

TRANSITION AND INDUCTION

What are the most successful aspects of the transition process at Linton Village College?

We work very closely with our primary schools and engage early with parents so that we can offer as smooth a transition as possible. In addition, we also offer a bespoke programme to those students with Special Educational Needs to alleviate any worries or anxieties that they may have.

My child is very nervous about starting secondary school. What advice would you give?

Most children are very nervous about starting secondary school so these feelings are very common. We recommend that Year 6 students watch the 8Mates Zoom video on the Linton Village College website, in which the 8Mates answer frequently asked Year 6 questions and give their top tips for students moving up to the College.

My child is the only one from their primary school moving up to Linton Village College. Is this a problem?

This is not a problem at all as we have out-of-catchment school activities to allow these children and their parents additional time at the College.

How many classrooms are there and is it easy to get lost?

We have 35 classrooms and there are always lots of friendly faces who will be happy to help any students that are lost.

What will Year 7 be doing on their first day at Linton Village College?

The first two hours of the students first day will be spent with the tutor, during which time there will be 'getting to know you' activities, an assembly, a tour of the school and the issuing of a map and timetable. Following the two hours of tutor time, the first of three lessons will begin, which students will find on their timetables.

TIMETABLES, SETTING AND HOUSES

What will the timetable look like?

Below is an example of the two-week timetable that students will follow:

	1Mon	1Tue	1Wed	1Thu	1Fri		2Mon	2Tue	2Wed	2Thu	2Fri
REG						REG					
1	History EH 5	Des & Eng PN 5	Music KLA 5	Sci S SC 5	Geography LA 5	1	Geography LA 5	English LC 5	Drama LKA 19	Sci S NW 5	Mathematic AFC 5
2	Mathematic AFC 5	Sci S SC 5	Food Tech AH 5	Spanish CM 5	Physical E KL 5	2	Sci S NW 5	Sci S SC 5	English LC 5	Food Tech AH 5	Spanish CM 5
3	English LC 5	Mathematic AFC 5	Dance HFR HALL	Mathematic AFC 5	Computing IS 5	3	Physical E KL 5	Physical E KL 5	Des & Eng PN 5	History EH 5	Art HCR 5
4	Spanish CM 5	Computing IS LIB	Religious EH 5	History EH 5	Mathematic AFC 5	4	Religious EH 5	Art HCR 5	Geography LA 5	English LC 5	Drama LKA 19
5	Music KLA 5	Physical E KL 5	Des & Eng PN 5	English LC 5	Spanish CM 5	5	Mathematic AFC 5	Spanish CM 5	Sci S SC 5	Mathematic AFC 5	English LC 5

How are subject sets decided upon?

Year 7 - Students are only placed in ability sets for maths and French/Spanish, although this happens during the year after students have had a chance to settle.

Year 8 - Students continue in the mixed ability groups for the majority of subjects, although they are also placed in ability sets for science and have different groups for PE.

Year 9 - As this includes the first stage of the options process the students move into a greater number of mixed ability groups for different subjects, although no more are set.

Years 10 & 11 - Maths and science have ability sets as these subjects have Higher and Foundation tiers of entry and English has some degree of setting. All options subjects are mixed ability.

How many year 7 classes are there and do the year 7's get mixed up?

Students in Year 7 are split into eight tutor groups which are then split into two halves – French and Spanish. The four tutor groups within each half are then placed into three teaching groups in line with languages options (French or Spanish).

What does the House system look like at Linton Village College?

On first arrival at Linton Village College, all of our students are put into a House - Endeavour, Pioneer, Voyager or Discovery - and there are eight tutor groups within each of the houses. Children are then put into tutor groups of between 21-23 students and Heads of House work very closely with their tutors.

Can we be in the same House as our siblings?

Historically, we have not put siblings into the same Houses but it is something that is currently being considered from the coming academic year onwards.

BEHAVIOUR

How do you deal with bullying and are parents informed if their child has been involved in a bullying incident?

Bullying is not tolerated at Linton Village College and all accusations of bullying are investigated fully by our dedicated anti-bullying lead. The parents of the student/s involved will be immediately contacted. Appropriate support, education and sanctions are provided / issued to address the matter.

The Ofsted report said that there was a need for more consistent behaviour. How are you addressing this?

Behaviour for learning expectations were simplified over the summer to make them more accessible for parents and students alike. This has also helped staff to be able to apply the policy more consistently. We can see that this is already having an impact as we have a range of quality assurance measures and processes in place. We use daily learning walks, examine behaviour data and we track patterns. As in every school, behaviour for learning will always remain a priority.

