

TRANSITION NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Hello everyone

We hope that you are well and enjoyed the TT week holiday, even if it was a rather strange TT week! At Castle Rushen we were really busy finishing getting things ready for you starting with us in September. We have been working on compiling your tutor groups and have been looking through your OIOS posters and getting them ready to share with your future subject teachers.

We were so pleased when it was announced that social distancing was being removed. Although the last few months have included some sadness and some worries for many of us in the southern community, we should all be grateful to be living on our beautiful Island and to be the first part of the British Isles to be almost back to normal. For a time, we thought we would not be able to welcome you to your new school before September, so we really were thrilled when we decided that our Induction Days would run as normal. Yes, that's right! In case you have not heard, Induction Days for Year 6 children in the south joining the Castle Rushen family will be able to go ahead on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of July, the two days before the Tynwald long weekend.

We have spent this week communicating with your primary school and getting things ready for you. When you return on Monday 22nd June, there will be a letter with your Year 6 teacher for you to take home. This contains all the information you need to know about Induction Days. It tells you all about bus travel, timings, what you need to wear and bring, what you will be doing and, most importantly, all about lunchtime!

If you have any queries about Induction Days, please get in touch with us in one of the usual ways. You can telephone us at school, email crhsenquiries@sch.im or message us through our Facebook page, CRHS Transition 2020.



QUESTIONS ? ? ? ?

So, we have had a few last questions over the TT week holiday that we will answer in this newsletter.



Sienna from Victoria Road asked us: 'I would like to know is there a POD for each year group and if so whereabouts in the school are they?'

The answer is that we only have one pod, Sienna, and that's the one we keep especially for Year 7 students. You saw the Pod in Episode 1 of the videos. It's a great place to hang out at break or lunchtime or even before school whilst you're getting used to being at big school. At break and lunch there's always a staff member present and there are also bathrooms there.

Don't forget, there are also other places to hang out at breaktime and lunchtime, like Skills Centre 1 and also the Library. If you haven't seen Episode 5, watch it, as it's all about the library.

We would like to have Pods for every year group to have their own space to hang out in, but it's just not something that most schools have enough space for unfortunately.



And finally, **Kiera from Rushen** also asked a very helpful question: 'How can I get a locker?'

Great question. So, lockers are mainly placed in corridors around the school. About half of our Year 7 choose to ask for one, as it's optional. If you think it will help you be organised, it's a good idea. Lots of Year 7 have one but mainly use it on PE days to leave their PE bag in it, so they don't have to carry it around all day. There is a small charge for having one as it costs us money to get new keys cut each year. If you bring back your key you get 50% of the fee back at the end of the school year and can then choose to ask for another for the next school year if you wish. If you want a locker, go to reception and ask Mrs Sutterby and she will tell you what to do.

Thanks Kiera!

So, we thought we would finish with profiles of two more of our Year 7 form tutors. You will find out who your form tutor is and who else is in your tutor group when you come in for your Induction Days...



