

For New Students: a note from the Head of School (Amanda) - to tell you a little bit about us...



Our Communal Area



The Food and Nutrition Kitchen

Moving to a new school in Year 11 — It's scary, right?

I get it. Not only have you ended up missing half of your time in Year 10 at your secondary school because of this nasty Covid-19 thing, you're now being put forward for a place at The Connected Hub for next year. I wonder if you're feeling scared, angry, anxious, frustrated? You're worried about being somewhere new. It's hard to think about being away from your friends. You might even feel that you're going to miss teachers and support staff at your current school and, you're worrying about getting to know new staff and having to make new friends? It wouldn't be normal if you didn't feel all of those things.



The staff at The Hub really understand this as we are used to welcoming a new cohort of students every year. That means that we know a little about how to work with you to help you feel less worried about these things, and we always try our very best to help you feel positive about this move and perhaps, even a little excited about it. In the end, that is...

The Induction Process

In June, when we receive information about you from your current secondary school, we then invite you in to The Connected Hub to meet you, with your parents or carers for an induction meeting. This is a chance for you to look around the school, meet some of the staff and for us to ask each other lots of questions. This is how we get to know you—what you're good at, what you need support with and what your hopes and dreams are for the future. We will talk about your expectations and ours, so that we can really make your time with us, work for you.



In July, we then invite you in for some taster sessions at The Hub where you spend time with some of our teaching staff in groups, doing some fun activities. Again, this is an opportunity for you to get to know us and some of the other students joining us. We're not sure how this will work this year because we can only have a few of you in at a time, but we will work it out and find a way to invite you in.

We usually take new students on a Go Karting trip—a fun way for us to get to know each other. However, this year we're not going to be able to do this—we're really disappointed. However, we are working on how we can invite you to something else instead (it's not easy as you can imagine because nowhere is open at the moment), but we are an inventive staff and we'll come up with something!

What's it like, being a student at The Connected Hub? It's a Different Kind of Learning...

For a start, you don't have to wear uniform and we all use our first names. Our school day starts at 09:30am and finishes at 3:20pm. Because we are a small school (a maximum of 40 students and never all of you in at once), the atmosphere is a little more relaxed than you might be used to. That doesn't mean that we don't expect you to work—you've still got to study for your GCSEs and other courses but, because we're so small, you'll find the staff will get to know you really well and can therefore support you in a way that works for you. We also provide you with toast and a cuppa when you arrive at school—we even let you have a cuppa in your lessons!

Some days you'll be in school all day, on other days only for part of the day. On at least one day a week you'll be either working from home, attending a college placement or attending a work experience placement. At the moment with all the social distancing rules, you may be working from home more than we'd want. We're about to start working on how this will all fit together—it's a whole new world for all of us!

We also like to get you out and about as much as we can. Again, I don't know what will be possible now that we have to practice social distancing, but even in the 6 months that our current students were with us we managed to organize the following trips: Shocktober Fest/Tulley's Farm, Borough Market in London, Theatre trips in London and Brighton, Ranstede Animal Sanctuary, Brighton Pier, The All Night Diner in Brighton, Amex Stadium, Thai Boxing, Dance Studio and, we had planned a 3 night stay for some, at Jamie's Farm.

'So what?' I hear you ask. 'I don't want to leave my current school...'

On the day that we had to close the school down because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all of our current students insisted on coming in to say goodbye to staff. Even though they'd only been with us for 6 months, there were tears, and I'm not just talking about the students! The staff cried too. What I'm trying to explain in telling you this, is just how much students love being with us and how much the staff at The Hub really care for our students. I absolutely promise that you are going to love it. I absolutely promise that you'll look back at Christmas and wonder what you were so concerned about. If you still have more questions, just email me: amandameier@chb.org.uk



We are really looking forward to meeting you.

Amanda

