



# **Journey to Lesmahagow High School**



## **Information for Primary 7 Parents/Carers and Pupils**





## Journey to Lesmahagow Programme 2024-25

<b>October/November</b>	Journey to Lesmahagow Starts.
<b>October – March</b>	Maths, Science, Music, DET, ABC, Drama, PE and English Transition events.
<b>October - March</b>	Transition Link staff visit primary schools to collect information about each individual learner.
<b>January</b>	Virtual Parent Information Evening 1. <b>TBC.</b>
<b>January – March</b>	Support for Learning visit primary schools to observe classes.
<b>March</b>	Second Virtual Parent Information Evening 2. <b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm</b>
<b>March - May</b>	<b>Specific</b> PE Transition events at primary schools. Dates and times to be arranged by schools.
<b>April</b>	Arrangements are made for P7 Induction days.
<b>May</b>	Enhanced Transition Event for those identified.
<b>June</b>	P7 induction days are Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2025.  <b>P7 Parental Information Evening 3</b> Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June in Lesmahagow High School at 6.30pm.
<b>September</b>	P7/S1 Parent Open Afternoon and Support for Learning Open Evening.
<b>October</b>	S1 Interim Reports.

Further information can be found on the school website [www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk) on Twitter [@LesmahagowHigh](https://twitter.com/LesmahagowHigh).



## School Captaincy Team

School Captains	
Beau Christie	Leela Munogee
Vice Captains	
Abigail Winning	Lily Scott
Attainment and Achievement Captain	
Olivia Hepworth	
HWB Captain	
Callum Faulds	
Equity and Inclusion Captains	
Kayla Anderson Maxwell	Keira Barber



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## **Message from the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers**

Dear Primary 7 pupils,

We are excited about you coming to our school in August 2024 and looking forward to meeting and working with you all. We strongly believe that you will enjoy your time at our school and will benefit from the wonderful subjects, activities and opportunities that are on offer.

Our school is a very inclusive school. We aim to ensure all pupils and young people receive the help and support they require to allow them to reach their full potential. Our school thrives on the wonderful relationships, which we have developed with all involved with the school including parents, pupils, staff and other agencies. At Lesmahagow HS, we treat everyone equally and with respect. This helps to build a welcoming and inclusive environment. We know you will contribute fantastically to this when you arrive.

Our staff work very hard and produce fantastic learning experiences for all pupils. We encourage you to make the most of your time at our school and to be as ambitious as you can be.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your P7 and look forward to continuing your learner journey at Lesmahagow High School in August.

Best wishes,

Ms Lee (HT), Mrs Docherty (DHT) and Mr Robertson (DHT)

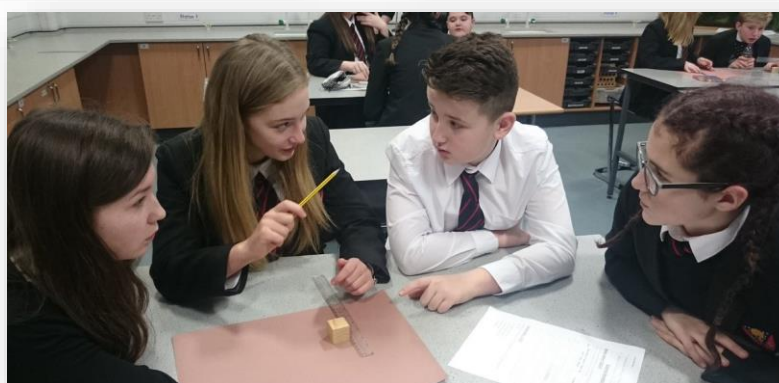
***'Together we Learn; Together we Achieve; Together we Succeed'***



## Transition

Any change can be challenging for young people, whether it is a move from nursery to primary, primary to secondary or to a post-school destination. Therefore, it is vital that we make these transitions as smooth as possible for our young people. The transition programme from primary school to secondary school is designed to increase pupil confidence and excitement in making the move, allowing them getting to know the school, the curriculum and members of staff well in advance of August when they will start in S1. We appreciate that parents may also have concerns about the move to secondary and we look to actively engage our prospective parents with events that allow them to experience the everyday life of the school and the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have. We hope this will allay any fears or anxieties that the young people and their parents may have about transition, ensuring a confident, happy start can be made to the next phase of their education.

This year, many of our events will need to take place virtually or in much smaller groups when we are able to offer physical delivery of transition events. This may result in certain activities and events detailed below being changed to suit what we are able to offer.



