

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Great Torrington School Transition Week Monday 24th June – Friday 28th June 2019

Firstly can we extend a warm welcome to Great Torrington School, we hope that your child's time with us will be rewarding, challenging and ultimately successful.

At GTS we recognise that the transition from primary school to secondary is a big step for pupils, and often for parents too, and therefore the transition process is an important time. As part of this process your child will be visited in their Primary school by GTS staff and transition leaders. Over previous years we have developed a very successful and innovative week long programme to compliment this and to enable the pupils to get a true feel for life at GTS.

The rationale for the week is for all new pupils at GTS to meet their Head of House, Pupil Coach and members of their house in a more informal environment, and to provide challenges and experiences to embed their relationships. We believe combining an extended transition period and an outdoor adventure experience brings the pupils together and sets them up as a cohesive unit to start their time at GTS. Furthermore primary staff will, where possible, be attending the residential; this will be a valuable tool in passing on pupil knowledge and to reassure pupils at this key time.

During Transition we plan to take all Year 6 pupils who will be attending GTS on a residential trip for half the week and the other half attending lessons and getting to know the school.

The residential trip will last two and a half days and pupils will be split into House groups, with two House groups being at the camp at a time. During the course of the transition week staff will get to know the pupils as individuals and will select/group them appropriately to be placed in their Tutor groups. For the remainder of the week pupils will be involved in a school based programme, attending lessons and getting a good feel for secondary school life.

The primary schools are always very positive and supportive about this transition program and the feedback from pupils and parents/carers has always been encouraging. We believe that the residential is a vital part of the settling-in process for pupils and we would encourage all pupils to attend.

Our Transition Leaders, (selected from our current Year 7), will be on hand throughout the week to assist and support the pupils and provide any reassurance they may require.

The Transition Camp

Itinerary – detailed itinerary to follow

Day/ Date	ENDEAVOUR & DISCOVERY	ENDURANCE & RESOLUTION
Monday 24 th June	Monday start residential camp for two nights.	In school Monday and Tuesday.
Tuesday 25 th June		
Wednesday 26 th June	Return to GTS Wednesday lunch for period 5. In school Wednesday afternoon.	In school Wednesday morning. Leave for residential Wednesday lunch. Camp for two nights.
Thursday 27 th June	In school Thursday and Friday.	Residential - return to school Friday afternoon.
Friday 28 th June		

Accommodation

Pupils and staff will be staying under canvas in 2- 3 person tents in an established campsite for both nights. Other than a packed lunch on the first day, all meals will be provided. The current Year 7 pupils really enjoyed this opportunity as for some it was the first time sleeping under canvas and the first time being away from home.

General

Activities will include; surfing, high ropes, climbing, ultimate assault course, evening event and a coastal walk. A kit list, consent and medical form is enclosed in this letter.

Cost

The cost of the residential will be £130 per pupil. If you already have a child at GTS, you can pay for transition via our online communication and payment system, Parentmail. If you would like to pay by card and are not yet a user of GTS Parentmail system, please telephone the finance office on 01805 623531 ext. 229. If you wish to pay by cash then this should be in an envelope marked for the attention of the Finance Office with your child's name and present school and handed into reception at Great Torrington School.

Payment Instalment Plan	Fee	Deadline
First instalment & all Consent, medical, Data forms	£40	Monday 1st April 2019
Second instalment	£40	Wednesday 1 st May 2019
Final instalment	£50	Monday 3 rd June 2019

We recognise the impact of a successful transition experience for both pupils and parents/carers therefore we are keen for all pupils to access this opportunity. If there are any barrier Mrs Faulkner, rfaulkner@gts.devon.sch.uk or call 01803 623531 ext. 229.

The School Based Transition

Pupils will spend two and a half days in school participating in secondary school life, following the normal school day. Pupils within their House groups will attend specially tailored lessons which will enable pupils to have a good understanding of what is expected and to try, in some cases, a new subject, all within the GTS Learners Baccalaureate curriculum.

Our aim is for all pupils to have some familiarity with staff, pupils and the school environment before they start Year 7 in September.

Data, Consent and Transition Forms

Please complete the enclosed ***Transition Week Permission Form and photography consent form***, and if you haven't already, please return the ***Data Collection Form*** by **Friday 5th April 2019** to Mrs Lynne Goodman, Data Administrator at Great Torrington School. By returning the data form, in the summer term we will be able to send you an invite to Parentmail PMX account, our preferred method of communication system.

If you would like to speak to either of us directly regarding the residential or the transition week please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,



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