

## Transfer Process- Frequency asked questions

*\*The Admissions Booklet contains detailed information to answer all your questions. This will be issued to parents by Easter and will be put on the school website.*

The following questions were asked during the virtual 'Welcome to FUS' evening held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**1. Are we allowed to provide a name of a friend so they have a familiar face from their old school etc?**

Feeder schools guide us in friendships so we don't ask students to name anyone specifically that they want to be with, but we tend to find that students are happy with the groupings that they are in. If they are from a school with only a few students coming up to us, we look to help them further and support them in making new friends. Students are in a range of groups- tutor groups and teaching groups- this means that they are always mixing with many students.

**2. Can I cycle to school?**

Yes. We have a number of secure bike sheds for students to store their bikes. Please remember to wear a helmet and bring a bike lock. Also, we ask that you cycle responsibly especially as you arrive and leave across the school car park.

**3. Will there be more buses for the children from Verwood?**

Each year, Dorset CC review the number of buses needed based on demand. Numbers of students in the school is increasing and as a result we expect that more buses will be provided from September 2021. The details for applying for a bus place can be found in the \*Admissions booklet.

**4. Will younger siblings be placed in the same House as older ones?**

There are a number of factors which are taken into account when we create tutor groups to ensure that groups remain gender and ability balanced. Where we are able, we place siblings in the same House group but this cannot be guaranteed.

**5. What is the school finish time?**

Timetabled lessons end at 2.40pm. However, we offer a comprehensive range of after school clubs and revision sessions. We also have a study centre which is available for quiet work from 2.40- 5pm each day.

**6. Do you provide any facilities for children to come into school before 8.25am?**

School opens at 7am each day. If your child arrives before 8am, they are welcome to sit quietly in the cafes. Please be aware that they will be unsupervised. However,

there are numerous staff on site during that time that your child can call on for support if required. The study centre is also open from 8am. If students wish to wait in the quad, they may do so from 8am.

**7. Where do we buy uniform?**

Items can be bought from the School Uniform shop in West Moors. Details of the uniform and prices can be found in the \*Admissions booklet.

**8. What is your policy on bullying?**

We are very proud of our No Put Down culture at Ferndown and bullying of any kind is not tolerated. All reported incidences of bullying will be thoroughly investigated and sanctions will be issued as appropriate.

**9. What is your mobile phone policy?**

We allow students to bring mobile phones to school and use of the phone is allowed at break and lunchtime. Phones must not be used in lesson unless a teacher has given permission. Through our tutor program, we teach students to use social media responsibly. Taking videos of other students is not permitted at any time. Our full mobile phone policy and use of school WIFI policy can be found in the \*Admissions Booklet.

**10. How does the cafe work with a large number of children in a short space of time?**

All students can use the cafes at break and/ or lunchtime. Although the initial queue may seem long, it moves very quickly as most of the students tend to opt for the 'grab and go' choices. A two course hot meal is offered everyday too. Students who purchase meals/ snacks from the cafe and those who bring in packed lunches, are permitted to eat together in the cafes. Payments details can be found in the \*Admissions booklet.

**11. Do you have lockers, if so what lock is needed?**

All students will be issued with a locker within the first few weeks of September. Some of the lockers require a padlock, others are key coded. It is best to wait to see what your child is allocated before making a purchase.

**12. Do you offer peripatetic music lessons?**

Yes, there are a range of lessons on offer. All details can be found in the \*Admissions Booklet.

**13. Are there any school trips?**

Due to Covid restrictions, school trips are currently not permitted. We hope that restrictions will be lifted before September. We will inform you of any trips on offer for year 9 students.

**14. Can girls wear makeup?**

Students can wear discreet make-up only. This is outlined, along with our full uniform policy, in the \*Admissions booklet.

**15. Do you have a cashless system and vending machines?**

We do not have vending machines in school. Payments details for the café can be found in the \*Admissions booklet.

**16. Do shoes have to be leather or can they be canvas?**

Canvas shoes and those with a logo are not permitted. Full details of our uniform can be found in the \*Admissions booklet.