

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to confirm arrangements for your child's start at Samuel Ward Academy in September.

Our website will continue to be regularly updated, and will feature optional curriculum challenges, but this letter contains the last of the essential information needed for the start of the next academic year.

<https://samuelward.co.uk/new-student-guide>

Start date in September

All Year 7 students will start at Samuel Ward Academy on Thursday 3rd September 2020. Year 7 will be the only students from the main school attending that day. They will meet their tutor, learn the routines, have their first lessons with their classmates, meet key members of staff, and have any remaining questions answered.

Uniform

While our uniform supplier, school colours, has remained open for uniform orders during lockdown it hasn't been possible for the usual fittings to take place. Many children will have grown out of their primary school uniform by the autumn and we have students coming to SWA who are the only child from their primary school. Therefore, Year 7 will start at SWA in non-school uniform. We anticipate that uniform fittings will be possible at the start of September. Year 7 will need to be in full school uniform starting on the 1st October. Students should be dressed appropriately for the weather and a school environment. Students will have no PE on their first day.

Tutor group

In previous years students would have found out their tutor group (for registration each day, assemblies, personal development lessons) and teaching class (their taught lessons which can vary with small minority of subjects such as Design & Technology and PE) during the first transition day in July. We know that students might appreciate knowing their tutor group in advance of the holidays. It has taken the Head of Year, Miss Ireland, many hours but we're pleased to say she has managed to arrange the tutor groups so that every request from students, parents and year 6 teachers has been met. We know students will settle in very quickly. Students' teaching class will be confirmed in September.

A copy of this letter has been sent out via email confirming your child's tutor group.

The best way to predict the future... is to create it.

Chalkstone Way, Haverhill, Suffolk. CB9 0LD. Tel: 01440761511 Fax: 01440761899. swa@samuelward.co.uk www.samuelward.co.uk

Preparing for secondary school: “Go Big” and “You Are Awesome”

We have bought these two books for everyone in Year 6 who is joining us in September. If your child attends the following schools then the books are with the primary school:

Coupals
Place Farm
Kedington
Thurlow
Westfield

If your child doesn't go to the primary schools listed above then the books can be collected from reception at Samuel Ward Academy.

We recommend children read both books before September, with your assistance if required. I'd suggest starting with “You Are Awesome” which very effectively dispels the myth that people are born great at anything. “Go Big” has very practical advice for success at secondary school and what to expect (and which stories are total nonsense). It may be worth discussing the most important sections at the end of August as your child is thinking about their first day at SWA.

After school clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays

On Tuesdays and Thursdays buses leave 50 minutes later than normal to enable all students to participate. Our after school club offer will depend on the government guidance regarding students from different year groups being allowed to mix. On Thursday 3rd September students travelling by bus will be supervised after school until their bus is ready. The after school club programme will be published in September in light of any updated guidance.

Curriculum challenges

On our website we will upload a range of optional subject-based challenges for your child to work through. These should be fun activities which will help your child prepare for secondary school.

Adjustments for COVID-19

As of this writing we anticipate that no reductions in the curriculum will be necessary. We are intending to adopt various measures to minimise the exposure of children to students in other year groups including teaching areas, social spaces, corridors, the canteen and toilets. These plans are subject to change as guidance from the government is updated but we are confident that we have struck the right balance between safety and ensuring that Year 7 have access to their specialist teachers and equipment. Full details will be shared in September when we can be sure which scenario is most relevant.

From all of the team at Samuel Ward Academy we wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer and we very much look forward to welcoming you properly in September.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K Geall'.

Dr K Geall

Deputy Headteacher

Samuel Ward Academy