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13 October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Introduction to De Warenne Academy

I am writing to you because you live in the catchment area for De Warenne Academy and I have been given your contact details by the local authority. Choosing a secondary school is a big decision and there isn't long left to decide. You may have already visited our Open Evening on 5 October, but here are some key messages and new developments.

School Performance

Yesterday the new 2017 school performance tables were released enabling you to compare all schools. I am pleased to say that following our best ever results in 2016, we have sustained this success in 2017 and remain among the highest performing schools in Doncaster, ranked number six for the second year running. If you want to look at this in more detail you can go to:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=371&geographic=la&phase=secondary&for=secondary>

Uniform bundle

One of the ways in which we try to support parents is by offering a complete uniform bundle to all Year 7 pupils free of charge. This includes a blazer, tie, two shirts, a skirt or pair of trousers and a complete PE kit.

Enrichment opportunities

We run a wide variety of clubs after school including shepherding, trampolining, science and creative writing. We also run a very popular ski trip to Austria and a trip to Paris. In addition, we are keen to develop opportunities in the performing arts. Our next production, "A Night at the Musicals", takes place on 19 December, after which we will begin preparations for our summer production "We will rock you".

Transition Activities

Some local primaries are giving us the opportunity to visit them and work with Year 6 on a media project designed to give pupils the chance to begin planning how to successfully move up to secondary school. Another project we are working on this term is a "fly through" video of "A Day in the Life of Year 7" which we will share on our website www.dewarenne.org.uk. We will then visit primaries again later in the year with our current Year 7 pupils for question and answer sessions with Year 6. After this, we will have a two day transition visit and an evening for parents to come and meet key members of staff.

What if my child's school does not engage in these transition activities?

Some schools choose not to work in this way to support transition. If yours is one, please do not worry. We can arrange an extra transition day or additional visits for all pupils coming as "solo" students and for vulnerable students.

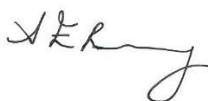
What if I still want more information?

Finally, as a parent myself, I understand that choosing a secondary school is a big decision. If you feel you would like the opportunity to discuss the academy further and see us in action, you are welcome to come and visit at any time between now and 31st October. Simply call reception on 01709 864001 to book a tour and I will meet you and show you around. You can also see photos of lessons and get a feel for academy life on Twitter @DeWarenne1 and you can find a host of information on our website www.dewarenne.org.uk

We are a small, community-focused academy and pride ourselves on knowing our students well and doing our utmost to ensure everyone fulfils their potential. We are not complacent and strive to do even better in future. As part of this drive for school improvement, I am working in the academy each week with Jamie Lawler, the Principal of Rossington All Saints Academy which is the highest performing school in Doncaster for two consecutive years. There isn't long left and we only have 150 places so please do not miss the admissions deadline.

I am incredibly proud of our achievements to date, and hope to meet you soon and welcome your child to De Warenne Academy. Thank you in advance for the time you will take to consider our school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Rooney
Principal