

P7 Transition Frequently Asked Questions

What does online transition look like?

Online Transition inevitably will be different to Transition in years past. Because of school closures, we are not in a position to bring our new S1 into school. We are also very aware that many families have children sharing devices. On Tuesday 12th May we held an online meeting with all of our cluster primary schools, the Guidance and SFL staff from PHS and our link Educational Psychologist. It was agreed at this meeting that the following would be put in place

1. Guidance and SFL link staff would join in the P7 Transition in their link classroom to do a question and answer session, responding to questions gathered by primary staff from the P7 students. The PHS staff have prepared a video and accompanying Powerpoint presentation to answer the questions. They will also be able to answer additional ones. This will be posted on the school website for parents/carers to also view.
2. A paper transition booklet of some of the activities normally done on the P7 Visit will be produced and P7 students can work on this at their own pace. This lessens the strain of trying to do everything online when sharing devices. The booklet will be completed in PSE when the students join us creating a link from Primary to secondary.
3. The Link staff will re-visit the P7 Google classrooms for another session on either 10th or 11th June (date to be advised).

School uniform? Will High School be in touch about this?

Information will be emailed to parents/carers and uniform will be covered in this.

How do teachers get to know individual pupils?

Guidance and SFL staff have been linking with primary staff since September 2019 to gather all relevant information about the young people joining us. They are meeting again during W/B 1st June to make sure all information is up to date and that any new issues are conveyed to PHS staff. In terms of really getting to know our young people this will begin in earnest in August when they join us as. Relationships are built properly when we get together so a lot of work will go into this from August.

Are pupils put into ability level classes?

Students joining in S1 will be in mixed ability classes. This will give us time to get to know our young people and assess where they are in their learning. At a later stage, it is likely that the Maths department will loosely set their classes but the other classes will remain mixed ability.

Is there a possibility of a real life social distance tour at some point?

At present we cannot answer this as we are waiting for guidance from the local authority as to when young people can come into schools and what arrangements have to be put in place for them to ensure their safety and the safety of the staff working with them. As soon as we have this information we will be able to give a clearer view. We understand that this is an area of real concern and will do our best to address this as soon as we can.

Lunchtime medication - how can this be stored and then accessed at lunchtime?

Any medication taken in school is kept securely in the School Office. Parents/Carers need to complete the relevant medication form that the school office will be happy to supply. We cannot hold any medication for students without this.

If a student needs to take medication at lunchtime they go to the office and staff will be happy to oversee as per the instructions on the form.

When will they find out about their Registration classes?

Students will find out their registration classes in August but will be notified of the House they have been allocated to and their guidance teacher in June. The reason for this is that we still do not know how many young people we will be able to have in a class at any one time when we begin to re-open. Our registration classes usually have approximately 25 young people in each class and this is not something that will be possible, certainly for the foreseeable future. As a result, while young people will be allocated to a registration class, these classes will be inevitably be split further. As soon as we know how this is happening we will advise parents and carers.

Where to get High School ties?

All new S1 students are issued with their Penicuik High School tie free of charge on their first day of school.

Will Google Classroom transition day activities be available outside set times as their internet is only accessible at certain times?

Unfortunately the online transition day activities will have to be at set times. This is because our Guidance staff also teach subject classes and will be teaching their academic subject to students in older year groups. The time slots, which will be approximately an hour on either the 10th or 11th June, will be notified in advance to parents and carers to allow their child to have online access in that slot. The paper booklet for Transition will allow young people to work at a time or their choosing that suits them.