

Letter from Kate

You are 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.

This is how we do it:

**The Induction Process.**

This is 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.

**Taster Session**.

 In late June and early July, we invite you in for some taster sessions at The Hub where you spend time with some of our teaching and support 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.

**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 name. Our school day starts at 09:15am and finishes at 3:05pm. Because we are a small school (a maximum of 40 students and never all of you in at once), the atmosphere is 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. We would like you to do some home study as well. Teachers will give you work to do or you can use Google Classrooms.

We also like to get you out and about as much as we can. Trips and visits change every year. In the past we have been on the following trips: 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.

**‘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. Past students often visit and tell us how the Hub changed things for them. They talk about their jobs and the courses they have been on. I feel certain that you are going to love it. I believe that you’ll look back at Christmas and wonder what you were so concerned about.

If you still have questions you can email me

kateschofield@chb.org.uk or ask someone at your school to call me.

We are all looking forward to meeting you soon.

**Kate Schofield**