## Science Transition

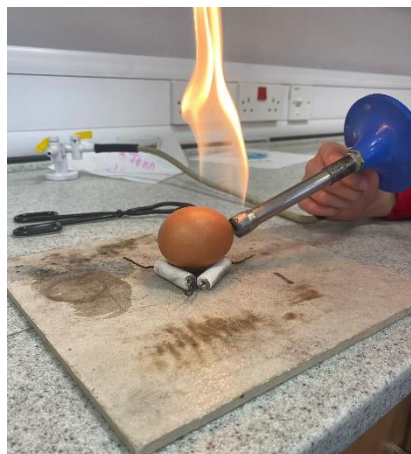
Primary 7 pupils explore the fascinating "science of colour" through hands-on experiments and activities.

The first transition event takes place in October and November, when Lesmahagow Science teachers visit each primary school. Pupils engage in a variety of Physics activities that help them to explore the idea of light, waves and colour using filters, prisms and new equipment such as ray boxes.

Later in the year, Primary 7 pupils visit the High School's Science labs, where they learn about safety and become familiar with the equipment they'll use in S1.

The exploration of colour continues with Biology and Chemistry demos and exciting experiments, including colours of fireworks, making sparklers, skittle diffusion, liquid density, ink chromatography, and learning about animal physiology.

Primary (event may change due to current restrictions)



## PE Transition

PE Transition events will take place in throughout the year for our primary pupils and will be led by some of our senior pupils as well as designated PE staff. This will give the young people the opportunity to meet potential new classmates from an early stage in a fun and healthy environment, as well as explore sporting activities that will feature in their S1 curriculum.

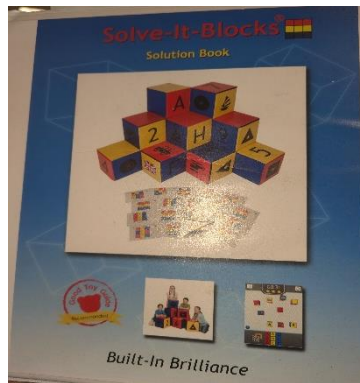


## Mathematics Transition

All P7 pupils will be involved in a problem-solving task working in groups using the "Solve - It - blocks".

This will enable us to get to know the pupils, encourage their competitive spirit and maximise their problem-solving skills with their peers.

They will also be visited later in the year where we will help in a lesson at their primary school.



## Design, Engineering & Technology Transition

Pupils will experience an introduction to DET (Design, Engineering & Technology), including the various subjects taught. Pupils will participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, and Engineering & Maths) challenge, where they will design and manufacture packaging for an everyday item.

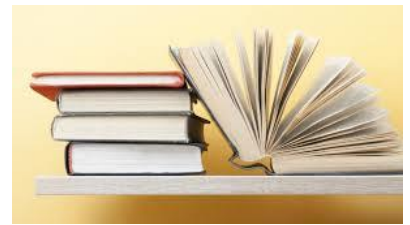




## Admin, Business & Computing Transition

Pupils will experience an introduction to ABC (Admin, Business & Computing) and what each subject covers. Pupils will be experiencing an activity from the Computing Science curriculum which is related to Cyber security. They will also learn how to rob an imaginary bank, to steal as much money as they possibly can as part of a challenge.





## English Transition

Pupils will receive the opportunity to experience learning, as it would take place in an English classroom in high school. This will involve following a lessons on diversity and how this can impact people’s lives. Pupils will then have the opportunity to apply their new learning and skills in carefully selected tasks.

## Expressive Arts Transition

### Drama Transition

Art, Music and Drama teachers will deliver taster sessions on what it is like to learn in the Expressive Arts Faculty when pupils arrive in August 2025. These sessions will include fun, interactive workshops.

The focus will be skills development, encouraging pupils to engage with their communication, team building and creative skills, as well as develop their musical skills through learning about the beat and rhythm! Pupils will be asked to use their imaginations to create scenarios of what ‘a day in the life’ of high school might be like. We hope this will generate excitement and confidence in joining Lesmahagow High School next August.



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## P7 Transition Days - June

We are looking forward to Primary 7 pupils joining us for the two-day induction programme on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June** and **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June**, where they will closely follow their new S1 timetable in August. This will give them the opportunity to meet many of their new teachers, familiarise themselves with the school building and sample some of the subjects they will be studying throughout their Broad General Education. They will be in the classes that they will be in when they start in August, which will give them the opportunity to spend time with pupils from all of our associated primaries and establish new friendships.

Current S3 pupils will act as guides and escort pupils between classes. The pupils will be looked after **in the school** during lunch break and will be able to use the school canteen or alternatively bring a packed lunch with them.

During these transition days, any pupil who is entitled to a free school meal will receive this from our canteen. There is no need to apply for this or arrange a packed lunch.

