



Welcome to
Lesmahagow High School
Information for
Primary 7 Parents



This booklet is designed to give you an introduction to Lesmahagow High School and give you some important dates to enter in your diary for 2017/18.

School Handbook 2016/17

More detailed information on the school is available in the School Handbook. The Handbook for 2016/17 is now available on the school website using 'The School' menu at the top of the page:

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

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. *The 2017/18 handbook will be available online soon.

Future Dates

Induction Days: Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st May 2017

Parents' Information Session: Wednesday 31st May 2017, 6.30pm

Integrated Support Team

When your child moves to Lesmahagow High School they will be assigned a house. There are three houses in Lesmahagow High School and each is led by a Principal Teacher of Pupil Support.

K – Kerse House Principal Teacher Pupil Support, Mr Mallaghan

L – Logan House Principal Teacher Pupil Support, Mrs Wright

M – Milton House Principal Teacher Pupil Support, Mrs Laird/Mr Hill

There are also two Principal Teachers who specialise in Additional Support Needs – Mrs Laird and Mrs Scott

Between January and June your Primary School will be visited by one of our Integrated Support Team. This ensures that all pupils have a LHS member of staff whom they know and who has gathered information about them to make their transition to Lesmahagow High School as smooth as possible.

How We Monitor Attendance:

The safety of pupils at Lesmahagow High School is of the utmost importance to us. It is therefore very important that we know why our pupils are absent from school. In order for us to ensure that we know your child is safe we use a text messaging service to inform you if your child is absent from school (if you have not already contacted us).

The procedure is as follows:

- If your child is going to be absent from school, and you know in advance, your child should bring a letter to school informing the school of the absence e.g. Dentist appointment.
- If your child is unwell in the morning and is not going to be coming to school – please phone the school on 01555 896010 between 8.30 and 9.30am to inform us of the reason for the absence and when you hope your child will be able to return to school.
- If you forget to contact us and receive a text message to say your child is absent OR you receive a text message and you believe your child is at school **please contact us immediately**. It is really important that we know your child is safe. You can either phone on 01555 896010 or reply to the text message.

If you fail to contact us about your child's absence it is automatically recorded as truancy and an unauthorised absence.

School Uniform:

The school would ask for your support with our uniform policy by adhering to this dress code when buying school uniform items. It is important that pupils wear their uniform as this makes pupils easily identifiable to all staff and visitors to the school.

All pupils S1 through to S6 are required to wear:

- white or black shirt/blouse
- school tie
- black trousers/skirt

DRESS CODE

- Shirt should be plain and appropriately modest with no advertising or slogans displayed
- Trousers/skirts should be black (*no denim jeans or jogging bottoms*)
- Plain black jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan
- Hooded tops are not acceptable
- All jackets **must** be removed in class

PE KIT

- White, black or red shorts
- White, black or red top

Homework:

Pupils will be issued with a planner that they should use to record any homework issued by their class teachers. However, it should also be noted that pupils will not always have formal homework for every class.

All pupils should assume that they have regular homework tasks that they can complete each night without it being formally issued. For example:

- Learning vocabulary in French
- Reading for English
- Learning and revising tables for maths
- Revising diagrams
- Reviewing class notes and ensuring they understand the work they have completed

Please note the times of the school timetable:

Period 1	8.45	-	9.35
Period 2	9.35	-	10.25
Period 3	10.25	-	11.15
Interval	11.15	-	11.30
Period 4	11.30	-	12.20
Period 5	12.20	-	1.10
Lunch	1.10	-	1.50
Period 6	1.50	-	2.40
Period 7	2.40	-	3.30

Monday – Thursday Period 1 to Period 7

Friday – Period 1 to Period 5 (Pupils finish school at 1.10pm)

Code of Conduct

Lesmahagow High School is a Rights Respecting School; we believe that every child has a right to a good education in a safe and caring environment. Any pupil who does not share our vision and disrupts the harmony of school life will be subject to the school's positive behaviour policy. This policy covers all areas of behaviour.

