

# TRANSITION



TOGETHER WE GROW,  
LEARN AND ACHIEVE

Wallace Hall Academy

December 2020

## Moving to Wallace Hall Academy

Dear our newest member of Wallace Hall Academy,

We are very excited that you will be starting at Wallace Hall in August and hope you are too. We are incredibly proud of our supportive culture, academic record and wider achievement opportunities and we know that you have made a good choice!

This year is rather extraordinary but we still want to offer you the very best transition process so you are confident about starting with us in August 2021. We hope this leaflet, and the information on our school website, helps answer your questions and reassures you that we will do our very best to make sure you have a happy and successful start with us.

The time between now and August 2021 might be a little different but one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to giving you and your family the right support at this really important part of your education. Please visit our school website for further information that is specific to Transition this year and get in touch with us through the school office if you have any further questions.



*Our School Website now has a  
Transition tab on the 2-18 Covid-19  
update section*



New S1 pupils meeting their buddies last year

### Key Information

- Transition plans
- School information
- Support
- Q&As

# School Information

Our day in the Academy starts with registration at 9.15am and finishes at 3.45pm. You will have the same registration teacher from Tuesday to Friday so you will be greeted by a familiar friendly face at the start of each day! Mondays are a little different, you head straight to lesson 1 instead of registration and have 7 periods instead of 6. The timings are below for you to have a look at. The most important thing is - **don't** worry, it will all make perfect sense when you get here!

In June, you will receive a timetable like the picture opposite. This will tell you which class you will be in and which teachers you will have.

We will have four S1 classes this year, each with around 25 pupils. You will attend subjects like History and French with your class but will be put into smaller groups for practical subjects like Science and Art. In S1 you get to try all of our subjects but some subjects, such as Home Economics, are on rotation so you may not see them on your timetable but you will go to those later in the year instead of another rotational subject.

## Uniform

When you arrive in August you will be expected to wear your new Wallace Hall Academy uniform. Our school ties can be bought from the school office or the school library at a cost of £5. Please find details of our uniform code on the website tab.

## Food

New S1 pupils often tell us that the food in our canteen is one of their highlights, we have free breakfast club everyday too! We would like all pupils to use their 'Young Scot' card for purchasing food and drinks in the canteen. If you have a problem obtaining the card then it will still be possible to pay in cash. Please find more information in our school handbook on the website tab. **S1 pupils are not allowed to go into the village during break times but you do get out of class early for the first week so that you can get to the front of the queue!**

## Bus Passes

If you live within catchment and more than 3 miles from the school, you will receive a free bus pass. You do not have to contact us, this will be sent to you. See the school handbook for more details and links to council information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Register Group: LNI Stage: S1

	Reg	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Monday</b>	Registration School Mrs Black AJ1030	Science GSE Mr Dickson AJ2010	Geography GSE Mr Miller AJ2014	Design & Technology GSE Mr Lees AJ0024	Music GSE Mr Bailey AJ1019	Mathematics GSE Mr Adair AJ0006	Art GSE Mrs Simpson AJ1031
<b>Tuesday</b>	Registration School Mrs Black AJ1030	French GSE Mrs Griffin B1038	English GSE Miss Brown AJ1015	Science GSE Mr Dickson AJ2010	Design & Technology GSE Mr Lees AJ0024	Mathematics GSE Mr Adair AJ0006	History GSE Mr Hickey AJ1008
<b>Wednesday</b>	Registration School Mrs Black AJ1030	English GSE Miss Brown AJ1015	English GSE Mr Robertson AJ1017	Physical Education GSE Mr Mack SB1026	Physical Education GSE Mr Mack SB1026	Information Technology GSE Mr Fraser AJ2022	Religious Studies GSE Mr Wilson AJ1011
<b>Thursday</b>	Registration School Mrs Black AJ1030	French GSE Mrs Grant AJ0013	EXAMPLE TIMETABLE				
<b>Friday</b>	Registration School Mrs Black AJ1030	Modern Studies GSE Mrs Grant AJ1007	French GSE Mrs Grant AJ0013	Mathematics GSE Mr Adair AJ0006	French School Mrs Grant AJ2019	English GSE Miss Brown AJ1015	Science GSE Mr Dickson AJ2010

