



**The Forest School**  
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Headteacher  
Ms Shirley Austin B.Ed.(Hons);  
B.A.(Hons); B.Sc.(Hons)

26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

This week we have all heard or read about the Government's road map for coming out of lockdown. This news is absolutely wonderful, and we really look forward to welcoming our students fully into school. With this in mind I wanted to communicate what The Forest School is planning, to ensure you are confident with your secondary school place, whichever that is.

I anticipate that year groups will stay in their bubbles for some time. This means that students are assigned to classroom bases, toilet blocks, canteen times and specific playground areas to use. Year 7s have a large outdoor area with several table tennis tables and picnic benches. Our Year group bubbles have worked incredibly well; friendships have been consolidated and the support they offer each other is a pleasure to see.

In school we will be extending the use of masks to classrooms as well as communal areas in light of government guidance. This will be reviewed at Easter in line with medical advice. We instigated mask wearing within communal areas very early in the autumn term in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. This, we feel, had a positive impact on keeping the school open for all students. Supported by school staff Forest students were truly magnificent in their approach, resilience and responsibility with regard to all the new Covid measures they had to undertake, and that speaks volumes about our school and community. They truly put our Aspire ethos into action.

Every year we enjoy welcoming new students into school to take part in familiarisation days. We are still uncertain about how that may look this year and as such are preparing our welcome sessions both virtually and via face-to-face. If permitted we aim to invite your child to our early induction day (usually in May), and our 7th July Summer induction is already planned. We are tentatively planning for our Year 6 family BBQ event to take place on the afternoon / evening of 7th July, so please save the date. This is a lovely opportunity for families to get to know each other, and to join The Forest family. This information will be sent in the coming weeks, alongside the school welcome pack if you accept a place at Forest. If you wanted a place at The Forest School and have not had an offer please do contact me directly.

Whichever way we have to work we will ensure students get to know us, take part in lessons and activities and get to know other students; making their transition from junior to senior school something to look forward to. We are very keen to encourage a love of reading at The Forest and as such we gift each new student a summer reading book. This year new students will read Phillip Pullman's book *The Northern Lights*. Members of the English Department (via pre-recorded videos) guide the students through the book chapter by chapter, ensuring students are ready to learn and discuss the literature in Year 7. Distribution of the books takes place during the summer term.



As you can imagine we are looking forward to arranging our after school clubs list. We can't wait to get started again and offer clubs such as Minecraft, Football, Swimming, Cookery, Art, STEM club and much more. We anticipate that our new robotics club will open in January 2022.

Our current improvement project is the renovation of our 1970's English block. This project will update an older building and make it an excellent IT rich learning space, ready for our new cohort to use in the autumn term.

I know my staff is really looking forward to welcoming our current students back into school in full on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March. I want to wish you and your family best wishes for your future step, and look forward to welcoming many of you to our school community. We will be offering the opportunity to look around the school during April, (if permitted) should you wish to visit us please look out for information on the school website. [www.forest.academy](http://www.forest.academy)

We are very happy to chat to you about any questions you may have, or if you have any concerns please do contact me.

Thank you for your continued support, please keep safe, protect yourselves and loved ones.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ms Austin'.

**Ms Austin**  
**Headteacher**