

8th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is an exciting but can also be an anxious time for many young people who are leaving the familiarity of primary school and beginning a new chapter of their school journey in high school. The S1 Transition programme this year has very different look. In previous years, the transition programme has involved visits by Park Mains HS staff and pupils to discuss aspects of school life and also a 2 day induction visit when P7 pupils spend time in Park Mains familiarising themselves with the school building, following their timetable, completing some activities and meeting their teachers and new classmates. Obviously, we are unable to offer the same programme this year, but we are keen to engage with the P7 group and have provided a programme of transition activities via their remote learning platforms.

The pupil programme includes a weekly session during week commencing 1st, 8th, 15th June 2020. These sessions are provided via your school's online learning platform and offers pupils the opportunity to work through a variety of activities linked to making the transition to S1. These sessions focus on providing both information and reassurance to pupils. There is also an opportunity for pupils to email with questions which they might have.

Pupils will also be given information about class allocation by mid June. This will include House group, Pastoral Care teacher, teaching set & practical set.

We would normally have invited parents to an information evening early in June but cannot facilitate this safely. In order to still provide the parents with information, we will post a 'virtual' P7 Parents' Information Evening presentation on our website on Thursday 11th June 2020. This will provide essential information about the transition to high school including details about the role of the Pupil Support Team, the school dress code, advice about using Show My Homework, Parent Pay, etc

We will invite P7 pupils to visit Park Mains HS on Tuesday 23rd June. Pupils in classes 1A to 1E will attend a session in the morning from 9:30am until 11:30am and those in 1F to 1K will be invited to attend in the afternoon from 1:00pm until 3:00pm.

Unfortunately, there will be no flexibility regarding am and pm sessions as we want pupils to attend with their classmates and to begin getting to know each other. They tell us that this is a big concern for them and we wish to provide the opportunity to alleviate that concern prior to the summer break. We would also request that pupils arrive at Park Mains about 5-10 minutes before their session starts and leave promptly at the end always being mindful of social distancing guidance. We are keen to minimise the number of people/cars in the school grounds so would respectfully request that pupils walk to Park Mains if that is at all possible or are dropped off out with the

school grounds. We are unable to provide transport for this visit. However, if this poses a particular difficulty for you please get in touch and let us know. We will do our best to help.

On the day itself, the sessions will include an introduction to Mr Dewar, the Headteacher and myself, Mrs Crean, one of the depute Headteachers and the Year Head for S1. Principal Teachers of Pastoral Care, the Principal Teacher of Support for Learning, the Principal Teacher of the Bridge Base, our Transition teacher and Homelink staff will also be in attendance. Pupils will be split into small groups and will work in a classroom with a member of staff completing activities relating to Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Well Being. Arrangements will be in place to ensure social distancing and hygiene guidance are followed. The safety of our pupils and staff are our main priority.

Further information about supports for specific groups of pupils will be shared with relevant parents/carers by the Support for Learning department and the Bridge Base team.

In addition, a summer pack will be posted to parents of all pupils with key information for the year ahead. Please look out for this and read it carefully.

The school website, www.parkmains.com, is a useful source of information. You will find a dedicated section for P7 transition under the 'Parents' tab. You might also find it helpful to follow the schools twitter page (@theparkmains) and the Pupil Support page (@PMHSpupilsup) as additional sources of information.

I hope this provides an insight into some of the activities/events which will be available in the weeks ahead to support pupils and families with the transition to Park Mains HS. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to the Park Mains High School community in August 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Crean

DHT

Park mains High School