YEAR 7 TUTOR PROFILE



Name:	Mr Swinhoe
Subject taught:	Science in Years 7, 8 and 9 and I look after Physics in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.
Background:	After I left university in England, my first job was doing friction tests on roads and pavements to find out if they were too slippery! I soon decided that I wanted a job that would be more creative and more engaging. From my very first week as a trainee teacher, I enjoyed the challenge of discussing science with students and of hearing new ideas every day. I taught at schools in Yorkshire, London and Nottinghamshire before joining Castle Rushen in 2016.
Describe a typical day at Castle Rushen:	The great thing about a day in our school is that every day is different. I like to get to school early and to spend some quiet time thinking about ideas and resources for lessons. At 9 o'clock it's time for tutor time where we have a chance to think about news for the day, discuss any questions that anyone has or maybe do a quiz, try a numeracy activity or watch Newsround to see what's happening in the world. Then it's a day of six lessons with different groups and different ideas to inspire us! After school, I have students' work to look at, resources to get ready for the next day and sometimes a phone call to make or a meeting to go to. Our Year 7 students have a wide range of clubs and activities that they can get involved in after school and at lunchtimes too.
What's the best thing about Castle Rushen?	Our school is such a caring and supportive community. It might seem like a big school to our Year 6 students at first, but after a short time Castle Rushen feels small enough that you can get to know everyone. Our students are full of enthusiasm and creativity and the teachers and support staff are committed to helping them to succeed. At Castle Rushen everyone is allowed to be their own person.
Why do you like being a Year 7 form tutor?	The best thing about Year 7 students is that they always make me think about things in a new way that I've never considered before. They can't wait to get stuck into new challenges at their new school and it's great to see them getting to know new people from different primary schools. Year 7 tutor groups have a great sense of humour too and every day will include a conversation that will make me smile.
What do you do to relax?	I enjoy cycling, both on the roads and on my mountain bike in the plantations. I also like listening to audiobooks, particularly on my headphones while I'm doing the washing up!
What interesting thing would you like your new tutor group to know about you?	I once travelled across a ravine in the rainforest on a zipwire. It was 50 metres above a valley floor in Costa Rica and I was very pleased to get to the other side in one piece!



YEAR 7 TUTOR PROFILE



Name:	Mr Edwards
Subject taught:	Art and I am also Head of Department.
Background:	After attending CRHS I went to the Isle of Man College to study Art and then went to Wolverhampton University to study Fine Art. After this, I worked in several different jobs including being a film & TV prop man, which was very exciting. I trained to be a teacher after several years of interesting work and became an Art teacher!
Describe a typical day at Castle Rushen:	A typical day at Castle Rushen is busy! No two days are the same. I normally get in at 8.00am and prepare for the day. Tutor time is first, where we meet and greet and go through lots of different things. Then on to lessons. It's Art all day for me which is great. Lunch is at 1.00pm and is a nice break. Then finish at 3.45pm ready for some more Art with examination level students!
What's the best thing about Castle Rushen?	That's a good question but I would say that I like it as it feels like we are a big family and we go on a journey all together. I can't wait to see everyone when we get back to normal again!
Why do you like being a Year 7 form tutor?	I feel like it's the best tutor job, as I get to welcome you to the school and make sure you have a really good start to the CRHS experience.
What do you do to relax?	I like to relax after I have done some form of exercise so using the gym, going for a skate, cycle or a play in the park is right up my street! I also like making things like doing drawings or editing videos. I also like watching sport too!
What interesting thing would you like your new tutor group to know about you?	I'm firm but fair. I have high expectations of you, but I also look forward to having fun with you too! I hope that you can be proud of being part of 7KE and also of CRHS.



BYE FOR now

This will be our last Transition Newsletter as we are almost back to normal next week. You can still contact us if you have any queries, by emailing CRHSenquiries@sch.im or through Facebook. Next week, we hope to visit almost all of you in your primary schools to meet you again before you come in for Induction Days. We will then see you on **Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July** for two fun packed days!

Finally, perhaps this is more one for parents and carers, we will also be able to hold our Drop In Evenings, when you will be able to come in to school again, try on and order uniform and meet us again in case you have any last minute questions. The evenings will take place in the school hall. Dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday 8 July, 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Arbory
Rushen
Ballasalla
Kewaigue

Thursday 9 July, 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Victoria Road
Scoil Phurt Le Moirrey
Bunscoil Ghaelgagh
Foxdale
The Buchan School

This has been a strange year for everyone, but let us finish by saying that we have really enjoyed getting to know you all remotely over the last 12 weeks. Recording our videos was fun, but not something that we would consider to be within our comfort zone. We laughed a lot whilst rehearsing and, yes, they were rehearsed! Mr Kay became a Facebook user for the first time in his life and we both had crises about being recorded with our Lockdown hair. Thank you for sending us your questions, for your lovely comments and your positivity about our videos and newsletters. We look forward to meeting you all in 'real life' and to welcoming you to the Castle Rushen family.

Until next time we see you, take care.

Mr Kay
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Kneen
Head of Year 7

