



30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Early Riser 2021

Dear Parent/Carer of

We are writing to you to update you on the Year 6 Transition Programme – Early Risers.

We believe that by starting secondary education slightly earlier, we can give every child the best possible start and that their progress and attainment will benefit. By secondary schools getting to know the children before the summer holidays we will be able to ensure that they feel better supported and happier when making the step up from Primary School. The 'Early Risers' programme enables them to meet their teachers, new classmates and familiarise themselves with their new surroundings.

Representatives from both local primary and secondary schools have been meeting regularly with the local public health team regarding whether Early Risers can run in its usual form or whether it needs to run as last year virtually. We have left the decision as late as possible to ensure that we used the most accurate data of infection rates in our local schools and communities. On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June the group, following public health advice, reached a decision that we should postpone Early Risers and run a virtual programme. This is hugely disappointing, but it is important that we avoid mixing students from different school bubbles across the city currently.

To support the virtual Early Risers programme there will be information and resources on the websites of both Sheffield Springs Academy and Sheffield Park Academy. Students will be able to access this in their Year 6 lessons and at home.

You will be able to find various sources of information on the school's websites:

- Key staff – Senior Leaders, Heads of Year and Form Tutors.
- Uniform and PE kit issues.
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- Uniform and PE kit issues.
- Catering and other administration information.
- Standards and expectations
- Pupil assessment
- Education with character

This has been an incredibly difficult decision to make and we have been guided by our local public health team. Early Risers is such a successful transition programme. However due to the pandemic we had to switch to running the programme remotely last year and are confident that it can be successfully repeated this year. Sheffield Springs Academy and Sheffield Park Academy will ensure that all parents



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have all the information needed prior to your child starting their secondary education. If you have any further questions regarding transition, please contact your child's secondary school.

Yours sincerely

Mark Shipman  
Headteacher  
Sheffield Springs Academy

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