



# Lesmahagow High School

Strathaven Road, Lesmahagow, ML11 0FS

Phone: 01555 896010

Email: [office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Twitter: @LesmahagowHigh

September 2018

Newsletter

## Head Teacher Message

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. I am sure the weather certainly helped this year!!

We have had a good start to the session already and our new S1 pupils seem to have settled in very well. They all look very smart in the LHS uniform along with all our other pupils. Many thanks to all parents/carers for their continued support of our uniform policy. It has been noted in the community how smart the Lesmahagow High pupils look.

Well done to our young people with their successes in the recent SQA exams. These results are the direct result of hard work, commitment and dedication on the part of those students, their teachers and their families. We believe it is possible for each and every one of our pupils to attain beyond their expectations with positivity and determination.

## **New Staff**

Welcome to our newly qualified teachers: Miss Streatfield (Eng), Miss Begou (Mod Lang), Miss Clark (Drama) and Miss Gardner (Drama).

Welcome to our new Area Cover teachers: Mr Hickson (PE), Mr Mussotte (Mod Lang), Miss Fletcher (Modern Studies) and welcome back to Mr Rae (Modern Studies).

Our new Active Schools Coordinator is Claire Murphy and welcome to Mrs Hall (Support Assistant) who has joined the Support for Learning department.

Welcome to all our new staff - I know they have been made to feel welcome already!

  
Richard McGowan



## **School Captain/Vice Captains 18-19**

### School Captains

Rachel Smith & Lewis Johnstone

### School Vice-Captains

Emma Bell & Adriean Avelino

During last session, we consulted with our whole school community to refine and refresh our school vision and values to ensure these are relevant to our community. A huge thank you to all our young people, staff, parents/carers and many partners connected to the school for their feedback and views to help the school further improve.

I was delighted to launch the outcome of this consultation at our June Prize-Giving.

As we move forward, we will continue to promote and sustain our aspirational vision as we continue to improve our school.



### *Our shared vision*

#### *"Aspire to be our best"*

To empower learners with the skills to succeed and realise their true potential.

### *Our shared values*

**Respect | Honesty | Ambition | Resilience | Equity**

## Parents' Evenings & Reporting

Just to confirm the dates and times of the parents' evenings:

Senior Phase (S4-S6):	Tues 30 October (7-9pm) and/or Wed 7 November (4.30-6.30pm)
S3:	Thurs 10 January 2019 (4.30-6.30pm)
S2:	Tues 29 January 2019 (4.30-7pm)
S1:	Wed 22 May 2019 (4.30-7pm)

The school will continue to use the Parents' Evening Online Booking system to make the process of booking appointments easier for all. We would encourage parents to book appointments as early as possible as availability can get tight – which is why we have extended the S1 and S2 evenings by 30 minutes. **Please make sure the school office holds the most up to date mobile number and email address for all parents/carers.**

Lesmahagow High School are always looking for ways to improve communication between school and families. We have been reviewing how we employ reports on pupil progress and are piloting a new approach for session 2018-19. Instead of receiving one lengthy full report towards the end of the year, parents will receive three tracking reports throughout the year to offer more regular updates on progress. Along with the standard ratings for effort, behaviour and homework (or progress in senior phase reports), teachers will offer a succinct comment which summarises your son/daughter's progress in the subject area. More discussion about the pupil's strengths and action points will take place at parents' evenings but it is hoped that regular updates will help to ensure all young people are progressing with their learning and addressing development needs as they arise.

## Promoting Positive Behaviour

Towards the end of session 2017-18, the Promoting Positive Behaviour working group completed surveys of pupils, parents and staff to seek views on the merit/demerit system. This feedback has been invaluable and has helped to shape some targets for the upcoming sessions. These include:

### ***Improve consistency in how merits/ demerits are being issued***

A common piece of feedback was that pupils felt some staff were not using merits / demerits consistently across the school – we intend to improve this by offering staff training at in-service days and creating posters which highlight the behaviours which will earn merits and demerits and which offer new guidelines on how teachers should be issuing merits (E.g. Subjects taught 1 period per week can issue 1 merit per week, subjects which teach 4 periods per week can issue a maximum of 3 merits per week).

