



May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Choosing the right school for your children is one of the most important decisions you will make. As Headteacher of Beacon Academy, I am incredibly proud to be leading a school where we have a rigorous, consistent and relentless focus on unapologetically high standards for both students and staff. Teaching, learning and assessment is highly effective, enabling all of our students to make excellent progress, regardless of their starting point.

At Beacon Academy we are “ambitious for excellence in all we do”. This is reflected in our two outstanding Ofsted judgements, for Leadership and Management, and for Behaviour, Safeguarding and Welfare. We also take great pride in our designation as a National Teaching School and a National Support School.

Our commitment to providing the very best education for our students and being an exceptional school, both locally and nationally, is evidenced year on year by our local and national positions. Over the last six years, our school has been on a significant and transformational journey and we are exceptionally proud of consistently being the number one school of choice for our community. As confirmed by the Department for Education in the last set of published exams prior to the pandemic, Beacon Academy has been the highest performing school in Sussex for over three years running under the headline Progress 8 measure and is now in the top 1.8% of all schools nationwide. We are also delighted to find ourselves in an esteemed group of 6% of schools nationally who are categorised as “well above average” for over three years in a row.

However, education at Beacon Academy is about much more than academic achievement. We take pride in supporting and encouraging our students to broaden their horizons, develop their interpersonal skills and become independent learners. We focus daily on developing and promoting our students’ physical, emotional and social wellbeing via not only our curriculum, but our outstanding Student Support networks and excellent enrichment programme.

Our core values permeate through our day-to-day practice. Whether trustee, member of staff or student, all of us aim to inspire and believe in one another to achieve our ambitions and succeed in life. Furthermore, we are dedicated to promoting values which ensure that students develop a strong sense of social and moral responsibility. We work alongside our students to encourage them to make their MARK within our school community and the wider community, considering others and demonstrating manners, acceptance, respect and kindness.

I would like to invite you to attend our forthcoming Year 5 virtual open events to see this for yourselves.

Year 5 Virtual Open Events: 9:30am, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th June 2021

Traditionally, in the summer term, we look forward to welcoming children in Year 5 and their parents and carers to our week of bookable Open Morning Tours. However, in light of the measures and restrictions in place in response to the ongoing pandemic and to mitigate the risk to our school community and our visitors as much as possible, we are instead offering prospective students and their families the chance to explore every aspect of life at Beacon Academy online. Provided that it is safe to do so, we very much hope that we will be able to welcome you to Beacon Academy in person at our usual interactive Open Day and Open Morning Tours in October.

In a change to the format of our virtual open mornings in October 2020, we are holding two separate events – one that is tailored to your children’s interests and one that is designed with parents and carers in mind.

Information about each event and the live event links are provided on the following page. **Please note: If you are unable to attend a live event, you will be able to watch a recording of the event using the link provided.** This may be useful for parents and carers who would like to play back part or all of the event with their child at a later date.



Beacon Academy

Ambitious for excellence in all we do

Live virtual open event for parents and carers of children in Year 5, 9:30 – 11:00am, Tuesday 15th June 2021

This event will consist of a live presentation and Q&A with myself, members of the Senior Leadership Team, our Head of Year 7 and other key members of staff involved with the transition of students from primary to secondary education. [Please click here to access the event for parents and carers](#), referring to the guidelines below.

Live virtual open event for children in Year 5, 9:30 – 10:30am, Wednesday 16th June 2021

This live event will begin with a warm welcome from myself and members of our Year 7 team and will look more closely at some of the key aspects of school life that we understand are of interest to children in Year 5. Importantly, it will give your children an opportunity to gain valuable insight from some of our current Year 7 students.

We have invited Year 5 classes in primary schools within our community area to attend this live event if possible, and parents and carers may also attend if they wish. If you would like to attend, [please use this link to access the event for children in Year 5](#), referring to the guidelines below.

Although it will be possible to submit questions in the live event, we would like to encourage you to please send any questions you may have in advance to opendays@beacon-academy.org.

How to join a live event:

- Select the live event link. You will see different instructions based on how you join the event (such as from the Teams app or from the web).
- Sign in or select “Join anonymously”.
- If the live event has not started, you will see the message, “The live event has not yet started”.
- There are controls at the bottom of your screen to pause the action, adjust volume and the video quality.
- If the live event Q&A panel is not open, you can find the link next to the “Leave” button at top right.
- You will be able to submit questions live in the event via the Q&A function.
- To watch the event again, use the same link to see a recording.

In addition to this, a wide range of resources designed to reassure and support children preparing to make the move to secondary school will be available to view online via our [Open Days](#) page and [Year 6 into Year 7 Transition Portal](#).

Despite the inevitable but regrettable change in format this year, our intention is for our open events to look and feel as normal as possible, albeit virtually. We hope that they will enable you and your children to learn more about our school and to put forward any questions you may have in a friendly, calm and welcoming setting.

I look forward to welcoming you to Beacon Academy. In the meantime, if you have any questions about our virtual open events for Year 5, please visit our Open Days web page or email opendays@beacon-academy.org. Information about primary to secondary admissions can be found on our [Admissions](#) page.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Robinson
Headteacher