

# BRANNOCK HS – TRANSITION GUIDE

**Our Vision is for everyone in our Community to be:  
Kind, Happy & Successful**



Loanhead Road  
Newarthill, Motherwell ML1  
01698 274 936  
enquiries-at-brannock@northlan.org.uk  
@brannock\_high

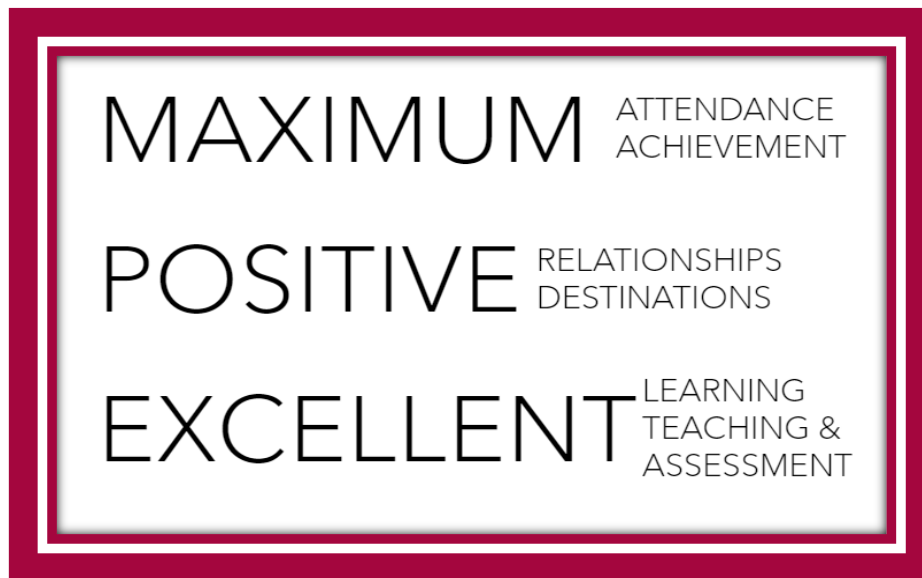


**Brannock  
High  
School**

## Vision and Values

The overall vision for our school is for **everyone in the Brannock HS community to be kind, happy and successful**. Brannock High School aims to provide a challenging and stimulating learning environment that empowers young people to reach their full educational potential while nurturing their self-confidence and self-esteem. We aim to provide, in partnership with parents/carers and community agencies, a quality education provision which will allow our young people to develop as lifelong learners and succeed in the world beyond Brannock.

Our core values of **Respect, Hard Work and Ambition** are embodied within the heart and soul of our school. The core values can be reflected upon through our 5 school aims:



At Brannock High School:

- We believe that success comes from hard work
- We believe that everyone within the school community should treat others as they would like to be treated themselves.
- We believe pupils should be proud of their work and of their achievements and this should be recognised and praised.
- We believe that we need to listen to each other and respect others opinions.
- We believe at Brannock HS we provide opportunities for our pupils to develop social skills and new interests which help prepare them for the world beyond Brannock.
- We believe that the classroom environment should be somewhere that promotes excellent learning and teaching, where every pupil knows what success looks like and can achieve their full potential.

## Transition

The move from primary to secondary school is a very important time in the lives of our young people and their families. Pupils move from a primary school where they are well-known and taught all their subjects by one or 2 teachers, to a large secondary school where they are taught by many subject teachers who see them for a limited time each week.

For most pupils this is an exciting time of new experiences and widen horizons.

When asked what they are looking forward to most the reasons given include:

- The chance to meet new friends
- The study of new subjects
- Gaining new perspectives on subjects like science and technology and PE
- A new environment
- Moving around from teacher to teacher

For others, however, it can be a time of uncertainty, anxiety and a loss of confidence. When asked what the main concerns are they listed:

- Not making new friends/losing their 'old' ones
- Having to get up earlier to walk further to school
- The more challenging nature of some of the subjects studied
- More homework
- The danger of bullying
- Being the youngest in the school

With this in mind it is important to note that the school and its staff make the difference in a child's transition.

