



6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Student

Welcome to Abbey Grange! Congratulations on gaining a place at our fantastic school. We are really looking forward to seeing you in September and hopefully there will be opportunities to see you beforehand. Abbey Grange Church of England Academy is a great place to learn, to make new friends and a great place to get stuck into something you are passionate about doing whatever your talent may or may not be.

My name is Mr Prinsep and I am the Principal at Abbey Grange. You may have seen me at Open Evening when I had to do a big speech in front of you and your parents. This is only my second year at Abbey Grange so I am also quite new. I still remember what it was like in my first year so I know what you might be thinking right now and also how you might be feeling. There is excitement at starting at a new school which will be so much bigger than your current one and will have all your lessons split into subjects. These will be in different rooms with different teachers and sometimes in different buildings! There will also be some nervousness about starting especially if you are one of the only ones from your primary school who is coming. Do not worry. I guarantee you that you will have a whole new group of friends by the end of the first week.

We have a fantastic team of teachers at the academy who will make sure that your lessons are engaging and interesting but also challenging so that you will make outstanding progress through your time here. Before long you will be making your option choices during Y9 and then starting GCSEs in Y10. You may even join the vast majority of our pupils who stay on to do A Levels in Y12 and Y13.

But let's not jump too far ahead! First, there is Y7 to get used to. You will have a Year Manager for Year 7 who will be there to meet you on the first day with me and with Mr Rothera who is our Achievement Director for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9). You will also have a form tutor and there are 9 different forms in Year 7 so if one of your friends is not in your form, don't worry as you will see them in lessons as form time is only the first 20 minutes of each day. After form time each day, you will be in different classes with different pupils depending on your timetable. You will all be together for assemblies, collective worship, break time and lunchtime – and before and after school of course where you will probably catch one of 10 buses!

Abbey Grange also has a wide range of clubs and groups to get involved with that take place at lunchtime and after school. There are so many but here's a little taster of some of them: debating club, coding club, uno club, school musical, junior choir, brass band, athletics team, philosophy club, chaplaincy clubs, football team, netball team, athletics, STEM club, art club, cooking clubs and so much more! Attending these clubs or committing to other activities such as running for the student council, count towards pledges that you complete each year. Completing pledges count towards your Abbey Character and there are prizes and rewards throughout the year as you work through this. The academy also has a system of positives. Positives are like house points in Harry



Potter, you receive them from staff when you do something well, or do something kind or helpful, or contribute to the school ethos in some way. There is even a Principal's Award! If you are recommended for one of these, you get a certificate and a positive that is worth 5 points!

Anyway, that's enough from me. The point I'm trying to make is that you have chosen a great school with great staff and great students. You are going to have a fantastic time with the best teachers in Leeds who will get you some of the best grades in Leeds. We have staff who will look after you and keep you safe as well as teach you how to keep yourself, and others, safe. Great lessons, great opportunities and great times for you as you join us to work in partnership with us to ensure you are educated, that you are nurtured and that you are empowered. If you would like any more information we recommend you head to the school website at [www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](http://www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk) and explore the transition tab.

Congratulations again and I'll see you soon!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Prinsep'.

Mr Prinsep  
Principal  
Abbey Grange Church of England Academy