How do you deal with low-level, disruptive behaviour that can undermine learning?

On the rare occasion that learning is disrupted at Linton Village College, we have systems in place to ensure that the disruption is not tolerated and our work at the College is to ensure that this is consistently applied in every classroom.

PASTORAL

What does Pastoral support look like at Linton Village College?

The Pastoral system at Linton Village College is very strong and there is lots of support available for young people, such as the Support Hub and the Learning Hub.

If a student is having a bad day and is worried, is there support?

If a student is having a bad day and is feeling worried, there is lots of support available. The first point of contact at school for the students would be their form tutor, whom they will see every morning. Staff will deal with a student's worries discretely to find out what has happened and will work with the student to find a solution. Students can also visit the Support Hub if they feel the need to.

How are the trickier issues dealt with, such as sexual health and drugs?

We have a very comprehensive PSHE programme at Linton Village College within which many of these topics are addressed and we use other local associations such as community Police officers, expert charities etc. We strive to create a climate where we openly talk about these subjects and educate our young people.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Can parents speak to the teachers about their child's progress?

The student's form tutor becomes the first port of call but for particular subject-based queries, parents can email subject teachers. Although secondary schools operate in a very different way to primary schools, we are very open and approachable. We use an online mark-book platform called Go4Schools, which parents can access at any time. Go4Schools also shows behaviour points, House points and any warnings issued.

ENRICHMENT

Assuming that the pandemic was over, what enrichment opportunities are there for students?

There are a number of enrichment opportunities throughout the year and the details of these opportunities and activities can be found on the school website. These include trips, visits and extra-curricular clubs.

<http://www.lvc.org/pages/Enrichment.php>

How has Covid-19 impacted on extra-curricular activities and the Sports and Arts?

Because of the pandemic we are having to adapt the lessons that we can offer at the moment to ensure that they can take place in a safe manner. All tools and instruments in any of the sports, arts and technology subjects are cleaned thoroughly in between classes.

The enrichment programme has been paused due to current restrictions.

TRUST PARTNERSHIP

Is there any intention of setting up a Sixth Form at Linton Village College?

As there are so many fantastic options in the local area for Post-16 students, these are the logistical and practical reasons why this would not be a viable option for Linton Village College.

What will the changes be as a result of joining a new Trust?

In joining Anglian Learning, we are now part of a family of schools, including five other secondary schools and a sixth form college, The Oakes. This brings the opportunity for teachers to collaborate, share and benefit from joint training, which in turn will filter down to our students, enabling them to experience the benefit of shared expertise.

Why are you called a college and not a school?

This comes from our origins and the tradition of the Village College. Henry Morris was the founder of the Village College movement in the 1930s, starting with establishing Sawston Village College, followed by Bottisham Village College and Linton Village College, which celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2017.

The Village College movement was seen as special to Cambridgeshire, whereby the College was the heart of the community, providing 'cradle-to-grave' education and life-long learning through supporting and hosting community activities as well as being the education school in the village.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Ofsted report said that there was a need for improvement around SEND students. How are you addressing this?

We have developed a comprehensive 4-part development plan, beginning with teaching staff and their understanding of SEND. We have excellent teachers at Linton Village College but developing people's understanding of SEND is always an area to improve in any setting. Research shows that high quality teaching is the most effective way to make progress with students with SEND.

We have looked at the way in which we identify students with SEND, understanding the terms within SEND and we are making sure that everybody feels confident with their knowledge of the SEND register, as well as ensuring that parents are comfortable with what is on the SEND register. We are looking at developing communication between the school and parents of students with additional needs.

We are also working on building the relationships between teachers and the Learning Support Assistants (LSA) / Teaching Assistants (TA). When the combination of a teacher and an LSA is effective,

it is a very powerful resource and we are very lucky at Linton Village College to have an excellent group of LSAs who work very well together and this provides a very positive experience for the students.

The Ofsted report said that there needed to be improvement in leadership. How are you addressing this?

There were some subjects which Ofsted identified as not being as high performing as others in terms of teaching quality and behaviour for learning. We have responded to this by ensuring that we have targeted support and challenge in place so that high standards are in place across the curriculum.

Like many secondary schools we have been responding to many changes to curriculum and assessment over the past five years. We have acted quickly in terms of ensuring that the standards of curriculum planning and resourcing are as strong as they could be, addressing any gaps and ensuring that training is in place.