## P7 Parents Information Evening

This year, we are aiming to hold three information evenings to keep you as up to date as possible throughout the course of the year. Our first two events will be held virtually with the final

The purpose of these evenings is to provide you with information and advice on important issues at this time in your child's school career, to give you a flavour of Lesmahagow High School and also give you an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet with the Head Teacher, the Depute Head Teacher for your child's year group, as well as the Principal Teachers Pupil Support, who will be your main contact with the school.

There will be an opportunity to purchase school uniform and have a blazer fitting between 4pm and 7pm prior to the information evening on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Alternatively, uniform can be purchased from our stockists, [Scotcrest](#) and [ALJ](#), online or in their stores.



## Ensuring transfer information is communicated effectively from P7 to S1

In ensuring a smooth transition all information pertaining to your child's continued education is transferred to staff at the high school. This information includes levels for all curricular areas, information on additional support requirements, medical information, social grouping and information regarding skills, hobbies and wider achievements. All this information is gathered throughout the year leading up to the new term in August.

<b>October 2024</b>	Meet with all primary Headteachers to discuss timeline for 'Journey to Lesmahagow' and calendar of events.
<b>November 2024</b>	Primary Head Teachers meet with secondary DHT, PT Support for Learning and relevant agencies to discuss supports for pupils who may need an enhanced transition or early support to ensure a smooth transition to high school.
<b>November – December 2024</b>	Link Transition Teachers visit primary schools to meet staff, pupils and Head Teacher.
<b>January – March 2025</b>	Ongoing visits by link transition teachers to discuss pupils and acquire information to help with transition process.
<b>March – May 2025</b>	Support for Learning staff meet with primary DHT, secondary DHT and relevant primary staff to discuss those pupils who have Additional Support Plans or who need further general support.
<b>June 2025</b>	P7 Transition Days and Information Evening. Parents and pupils will get to meet their new year group and follow a timetable which they will receive in August. Parents will have the opportunity to speak with SMT, SFL and pupil Support regarding any concerns they may have. Classes finalised for August start and all information shared relating to supporting young people and meeting their needs shared with relevant staff.



## Senior Management Team

The Lesmahagow High School Senior Management Team (SMT) consists of the Head Teacher, Ms Lee, and four Depute Head Teachers, Mrs Cimmino, Mr Gray, Mr Robertson and Mrs Docherty.



**Ms Barbara Lee**  
**Head Teacher**

## Depute Head Teachers



<b>Mr Alastair Gray</b>	<b>Mrs Lesley-Anne Cimmino</b>	<b>Mr David Robertson</b>	<b>Mrs Pamela Docherty</b>
<b>S3 and S6</b>	<b>S1 and S4</b>	<b>S5</b>	<b>Inclusion Support Team and S2</b>
<i>As of August 2025:</i>			
<b>S1 and S4</b>	<b>S2 and S5</b>	<b>S6</b>	<b>Inclusion Support Team and S3</b>

## Pupil Support

All members of the school staff are here to help and support young people in Lesmahagow High School to ensure they learn in a safe, secure, healthy and happy environment. Partnership with parents/carers is essential in ensuring that all pupils receive the appropriate support to reach their potential. All young people should have an adult that knows them well and is the main contact between school and home. In Lesmahagow High School this is the Principal Teacher Pupil Support.

In the school we have a vertical system for pupil support, which means that each young person will be helped throughout their time at school by the same PT Pupil Support. Usually, children from the same family will all have the same PT Pupil Support, who is attached to a House group (Kerse, Logan and Milton).

Each Depute Head Teacher has responsibility for two year groups and has overall responsibility for discipline within that house. The DHTs and PT Pupil Support work closely together to ensure the welfare of the young people in our care.

Our Pupil Support Team are:



**Mr Jim Mallaghan**  
Kerse House



**Mrs Linda Wright**  
Logan House



**Miss Anna Fletcher**  
Milton House



**Miss Iasha Iqbal**  
Employability PTPS

Each Principal Teacher Pupil Support will:

- Help young people settle into school
- Be available to speak to young people when they need someone to talk to
- Be the main point of contact between school and home
- Check attendance and time keeping
- Check progress in all of subject classes
- Help young throughout their school career e.g. with options choices and planning for life after school

## Support for Learning

Transition planning from primary to secondary will take place throughout P7. Staff from the primary school and Lesmahagow High School will meet to discuss the young person's needs and prepare a plan to help ensure their transition to high school is as smooth as possible while also ensuring that there is a continuity of support when they move in August. All the people involved with the young persons' education including parents/carers and the young person will meet to further discuss and plan how needs can be best met at secondary and if any additional resources will be required.

The Support for Learning department is run by our Principal Teacher Support for Learning.



**Mrs Catherine Travis**

**PT Sfl**



**Mrs Morag Story**

**PT Sfl**

There are six School Support Assistants, Mrs Abercrombie, Mrs McCallum, Mrs McLeod, Mrs Crawford, Mrs Baillie and Ms Speirs who support pupils in classes.



