



March 2024

Step Up To Secondary Information Evening Wednesday 22nd May 2024
Time: 6pm (Surnames A - K) and 6:45pm (Surnames L - Z)

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted that you have chosen Countesthorpe Academy (CA). We are looking forward to working with you and your child on the next stage of their educational journey towards success.

A Partnership to Last and Support

We will be working together for the next five, and in many cases, seven years. We are committed to making sure that we offer opportunities for your child to develop and grow into a confident, capable, resilient, and independent young adult.

We are aware that you may have many questions. Starting a new school is a time of great potential - and if we are honest, quite a few anxieties. Between now and the start of next academic year you will receive information from our specialist Transition Team about our successful **Step Up to Secondary Programme**, designed to support you and your child through the transition process. Some things will be purely practical such as information about uniform, buses, times of the day, but there will also be opportunities to ask questions and get information about other things which you may be thinking (or worrying) about.

During this term and next, we will keep you up to date through traditional methods such as letters, but please check in with our website and social media for updates where we will have a section of Frequently Asked Questions and key dates. We would also like to communicate with you via our school app **Arbor**, and you can learn more about how to set this up in this letter.

Now you have had your place at the Academy confirmed, we will work closely with your child's primary school teachers to understand the achievements and progress they have already made. Also, we will find out where they might need support. This will include students who have an Education Healthcare Plan. The Academy's SEND Co-ordinator will have oversight of this, and you will be contacted directly if additional support through the transition process is required.

"To be the best you can be" is our ambition for all our students and the detailed information we get regarding your child from their primary school will be our starting point to help them achieve academic success.

Our Transition Team will visit as many feeder primary schools as possible to talk about the differences between secondary school and primary school, one of which is that you are not with your class group all day every day. If this is a concern for your child, it might be worth emphasising this point. We also build in exciting opportunities to make new friends which will happen on Induction Day and early in the Autumn term.

continue overleaf...



Countesthorpe Academy

Show **Respect** | Develop **Resilience** | Achieve **Success**

Important Information about your child/Contacting you:

Following this letter, you will receive an email with a link to a system called Arbor. This is our Management Information System (basically database where we store your child's information, such as next of kin, medical needs etc.).

We ask that you follow the instructions in this guide (<https://bit.ly/44lFcrs>) to setup the Arbor app on your smartphone so that you can provide us with essential information and so that we can also send you important messages regarding the transition process.

It is important that you complete this by **Wednesday 10th April 2024**. Should you require any assistance in completing this, please contact the transition team.

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 22nd May 2024 Step Up to Secondary Evening for Parents and Year 6.

At this meeting you will receive information about Academy life, our values and expectations as well as what will happen when your child attends for their taster days. **Please note that this is the only meeting regarding transition.**

At this meeting, you will receive information about the Step Up to Secondary Days, how we operate as a Academy, the Welcome Pack and Parent Guide. You will receive also important information regarding transition work to prepare your child for Year 7. Due to the large number of children coming to the Academy next academic year, there will be two sessions. We have based these sessions on your child's surname rather than feeder primary school. Please make every effort to attend your session.

- **6pm** Surnames A - K
- **6:45pm** Surnames L - Z

School Transport

Confidence Buses provide services to the Academy, please visit their website www.confidencebus.co.uk for further details on routes and prices.

Contacting Us

During the time between now and your child starting school with us, you may want to contact us with a specific question or information relating to your child. The address you can use is transition@clcc.college. Your email will come directly through to the Transition Team. Using the general email address or telephone number may result in a delay in responding.

Making it Happen

You have made a positive choice to send your child to our Academy. Education is a partnership and our partnership with parents is vital. We will work to make sure you know what is happening with your child and we look forward to your support in facing the possibilities, challenges, and opportunities ahead.

Thank you - Countesthorpe Academy Transition Team