Monday 27th April.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to welcome you to the St Francis of Assisi Catholic College community. The day you received confirmation of your place was the day that you became part of our school family. I hope you are excited about joining us in September. However, I do know that the current situation may be making this a little more daunting than it usually is. Please don’t worry if you’re anxious about the transition to secondary school; this is perfectly natural. I want you to know that we care a lot for our students (which now includes you) and we will be doing everything that we can to make sure that the process is as comfortable for you as possible, despite the difficult situation that we all find ourselves in.

I know that your primary school teachers will have been working really hard with you this year, getting you ready for your SATs. In fact, they will be very proud of your efforts and all of the knowledge that you will have gained in the process. This work won’t have been in vain just because you didn’t get the chance to sit the papers. On the contrary, it will have helped you prepare for life as a year 7 student at St Francis and will provide the building blocks for you to flourish in the future. Your primary school teachers will be busy providing us with important information about each and every one of you, ranging from your academic skills to your interests and hobbies (after all they will know an awful lot about you). We will use the information to ensure that we are able to make your start in secondary education a positive one. We know that each and everyone of you is unique and should be treated as such.

We all hope that we can return to some sort of normality soon, but must remember that despite how difficult it has been, it is so important that we follow the guidelines set and continue to show our appreciation for those who continue to work to keep members of our community safe and well. In particular, those key workers, whom I am sure you have shown your appreciation for during the Thursday evening “clap for carers”. In the mean-time, please make sure that you do your best to keep your brains active by completing the home learning set by your current teachers. We plan that when you are able to return to school, someone from St Francis of Assisi will be able to come and meet you and we also hope that you are able to visit us before the school year is out as part of transition days. We will try our best to enable this to happen; if we can’t, we will find other ways to communicate and make you feel part of the SFA family.

I would like to finish by reminding you that this situation will be over before we know it. We all need to learn something positive from the experience; sometimes from adversity we can grow into better people. In particular, it is important that we don’t take our education for granted. You are privileged to be able to go to school, so when you get the chance to, make sure you grab the opportunity with both hands.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and until then, remember “Nil Satis Optimum” or “only the best is good enough”. This is our school motto (which you will hear a lot soon); now is a good time to start putting it into practice by trying your best at everything you do.

Yours sincerely,

M Connell

Mr M Connell

Transition Lead