### ***Ensure all pupils feel able to earn a place on merit reward events***

From August, all merit rewards will be based on individual pupil targets and not on the top merit earners in practical class. A calendar of events has been prepared for the full year which should allow pupils to know what they are working towards next and what their targets are. This will be displayed around the school.

### ***Improve communication about the merit / demerit system***

The working group are looking at ways to improve communication between staff and pupils (e.g. how pupils are informed when they earn a merit and opportunities to get merit totals) and between the school and families.

## Merit Reward Events – Session 2018/19

	S1 Events			S2 Events			S3 Events		
	Event and Date of Event	Merits to be collected during:	Target Merit Total	Event and Date of Event	Merits to be collected during:	Target Merit Total	Event and Date of Event	Merits to be collected during:	Target Merit Total
<b>August</b>									
<b>September</b>	Praise Letters and Sweets (20/09/2018)	16/08/2018 – 14/09/2018 (4.5 weeks)	20	Cinema Morning (11/09/2018 P1-3)	16/08/2018 – 07/09/2018 (3.5 weeks)	15			
<b>October</b>	Workshops (01/11/2018 P1-3)	17/09/2018 – 26/10/2018 (4.5 weeks)	20	Workshops (24/10/2018 P1-3)	10/09/2018 – 12/10/2018 (4.5 weeks)	20	Cinema Morning (09/10/2018 P1-3)	16/08/2018 – 28/09/2018 (6 weeks)	25
<b>November</b>									
<b>December</b>	Ice Skating Trip (19/12/2018)	29/10/2018 – 07/12/2018 (6 weeks)	40	Ice Skating Trip (19/12/2018)	22/10/2018 – 07/12/2018 (7 weeks)	45	Workshops (20/12/2018 P1-3)	01/10/2018 – 14/12/2018 (10 weeks)	40
<b>January</b>									
<b>February</b>									
<b>March</b>	Cinema Morning (26/03/2019 P1-3)	10/12/2018 – 22/03/2019 (13 weeks)	50	Easter Egg Prizes (28/03/2019)	Raffle draw – 1 ticket per 5 merits (16/08/18 – 22/03/2019)		Easter Egg Prizes (28/03/2019)	Raffle draw – 1 ticket per 5 merits (16/08/18 – 22/03/2019)	
<b>April</b>									
<b>May</b>	Summer Games Morning (23/05/2019 P1-5)	25/03/2019 – 17/05/2019 (6 weeks)	25	Blair Drummond Safari Park (09/05/2019)	10/12/2018 – 26/04/2019 (15 weeks)	70	Blackpool Trip (23/05/2019)	17/12/2018 – 10/05/2019 (16 weeks)	75
<b>June</b>	Raffle (25/06/2019)	Raffle draw – 1 ticket per 5 merits from 16/08/18 – 21/06/2019)		Raffle (25/06/2019)	Raffle draw – 1 ticket per 5 merits from 16/08/18 – 21/06/2019)		Raffle (25/06/2019)	Raffle draw – 1 ticket per 5 merits from 16/08/18 – 21/06/2019)	



# ***Our new S1 pupils August 2018***



## Support for Pupils

All members of the school staff continue to help and support pupils on a daily basis 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.

The **Principal Teachers of Pupil Support** are directly responsible for pastoral support and as such pupils will have most contact with them throughout their school life. They work closely with parents to support pupils. You can follow the work of the team @gowPST on Twitter.

