**TRANSITION Q&A**

**Please find answers to the questions you asked in your transition booklets. These were answered by pupils who transitioned to CHS last year. Your new school and teachers are working hard to put in measures to allow young people to return to school following the Covid19 lockdown which may result in changes to the information given here.**

**Another useful source of information is the CHS app. I have attached information on how to download this.**

**GENERAL**

**Is it fun to go to school at Castlehead?**

I didn’t really want to leave primary as I enjoyed it but secondary has been really fun. You might be a bit nervous at first, most people are, even if they do not say so, but you will get used to it. Meeting new friends has been good too.

**How is Castlehead different from primary school?**

Castlehead is much bigger than your primary school it is interesting to be in the different rooms and parts of the buildings. You may think it will be harder to find your way around the school, but you get S4 guides for several days at the beginning of term to show you the way around.The biggest difference is that you change classroom every period. Periods last 50minutes and then you move to a different classroom for a different subject. You get a different teacher for each subject.

**Is it difficult to move from primary to secondary school?**

Everyone has some worries, whether they admit it or not. It helps to meet up with your friends, especially the ones that are in your classes. You can all support each other.

**What time do classes start in the morning at Castlehead?**

In the morning there are two bells, the first bell goes at 8:45am, this tells you that it is time to go to class, the second bell goes at 8:50am and this is when your class begins. After 50min the bell rings again to indicate the class is finished and it’s time to move on to your next class. There is also a bell at the end of break and lunch to tell you to go to class.

**What time does the school day end?**

We have short and long days at Castlehead. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday are long days and Wednesday and Friday are short days. On short days you get six classes and on long days you get seven. School finishes at 3:40pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 2:50pm on the short days, Wednesday and Friday.

**What time is break and how long is it for?**

Break is after second period, it starts at 10.30am and lasts for 15mins, the bell rings at 10:45am to tell you to go back to class. At break people can go outside or to the canteen where they sell snacks. You should stay within the school grounds at break.

**What time is lunch at and how long do you get for it?**

Lunchtime last for 45 minutes. On long days it is at 1.15pm-2pm and on short days it is at 12.25pm-1.10pm. The schools prefer all 1st years to stay within the school grounds at lunch, but if the school receives permission form your parents you can go out for lunch after the September weekend.

**Are school lunches good, are they better or worse than primary?**

Most pupils say they are better than at primary school, but I take a packed lunch every day. I know that they sell hotdogs, pizza and pastas, there is always soup, sandwiches and salads as well as a main meal such as fish and chips or steak pie, mash and veg.

**How much are school lunches?**

It depends what you buy a meal is £2.60

**What lunch time and after school clubs are there at** **Castlehead?**

There are clubs to suit everyone. I go to lunchtime instrumental and band practice with my friends who play or are learning instruments. Most first years join the paired reading club which runs at lunchtimes, there are other lunchtime clubs for sports, board games and choir. After school there are training nights for most sports as well as a homework club and art club. The school has many sports teams including Rugby, football, netball, hockey and badminton.

**What is the school uniform?**

You wear a white shirt, the school tie, black trousers or a skirt, a black jumper and black shoes. First year pupils don’t usually wear a blazer, but you can if you want. You can wear trainers, but they must be all black. You are not allowed to wear hoodies or tops with logos, but you must take these off when you are in class.

**What PE kit do you need?**

The PE kit is a blue t-shirt and black shorts. The school PE top can be purchased through parent pay and collected by pupils when they go to PE. You will get information later on how to access parent pay for CHS.

**Will I feel safe when I go to Castlehead?**

I have never felt unsafe at school. I am always with my friends and there are usually adults around. There are adults to talk to if you are worried about anything. The school also has CCTV in most areas, which are monitored.

**Are there assemblies at Castlehead?**

Yes. There are not weekly assemblies like in primary but there are times when the whole school get together and there are year group assemblies. Assemblies are held in the auditorium so there are seats for everyone.

**What is a Pupil Support Teacher (Guidance Teacher)?**

Your pupil support teacher is introduced to you at the start of the year and you are told where their room is. Your pupil support teacher takes life skills lessons e.g. health and wellbeing, confidence and anti-drug education.

**Can you take your phone to school?**

Yes, but you are only allowed to use it when you are in the social area’s off the school. At other times it should be switched off and in your school bag. However sometimes teachers will allow you to use it to research specific tasks in class and in art you sometimes get to listen to music, through your headphones, when you are drawing.

**GETTING THERE**

**Who is entitled to get the school bus?**

You will be able to get the school bus if you live more than two miles away from your local secondary school.

Your parent or carer must apply for a place on the school bus for you. You can apply on the council’s website using this link: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3486/Home-to-school-transport> or by using the application attached. Once you have been allocated a place on the school bus you will be sent more information about the times of the buses and where they will pick you up. A few weeks into the first term you will get a bus pass, these will be handed out in school.

**Will I get into trouble if the school bus is late?**

No, because its the buses fault not yours.

**Can I use my school bus pass on a normal bus to get to school or if I have been at an after-school club?**

The only bus you can use the bus pass is the school bus, but you can take a public bus, but you will have to pay for this.