At Brannock High School we pride ourselves in having a full and supportive transition programme. Pupils are the focus of transition, and the ones most directly affected by transition arrangements. Brannock HS will aim to provide valuable experiences for P7 pupils to participate in activities that prepare them for high school. This, coupled with the Lift Off (Enhanced Transition Programme) and the Summer Transition Club gives pupils more time to:

- Meet staff
- Meet new friends
- Sample lessons
- Experience the organisation of secondary school structure
- Experience the length of lessons
- Experience the manner in which lessons are taught
- Experience a range of subjects
- Feel part of the Brannock High School community.

## The Difference between Primary and Secondary School

### Starting S1:

From day one, there will be many changes pupils will need to get used to, including having a number of different teachers and different classrooms, often spread over a large area. Time spent on studying subjects may be longer than what the pupils have been used to in primary. Pupils will be expected to carry around in their bags notes, books and folders from class to class.

### New Teachers:

At Brannock High School pupils in S1 will usually have around 12-14 different teachers. At the start, teachers may not know all the pupils names (some teachers may teach 200 or more pupils in a week). Please take time to reassure your child that it won't be too long before all teachers know them as well as their P7 teacher did.

### New Subjects:

In S1, pupils will be introduced to some subjects they have experienced much of before, and other subjects may have a different approach and emphasis from primary school learning. Pupils will be encouraged to be independent, self-reliant and self-motivated. Lessons will often be more pupil centred **Much of your child's progress will depend on their initiative, work ethic and ambition to achieve and succeed.**

### New Friends:

Making new friends is perhaps one of the most daunting tasks for S1 pupils. Hopefully our transition programme will help all our new S1 pupils meet and work with each other before starting full time at Brannock High School. Fitting in is very important to S1 pupils - finding people they like and who share their interests helps motivate them and increase their self-esteem. It is a good idea for parents/carers and their children to talk everyday about their new school experiences, the people they've met or the observations they've made - this way parents/carers are aware of any difficulties when they arise rather than when it's too late. It is also important for parents/carers to re-assure their children who are a taking a while to find their place in the school, and their new set of friends - it will happen.

### Peer Pressure:

Making new friends and the desire to fit sometimes forces students to do things they might not normally do - just so they can be liked or be one of the crowd. Making children aware of the fact that they don't have to do everything their peers do, is an important way of ensuring the friendships they make are genuine and positive and not based on pressure or conformity. Telling them a real friend is someone who likes them for who they are, is a valuable message.

**Timetable:**

To keep track of all lessons and classrooms, pupils are given a weekly timetable which shows their subjects, times and room they are taught in. Pupils are required to check their timetables each night to make sure they have the correct books, equipment and completed home learning for the next day's lessons. Reading and understanding timetables takes some getting used to, moving from room to room might unsettle and tire your child. Starting high school is somewhat like starting new job so it normal for your child to feel unsettled at the beginning.

**The Difference between Home Learning and Study:**

The home learning set will vary in amount and type depending of the subject, but most pupils will need to do some home learning each night possibly - whether it be a review of lessons from that day, completion of exercises or starting an assignment that is due in at a later date. There may be need for study time - which is separate from completing home learning. Pupils should go over the day's work, read their textbooks or course notes and try and increase their understanding, and remember concepts and facts covered in class. Parents/carers are a great help in study - using the class notes you can help your child memorise, retain and consolidate their knowledge.

## Parents/Carers: The Role in Transition

Parents/carers active support is very important in easing pupil's transition from primary school to secondary school.

### **What can you do?**

- Talk positively about coming to Brannock High School
- Ask your child what exciting them most about coming
- Ask if there is anything worrying them - if there is, talk about it
- Make sure your child has a quiet area to complete home learning

To maximise potential from schooling, pupils need the full support of their parents/careers.

### **What does this mean?**

As parent parents/carers we must play a role in promoting our children's achievements:

- Checking through the timetable each night while your child packs their bag
- Encouraging your child to get a good night's sleep
- Checking home work has been completed and support home study
- Attending parents/carers meetings
- Encouraging our children to participate in extracurricular activities.

The transition between primary and secondary school can sometimes see less parental involvement with the secondary school than what was with the primary school.