- If your child's behaviour is disrupting learning your child will be issued with a blue incident reporting card (IRC) by their teacher. This card will inform you of the behaviour that has been inappropriate. The child should bring the card home and the incident should be discussed at home. A statement should then be added on how your child intends to improve and the signed card should be returned to the class teacher. This stage allows pupils to reflect on their behaviour and find a positive way forward.
- If your child continues to disrupt learning and teaching and shows no improvement despite the issuing of the blue IRC card OR they fail to return their card the Faculty Head will become involved. They have various sanctions available to them, for example they may choose to remove the pupil from class for a period of time or issue a detention. The Faculty Head may also contact you to discuss your child's behaviour and find a way forward. If they cannot get hold of you then a text message will be sent asking you to return their call.
- In the unlikely event of a serious incident that disrupts the good order of the school e.g. persistent failure to improve classroom behaviour, bullying behaviour, use of inappropriate language or fighting (either within or outwith the classroom) the Senior Management Team will become involved and these offences may result in a period of exclusion from school.

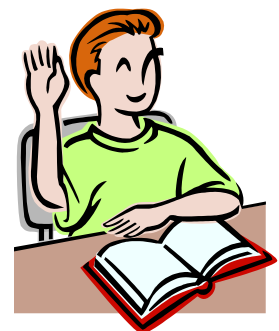
To avoid disrupting school life and learning:

We should come prepared by:

- wearing full school uniform to show we are at school to work and learn
- bringing all our equipment for our classes
- carrying our school bag to every class
- having our planner out in every lesson

In the classroom we need to:

- follow the teacher's instructions
- listen quietly when others are talking
- use an agreed method of getting the teacher's attention
- not eat or drink in class
- always use appropriate and polite language
- show respect to each other



When not in class we need to show respect to each other and the school building by:

- only eating food and drinks in the street
- putting all rubbish in bins and clearing tables
- not pushing or shoving in the corridors or stairs
- not shouting out when moving around the building
- getting to class on time and lining up quietly
- respecting the fabric of our school building

THE SCHOOL YEAR

2017 / 2018 (Still to be confirmed and therefore subject to change)

Thursday 17 August	Pupils return
Friday 22 September	School closed (September weekend)
Monday 25 September	School closed
Friday 13 October	School closes - 1.10pm (October week)
Monday 23 October	School re-opens
Monday 20 November	School closed to pupils (Inservice Day)
Friday 22 December	School closes – 2.30pm
Monday 8 January	School re-opens
Monday 12 February	School closed (February break)
Tuesday 13 February	School closed
Thursday 29 March	School closes - 2.30pm
Monday 16 April	School re-opens
Monday 7 May	School closed (May holiday)
Tuesday 8 May	School closed to pupils (Inservice Day)
Friday 25 May	School closed (May holiday)
Monday 28 May	School closed (May holiday)
Thursday 28 June	School closes at 1.00pm

Curriculum Progression in Lesmahagow High School

S1 & S2

- Broad curriculum
- Pupils experience all subject areas

S3

- Broad curriculum introducing personalisation and choice
- Pupils will still experience all key areas of the curriculum but will be able to expand their knowledge in areas of interest for example by studying a range of technology subjects

S4

- Pupils personalise their subject choices
- English and Maths are compulsory subjects for all pupils in S4
- Pupils then pick four other choices (the full range of subjects are offered but timetabling constraints mean not all combinations are always available)
- These six subjects are studied for 5 periods per week for one year
- These subjects lead to qualifications at National 3,4 and 5 level

S5/6

- At the end of S4 and the end of S5 pupils will get the opportunity to select courses again
- In S5 and S6 pupils can study a range of subjects at National 4, National 5 or at Higher Level
- Pupils could also have the opportunity to study at college or undertake a Foundation Apprenticeship
- In S6 some subjects will be available at Advanced Higher

LHS Success Stories...

Each year, Lesmahagow High School sends its senior pupils onwards to a variety of positive destinations such as universities, colleges, apprenticeships and employment. Below is just a very small sample of our very many success stories.

Ryan McGaffney (Class of 2012)

Whilst a student at Lesmahagow High School I wanted to travel, expand my horizons and see the world. The support that I received from the school's diverse and inspiring teaching staff allowed me to do this. I decided from a young age that I wanted to pursue a career in architecture. It would allow me to utilise my creative skills whilst also affording me the opportunity to travel, design and enhance the lives of people globally.

To achieve my dream I turned to the teaching staff at Lesmahagow High School for support and was greeted by an array of role models who all helped me in my path to university. Since leaving Lesmahagow High School I have gone on to study Architecture at **The Glasgow School of Art** and I have worked on several architectural projects in various places around the world including Sweden, Germany, Cambodia and Australia. For these projects I have received various awards including The Noel Hill Travel Award from The American Institute of Architects.