Pupil Support Teachers:

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

**Mr Mallaghan is responsible for Kerse House**

**Mrs Wright is responsible for Logan House**

**Mr Robson is responsible for Milton House**

The **Support for Learning** team is responsible for providing support in class and in small groups so that learners can achieve their full potential. Staff work in collaboration with teachers and subject departments within the school, supporting pupils, parents and staff to reduce barriers to learning, build confidence, raise self-esteem and provide the best learning environments for pupils to flourish. Please contact **Mrs Storry or Mrs Laird, Principal Teacher Support for Learning** on a Monday or Tuesday if you have any queries about additional support needs.

### Key dates for September 2018

Monday, 3rd September - Parent Council AGM

Tuesday, 11th September - S3 Merit Event

Thursday, 13th September - P7/S1 Open Afternoon (Periods 6&7)

Monday, 17th September - Support for Learning Open Evening

Tuesday, 18th September - S3 Report issued

Friday, 21st September/Monday, 24th September - September Weekend Holiday

Wednesday, 26th September - Senior Phase Report issued

## Religious Observance

Religious observance provides opportunities for the school community to reflect on, and develop, a deeper understanding of the dignity and worth of each individual and their contribution to the school wider communities. In recognition of Scotland's Christian heritage, schools are encouraged to use the rich resources of this tradition when planning religious observances. We are fortunate to be supported by a good Chaplaincy Team who play an integral part in the life of the school. Our school community contains pupils and staff from faiths other than Christianity or with no faith commitment. This is taken into account fully in supporting development. It is of central importance that all pupils and staff can participate with integrity in forms of religious observances without compromise to their personal faith stances. For more information, please refer to the most recent Scottish Government advice, including information about parental rights to withdraw, using this link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/ReligiousObservance>

Our Chaplaincy Team members adhere to these guidelines on religious observance and have been made aware of, and discussed, South Lanarkshire Council's updated "Policy guidance for schools regarding chaplains and chaplaincy teams in non-denominational schools". They are fully committed to operating within these guidelines and the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team ensure that they do.

Our Chaplain is Alex Kelly.

## Twitter

Find out more about Lesmahagow High School by following our various Twitter feeds:

@LesmahagowHigh      @LesmahagowMaths      @LesmahagowDrama  
 @LesmahagowH @LesmahagowRMPS      @LesmahagowGeog      @gowPST  
 @LGowPE      @LHSTechnical      @LesmahagowBIO



## Senior Phase Assessments

### Please take note

Our Senior Phase Assessment period will run from

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December until Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018.**

This assessment block replaces the former January Assessment period. Bringing the assessments forward will give students more time to act on the feedback given by their teachers and will also allow more time for assignments and course work in term 2. If you have any questions relating to the Senior Phase assessments, please contact Miss Lee.

## School App

Keep in touch with events and news, set school calendar alerts, as well as receive important messages from the school by downloading the school app. It is free to download, for all family members, from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Scan the QR code or search for 'SSA' or 'SSA secondaryschoolapp', and once the app is open, search for 'Lesmahagow High School when prompted.



## Foundation Apprenticeships

We were delighted to welcome the first Foundation Apprenticeship students to the Lesmahagow Hub on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Pupils from across South Lanarkshire Council will be working over the next two years to gain a Foundation Apprenticeship in the 'Children and Young People' framework. Lecturers from New College Lanarkshire are delivering the course, which has a work placement element, in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Council. Over the summer work has been taking place to transform one of the classrooms into a dynamic learning environment combining a 'nursery' with a traditional classroom, which will help pupils learn the practical and academic skills required for employment in this sector.

In addition to the five pupils from Lesmahagow High who will be attending the Lesmahagow Hub, a further four pupils are completing Foundation Apprenticeships in a variety of courses, such as Scientific Technologies, Engineering Systems, Business Skills and ICT Software at Glasgow Kelvin College and EKGTA training centre in East Kilbride. We also have one S6 pupil who is entering year 2 of the Creative and Digital Media course, where there is a greater emphasis on utilising the skills learned in year 1 within a workplace environment.