<b>Monday</b>	
9.15 - 10.02	Period 1
10.02 – 10.49	Period 2
10.49 - 11.04	Break
11.04 – 11.51	Period 3
11.51 – 12.40	Period 4
12.40 – 13.25	Period 5
13.25 - 2.05	Lunch
2.05 - 2.55	Period 6
2.55 - 3.45	Period 7

<b>Tues-Fri</b>	
9.15 - 9.25	Registration
9.25 - 10.18	Period 1
10.18 - 11.11	Period 2
11.11 - 11.26	Break
11.26 - 12.19	Period 3
12.19 - 1.12	Period 4
1.12 - 1.59	Lunch
1.59 - 2.52	Period 5
2.52 - 3.45	Period 6

## Pupil Support Team

For those of you who have not met us yet, don't worry, we will be there to greet you on your first day and will make sure that you know where to find us in school!

We all teach our own subjects so you may see us on your timetable too but actually we spend most of our days helping you!

Mr Torbett is the latest member of our team and will be the Acting Principal Teacher of Pupil Support for Scaur this year. He will be replaced when Mrs Mack returns in August 2021.

Mr Mack is the Depute Head Teacher in charge of the Pupil Support Team. He can also be contacted with any queries or concerns.

We are all really looking forward to getting to know you!



Aileen Marchant

PT Additional Support Needs



Kerry Fraser

PT Pupil Support

Cairn



Lauren Robertson

PT Pupil Support

Nith



Laura Mack

PT Pupil Support

Scaur



Adam Torbett

Acting PT Pupil Support



The 'Purple Polo' Team

## Support in School

The amount of support you require will depend on your individual needs at any particular point in your school career. We pride ourselves on our ability to support every child in our care to ensure that they feel happy and safe throughout their school journey.

### Universal Support

The main point of support for most of our pupils and families will be our Principal Teachers of Pupil Support. (PTPS). We have three 'Houses' (Cairn, Nith and Scaur) and the support in each house is coordinated by the PTPS. This year, 1N1 and 1N2 will be Nith classes, 1C1 will be the Cairn class and 1S1 is the Scaur class. When you receive your timetable in June you will see which House you will be joining and parents will be given the opportunity to have a 1:1 conversation with their PTPS.


Each pupil in S1 will participate in 1 period of Health and Wellbeing per week, where we cover a wide range of age appropriate topics such as Relationships, Planning for Choices and Change and Substance Misuse. Each pupil will also have at least two scheduled 1:1 meetings with their PTPS throughout the year.

### Targeted Support

The main point of contact for our pupils and families who require additional support with their learning will be our Principal Teacher of Additional Support Needs (ASN). The ASN department is a strong team that includes our Additional Support for Learning Teacher and a team of Additional Support for Learning Assistants, affectionately known as 'the purple polos', who do an amazing job of supporting pupils' learning in the classroom as well as providing emotional and behavioural support to identified pupils.

In addition to a wide range of external partners, such as School Nurse and Youth Work, who provide accessible support in school we also have our Pupil Equity (PEF) Team, who work closely with our families receiving Free School Meals (FSM). If you are entitled to FSM, you will have the opportunity to join our very successful PEF Mentoring Scheme.

# Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What will happen if I get lost?** Our school is actually really easy to find your way around so it is very unlikely that you will get lost! All new S1 classes will have S2 buddies who will meet you on the first day and will take you to all of your classes until you are feeling confident that you know where you are going. We are also putting a 'virtual tour' of our school building onto the Transition tab on our website so hopefully this will help too!
  2. **I don't really know anybody, what if I don't make any friends?** This is one of the biggest worries that all of our new pupils have. We have lots of new pupils coming from non-cluster schools so you will not be alone. If school does not re-open before the summer then we will be organising a non-cluster transition day in August so that you can meet each other before the first day. You will get to know your new classmates quickly and we are confident you will find people who you want to be friends with. We also have clubs that you can join where you will meet people who like the same things as you!
  3. **What do I need to bring on my first day?** Probably mainly just the same stuff you would take to primary; a pen, pencil, rubber and ruler in your bag, your timetable, your PE kit (if you have PE on your first day) which should include trainers, shorts/joggers and a t-shirt, your 'Young Scot' card or money/packed lunch and most importantly a smile!
  4. **If I forget something or if I am late will I get into trouble?** No - not to begin with! We understand that starting a new school can be difficult and we do not want anyone to get stressed out! If you have forgotten something you need then just let any of your teachers know and we will help to get it sorted for you. If you are late then you just need to let the school office know that you have arrived and they will show you where to go.
  5. **What can I do/where can I go at break and lunchtimes?** There are lots of seats and spaces where you can chill out in our playground, canteen and 'Street' areas. Our lovely Librarian, Mrs Menzies, will also welcome you into the school library and allow you to use the computers if you have homework you would like to do. We also have an area known as 'the HUB', which will be open exclusively for S1 pupils for the first few weeks. The HUB is a safe space you can relax in and is supervised by some of our senior pupils who run S1 clubs there every lunchtime.
- Mrs Menzies**
- 
6. **If I need help with something who should I talk to?** Whoever you feel most comfortable talking to. All of our teachers and staff will be looking out for you so just let any of them know and they will make sure they help you to find the right person to get it sorted out. In most cases staff will take you to your Principal Teacher of Pupil Support as it is their job to make sure that you are happy, safe and achieving. If you don't feel like you can talk to a teacher then tell one of our S2 buddies or one of our S5/6 Mentors who you will find in the HUB at lunchtimes. Make sure you tell someone at home if you can too.



7. **Is it true that lots of older pupils bully S1s?** No. Lots of our senior pupils sign up to be Mentors for S1 pupils and it is their job to keep an eye out for you. Our senior pupils know what it is like to start a new school and they want to help you. Some of our senior pupils have also been trained as MVP Mentors (some of you met them on your last transition day) and they encourage all pupils to look after each other and speak out against behaviour that is unacceptable. If anyone behaves towards you in a way that you are not happy with then make sure you speak to someone about it as soon as possible (see above).
8. **Will I get lots of homework?** Most subjects will set homework in S1 but it should be an amount that you can manage. We will also be using 'Show My Homework' this year, which will help you and your parents to keep track of Homework and to know what is required. If you are struggling then let your teacher or your Principal Teacher of Pupil Support know and they can help you.
9. **Can I bring my phone to school?** We understand that most pupils have phones and that they can even be useful in lessons sometimes however, it is very important that if you choose to bring your phone to school then it must be switched off and in your bag during lessons. You must also accept that it is your responsibility if your phone gets lost or damaged in school. Teachers will confiscate your phone if you are using it inappropriately or without permission in lessons.
10. **How do I get home?** School finishes each day at 3.45 pm. On your first day we will show you where to go to get your bus home. It is really easy and there will be lots of people to help you. If someone is picking you up by car, it is important they wait for you in the school car park. You should walk along the footpath to the car park. If you live in Thornhill and are walking home then you should make sure you use the main paths and get yourself home safely.
11. **S1 Pupils usually go on a Transition trip to Belmont in September, will this be going ahead?**  
Unfortunately this trip had to be cancelled this year due to the current uncertainty. We are all really disappointed about this but we will look to reinstate this next year.
12. **I have lots of other questions, who can answer them for me?!** Your primary teacher should be your first point of contact, they have lots of experience helping pupils move to secondary so will have lots of good advice. If you need further support then please contact us via the details at the end of this leaflet. Your parents will also have the chance to set up a 1:1 meeting with your PTPS in June and we will hope to organise Transition Days when COVID restrictions ease.



**S1 pupils and senior Mentors in the HUB**

# Here to help!

***Please be reassured that we continue to communicate with your primary school during this period of school closure and that they are sharing information with us about your progress, achievements and areas of need.***

***If there is something worrying you or your child, we are here to help. Please do not hesitate to contact us at school anytime.***

***Mr Euan Mack is the Depute Head Teacher with overall responsibility for Pupil Support.***

***Mr Adam Torbett is the Acting Principal Teacher of Pupil Support with responsibility for S1 Transitions.***

***Mrs Aileen Marchant is Principal Teacher of Additional Support for Learning with responsibility for Enhanced Transitions.***

*We look forward to seeing you all again soon.*

## Contact Us

Our school office remains open during the period of school closure and should be used as the main point of contact:

*Main office telephone number:*

**01848 332120**

*School office e-mail:*

**gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk**

*School website:*

**[www.wallacehall.co.uk](http://www.wallacehall.co.uk)**



**Wallace Hall Academy**

Thornhill

Dumfries

DG3 5SD