## Enhanced Transitions

It is normally necessary to start an enhanced programme earlier than the routine transition programme. This will be determined in response to the needs of the pupil, through liaison with the primary school and could be in P6.

Enhanced transitions are tailored to the individual needs of the young person and (in addition to all other transition activities) may include:

- Extra visits to Lesmahagow High School during the P7 year to get to know the school and staff
- Creating a photographic diary and visual aids to help the young person get used to what things and people in the school look like
- PT Support for Learning observing in the primary class
- Any requirement for adaptations to the classroom layout or to the physical environment will be identified
- After school walk round for identified pupils and families
- Additional activities for small groups

## Buddy Programme

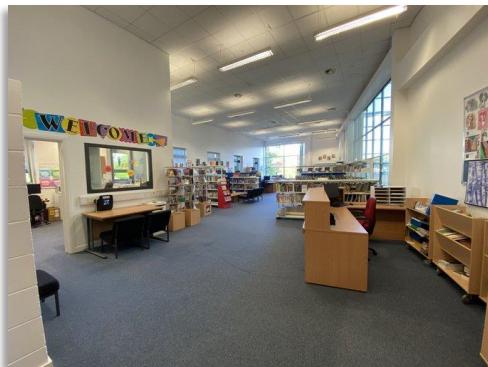
From the start of the session in August, a dedicated group of senior pupils support an identified group of the new S1 through the buddy programme. The seniors meet with a small group of S1 pupils every Friday for twenty minutes to offer advice and discuss any issues or concerns in relation to starting a new school. The senior pupils are also able to offer advice about studying, planning homework, organising schoolbags and how to get the best out of school life. It is hoped that this type of peer support will help all our new pupils to settle to the new daily routine of life in Lesmahagow High School. In addition to this it provides the pupils with another friendly face around the school and in the community!



## Literacy and Numeracy Groups

For the majority of young people their additional support needs will be met within the day-to-day work of the classroom. Some young people will need additional support out with the classroom in order to support their learning. For new S1 pupils, these needs are discussed and identified throughout the transition process and updated following monitoring reports and settling in reviews to ensure that supports in place are carefully considered and continue to be appropriate.

As young people need to be literate and numerate in order to access all aspects of the curriculum, some young people are extracted from class for approximately twenty minutes per week to work with members of the Support for Learning department on improving their literacy and numeracy in a small group setting.



Faculty Head of Expressive Arts (acting)



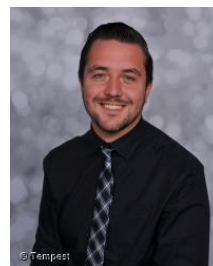
Mrs Rhona Ritchie

Faculty Head of Humanities



Mrs Gemma Smith

Faculty Head of Technologies & Digital Literacy



Mr Marc Campbell

Faculty Head of Health and Wellbeing



Mr Neil Ross



**Curriculum Faculties**

Faculty Head of Languages



Miss Louise Parsons

Faculty Head of Science



Mrs Catherine-Anne McGuire

Principal Teacher of Inclusion Support



Mrs Rebecca Anderson

Faculty Head of Mathematics



Mrs Aileen Mullen



## Equity Leadership Team



**Miss Sophie Leckenby**

At Lesmahagow High School we are committed to removing all barriers to education. Equity is at the heart of everything we do at Lesmahagow High School and is embedded in our core values along with respect, honesty, ambition, and resilience. We work with pupils and families to remove the cost of the school day by helping with the cost of Uniforms, trips, school lunches, PE kits, pencils and pens, and dress down days as we appreciate that the cost of education can sometimes feel overwhelming. When children and young people can't take part in opportunities because of cost, they miss out and feel excluded, and it is harder for them to learn, achieve and be happy at school therefore we ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged in their education because of their financial means. Additionally, we offer literacy and numeracy support along with helping pupils to engage in all aspects of school life.

## Principal Teacher of Developing the Young Workforce (acting)

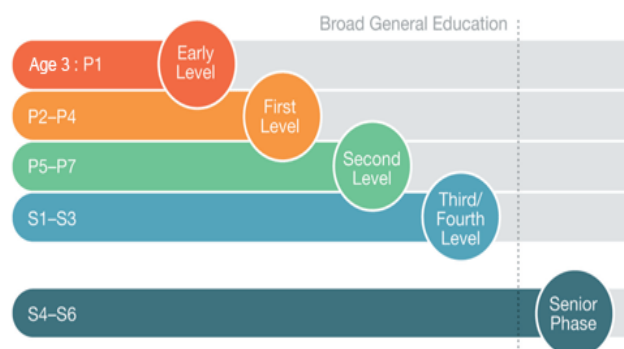


**Mrs Jennifer Will**

*Welcome Primary 7. My name is Mrs Will and I am the PT DYW. It is my job to help empower young people by providing you with the opportunities and experience to acquire and develop new and existing skills, gain real-world experiences and navigate your future with confidence. Some of these opportunities are part of your in-house experience here at LHS, others may be further afield (e.g. The Science Centre, Workplace visits, University experiences, Engineering challenges). I will aim to provide you with opportunities to learn about different careers and the exciting pathways you can take to get there in school and beyond.*

