

## Open Evening FAQ

### **What is your stance towards bullying?**

We have a Zero tolerance approach and our Anti-Bullying Pledge (which was written by our students) which is written by our students is 'At Darton Academy we will work with all students, families and staff to eradicate bullying in our community'.

### **How classes are taught during COVID?**

Year groups are taught in 'bubbles' which each have their own identified space within the building

### **What are the school bus times and locations?**

We have 8 school buses which allow access to Darton Academy from a wide range of areas from Staincross to the Town Centre. Further details are available on our website.

### **Will there be another virtual Open Evening?**

All the materials will remain available on the website and we would encourage you to email any specific concerns to our dedicated email address [transition@dartonacademy.org.uk](mailto:transition@dartonacademy.org.uk)

### **How will many visits will my child be able to have physically in the school before starting?**

We are hoping that there will be many opportunities, but at this stage we are unable to confirm when these will be or how many

### **Is there a way to request where my child is placed? Will my child be in a class with someone from his current class at primary?**

Of course, and we will liaise with Y6 teachers and primary staff regarding the placement of students

### **My child has an EHCP. What information is available for parents/carers of children with SEND needs?**

Our SEN team are available on the Transition Evening and if you have specific questions for them please do not hesitate to contact our SEN team directly using the email [admin@dartonacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@dartonacademy.org.uk) or calling 01226 232306

### **What measures are in place and what support will there be should another full lock down occur?**

We are developing our provision in this area all the time and are using Microsoft Teams as the main way in which learning will continue.

### **What languages do you cover?**

Spanish and French

### **How many will be in each class?**

A maximum of 30

### **How many forms do you expect?**

Either 8 or 9

### **What after school clubs and extra-curriculum activities do you run?**

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities – sports, drama, dance, music, subject specific clubs are just some of the examples of the opportunities that we offer

### **Does the school have a robust uniform policy ensuring that appropriate foot wear is allowed and no sports logos on any clothing?**

Our uniform policy is clear and robust. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.dartonacademy.org.uk/uniform-1>

### **What are the rules on pens, calculators, pencil cases, hold-all bags/ rucksacks?**

Students must be fully equipped to learn on a daily basis and our current Y7 cohort received a rucksack to support them with their belongings and possessions.

### **Will Darton provide a transition period in July 2021?**

We are hopeful that we will be able to provide our full transition offer and that students will have the opportunity to experience the full range of transition activities

### **Is it possible to look around?**

At this stage this is not possible – to support we have put together a ‘Virtual Tour’ which has been put together as part of our Virtual Transition evening resources

### **My child wants to move into Art and Design, possibly Game Design when he gets older, how can your school help with the development of the skill set please? Do you specialise in any area?**

Our curriculum is broad and balanced and allows all our students to access a range of Post-16 and lifelong opportunities

### **Will start & finish times be staggered?**

As it stands currently our start and finish times are staggered as part of our CV19 measures. At this stage we are unable to say whether these will be in place in the future

### **What percentage of staff will be newly qualified & what percentage are existing/experienced staff?**

We have 3 NQTs in school this year with the rest of our staff being further into their teaching careers.

### **What pastoral support do you offer?**

Each year group has a Learning Manager who work closely with an SLT link. We offer a wide range of pastoral support and interventions which are tailored to meet the needs of each individual.

### **How will I track my child’s progress?**

Progress is tracked in a variety of ways – Y7 Setting in Evening; regular communication regarding home learning; regular reports and feedback in student books and work.

### **How will you ensure that Darton continues to offer the results of the past 2 years?**

We are on a journey of continuous improvement (further details can be found in our Prospectus) where we are always building on previous successes with the overall aim of becoming a school that

performs consistently highly in terms of results. We see progress as being about the 'whole child' and we are enhancing all aspects of our school community.

**Who do I liaise with and how if I'm concerned about anything?**

The first point of contact with regards to any concerns would be your child's Form Tutor.

**Is uniform still supplied free of charge the first year?**

This is the case – students are provided with blazer, tie, skirt or trousers free of charge.

**Will you hold an opening evening next year if possible?**

As soon as circumstances allow we will share with parents, carers and potential student opportunities to tour the school.