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Children and Young People's Services
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Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the transition arrangements for our year 6 pupils transitioning to all High schools this year.

With the adherence to the guidance for schools, during the pandemic and changes both nationally and locally, it has been very difficult to provide a consistent approach across the borough to transition. Every school as you are aware works within a different context and has had to deal with a range of challenging circumstances.

With the latest increase in transmission of the Delta variant, across the borough, some schools have been called upon to support reduced transmission of the variant by offering additional PCR testing.

Some of our Multi Academy Trusts span different local authorities and some take from over 90 primary schools across multiple authorities.

I want to give assurances that secondary schools have been able to maintain their regular communications with primary schools in finding out about the year 6 pupils and meeting their needs; as much virtual work has taken place here.

Having the additional delay to the final stage of the roadmap until the 19th July has meant that final plans still need adjustment.

I recognise that the changes we have had to make have caused tension, anxiety and worry that every year 6 child in the borough will not get the same offer of support or that it will run in a variety of ways. Some transition will take before the end of term, some as a summer school and some at the start of the next academic year.

Please be assured that we all want the best for the children but must continue to put everyone's health at the forefront of what we do.

We understand the difficulties also faced by our primary schools, in dealing with changes to the plans and appreciate their support in having to make their own internal changes as well as communication with you all, often at late notice.

We have a transition working group established in the borough, made up of all stake holders including Open Minds, Public Health, governance, LA officers and school representation and will continue to work together to plan for next year next year.

It has been a difficult time for us all and we must now look to moving forward to the next academic year being able to recover and reconnect in the most effective ways possible.

I wish you well for a good summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Bowyer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lesley Bowyer
Assistant Director | Education & Inclusion