## BGE Curriculum

Students in Lesmahagow High School will be offered a Broad General Education throughout S1-3. They will study a range of subjects from the eight curriculum areas mentioned previously. Between S4-6 pupils will enter the Senior Phase where they will work towards achieving qualifications. They will have the opportunity to study a range of subjects from the curriculum areas previously listed.



Students will receive their entitlement to PE, Modern Languages and RMPS throughout their BGE phase and will have weekly Personal and Social Education lessons delivered by their Pupil Support Teacher. As shown below, each pupil will start every day with 10 minutes of Tutor Time where they will be registered and provided with daily / weekly announcements.

Below is an example of an S1 pupil's timetable, which each new pupil will receive and follow when they arrive in August.

	TUTOR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Monday</b>	Tutor Time CfE Miss Gardner B103	Music CfE Mr Stirling B004	English CfE Mrs Fair A106	Science CfE Dr Nicol B205	Geography CfE Mr Roberts A202	Technological Studies: Design and Manufacture CfE Mr Wilson A203	Drama CfE Miss Gardner B007	Modern Languages CfE Ms Tully A201
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tutor Time CfE Miss Gardner B103	Drama CfE Miss Gardner B007	English CfE Mrs Fair A106	Mathematics CfE Miss Melvin B104	Physical Education CfE Mr McGinley GameHall	Physical Education CfE Mr McGinley GameHall	Religious and moral education CfE Mrs Katzig A208	Geography CfE Mr Roberts A202
<b>Wednesday</b>	Tutor Time CfE Miss Gardner B103	Personal & Social Education CfE Mr Robson A204	English CfE Mrs Fair A106	Mathematics CfE Miss Melvin B104	Home Economics CfE Mrs Miller A102	Home Economics CfE Mrs Miller A102	Science CfE Dr Nicol B205	Information Technology CfE Mrs Wilson B108
<b>Thursday</b>	Tutor Time CfE Miss Gardner B103	History CfE Mr Smith A203	Modern Languages CfE Ms Tully A201	Mathematics CfE Miss Melvin B104	Music CfE Mr Stirling B004	Science CfE Dr Nicol B205	Art CfE Mr Sharp B112	Art CfE Mrs Ritchie B110
	TUTOR	1	2	3	4			
<b>Friday</b>	Tutor Time CfE Miss Gardner B103	Technological Studies: Graphic Communication CfE Mr Wilson A110	Modern Studies CfE Mr Rae A207	English CfE Mrs Fair A106	Mathematics CfE Miss Melvin B104			



## Uniform

**In Lesmahagow High School we take pride in our appearance and wear our uniform as a part of our school identity. All pupils are required to wear full uniform when attending or representing the school.**

There are many reasons why it is important to wear school including increased security within the school and in the community, preparing young people for the world of work where most jobs will have a dress code, removing the need to think about what to wear and promoting a positive image of our school.

Our school uniform policy is designed to be clear, fair and reasonable to both the parents/carers and young people of the school community.

The Lesmahagow High School uniform is as follows:

Required uniform	Unacceptable Uniform
Black with school badge	Jeans, Jean like materials, skinny jean type trousers. This includes all forms of denim.
Plain black trousers or skirt	Leggings or Jeggings
Plain white collared shirt or blouse with sleeves	Tracksuits
A plain black jumper or cardigan without logos	Combat trousers or other wide baggy trousers
A school tie should be worn at all times. Junior ties are available for S1-3 pupils and a Senior tie for S4-6 pupils	Jogging bottoms
All footwear should be plain black	Sport wear (except in PE)
White, red or black t-short with black shorts, leggings or track suit bottoms and trainers.	Denim Jackets.
	White sports trainers or any patterned trainers.
	Clothing with slogans or large hooded tops.
	Hats or baseball caps
	Clothing which is deemed unsuitable in terms of Health and Safety, such as large belts, dangling earrings or hooped earrings, long chains / necklaces
	Shorts (except in PE)



Blazers are compulsory for all pupils from S1 through to S6. Our blazer supplier is Scotcrest, who are based in Hamilton ([www.scotcrestschoools.co.uk](http://www.scotcrestschoools.co.uk)) and ALJ who are based in Lanark (<https://www.aljonline.co.uk/index.php?route=common/home>). More details about our uniform can be located on the letters section of our website.



