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Our Ref: SOH/

Dear Parent/Carer

P7-S1 TRANSITION UPDATE LETTER

It has been quite a term of transition activities. It was a pleasure to meet so many young people last month in person. I have also been delighted to meet a number of classes and pupils (and a few parents too) via Teams meetings. Young people should also have received Welcome Packs too. Hopefully your young person has had some of their anxieties put at bay and that those feelings have been replaced with some excitement.

CLASSES AND TIMETABLES

Our new S1s have been issued with their class allocation letters and a copy of their draft timetable. There are a few blank spaces on the timetables whilst we sort house tutor groups and Friday morning PACE classes. This has been explained to pupils and they will be issued with their final timetable on Day 1 in August.

Small tweaks to timetables are a natural part of our timetabling process and I will endeavour to contact you over the summer if there are any notable changes, especially to classes/houses.

UNIFORM

We pride ourselves on the standard of uniform in Blairgowrie High School. We have tried in recent years to successfully balance looking smart and presentable, whilst allowing some room for individualisation. We also encourage the wearing of our school blazer which was introduced after pupil demand 6 years ago. Our uniform is summarised as:

- Black trousers or knee length skirt (no leggings or jeggings or denim)
- White shirt or blouse that buttons to the neck
- Black jumper or cardigan (no hoodies)
- Black shoes (preferably not trainers)
- School tie (knot no lower than one button down) - available from Doig's, Blairgowrie
- Blazer (<http://border-embroideries.co.uk>) or sensible outdoor coat – no denim

At present, uniform is not expected on PE days. More information is given below.

FIRST DAY/WEEK

Pupils will start Blairgowrie High School on Wednesday 18th August 2021. The first bell rings at 8.55am and the school day will finish at 3.40pm. The Senior Leadership Team, Guidance Teachers and Prefects will be on hand to support young people on arrival. If Covid-19 mitigations continue to ease then we will begin the day with a full S1 year group assembly. If we cannot meet in such size indoors, we will begin on the playing fields.

Education & Children's Services

Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) **Sheena Devlin** – (Head of Secondary & Inclusion) **Sharon Johnston**

Throughout the week and into the next week, S2 buddies and S4-6 prefects will be escorting pupils to and from their classes to ensure they are familiar with the building. These pupils will also be on hand during breaks and lunchtimes for anyone requiring some support, a chat or directions.

PE

Whilst we remain under Covid-19 restrictions, our mitigations mean that we still do not have access to changing room facilities. This has been the case for our school since August 2020. Pupils should wear suitable PE kit to school on days when they have PE. This should be comfortable clothing (shorts/joggies/leggings, t-shirt and trainers would be sufficient) which can be worn for the rest of the day. This will mean that some young people will wear PE kit on their first day at Blairgowrie High School. For those of you with a busy mantlepiece, it sadly means that “First Day” photos might need to become “Second Day” photos.

As soon as it is safe to do so, our changing facilities will reopen and we will revert to uniform every day.

FRESHERS’ WEEK

Our Freshers’ Week is a brilliant opportunity for young people to get to know their new classmates and teachers through a week of fun activities. Information on Freshers’ Week is contained in the Welcome Pack. There is a financial cost for the Belmont Centre day but please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss if this will be a challenge: we will not see any young person go without.

We are hopeful of an opportunity to finally meet with families in person at the end of the week or during the following week. Like everything else at the moment, this is Covid-dependent. We will be in touch nearer the time.

COVID LFD TESTING

LFD tests are available free of charge from Davidson’s Chemist over the summer. Consent information has been provided to young people in their Welcome Packs. Please give consideration over the summer over whether your young person will take part in LFD testing.

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE WITH BLAIRGOWRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Regular newsletters are provided on our school website. Please click [here](#) to see our most recent parent update on the school website to get a sense of current communications.

We would also appreciate if you follow us on Twitter where we post regular updates and pupil successes: @blairgowriehs

GETTING IN TOUCH

Your child’s Guidance Teacher is your first point of contact. They can be reached via the School Office by e-mailing blairgowrie@pkc.gov.uk or via telephone on 01250871200. Please note that our Guidance Teachers do have class commitments and pupil drop-ins as well as busy diaries of support meetings therefore they cannot always reply on the same day (but they do try!).

Wishing you an enjoyable, safe summer.

Yours sincerely

Sean O’Hara
Depute Headteacher