

16 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 6 transition days

As a parent and having worked in education for almost 30 years I know the importance of transition days for young people and their families. It is with a sense of disappointment and frustration that I have to inform you that, having consulted with our secondary schools, Public Health and our Health and Safety team, we have made the decision that the planned year 6 transition days for 5/6 July cannot go ahead and have been cancelled.

The government's decision to delay step 4 of the road map meant that secondary schools would have needed to have kept pupils in their original primary school bubbles as well as ensuring that schools operated a tight system of controls. The Department for Education (DfE) also contacted all schools on Tuesday to confirm that *'traditional transitional and open days are unlikely to be feasible this academic year'*.

The safety of our pupils, their families and staff in schools is a key priority. You will be aware that we have seen an increase of COVID cases across England particularly of the Delta variant. This pattern of increase has also been seen across Shropshire and, although the Shropshire data remains much lower than the national average, we have seen bubble closures in schools during this last week. Therefore, the decision to cancel the transition days is based on a combination of government guidelines and the increasing COVID cases especially in young people.

There will be a number of pupils for whom transition activities are particularly important. These will include pupils with EHCPs, pupils with high levels of anxiety and some, but not all, of the other pupils who receive SEN support. Secondary schools will be working with primary colleagues to plan extra activities to support those children. I also know from my conversations with secondary headteachers that they are looking at alternative plans to make the start in September as smooth as possible for the new Year 7 pupils.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Compton".

Steve Compton
Principal School Improvement Adviser
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