



Penicuik High School

P7 Transition Information 2020-2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that this letter finds you all safe and well during these incredibly difficult times. We would also like to thank you for your patience while we have been working with our primary colleagues and other agencies to begin to re-shape our Primary Transition activities in order to provide the best support possible to our new S1 students as they move from P7 to join us as S1 students.

While the announcement from First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on the move to re-open Scottish schools from August 2020 gives us greater clarity moving forward, there are still many things to do. Under the guidance of Midlothian Council all primary and secondary schools are preparing to deliver positive outcomes for P7 to S1 Transition, and elements of this will inevitably be 'virtual' as will parts of our return to school. As a result having access to a device will be important for your child. Should you require access to a device, you can request to borrow a device to support distant learning by calling the Midlothian Digital Learning Team on 0131 271 4900 or completing the following form <https://sites.google.com/mc.glow.scot/distancelearning-parentcarer/chromebookloan>

To help make the Transition accessible we have taken the following steps:

Communication

Communication during the Transition period will be through a number of formats:

Penicuik High School website
Penicuik High School Twitter
School text messaging service (primary)
Direct emails to P7 parents from Penicuik High School
Transition.Penicuik@mgfl.net. This email address is currently being set up to allow P7 parents to contact us directly.
We will notify parents as soon as this is in operation.

Transition Information:

The following information will be sent electronically to parents:

School uniform
School lunches
School transport service
School Handbook

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

A new Free School Meal and Clothing Grant application form is being produced by Midlothian Council to reflect the current Covid-19 situation. The form is likely to be available by the middle of June. If you would like to apply for free school meals for session 2020-2021 please keep an eye on the relevant web page:

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants .

Any queries related to this addressed to FSMAwards@midlothian.gov.uk

Virtual Transition Arrangements:

Virtual Tour of Penicuik High School – This will be available soon on the school website.

Meet the link staff – Guidance and Support for Learning staff are allocated to each cluster primary school. During W/B 1st June they will join students in their link school for a Q&A session in the P7 Google Classroom. The Powerpoint of Questions and Answers will be sent to parents after the session. Dates will be notified shortly.

A separate Google Classroom will operate for non-cluster students and information on this will be sent to your primary schools.

P7 Transition Project – as part of Transition a paper work booklet is being prepared to allow students to complete Transition related activities at home. The booklet will be completed once students have joined us at Penicuik High school in August

Transition activity slot on either 10th June or 11th June with Guidance Link staff (Personal and Social Education taster). Time to be advised.

A separate Google Classroom will operate on the Transition Days for non-cluster students and information on this will be sent to your primary schools.

Enhanced Transition:

Penicuik High School Support for Learning will continue to liaise with primaries and parents of students who require enhanced transition. Arrangements will develop once greater guidance is available about when pupils can come into schools.

Parental Contact

All P7 parents will receive contact from Penicuik High School, by email in the first instance. We are happy to answer any questions and queries as fully as we can bearing in mind the evolving situation in schools.

Class placements

Normally in June, for the P7 Transition Days, new S1 students would receive their timetable and information as to the classes they have been allocated. As you will understand due to the uncertainties over how the return to school will look in August, and the likelihood that students will not return in full class groups, we are not in a position to give this information at this time. We will however inform families of the House pupils have been allocated and the guidance teacher who will be supporting them moving forward. As soon as we can give information on classes, and the new structure of learning, we will send it out.

We are keen to ensure that the Transition process, while very different to what we are used to, supports our students as they move to join us in August and look forward to working with families and primary colleagues to make this happen.

Best wishes,

Diane Burgess

Depute Headteacher

Penicuik High School

[@PenicuikHS](#)