as a GCSE option from year 9 onwards. The languages taught are one of either French, German or Spanish. The tutor group that your child is placed in will all study the same language from the start of year 7 onwards as a class, and the language will be designated based on staffing. If you have a strong preference for a particular language for your child to study (for example because you have a holiday home in Spain or because they already speak one of the languages on offer fluently) please can you specify this on the **student profile form**. If your child can already speak one of the languages

fluently, please select an alternative language to learn as a new MFL. We can provide support to bilingual students including early GCSE entry.

Please note that if a specific language is requested we cannot guarantee that we will be able to offer this but we will try to meet your request. It may however affect the possibility of your child being placed with a friend of choice in their tutor group. This should be carefully considered therefore before you specify a language preference.

- **Virtual Tour** - If restrictions and guidance regarding COVID-19 change then we may be able to invite students onto the school site for a planned visit prior to September, however this is unlikely. You and your son can however familiarise yourself with the school and the facilities by using this link to access our [Virtual Tour](#).
- **Frequently asked questions** - The above Student Profile provides an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you or your child has but please take some time to read this [FAQ document](#) as you may find immediate answers. If there are any additional questions that have not been covered here please add them to the Student Profile.
- **Future communication** - You will be added to the school's text messaging software and so you will be alerted when any communication has been sent. Please remember to check Spam/Junk mail folders, we have previously had issues with those who have Hotmail accounts not receiving letters to their inbox.

You can next expect to hear from me towards the end of May when your son will find out his Form Group allocation and be introduced to his Pastoral Team and other key members of staff. You will receive a Transition Pack via post which will include a booklet that contains four transition tasks for your son to complete and return to us in the folder provided when he starts at DHSB; some summer preparation activities for you and your son to get involved with; further reading and information. It is at this point that you will also receive information regarding the uniform ordering process.

- **Additional Resources** - If you are currently homeschooling or would like some extra materials to access, please take a look at the following suggestions:
 - English: Devonport High School for Boys has a 16 by 16 Reading Challenge <https://sites.google.com/dhsb.org/sixteenbysixteen?pli=1>
 - Maths: There are a variety of interactive maths puzzles of varying levels of difficulty at <https://mathsbot.com/>
 - Radio 4's Puzzles of the day <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05psljr>
 - Why not learn a new language or pursue an area of interest? Free online courses can be found at <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

*Please note that all of the links found in this letter can also be accessed via the school website <https://www.dhsb.org/new-students>

Yours sincerely

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