To purchase from Scotcrest, visit their website via the link above and follow these instructions:

**Click** on Find your School > **Select** Lesmahagow High School > **Click** the product you require > **Select** the size required and the amount you would like to order > **Add** items to cart > Follow purchasing instructions as requested.

General uniform items can also be purchased from Scotcrest by selecting the Secondary Uniforms tab on the homepage of the website.

To purchase from ALJ, visit their website and follow these instructions:

**Click** on Shop by School > **Select** Lesmahagow High School > **Click** the product you require > **Select** the size required and the amount you would like to order > **Add** items to Basket > Follow purchasing instructions as requested.

## The School Day

The school day varies from Primary School with pupils moving class (and subject) every 50 minutes. Each day starts promptly at 8:40 with 10 minutes of Tutor followed by seven periods. School finishes at 3:35pm Monday to Thursday and 12:30pm on Friday:

Monday - Thursday			Friday	
8.40 – 8.50am	Tutor Time		8.40 – 8.50am	Tutor Time
8.50 – 9.40am	Period 1		8.50 – 9.40am	Period 1
9.40 – 10.30am	Period 2		9.40 – 10.30am	Period 2
10.30 – 11.20am	Period 3		10.30 – 10.50am	Interval
11.20 – 11.35am	Interval		10.50 – 11.40am	Period 3
11.35 – 12.25pm	Period 4		11.40 – 12.30pm	Period 4
12.25 – 1.15pm	Period 5		School finishes at 12.30pm on Friday	
1.15 – 1.55pm	Lunch			
1.55 – 2.45pm	Period 6			
2.45 – 3.35pm	Period 7			

**S4-6 Interval is 10:30-10:45am**

## School Clubs and Activities

There are a wide range of school clubs and activities that run during interval, lunch and after school, including netball, rugby, science and craft clubs. The activities on offer change each year and pupils have the opportunity to get more information and sign up for any clubs that interest them, at the start of the year.



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## Communication to Parents and Carers

We maintain regular formal communication with parents throughout the academic session through tracking and monitoring reports. However, parents and carers are more than welcome to contact their child's Pupil Support teacher if they have concerns or would like to discuss their child's progress further or arrange a meeting.

Below is an estimated calendar of the formal communication you will receive from the school throughout the year.

<b>Communication to Parents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Report 1</b>	<b>October 2025</b>
<b>Report 2</b>	<b>February 2026</b>
<b>Report 3</b>	<b>May 2026</b>
<b>S1 Parent's Evening</b>	<b>May 2026</b>

For those pupils who require a review as part of their learning support, these will take place in January 2026.

As a school, we have many formats in which we communicate with parents. Below is a list of these formats. We advise parents to utilise these on a regular basis to ensure you stay up to date on your child's progress and school events.



Check out our school website for key information:

<http://www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk/>

All letters and documents issued can be downloaded from the PARENTS menu.



Sign up to TWITTER and follow @LesmahagowHigh to see all our tweets from the school and/or from various departments across the school.



**@LesmahagowHigh**



Make sure you are signed up for **ParentPay**: all trips are now payable online and departments can email parents regarding subject matters. Activation letters are issued by the school office.

[www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)



**Guardian Email** is a system that is linked to Google Classrooms and provides a scheduled summary of all of the learning activities that have been assigned to pupils, including homework that is due or has been missed.

To receive updates, please ensure your email address that we hold is accurate and that emails do not go into your 'spam' or 'junk' folders.



Google Classroom



## Attendance and Late Coming

At Lesmahagow High School, we believe good attendance and punctuality are key to ensuring pupils reach their full potential and reap the benefits from high quality teaching and learning. Young people should endeavour to be at school every day and on time, ready to learn.

