

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds both you and your family safe and well.

I am writing to you to provide you with information on our school's P7 transition arrangements for 2021. This is a very exciting time for many of the young people in P7 as they enter their last few months of primary school, but it can also be unsettling for many, including parents and carers.

This year has posed many challenges to us all as we adapt to the necessary changes to our everyday lives and it is well documented on how this has impacted schools. The welfare of our young people and staff is of paramount importance to us, which requires us to make short term plans in line with the national and local guidance. The current guidance restricts our staff from visiting our future S1s at their primary school and also raises questions about how visits to The Robert Burns Academy as part of our normal transition programme will take place.

In light of these developments we have adapted our plans for our transition programme this year. We are optimistic that restrictions will ease as we approach Spring which is when the majority of our interactions take place. Below I have outlined some arrangements that we have put in place for this year:

- Pupils with additional support needs will have a review meeting to discuss their transition to secondary school. Some of these meetings have already taken place, although the majority will be carried out in Jan / Feb 2021. Your child's current school will organise a time for this.
- Our Principal Teachers of Pupil Support will partner with each of our associated primary schools to organise 'virtual visits' to P7 classrooms. This will allow us to explore aspects of secondary school life and give the young people opportunities to ask question and discuss their concerns.
- Our senior pupils are in the process of creating several videos which showcase 'a day in the life of a Robert Burns Academy pupil'. These videos will also introduce some key members of staff from each departments and show the facilities each department has access to.
- It is still our intention (guidance permitting) to offer a two day 'bump up' experience for all P7s in June where they will follow a timetable of activities in The Robert Burns Academy. The dates for these visits will be confirmed closer to the time.

I am in regular contact with your child's primary school and we will continue to liaise with each other to enhance this experience wherever possible. I will write to you again in the new year to update you on the arrangements listed above. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to direct any questions regarding the content to this letter to me directly or through your primary school.

Wishing you a happy, and restful, festive break.

**Mr P. McGurn**

**Depute Head Teacher**