

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your sons have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the new term. We are very excited to start the new academic year and to help all the students enjoy their time in Year 6, developing both academically and in a broader sense.

Your son's tutor will contact you via email to introduce themselves by the end of the first week. With regard to any pastoral or academic concerns you may have, your son's tutor is the first port of call and email is the best initial means of contact. You can also contact any of your son's subject teachers directly by email too if you feel this would be more appropriate, but please could you also CC in your son's tutor.

My role as Head of Year is to be the next port of call should your concern not be resolved, or should you feel that an issue or concern needs to be dealt with at a higher level. I am also another adult in our pastoral team whom your son can approach should they have any concerns, worries or anxieties about any pastoral or academic matter – but again we would encourage him to talk to his tutor first. Year 6 has a fantastic tutor team of Madame Chaillou, Mrs Leeson, Mr McGregor and Mr Milton; we will do all we can to support and nurture your sons over the coming three terms.

Year 6 is an important year in many respects; not only is it a year when expectations of workload and behaviour increase from the school, it is generally a year of change for the students themselves. This is usually seen from an emotional perspective, with personality traits becoming more prevalent and friendships changing and maturing, but it is also a year where boys can start to change physically. With that in mind, it is during Year 6 that our teaching begins to include topics such as puberty (covered within PD lessons and the Guys and Guardians evening in the summer) and sex education (covered in Science lessons).

We are aware that some parents may want to discuss these topics with their son prior to them being studied in school; though the structure we have in place does not require you to do this if you would rather not. Covering these topics at this time does tend to provoke curiosity and questions, which can often find their way home. I hope this email will serve as fair warning should this happen!

Finally, Year 6 is also the first year where students are expected to come to school on Saturdays, with the school day running from 8.35am to 11.40am. If your son takes a bus during the week, I would direct you to the link below to make sure the same service is provided on Saturdays as this is not always the case. <https://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/admissions/transport/bus-services/>

I hope you enjoy your last few days of summer and both the Year 6 team and I look forward to getting to know you and your sons over the coming year.

Kind regards,

Ed Loader  
Head of Year 6  
Head of Personal Development  
Geography Department