

A report of the Tollbar Academy Summer School

Monday 26th – Friday 30th July 2021

The covid-19 pandemic-enforced lockdowns of 2020-2021 negated the opportunity to provide students from our primary feeders a face-to-face transition programme.

In support of students transitioning to Year 7 in September 2021 therefore, Tollbar Academy ran a week-long Summer School featuring a blended programme of academic and enrichment activities designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Help new students familiarise themselves with the Academy site, including classrooms, key facilities and outside spaces;
- Help new students to build relationships with new teachers, the pastoral team and fellow pupils;
- Build new students' confidence in making a successful transition to Year 7;
- To enhance new students' cultural capital, introduce new ways of learning and develop their social skills.

Number of days offered	5 x full days	(09.30 – 15.00)
Number of pupils invited	344	All students enrolled to start Sept 21
Number of attendees	226	66% of students took up the offer.
Total number of days attended	722	Ranging from 1 to 5 days

The children joined us for between 1 and 5 days, with each day consisting of 3 subject sessions which were sequenced to support transition into KS3 study, a structured break time and lunch. The programme was designed to provide a comprehensive taster of Academy life, with opportunities to experience classroom expectations, key facilities, daily routines and KS3 subjects, including: Art; ICT; English; Geography; History; Music; P.E; Psychology; Sciences; Technology & Textiles.

In support of student familiarisation, the Summer School was staffed as follows:

- 23 subject teachers
- 6 pastoral managers
- 4 teaching assistants
- 1 lunch supervisor
- Catering staff from our provider Aspens

Funding claimed

	Total Gross Cost
Catering (labour, food & drink)	£3556.39
Curriculum & Enrichment materials	£17306.86
Staffing costs	£25876.06

The impact of the Summer School was significant, with both student attendees and parents alike reporting an increased level of confidence in the transition from primary school to Year 7.

Parental Survey Summary

Question (1 strongly disagree – 5 strongly agree)	Average
I feel my child will now be able to better navigate the Tollbar Academy site.	4.46
I feel my child has a clearer idea of their Year 7 subjects and how they will be taught.	4.38
I feel my child now knows some of their teachers and what they teach.	4.31
I feel my child has met a wider group of students and made some new friends.	4.17
I feel my child's confidence in starting secondary school has grown.	4.47
I feel my child is better prepared to start Year 7 at Tollbar Academy.	4.64
Overall I am pleased my child attended Summer School and feel it was a valuable experience for them.	4.87
The Summer School was well organised and it was clearly communicated to parents	4.48
I would recommend a transition Summer School to future parents of Year 6 students.	4.89

Selected parent quotes:

I cannot thank the school more for what they have organised this week and my son was almost in tears the first day but today couldn't wait to go. Thank you!!!

I would just like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you, to the organisers, the teachers and staff that gave up their valuable time and the communications team for keeping parents and students updated.

This was the perfect way for the school to introduce themselves to the children. My son who was so nervous about beginning secondary school didn't even know where the school was. First day nerves were soon swiped away. Down to the lovely staff/team and great bunch of students and the first-class organisation He said he is sad it's over and cannot wait to start in September now. He wished it was on for 2 weeks. He has met lots of new children and enjoyed all the lessons Thank you so much for making our transition easy and making a worried mother feel confident about his September start.

My daughter loved summer school she did not want to come but instead of me begging her to try she's looked forward to every single day she's done full week because we knew she would need it! I thank all the teachers support staff kitchen staff cleaners and anyone I've forgotten who's made this possible! kids like my daughter would have had a seriously anxious summer without this opportunity to come and try and meet staff and kids alike. I hope you continue this for future children such a great opportunity

My daughter has loved every minute of the summer school. She has come home full of stories of her day. She has literally enjoyed every subject and is looking forward to September. The Summer School is brilliant for them and we are very grateful to all involved for making this week possible .

My son was so scared of coming to school in September. All he kept saying was he was worried that he was not going to make any friends and get bullied. He was also getting anxious as he hadn't seen inside the building. The summer school was amazing, he came home every day with a huge grin on his face and met loads of new friends . He can now enjoy his summer without worrying.

Student Survey Summary

Question (1 strongly disagree – 5 strongly agree)	Average
I enjoyed the Summer School sessions and feel they have given me an insight into learning at Secondary School.	4.54
I feel I know more about what to expect from my Year 7 subjects.	4.21
I have learnt the names of some of my new teachers and know what they teach.	3.68
I now feel more confident I could find my way around the Academy site.	3.35
I understand how to log on to the school computers and save my work.	4.24
I have met students from other schools and made some new friends.	4.31
I can find the canteen and know how to queue for lunch.	4.90
I have had fun and feel the Summer School was a good use of my time.	4.71
The Summer School has made me feel more confident about starting Tollbar in September.	4.44