



16/06/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to be part of Mearns Academy. My name is Mr Campbell and I am proud to be introducing myself to you as Head Teacher of our school.

You will find attached to this communication a booklet which will support with the transition to Mearns Academy. This booklet is for parents/carers to share with their children to promote dialogue and help with transition. Within the booklet you will see information covering: Senior Leadership Team, Principal Teachers of Guidance and Faculty staff across the school, Uniform, PE Kit, a map of our building, and information on safety, transport and catering. Also included are our values of: -

RESPECT, WELLBEING and AMBITION

These core values sit alongside and support our code of conduct of **Be Respectful**, **Be Responsible** and **Be Safe**.

As a school, we have had to adapt rapidly over the last 12 weeks and unfortunately, we have been unable to have our traditional Primary 7 visit. Much of our transition work takes place prior to the 3 day visit and hopefully your young person has had the opportunity to previously visit Mearns Academy through sports events, P6 Science transition event, musical evenings and our P7 club. We also work closely with our Primary colleagues across all cluster Primary schools. Again, we apologise that we have not been able to have our new S1 young people into the building in June.

It is an unusual and challenging time at the moment, and we know you and your child might be feeling worried about the transition into S1 in August. We want to reassure you that we are working towards supporting all of our S1 pupils and our Principal Teachers of Guidance will play a key role in this. We also are planning that our new S1 young people will be the first back into the building once pupils return.

In August, due to social distancing government guidelines, it will not be possible to have all young people in school at the same time. Learning in both Primary and Secondary schools across Scotland will take the form of blended learning. This will involve some time in school and some time at home using online learning resources. As a school, since March, we have successfully moved to use Google Classroom as our online platform. Resources will also be provided nationally by Education Scotland.

We appreciate all parents and young people will want more information. I plan to write to all parents/carers prior to the end of term with a more detailed update on our expectations for August, which days your young person will be in school and how their school day will look.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. This is certainly not a situation any of us would choose and we are working hard to make sure all staff and pupils can return to school safely in August.

Gareth Campbell
Head Teacher