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## **Kilmarnock Academy**

### **William McIlvanney Campus**

**Head Teacher: Mr David Rose**

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Date: 30 April 2021

Dear Primary 7 Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you at this important time in your young person's school career to explain the next stage in Kilmarnock Academy's primary 7 transition plan. Although the primary 7s have had a different experience from the one we had planned due to the pandemic, I am confident they have enjoyed a positive experience and a great deal of contact with the school including:

- Videos from our DHT House Heads, Pupil Support team and prefect team to introduce the school to the P7s.
- Our Modern Languages challenge in October 2020 which allowed the P7s to create some excellent work with prize winners in every school.
- A virtual parent information session and school tour in December 2020.
- An exciting Art department activity in April 2021 with innovative house crests designed by each school.
- In person visits from Mrs Wallace and myself to meet every primary 7 in their own school to take place during May 2021.

We have really enjoyed sharing all of these experiences with your young people and they really must be commended for how they have embraced our offerings while adapting to all the changes at the same time.

We had hoped that the next stage of our transition would allow all P7s to visit Kilmarnock Academy at the end of May 2021 to meet their new S1 classmates and follow their S1 timetables. Unfortunately, this will not be possible due to ongoing COVID mitigations. However, we believe it is hugely important to offer an in-school experience where possible and would like to offer every primary school a morning at Kilmarnock Academy. This morning visit will allow all P7s to meet key personnel, have a physical tour of the school, engage with two subject specific lessons and meet current S1s who can answer questions and share their experiences. Last session, all P7 transition activities were virtual in nature and so we are extremely excited that we can offer an in-school experience this session.

As COVID mitigations dictate that primary schools cannot mix class bubbles, we have agreed the following timetable with primary Head Teachers.

<b>Date</b>	<b>School/Class</b>	<b>Time Slot</b>
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Onthank PS: Class 1</b>	9.30 – 12.30pm
	<b>Onthank PS: Class 2</b>	
	<b>Onthank PS: Class 3</b>	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Whatriggs PS: Class 1</b>	9.30 – 12.30pm
	<b>Whatriggs PS: Class 2</b>	
	<b>Whatriggs PS: Class 3</b>	
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>Loanhead PS: Class 1</b>	9.30 – 12.30pm
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>James Hamilton PS: Class 1</b>	9.30 – 12.30pm
	<b>James Hamilton PS Class 2 &amp; Sgoil na Coille Nuaidh</b>	9.30 – 12.30pm

- Pupils will be transported to and from Kilmarnock Academy by their primary schools and will be accompanied by primary staff.
- Pupils should wear their primary school uniforms and should bring water and their morning snack.
- On return to their primaries, they will continue with transition activities where they will virtually “meet” our subject departments.
- To comply with Kilmarnock Academy’s COVID mitigations, it is essential that P7s wear a face covering throughout the visit unless they are exempt.

*Please be assured that the transition has been Risk Assessed with EAC and H & S. No class bubble will be compromised either in transit or within Kilmarnock Academy. If you would like more details of the Health & Safety Covid mitigations then these can be provided.*

In addition, S1 class lists will be shared with P7 teachers and pupils during the month of June. In recognition of the importance of P7 pupils meeting their new S1 classmates from other schools, virtual meetings will take place. Last session, due to lockdown, P7s each had a class TEAM during June where they “met” their PT Pupil Support and their new S1 classmates. The feedback from pupils, parents and primaries was extremely positive. Therefore, we will replicate this model this session but we plan to enhance the experience further by involving parents/carers – I hope you are up for it! A TEAM will be created for each new S1 class where a virtual “Meet Your Class” event will take place hosted by Kilmarnock Academy’s DHT House Heads and respective Principal Teachers of Pupil Support. These events will allow parents/carers to meet key school personnel and support the P7s in meeting their peers. One event per S1 class will take place week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> June. More details will follow.

I am sure that you will agree we are providing a positive and engaging transition experience for your young people in challenging circumstances. The primary 7s have clearly enjoyed all aspects of the transition so far and I am sure they will also make the most of their visit. Last session’s primary 7s had a completely virtual transition due to the pandemic and they are now nearing completion of a very successful S1 which demonstrates the adaptability and resilience of our young people. Therefore, I am sure this session’s combination of virtual and in-school transition will serve as an excellent start to your child’s secondary school career at Kilmarnock Academy.

We look forward to welcoming your young people to our school in June and to giving them the best start to S1 possible. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Claire Wallace, who will lead our S1 transition, if you require any information or have any concerns about the transition more generally.

Yours sincerely



David Rose  
Head Teacher