Currently I am completing a Masters Degree in Architecture at **Delft University of Technology**, in the Netherlands, for which I am designing dwellings in the Indian region of the Himalayan Mountains. Whilst only at the start of my career, I feel that I have achieved an immense amount and I truly believe that it would not have been possible without the support I received from Lesmahagow High School.

Charlotte Slaven (Class of 2013)

Since leaving Lesmahagow High School, where I achieved AAA at Advanced Higher level and AAAAA at Higher, I have completed a BA (Hons) in Geography at the **University of Cambridge** and I am currently studying for a Masters in Climate Change: History, Culture, and Society at **King's College, London**. My academic ambitions were well supported by Lesmahagow High School where, as School Dux and House Captain, I felt truly at home. Particular members of staff were especially proactive in encouraging my application to the **University of Cambridge** and the high level of attainment this application requires. Overall Lesmahagow High School provided me with the encouragement to play to my own strengths and strive for goals that might otherwise have seemed inherently out of reach.

Lauren Ferguson (Class of 2014)

My educational experience at Lesmahagow High School was hugely fulfilling and allowed me to gain the necessary grades to pursue my dream of studying for a Masters of Education (with a primary teaching qualification) at the **University of Glasgow**.

I cannot thank the staff at Lesmahagow High School enough for all their hard work and dedication in guiding, and inspiring, me to achieve my potential and meet my goals. I was taught the valuable lesson that nothing worth having comes easily - the teachers encouraged me to persevere, work hard and be resilient. I learned so many life lessons which allowed me to flourish and helped to shape the person I am today.

Lisa Barr (Class of 2014)

My experience at Lesmahagow was a great one. The school provided me with everything I needed to achieve my goals and gain access to the **University of Edinburgh's vet school**. The teachers at Lesmahagow High were very supportive and encouraging. They wanted to make sure we were well equipped for life after school. Extra help was always available if we needed it and I found that staff would go the extra mile to help us achieve academic success. Interview skills were also taught which proved useful when applying to university and for employment. Not only did the staff want to help us get our grades, they made sure we were prepared for real life. Lesmahagow can be the best school in the world: everything you put in will be returned to you tenfold (as long as you are willing to work hard).

Jess Slaven (Class of 2015)

I'm currently at the **University of Abertay, Dundee** studying Games Design. I applied to this course as I enjoy the immersive nature of game narratives and, as a career, would like to be involved in developing games with a strong story. I attained five Higher As in 5th year, including Computing, and Lesmahagow High was also able to facilitate my studying of Advanced Higher in Computing in S6.

Jack McIntyre (Class of 2016)

During my time at Lesmahagow High School the staff were very supportive and helped me to achieve my goals. The school was a great place for learning. The maths department allowed me to take my Higher maths, then Advanced Higher, a year early and, in my final year, the department supported me to take Advanced Higher subjects not usually offered by our (or any) school. This not only helped with my university application but was also really enjoyable. The staff were also very encouraging and supportive when I was making my, ultimately successful, application to the **University of Oxford**.

From an article by Stephen Naismith in The Herald...

17-year-old Jack is taking the A17 to Oxford



A TEENAGER who won a place at Oxford after scoring some of the best exam results in Scottish history will become the first member of his family to attend university.

Jack McIntyre amassed 17 A grades - seven highs, five advanced highs, and five National awards - to earn a berth at the prestigious institution having been self-taught in Advanced Higher statistics and Advanced Higher mathematics of mechanics.

Jack McIntyre, from Lesmahagow, near Lanark, has bucked the trend by sitting his Higher Mathematics exam while still in fourth year and is now set to begin a master's degree in physics.

Boasting one of Scotland's most impressive set of results, the teenager was then forced to navigate a pass a gruelling entrance exam at Oxford followed by a probing interview.

He said: "Oxford was everything I'd imagined and more.

"I know it's somewhere I think I will fit in and hopefully do well.

"I'm excited but a bit tentative about moving way from Lesmahagow.

"I've lived here all my life and it's such a small community it will be completely different.

"But I'm ready for the challenge."

"The course has exactly the content I'm interested in as it gets very specialised in the final year," he said. "I can't wait to get started."