



Our Lady's High School Cumbernauld

P7/S1 Transition



Frequently Asked Questions



Hi everyone,



Thank you so much for all the interesting questions you asked when I visited you in your primary school last week.

As there were so many we thought we would group these together under different headings.

Mrs Reynolds-Cowie & Ms Campbell
DHT S1

The First Day

What will the first day be like?

School starts at 8.55 am each day, interval is from 10.35 am until 10.50 am and lunch is at 12.30 pm until 1.15 pm.

What do I have to bring with me on my first day?

On the first day you should bring your school bag and pencil case with pens and pencils.

On your first day you will be met by all the Pupil Support Team:

Miss Ruddy	Columba House
Mr. Maxwell	St John Ogilvie House
Miss Byrne	St Mungo House
Mr. Murray	St Thenew House
Miss Kerr	St Margaret of Scotland House

I will be there to meet you, together with Ms Campbell who is also your S1 Year Head.

Mr Graham PT SfL and Melanie our Home School Partnership Officer will be there too.

We will issue you with your new timetable and you will also be reminded of your Class, Practical Set, House and Pupil Support Teacher's name. You will then make your way to class.

We know that while you may be a little anxious on the first day, you will have lots of fun in your new classes, meeting new friends and getting to know all your different teachers.

In Our Lady's High School, we have a 32-period week. This is made up of seven periods on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a 3.45pm finish. From August 2021 Fridays will be four period days with a 12.30pm finish.

Do S1 get separate breaks from the rest of the school?

S1 breaks are at the same time as all other pupils. In your first week you will have a slightly earlier lunch to allow you to become familiar with the new dinner hall.

You will have your own S1 yard and Senior Management will be present at interval and at lunchtime to support you.

Classes

Will I be in the same house as my brother?

Yes, you will be in the same House as your sibling.

This means that your Pupil Support teacher already knows your family well.

Will I be in classes with my friends from primary school? Can I choose the friends that are in my new class?

Classes will be made up of pupils from different primary schools. There will be approximately 154 pupils in S1 in August.

You will always be put in a class with someone from the primary school you attended, so you will be guaranteed to know someone.

Prior to you joining us in August, we have been busy speaking to your P7 teachers. We use this information to help us make up classes.

You don't get to pick friends to be in class with, but we will try hard to make sure that you are with someone that you will work well with.

Remember you will make lots of new friends in Our Lady's High, so please try not to worry about who will be in your class.

Buddies

Will we get a buddy and for how long?

Each S1 pupil will have an S6 buddy from August. These senior pupils will get to know you well and support you in your transition. The S6 buddies will meet up with you on a regular basis in class and together you will complete a small unit of work all about you and your S1 experience.

Finding My Way Around the Building

How will I find my way about the school and what happens if we do get lost?

When you start in S1 you will have S6 guides who will show you to your classes for the first week. This will help you to become familiar

with the building and the one-way system we have. Your Pupil Support Teacher will also show you around the building early in the new term.

Our Lady's High is a very friendly school, remember you will move from one subject to another with pupils from your own class so you are not likely to get lost.

However, should you become separated from your class, teachers or older students will be happy to show you where to go.

S1 Work

Will we carry on with the work from our primary schools?

In most subjects you will start new pieces of work. We have lots of information about your prior learning from your primary school. All this information will be shared with your class teachers.

Learning Support

Will I get additional help as I'm dyslexic?

Mr Graham the Principal Teacher for Support for Learning will know all about your dyslexia and will pass this information to all of your class teachers. You will receive support in much the same way as you did in primary school.

Homework

How different is the homework?

The wide range of subjects that you will study at Our Lady's High means that you will have a little more homework than you are used to. Class teachers will issue homework on a regular basis but you will be given plenty of time to complete this. If it is a larger piece of work, you will be given a longer deadline to complete this.

Tests & Assessments in S1

Will we get tests when we come up?

Assessment is an ongoing part of your learning and often our teachers assess you as part of your regular lessons. We promise that you won't feel inundated with tests in S1 though you will have some. You will always know in advance of any assessment and your class teacher will prepare you well. You always be given sufficient time to prepare too at home and to revise in class.