On successful completion of these courses, all pupils gain an industry recognised qualification at SCQF Level 6 (SQA Higher level), which also contains component parts of a Modern Apprenticeship.



## School Calendar

The school calendar is available digitally on the school app, as well as the website. From the app, you can add school events directly to your smartphone calendar where you can set up alerts to remind you it is taking place. A paper copy can also be printed or downloaded from the website.

The screenshot shows the Lesmahagow High School website. The header includes the school logo, name, and navigation links: Home, School Info, Curriculum, Parents, Pupils, Contact. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled 'School Calendar' and displays the 'LHS School Calendar 2018-19' for September 2018. The calendar grid shows various events: Parent Council (7-8), School Photograph (4-5), Inspiring Lesmahagow - Helen's Letters (10-11), P7/S1 Open Afternoon (13), Higher Geography (14), Support for Lesmahagow (17), S1 Report & Issues (18), Geobus Fieldwork (19), MacMillan Coffee M (20), and Holiday (21-23). A Twitter feed on the right shows a tweet from @LesmahagowHigh about downloading the school meal menu.

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

## Blazer Exchange

We would love to receive donations of any unwanted items of school uniform, particularly school blazers, so that we can provide a 'blazer exchange'. When we have sufficient stock, we hope to offer students the opportunity to exchange their blazer for a new size. If we don't have your size available, a token would be given meantime. **Please note:** It would be helpful if blazers were washed before they are donated so that we can arrange the exchange quickly.

Thank you for your support!!!



## Parent Pay



### A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card or through PayPoint. Paying online gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your money has reached the school safely and is used for its intended purpose.

#### Pay online for

- School meals
- Trips
- And more

### How to pay online.....

Step 1—Have your activation letter ready (from school)

Step 2—Login at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

Step 3—Follow instructions to activate account

Step 4—Click on 'Items due for payment'

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

**ParentPay will be the only way to pay for school trips from August 2018 in Lesmahagow High School.**

If you need your Activation Letter then please contact the school office on: 01555 896 010.

Our school app has a shortcut link to the main *ParentPay* website.

## Letters/Documents

All generic letters and documents that are issued can be downloaded from our school website at the following link:

<http://www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk/parents-2/>

We will be reducing the number of letter and documents issued on paper to help remove the need to print every document. In addition, it means parents/carers can look back at documents previously issued. Please add the link above to your favourites/bookmarks on your phone or tablet.

## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Download the South Lanarkshire Council guidelines regarding GDPR - Privacy Notice at:

<http://www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/PN1-Education-Resources-general-privacy-notice-Aug-2018.pdf>

## School Improvement Priorities

Many thanks to all our young people, staff and parents that contributed to school community consultation regarding school improvement for session 2018-19. Feedback from all pupils and our Pupil Council was extremely helpful in shaping our plans for this session coming. A full copy of our *School Improvement Plan* can be downloaded from:

<https://goo.gl/4LyNU9>

Download a copy of this poster from:

<https://goo.gl/eCTkgy>



## Pupil Attendance

It is vital that all pupils attend school on time and ready to learn, in order to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life. There is clear link between excellent attendance and high attainment. It is important for the school to work in partnership with parents to ensure that excellent attendance is achieved and celebrated. As such, attendance certificates were awarded last year and pupils with outstanding attendance over the course of the academic year, were recognised at our annual Prize Giving event.

If for any reason your child is going to be absent from school, then please contact the school office to inform us of the absence, a reason for the absence and an intended return date. Please also ensure that a note is given to the Pupil Support teacher upon your child's return that confirms the dates of and reason for that absence.

## WWI Centenary Event

We are planning to commemorate the Centenary of the end of World War 1 in November 2018 by holding some events within the school and local community. We would love to invite any serving or former members of the Armed Forces, their families or anyone with an interest in local history who would like to join us for these events. Please can you let Mr. Smith (Principal Teacher of Humanities) know if you would be interested in participating in any of the above events.