### **Why is this?**

When pupils move from primary into secondary school, they become more mature and more independent. Pupils will now walk with friends to school. This means that parents/carers no longer take their child to school which in turn means parents/carers no longer visit the school each day or meet other parents/carers outside the school gates, therefore, the opportunities for informal discussion no longer exist. This in turn means parents/carers no longer have daily contact with other parents/carers and the school. Sometimes it is assumed that parents/carers will know how to deal with certain issues at secondary school - however, it is a different system from primary and often parents don't know who to approach if their child is experiencing a difficulty or an issue arises.

### **If you have a concern - who do you contact?**

At primary it was easy - you contacted the class teacher or the Head Teacher. In secondary school it's not quite as obvious. If your child has had a problem in Maths for example, who do you contact? The class teacher? The Principal Teacher? The Depute Head? The Head Teacher?

In all cases where you have a concern about your child, your first point of contact in the school is your child's **Pupil Support Teacher**.

We have a team of 3 pupil support teachers and a Home School Partnership Officer whose main priority is to ensure that all pupils at Brannock High School feel safe, happy, secure and nurtured.

## Language and Communication Centre

Our Language and Communication Centre (LCSC) is one of only three secondary LCSCs in North Lanarkshire.

We are a specialist provision, supporting young people with additional support needs to access a mainstream education.

Young people are allocated a place in our LCSC, through a panel of experts, based on their academic, social and emotional needs.

In Brannock High, we have over 75 pupils in our LCSC who receive this enhanced support.

Some of the support our young people receive from the LCSC

- ASNA Support in Class
- Specialist Teacher Support
  - Keyworker input
  - Multi Agency input
  - Safe breakout spaces
- Flexibility in the curriculum
  - Core Skills
- Enhanced/Early Transitions

Your child may be in a class where there is enhanced adult support or perhaps see some of young people from the LCSC leaving class early.

## How can you support as a parent/carer?

Talk to your child about how to show compassion, understanding and kindness to everyone

Help your child learn and understand what we mean by Neurodiversity

Encourage your young person to be supportive when they see someone struggling

Be an advocate for Neurodiversity – help all young people to look for strengths and celebrate successes!

Use correct/positive language, e.g. Neurodiversity, Autism Spectrum Condition

Some excellent resources:

AMAZING THINGS (YouTube), "Float" (Disney) and Neurodiversity Newsround (BBC)  
@BrannockLCSC (Twitter)

## The Pupil Support Team

Brannock High School operates a vertical 'House' System. Generally, pupils will work with the same Pupil Support Teacher/Depute Head throughout their time at Brannock High School.

Each House consists of pupils at all stages in the school, from S1 to S6. We try to ensure that members of a family are in the same House to allow pupils/families, as far as possible, to identify with the same members of the Pupil Support Team throughout their school career. This also allows more consistent contact between home and school. However, it is not always the case.

Pupil Support staff will get to know children and their parents/carer well to be able to offer support to our young people and their families, to offer advice on curricular matters including choosing subjects and to lend a sympathetic ear generally. Parents are asked to encourage their children to use the opportunity to talk about any issues in this way.

The first point of contact for any young person or parent /carer is the Principal Teacher Pupil Support.

Pupil Support Staff can be seen by appointment or in the case of a genuine emergency, sometimes immediately. Many matters can be dealt with by means of a telephone call. Simply ask for the Pupil Support teacher concerned and if he/she is not available, leave a contact number and they will return your call as soon as possible.

All Pupil Support staff link with external agencies to provide appropriate information, support and guidance to our young people. This may include Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Educational Psychology, NL Youth Counselling Service, Visual / Hearing impairment service, etc.

<b>Arran House</b>	<b>Bute House</b>	<b>Lewis House</b>
Mrs M Kerr/ Mrs F Cameron	Miss Divers	Mrs McRobbie
Miss S Kelly (DHT Link)	Mr Connelly (DHT Link)	Mr Bradshaw (DHT Link)

I look forward to welcoming your young person to Brannock High School and hope that we can work together to ensure that all our young people fulfil their potential.

*Mr D. Bradshaw*

Depute Head Teacher of Transitions