School Transport

I'm a bit worried about the bus because and just a bit anxious about changing schools altogether.

Everyone is always bit anxious about starting High School, so that's perfectly understandable. Remember we already know lots about you from your primary school, try to look at this next stage as an exciting one and be reassured that we will take very good care of you. We are working very closely with North Lanarkshire Council and arrangements for travelling on the school bus will be shared with your parent or carer as soon as possible. Arrangements will ensure that you are safe while travelling to and from school

The Senior Management Team made up of the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers are always present at the bus bay at the end of the day to help you. You can also be confident that you will get on the correct bus at the end of the day, as we are always there to support you. School buses are not allowed to leave at the end of the day until all pupils are on the correct bus.

I am worried I don't have a place on the school bus. We stay far from my High School so I am thinking about that a lot as I don't want to be late.

Your parent or carer will receive a letter during the summer holidays telling them which bus stop you should go to near your home address and also what time the bus will arrive there.

Always make sure that you are there earlier than the time given; your bus might come slightly earlier or slightly later. Never leave the bus stop if the bus is late, it will always come. If a school bus is late bringing you to school you will not get into trouble, as everyone on the bus is late and it was not your fault.

Our Transition

What is the school planning for the new First Years?

As you know you will visit for a morning from 9.30am until 11.40am. These visits will take place from Friday 11th June until Friday 18th June, with each primary school allocated a morning.

This visit will allow you to attend two classes and also meet with some of your class teachers.

Mrs Cunningham the Head Teacher will meet with you too.

Your new teachers are working really hard to make sure that your first experience of starting high school is as positive and supportive as possible. Remember we have our transition section on the school website which we are currently updating. You can visit this to find out lots of information about OLHS. You will shortly be able to see and listen to staff from each of our departments as they are busy making a short video for you.

The school handbook and a guide about the work of all the different departments is also available on the school website.

Enhanced Transition

We are currently in the process of organising our Summer School for some of our P7 pupils. Your Head Teacher will let us know what pupils they think might benefit from some extra support in making the move to High School.

Melanie our Home School Partnership Officer will be contacting parents or carers over the next week or two to discuss the support we will put in place for pupils who will participate in Summer School.

Our New Uniform

How will we get our blazers before starting Our Lady's High?

Our school uniform supplier, LogoXpres will place an online order form on the school website. This gives your parents and carers all the information they need to order your new S1 uniform, including advice on how to order the correct size of blazer for you.

Lockers

Where do we put our jackets etc?

You can carry bags and jackets from class to class. Lockers can also be purchased for £5. They are located in the cafeteria and will be made available to you if you wish one.

Young Scot Cards

Will we get our Young Scot cards sent to us or will we get them at High School?

Your Young Scot card will be issued by your primary school prior to the summer break.

In the meantime, you might like to look at the excellent resources at www.young.scot including local pages at <https://young.scot/north-lanarkshire>. Young people aged 12+ can sign up for young scot membership and access additional opportunities, rewards and discounts on the web page. The social media pages also contain lots of great information about events, opportunities and youth issues, so please follow @NLCYouthwork

Will my dinner money card transfer over so I can top it up in time for the first day?

We will work closely with Young Scot to deal with these issues.

School Clubs & Teams

For the dance team are there competitions?

North Lanarkshire organises competitions in dance as well as many other sports including gymnastics, cross country, athletics, heptathlon, football, netball, handball and many more.

What school clubs and groups can I join?

There are lots of school clubs and activities including, table tennis, basketball, dance, netball, gymnastics, football, public speaking, drama and lots more.

Do you have a football team?

We have a football team for each year group at Our Lady's.

Do you have a drama department?

We have a wonderful drama department and you may even take part in our school show in the future.

Changes Due to Covid 19

We are currently complying with the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council guidelines.

What will the arrangements be in August?

You will return to school on Monday 16th August at 8.55am. S1 pupils will be taken to the assembly hall and you will then be taken to class by your S6 guides.

We hope we've been able to answer all of your questions.

If you have any other queries please contact the school:

enquiries@ourladyshighlanark.sch.uk

We are looking forward to meeting you all in August.

Mrs Reynolds-Cowie & Ms Campbell

