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Education and Families

Jodie McGraw
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Primary 7 Transition

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all well and coping with the very different start to our 2021 school term. Educationally we find ourselves juggling work and home schooling alongside the other challenges we all face during this difficult time. Hopefully, as announced yesterday by the Scottish Government we will be back in our classrooms sooner rather than later and when it is safe for us all to do so. We will see what new information is provided on the 2nd of February and make changes as appropriate.

Our transition programme like everything else has also been different to previous years. However, I want to reassure parents that we will continue to work alongside our Primary colleagues to ensure a meaningful programme of work is in place. Prior to the Christmas break we had two virtual transition assemblies which included a question and answer session, virtual tour of the school, timetable guide, S1 Subjects, Meet the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers and information on our house group structure and Pupil Support/Guidance staff. The feedback from our survey highlighted that the Virtual Assemblies have been well received by the youngsters in P7.

Over the next few weeks I will be added to your Child's online Teams page and will be posting activities and will also make myself available to answer any further questions your child may have. Furthermore, if you have any ideas or questions then please feel free to contact Bellshill Academy (01698 274940) and I will get back to you.

Can I thank the parents who completed our transition questionnaire before Christmas. The information provided has helped me to plan the most important issues raised in the responses. The information below will hopefully be useful and answer the most common queries we received.

Before Christmas you will have received the Bellshill Academy Handbook which has a lot of important information within its contents. If you have not received your copy can you please contact your child's primary school as they have copies.

Transition Visit:

At the moment it is not possible for Bellshill Academy to commit to a transition visit to the High School for pupils and parents. We will continue to monitor the information provided by the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council and make the most appropriate decision.



We would love to meet you all and if/when we are allowed we will make every effort to organise Transition days for pupils and a Parents evening. More information will be provided when we have it.

Classes:

We make up our classes using the information provided by our Primary colleagues. This will guarantee that pupils are placed in a class with friends to ensure they settle quickly into the new environment of High School. I also want to reassure parents that young people are very resilient and they make new friends from other schools very quickly.

We also look to keep siblings in the same house group so you only have 1 Pupil Support teacher to contact when required.

Timetable:

At present, pupils in S1 follow a 33 period week of 50 minutes per period. Pupils will be timetabled for 13 different subjects including Maths, English, Science, PE and IT. Any changes to timetable structure will be communicated to you in advance.

I hope this information helps and as previously stated we will continue to adapt and change our plans over the coming months.

Finally, I would like to encourage you and your child to keep doing your best with home schooling and online learning. We are all trying very hard during this difficult time. Also, make time for yourself and go outside if/when you can.

Hope to meet you all soon

Mr A Hamilton

Depute Head Teacher

Bellshill Academy