



Lesmahagow High School Virtual Transition Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

Lesmahagow High School staff would like to ensure your child's transition from primary to secondary school runs as smoothly as possible. We know that current school closures have brought about various challenges, but please be assured that we continue to operate behind the scenes to ensure we provide the best possible virtual transition for your child.

We are keen to hear from you, answer any questions you may have, and ultimately reassure you and your family about the transition process. We are aware that you have many questions about transport, uniform, classes etc. and we hope this document will answer these.

Please feel free to contact us via email or through our enquiry form which can be found on our P7 Transition webpage - <http://www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk/p7-transition/>

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Depute Head Teacher

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Depute Head Teacher

Frequently Asked Questions

Will pupils go straight into S1 or will they experience some form of transition?

New S1 pupils will be fully supported when they arrive at Lesmahagow High School.

We understand pupils will not be familiar with the building or their new class mates so we are keen to offer transition / settling in days where they will be able to engage in activities which they would have experienced at their transition days in June.

How will these transition days look? How will school work with social distancing?

The school will adhere to and follow the guidance issued by the government and South Lanarkshire Council in relation to social distancing and hygiene procedures. Information will be shared with parents, carers and pupils in due course.

This will also apply to any form of transition, including activities with others.

In relation to transition, we encourage all new S1 parents, carers and pupils to continue to visit our designated P7 Transition webpage and follow our virtual transition programme - <http://www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk/p7-transition/>.

What support will be in place to help students feel safe during this time?

Pupils' health and wellbeing is paramount to us and we will endeavour to ensure all supports required are in place for young people to feel safe. At present, we continue to share information on our school through our webpage so that pupils can become familiar with the school and how we operate. We hope this removes some of the anxieties and concerns pupils may have. We are also sharing advice and information on how to support young people's health and wellbeing on Twitter to ensure pupils receive the best possible advice in preparation for attending high school.

As for specific supports, our fantastic Pupil Support team will be there to support your child throughout their school journey, especially at the transition phase where they may have many questions. If there are particular concerns regarding a pupil's wellbeing, we work closely with agencies who help to support and develop young people's wellbeing where required. Supports will be accessed as required.

We have also started our super buddy programme to help those who may need more intensive support at this point to help prepare them for high school. We fully appreciate that young people will be nervous, worried and anxious but please be assured that we continue to be creative in finding ways we can help despite the current situation.

My child is worried about getting into trouble for being late to class as they do not know their way around the school.

Everyone, no matter if you are a pupil or an adult, is nervous in new situations and knowing their way around. We fully understand this and without the transition days in June this may be more of a worry. Please be reassured that we intend on supporting pupils when they arrive to help them to understand the layout of the school. This will involve receiving a map to familiarise themselves with the building before attending.

Staff and other pupils are more than happy to help our new arrivals get from class to class, and staff will be understanding of this situation.

Are there buses available for pupils and can children just turn up? How do I book school transport?

School transport is organised by South Lanarkshire Council. You need to apply through their online application form here - <https://tinyurl.com/yydm86bs>

This page will also give you more details on school transport. A link will also be placed on our P7 Transition webpage.

Further advice will be provided in due course.

Where do school buses pick up from?

School transport covers the villages, hamlets and farms near Lesmahagow. Further details on pick-up points will follow in due course.

How do I order my child's blazer?

Advice and information on ordering blazers can be found in the uniform letter on our P7 Transition webpage. A copy of this letter can be accessed by clicking on this link - <https://tinyurl.com/y988rf5o>

Are blazers compulsory?

Blazers are compulsory and we are proud of our uniform and the identity our blazer gives us. However, we are aware that in our current climate purchasing blazers may prove difficult for various reasons. With this in mind, we would understand if the purchase of blazers would be delayed.

Are black trainers with black laces be acceptable?

Students are required to wear black footwear in line with our school uniform policy. As long as footwear is all black, including laces, then this would be appropriate. Further information on our uniform policy can be found in our P7 Transition Booklet -

<https://tinyurl.com/ybq7i8dc>

A link to our uniform policy can also be found here - <https://tinyurl.com/yyxlfso>

Where are children to go on their first day of school?

When schools are able to return there will be a plan put in place for the safety of all pupils and staff. We will share this with you in advance providing with clear guidance and instructions as to what will happen on their first day which will reflect the government and South Lanarkshire Council's guidance.

When are you allowed to have lunch outside of the school?

Pupils arriving in S1 will remain in the school grounds during lunch times for a period of time. This is to ensure they are safe and become familiar with the school before navigating their way to the local shops for their lunch. We revise this throughout the first few months of S1 and will advise when pupils are able to go outside of the school grounds for their lunch.

Will all children from the same school be in the same class?

When pupils come to high school, a big part of this is meeting new people and forming friendships with others. This is a really important part in developing their social wellbeing. We aim to ensure that in all four S1 classes there is a mixture of pupils from our associated primary schools. We liaise closely with primary colleagues when composing classes.

How do payments for school meals work and how much are they?

This video, created by Lesmahagow High School pupils, provides all the information you need to know about school meals and ParentPay.

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!ApEIZGP6uNhNglewnrY466N6Ghvp>

The ParentPay website will also provide you with more information on this service.

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

The school canteen, known as the Go Fresh Cafe, is open before school, interval and lunch for pupils to purchase food and drinks. A meal deal at lunch will cost £1.70.

Information on lunch menus can be found here - <https://tinyurl.com/wsmj89x>. These menus are reviewed each term.

Does Lesmahagow High School have a school app?

Yes. We use our school app regularly to keep parents, carers and pupils up to date. Information on downloading and using our app can be found here:

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

The letter below (click link) gives an insight into the different ways in which the school communicates with parents, carers and families.

<https://tinyurl.com/qvwgnyt>