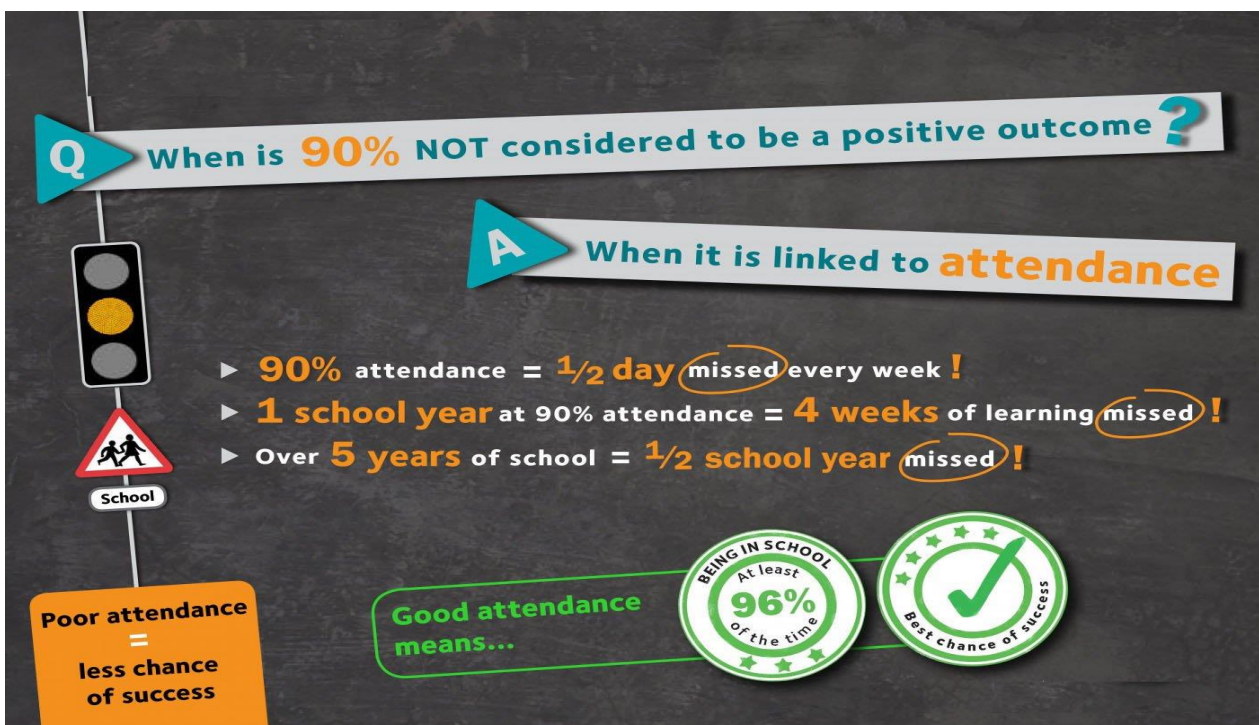
However, we appreciate that, at times, pupils may be absent from school due to unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances. If this is the case, we require parents and carers to inform the school by calling the school number and leaving a message on our designated answer machine or by speaking with one of our office staff. Please detail the reason for the absence and expected duration especially if absences are expected to be longer than one day. In addition, any appointments that students have should be indicated in advance so that this can be recorded on our system, preventing unnecessary attendance messages being sent.

If a student is absent without reason, a text message will be sent by the school to the parent or carer to inform them of this and a response is expected.

Any absence which, is planned or expected to last for a substantial period of time, should be explained to a student's Pupil Support teacher and followed up in writing.

Research shows that good attendance leads to improved attainment and achievement.

- Highest 20% of attainment by pupils had an average attendance of 97%.
- Lowest 20% of attainment by pupils had an average attendance of 76%



**Q** When is **90%** NOT considered to be a positive outcome?

**A** When it is linked to **attendance**

- ▶ **90%** attendance = **1/2 day** missed every week !
- ▶ **1 school year** at 90% attendance = **4 weeks** of learning missed !
- ▶ Over **5 years** of school = **1/2 school year** missed !

Poor attendance = less chance of success

Good attendance means...

BEING IN SCHOOL  
At least **96%** of the time

Best chance of success

It is expected that all students *will* achieve at least a 95% attendance rate across an academic year. Students will be absent for unavoidable reasons but we ask for your support in ensuring students attend school regularly and meet the local authority and government's expectations. Any problems preventing regular attendance should be explained to the student's Pupil Support teacher at the earliest possible stage to ensure the relevant supports can be implemented to help support students in attending school regularly. The earlier the support, the more successful the outcome.

The school will monitor all pupils' attendance closely and will contact parents and carers if we have a concern. The school will implement a wide range of measures and supports where a student's attendance is an issue. Where there is no improvement following the implementation of school interventions, it may be necessary to follow the local authority and school's attendance procedures and seek support from external agencies to help bring about positive change and support the student back to regular attendance.

In a bid to encourage excellent attendance, students who represent the school at events and functions are expected to have at least 95% attendance. In addition, students who wish to attend events such as school dances, trips and sporting events should also have a good level of attendance. There will always be exceptions to this based on individual circumstances, so please get in touch if you have any concerns.



## Late Coming

Students who arrive late to school should go to the school office to sign in with a member of our office staff. This ensures our system is updated to reflect that that student is now in the school building.

If a pupil is regularly late, Pupil Support staff will contact parents and carers regarding our concerns and may arrange a meeting to discuss possible supports.