**Can my parent/carer drop me off at school?**

Yes, but the car park is really busy. Parents should only drop off and pick up pupils at the drop-off point between the two school gates, they should not go into the top part of the carpark.

**GETTING LOST**

**Is it easy to find your way around the school or is it confusing?**

It is a bit confusing at first but once you understand it its easy, the buddies help you find your way around too.

**Will I get lost?**

You may feel that you will get lost but the easiest way to not get lost is to find someone in your class and walk together as everyone in your class will be going to your next subject.

**How will I know how to find my way about?**

I found my way about by looking at the room numbers on my timetable they tell you which floor you are on and which class you are in.

**What happens if you go into the wrong class?**

If you go to the wrong class, you can just leave or ask the teacher to help you.

**Will I be late for my next class when I move from class to class?**

If you walk quickly to your next class, you will not be late.

**How will I know which class to go to?**

I set my wallpaper to my timetable on my phone until I get used to it.

**CLASSES:**

**What subjects are you taught in S1?**

You get to do Maths, English, PE, Religious and Moral Education (RME) Life Skills, Art, Science, Music, Social Subjects (Geography, History and Modern Studies), Science, Modern Languages, Technology (Woodwork and Graphics) and Home Economics (HE).

**Is the work harder in secondary school than in primary school?**

You may think it will be harder, but I think it is just like the difference between P1 and P7, the lessons are more difficult but because you have learnt more you don’t find them much harder. The teachers are good at supporting you if you are finding it difficult to understand something, so just ask for help.

**Will I get more homework when I start Castlehead than I got in primary school?**

No, I think you get less homework at secondary school, the difference is at primary school you usually get it on a Monday and it has to be completed for Thursday or Friday, but at secondary school you have to be more organised as you get homework on different days and it has to be completed for different days. But CHS have a homework app called Show My Homework which helps you to track which work you must do.

**Do I need a computer to do my homework?**

You do not need a computer to do homework, sometimes it may involve drawing a picture, but it may be easier to do or submit some work on a computer, netbook or tablet.

**Will the teachers give me in to trouble if I spell things wrong? I’m not good at spelling.**

Teachers understand that some pupils find it difficult to spell, you will not get into trouble, but they may encourage you to learn how to spell words.

**Is it difficult to remember your teachers’ names?**

Your teachers’ names are on your timetable so you can always look at this to remind you.

**Are the teachers nice?**

Yes, the teachers are nice especially if you are nice to them, but they may give you into trouble if you are disrupting the class or not doing your work.

**When do I get to pick my subjects?**

You don’t get to pick which subjects you do till S3

**When do you get tests and exams?**

You get class test just like primary, but you don’t get exams to S4 or S5

**Are the tests and exams hard?**

If you study for tests and exams you shouldn’t find them too difficult.

**RELATIONSHIPS:**

**Will my friends be in my class?**

At least one of your friends will be in your practical class.

**Was it easy to make new friends?**

Yes, in class you will be partnered up with different people to do group work, this is a great way to make new friends.

**What can I do if no one wants to be my friend?**

It is unlikely nobody would want to be your friend, but if you are feeling lonely or upset there are people to talk to and lunchtime clubs that you can join, where you can make friends with people who have similar interests to you.

**Should I come to school alone?**

You can come to school any way you want, I take the bus and then meet up with my friends when I get there.

**Are people mean? Annoying? Kind? Friendly?**

People are all different, but most people are nice.

**How do older students act?**

Older students are nice and mature but there are still some goofy ones.

**Have you had your head flushed down a toilet?**

No that hasn't ever happened.

**Is bullying worse at Castlehead then in primary school?**

I don't know what school you went to or if bullying is a big thing there but bullying rarely happens and even if it does it is verbal, try and ignore it if you are being picked on, if it does bother you please tell somebody you can trust.

**If I feel am being bullied what should I do?**

Tell a parent/carer or a teacher.

**Who will I speak to if I am worried about something?**

You can speak to a parent or a teacher. Your pupil support teacher is there to help you deal with any worries you may have.

**What should I do if I am seated next to someone I don’t like?**

If the person you are sitting next to bothers you, you can tell the teacher and they will move you.

**QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED BY CHS**

**General**

* Will I feel safe when I go to Castlehead?
* English is not my first language, will I get support with this?
* I got support in class in primary school, will I get support in my classes at Castlehead
* When will I know which class and house I am in?
* When will I get my timetable?

**Induction:**

* The induction days were cancelled due to the coronavirus lockdown, will I get any induction days.
* Will I get a tour of the school before I start?
* If the schools are open before I start S1 could I visit?
* Where should I go when I come to school on my first day?
* What will I be doing on my first day at Castlehead?
* On the first day back will the S1’s finish at the same time as the other students.
* What should I do when I arrive at school on a normal day?

**Getting there**

* What will the first few days of being at Castlehead look like?

**Getting lost**

* I’m worried about getting lost, will I get a map to help me find my way about?

**QUESTIONS ASKED BY PARENTS**

* What is the process to register and request a place on the school bus? LB
* What is the school bus timetable? LB
* Where are the stops for the school bus? LB
* Are maths and English classes streamed?
* What additional support is available to pupils with ASN?
* Will there be an induction?