

18th June 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe, well and enjoying the improved weather.

Given that the end of the academic year is fast approaching, I am writing to inform you of amendments to our schools usual arrangements for this time of year.

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement on 14 June that the move to Stage 4 of the roadmap has been delayed until 19 July. The requirement to maintain the current level of restrictions means that we will be unable to proceed with some of our planned activities.

The Department for Education guidance is clear that as things stand, it is vital that all school settings maintain the integrity of class, phase or year group bubbles. Considering this guidance, and the rising infection levels caused by the 'Delta' variant, we have made the very difficult decision that on site, face-to-face transitions for current Year 6 pupils will not take place in any WeST secondary school (Callington Community College, Coombe Dean School, Eggbuckland Community College, Plymstock School, Hele's School, South Dartmoor Community College, Ivybridge Community College) before the summer holidays. The health and welfare of our staff, pupils, their families and our local community are paramount.

As each WeST secondary school receives pupils from dozens of primary schools across the local area, trying to maintain 'bubbles' would be impossible. Mixing groups of pupils from different schools could risk spreading the infection across schools. This in turn could have an infection impact in primaries as the pupils return from their induction events. WeST secondary schools will now communicate with Year 6 parents explaining why and how the arrangements have changed. The focus will be on putting in place a comprehensive induction programme in September to support the transition to secondary. Each secondary will communicate their plan in due course.

In addition, many of our secondary schools are running summer school programmes (post 19 July) that will focus on the Year 6 pupils who are joining their respective schools.

In a similar vein, our secondary schools will not be holding some of their traditional end of year events that would involve large numbers of people indoors.

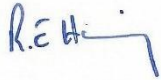
In contrast however, WeST secondary schools are hopeful of being able to provide Year 12 transition activities over the last few weeks of term. The significant distinction between this transition activity and that of Year 6, is that the former Year 11 students are not returning to another bubble or school the day after their transition activity.

I hope that these decisions reassure you of our constant vigilance in terms of preventing the spread of infection and keeping children and staff safe.

I will keep you updated of further developments as they emerge.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Rob Haring
Chief Executive Officer