### *I'm not missing much...*

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...
<b>1 day every two weeks = 90%</b>	20 days per year	4 weeks per year
<b>1 day per week = 80%</b>	40 days per year	8 weeks per year
<b>2 days per week = 60%</b>	80 days per year	16 weeks per year
<b>3 days per week = 40%</b>	120 days per year	24 weeks per year

### *It's only 10 minutes...*

Late by...	That equals...	Which is...
<b>10 minutes per day</b>	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 and half weeks per year
<b>20 minutes per day</b>	1 hr 40 minutes per week	Over 2 and half week per year
<b>30 minutes per day</b>	Half a day minutes per week	4 weeks per year
<b>1 hour per day</b>	1 day per week	8 weeks per year

Every day and minute counts!

If you want your child to be successful at school, good attendance and punctuality matters.

Please click [here](#) to access our Promoting Excellent Attendance Policy.



## Transport

South Lanarkshire council provide transport for secondary pupils who live two miles or more away from the catchment secondary school by the shortest safe walking route.

Pupils will be entitled to free transport:

- If they live two miles or more away from the catchment secondary school by the shortest safe walking route.
- If they have been recommended for school transport by their doctor and the school medical officer for health reasons.
- If they attend a specialist school or centre recommended by the council
- If they have to walk a route which is considered unsafe in relation to the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum guidelines.

**All parents / carers of S1 pupils starting in August 2024 and whose child meets the criteria for school transport, must apply to south Lanarkshire Council to secure their transport entitlement.**

Following this, no further request for transport whilst your child is at school is required unless there is a change of address.

More information can be found on the [SLC website](#).



## Homework

Homework is an important aid to learning. It helps students develop positive study skills and habits that will serve them well throughout life. Some other reasons for giving homework are:

- Reinforce learning covered in class.
- Helps prepare students for upcoming assessments.
- Further challenges their learning to develop a deeper understanding.
- Helps parents and carers to understand what students are learning in school.



Google Classroom

## Guardian Emails

As a school, we have decided to convert to using Guardian Emails as a means to sharing with you updates on homework due and homework missed. This system will also provide you with a summary of the learning activities that have been assigned to pupils on a weekly basis. Guardian Emails has replaced our previous homework app as well as paper diaries, and is now being used as the primary method of assigning homework.

Guardian Emails will allow you to see a summary of all set tasks, deadlines and submission status. This system will improve communication around homework and greater visibility.

When pupils arrive in August, they will receive a Data Check form home. Please ensure all contact details are accurate, especially your email that you wish these weekly summaries to be sent to.



## Treat Me Well



Treat Me Well is guidance for all SLC establishments that has been developed in line with Respect for All – The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland’s Children and young People (November, 2017).

Treat Me Well provides a framework which is underpinned by effective partnership working, that supports the school to fulfil our responsibility to support the health and wellbeing of all children and young people.

At Lesmahagow High School we have high standards and expectations of all our young people. These expectations are underpinned by our Values: Respect, Honesty, Ambition, Resilience and Equity; and our vision ‘*Aspire to be our best*’. These are promoted within our school and help to ensure there is a joint commitment from all to establish and maintain positive ethos and culture of dignity, inclusion, equality and a strong sense of community.

We all have a responsibility to anti-bullying and if you ‘**see it, report it**’.

A copy of our Promoting Positive Relationships Policy can be found below:

[Promoting positive Relationships Policy](#)





## Parent Council

The Parent Council is a group of parents selected by all parents in the school to represent their views. Parent Councils have an important role to play in school improvement by ensuring that the parental perspective is represented and taken into account.

The role of the parent council is to help create an environment where all parents know that their views matter, and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward. They work on behalf of all parents to discuss educational matters that are of importance to all.

The objectives of the Parent Council are:

- To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents.
- To promote partnership between the school, its pupils and all its parents.
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.

If you wish to contact the Parent Council then email:

[office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk) and mark for the attention of Parent Council in the subject line.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sl/lesmahagowhs/parents/parent-council/>

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**JOIN THE PARENT COUNCIL**  
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

*Your voice counts!*

*Respect Honesty Ambition Resilience Equity*

**LESMAHAGOW HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

MEETINGS THIS YEAR & NEXT:  
MONDAY 02/9/19  
TUESDAY 08/10/19  
WEDNESDAY 13/11/19  
MONDAY 13/1/20  
TUESDAY 18/2/20  
WEDNESDAY 25/3/20  
MONDAY 11/5/20

MORE INFO AT:  
[HTTP://WWW.LESMAHAGOW.S-LANARK.SCH.UK/PARENTS/PARENT-COUNCIL/](http://www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk/parents/parent-council/)



This booklet is designed to give you an introduction to Lesmahagow High School and give you some important dates to enter in your diary.

### **School Handbook**

**More detailed information on the school is available in the School Handbook. The most recent Handbook is now available on the school website using 'The School' menu at the top of the page:**

**<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sl/lesmahagowhs/>**

***If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printed copy please inform the Primary School and we will arrange to get a printed copy to you.***

