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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to express how much we are looking forward to welcoming your child in September and hope that they are as excited as we are about starting this new chapter at Whitley Bay High School.

As you will now be aware we are regrettably unable to run our Induction Days. As a school we had been working hard to ensure that these days could go ahead in a safe, enjoyable and purposeful way, but unfortunately given the current situation we are unable to have students from other schools on the school site. However, I want to reassure you that we will do everything to ensure that transition will still be enjoyable and allow your child to make the move to High School very successfully.

I appreciate how important transition is for both students and parents. We want students to get a feel for our school ethos, get to know some key staff and what a WBHS lesson is like. I am therefore pleased to be able to tell you that your child will still be able to experience all of these things by taking part in our virtual Induction Day activities. Matt Bland (Head of Year) and his team have been planning the days themed around the 'Mars Perseverance' mission. Perseverance is something we have all needed this year, so it is a very appropriately named mission. Students will investigate the incredible technology being used for the current NASA mission on Mars and do activities related to English, Maths and Science on the theme. Some of the activities your child will complete during induction include:

- Welcome assembly from the Year 9 team
- A video introducing your child to key staff in school
- Tutor group activities
- A chance to try a Maths, English and Science lesson
- A wellbeing challenge
- A personal profile to complete 'all about me'

There will also be a virtual tour of the school so that students can start to navigate their way around before September. We also plan to have a separate Induction Day for new Year 9 students on **Friday 3rd September** where students will meet their tutor, take part in a number of exciting activities and have an opportunity to have a tour of the school. Unfortunately, because of the size of our school and the latest advice around COVID-19, we are unable to offer private tours to individual students, but we hope that you are reassured that your child will be able to do this in September before the rest of our students start.

Could I also take this opportunity to encourage you to follow the Year 8 Twitter page led by Matt Bland and his team (@WBHS_Induction) where there will be regular news and updates.

Hopefully this letter will provide some reassurance that your first experience at Whitley Bay High School is very important to us. We will ensure a comprehensive induction at school is conducted as soon as it is safe to do so in September. Until then, I wish you and your families well and look forward to welcoming you to Whitley Bay High School.

Yours faithfully



Steve Wilson
Headteacher