

13 October 2020

Dear Year 6 pupils, parents and carers

### Welcome to De Warenne Academy!

I am disappointed not to be able to meet you this year as you make the big decision about where to go to secondary school. I understand as a parent myself how important it is to choose a school where children will be safe, happy and successful.

I have been the Principal at De Warenne for four years now and in that time, we have transformed every aspect of academy life for the better. In 2019, our GCSE results were well above the national average for similar pupils and we were the third highest performing school in Doncaster and the highest performing school in the local area. In 2020, we know that our fantastic Year 11 pupils would have done even better.

Although important, I understand that there is more to school life than GCSEs, especially if you are in Year 7! This is why I have introduced our Year 7 "Experiences" programme, designed to give every child in Year 7 access to new learning opportunities in addition to their timetabled lessons. These are fully funded by the academy and include small group music tuition, a picnic at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, a theatre trip and a visit to Conisbrough Castle. If you look on our website you can find out how the name De Warenne is linked to Conisbrough Castle!

We believe it is really important to reward good effort and behaviour and for this reason we award behaviour points, Above and Beyond stickers and Beautiful Work stickers. These are logged during tutor time and pupils are invited to regular rewards events. This half term our Year 7 pupils are having a DJ and sweet treats in our sports hall, but when we don't have COVID-19 restrictions we like to go on trips to places such as the cinema and the bowling alley.

We run a wide range of after-school clubs, including our science club, cookery club, trampolining and choir. We also have a very successful drama club where everyone is welcome and everyone can take part in our amazing school production – this year it's Shrek, last year it was Beauty and the Beast.



Name:

Form Group:

Aspirations (what do you want to do when you are older?)



Our academy is only 7 years old and is in excellent condition. Every year we try to make it better. Recently we have refurbished the PE changing rooms, upgraded our computers and added an interactive touchscreen SMART board to every classroom. We also have three dedicated computer suites, laptops and iPads for pupils to use in school and at after school clubs. Next year we plan to have a 4G all-weather football pitch.



We like our pupils and staff to look smart at school so we buy every Year 7 pupil a full uniform including, blazer, tie, shirts, skirt or trousers plus a full PE kit. A free school uniform is a pretty good deal!

We have made a special website to help you explore our academy and get to know us better. You can find it at [www.exploredewarenne.org](http://www.exploredewarenne.org)

If you have any questions please send them to [info@dewarenne.org.uk](mailto:info@dewarenne.org.uk)

If you want to visit the academy next week before making your decision, you are welcome to do so but there are restrictions due to COVID-19. Please phone reception on 01709 864001 and book a visit between 7.45-8am or 2.45-4.00pm.

I hope this helps give you an idea of what life is like at De Warrenne and look forward to meeting you in the future.

Best wishes

Anna Rooney

Principal