

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Year 6 transition to secondary education**

Firstly, let me introduce myself – I am extremely proud to be the Principal of The Orme Academy (previously Wolstanton High School). I do hope that you and your family are well and that your children are thoroughly enjoying being back at school as they start their final year of Primary education.

As a parent myself, I understand that choosing a secondary school can be a difficult decision. This decision has been made even more complicated over the recent months as traditional school visits and Open Evening events are not able to happen as we are all used to. As school leaders and parents, we are all having to adapt so that we can gather the information we need to make an informed choice to choose a school where our children are happy and attend an environment where they can be their very best.

Here at The Orme Academy, our sole ethos for the school community is ‘**Empowering Learners for Life**’. We are committed to ensuring that every student makes excellent progress but for us this concept stretches well beyond academic performance. We firmly believe that every aspect of school should equip learners to be successful in all areas of their lives, both now and for their future. Indeed, every single decision or action taken improves the life chances of all our learners. This is underpinned by ensuring the Academy is a safe, nurturing, and happy environment: put simply, The Orme Academy is a great place to learn and a great place to work.

Put briefly, at The Orme Academy:

- We have relentlessly high expectations of those associated with the Academy.
- We expect everyone to be their very best at all times.
- We have extremely high standards and aspirations for our staff and students which are reflected throughout the Academy.
- We expect all who are associated with the Academy to reflect these too.
- We are committed to working in partnership with parents to ensure the very best support and opportunities for our students so that they can fulfil their potential.
- We are committed to engaging in community opportunities so that each student can fulfil their potential.

I would like to invite you to visit The Orme Academy in order for you to make the best-informed decision. We welcome and encourage prospective parents/carers to visit us to see the amazing opportunities we can offer your child as they embark on their journey through secondary education.

Due to Covid restrictions, we have planned a series of opportunities for you to book onto a tour. Our main Open Evening event will be on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 4.00pm – 8.00pm. Short, small group tours (maximum of 5) will be led by staff so that you can have a look around the Academy and talk to us. Additionally, there are a series of other times/dates for you to book a tour and these will be led by members of the Senior Leadership Team.

In order to maintain the safety of staff, students and visitors:

- You will need to contact the Academy and book a time slot. You will only be allowed to visit if you have booked in advance.
- To comply with Track and Trace we will require the name and contact information for every person attending please.

- Tours will be a maximum of 5 people (one member of staff will join the group) and last 30 minutes.
- Social distancing, hand sanitising on entry and the wearing of face coverings will be required.
- At the main event on 29<sup>th</sup> September there will be additional staff on site, but for all other times there will be only essential staff on site.
- There will be no current students on site during the tours due to safety measures.

In 'normal' circumstances I would absolutely be encouraging you to visit during the day so that you could see the Academy when in normal operation, but I hope you understand that I need to keep the safety of my students and staff as my priority and hence the running of these shorter, small, out of hours opportunities.

In addition to the tours, you can also find information about the Academy on our website. There is a page dedicated to Year 6 into Year 7 transition under the 'Parents' tab...

<https://www.theormeacademy.org.uk/parents/Year-6-into-7-Transition-Hub-2020>

Here you will find information that we shared with our current Year 7, as well as items for this year including our digital prospectus. You may also want to follow us on our brand-new Facebook page (@TheOrmeAcademySET) and via Twitter (@TheOrmeAcademy).

The following dates/times are available for you to book a tour. Please contact reception on 01782 742900 or email [office@toa.shaw-education.org.uk](mailto:office@toa.shaw-education.org.uk) and a colleague will get in touch.

Date	Time	Notes
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	4.00 – 8.00pm	This is the main Open Evening event and more staff will be onsite between 4.00pm – 6.00pm. Reduced staff between 6.00pm – 8.00pm.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	5.00 – 7.00pm	Tours led by SLT. Limited staff onsite.
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	5.00 – 7.00pm	Tours led by SLT. Limited staff onsite.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	5.00 – 7.00pm	Tours led by SLT. Limited staff onsite.
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	5.00 – 7.00pm	Tours led by SLT. Limited staff onsite.

This is an extremely exciting time to join and be part of The Orme Academy. We never stand still and we continue to develop the Academy rapidly and I would certainly welcome your interest in joining. This is an important decision for you and your children, and I hope that you reach a decision that works for you all, whatever that may be. We have planned these events based on current circumstances but as we have all experienced, local and national circumstances can change rapidly and hence I apologise in advance if we need to change things at short notice.

The Orme Academy works to support all members of the community that it serves and welcomes you to get in contact should you have any queries. I hope that I get to meet many of you soon, but more importantly, I really wish for you and your loved ones to remain safe and well.

Your sincerely



Mr Mark Boughey  
Principal