## Inspiring Lesmahagow

The "Inspiring Lesmahagow" initiative is moving into its second year and the school are delighted with the progress made so far. The initiative came about because the Scottish Government gave additional money to schools to offer targeted support to young people in order to raise attainment and achievement. Throughout 2017-18, four coordinators (Mrs Robison, Mrs Rae, Mrs Smith and Miss Ballantyne) worked together to offer a varied and interesting programme of activities for the 65 pupils who formed the group. Highlights included the cinema trip to see "Wonder", which the pupils had read and received copies of the book, the Science Centre excursion, the Family Café which was organised by pupils, and the successful Friday afternoon workshops which focused on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing skills. The year was rounded off by the residential trip to Aberfoyle where pupils experienced activities including archery and problem solving challenges.

This year, the targeted group has increased to 103 pupils and some of the staff involved have changed. The team is now:

**Wellbeing Coordinator:** Ms K Blackwood

**Literacy Coordinator:** Mrs G Smith

**Numeracy Coordinator:** Mrs N Rae

**SMT Link:** Mr G Parry

The final plans are being prepared for session 2018-19 and we look forward to unveiling the full programme shortly. Activities already in the works include a land art project with the local community and the Helen's Letters workshops where pupils will be writing to famous people who inspire them. Please encourage your son/daughter to get involved in the full range of activities as the work is proving to have a positive impact on our young people's attainment in school.



## Dressing for Success

### Our uniform from August 2018

- White shirt/blouse;
- School tie;
- Plain black V-neck jumper or cardigan without logos;
- Black trousers/black skirt;
- School blazer
- Plain black footwear (including laces); and
- P.E. kit (white, red or black t-shirt, black shorts, leggings, track suit bottoms and trainers).

### Unacceptable clothing:

- Jeans (all colours/types) and denim jackets;
- Hooded tops;
- Leggings (except PE);
- Football colours/team tops (this includes PE lessons);
- Track suits and sports/leisure wear;
- Clothing with slogans or large logos;
- Clothing which is deemed unsuitable in terms of health and safety;
- Shorts.



### Blazer Stockist

Scotcrest, 41 Quarry Street, Hamilton,  
ML3 7AH, 01698 760438

Blazers can be ordered in the shop or  
online at

<https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/>





Education Resources

School holiday Dates Session 2018/2019

Break	Holiday dates		
<b>First Term</b>	<b>Teachers In-service</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>14 August 2018</b>
	<b>In-service day</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15 August 2018</b>
	Pupils return	Thursday	16 August 2018
September Weekend	Close on	Thursday	20 September 2018
	Re-open	Tuesday	25 September 2018
October Break	Close on	Friday	12 October 2018
	Re-open	Monday	22 October 2018
	<b>In-service day</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>19 November 2018</b>
Christmas	Close on	Friday	21 December 2018
	Re-open	Monday	7 January 2019
<b>Second Term</b>			
February break	Close on	Friday	8 February 2019
	Closed on	Monday and Tuesday	11 February 2019 12 February 2019
	<b>In-service day</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13 February 2019</b>
Spring break/Easter	Close on	Friday	29 March 2019
	Re-open	Monday	15 April 2019
	Close on	Thursday	18 April 2019
	Re-open	Tuesday	23 April 2019
<b>Third Term</b>			
Local Holiday	Closed	Monday	6 May 2019
	<b>In-service day</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7 May 2019</b>
Local Holiday	Close on	Thursday	23 May 2019
	Re-open	Tuesday	28 May 2019
Summer break	Closed	Friday	28 June 2019

Notes

- Good Friday falls on Friday, 19 April 2019
- *Lanark schools will close 6 and 7 June 2019*
- Schools will close at 2.30pm on the last day of terms 1 and 2  
(Thursday, 21 December 2018 and Friday 29 March 2019)
- Schools will close at 1pm on the last day of term 3 (Friday 28 June 2019)

\*Two in-service days proposed for August 2019 to be confirmed.