

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



At this time I thought it would be helpful to share with you the frequently asked questions about transitions from P7 to S1 and the responses. Many of you returned the Form and your questions have been collated and put in to sections.

As I am sure you are aware the transition process this year is very different and we are working hard with the Primaries to ensure the young people have as smooth a transition as possible. I hope you are receiving the regular group calls/emails from Mrs Russell, DHT Support.

The one question which many have asked is when the young people will be able to visit JYHS building, unfortunately it is not possible to answer this question at this time due to the current circumstances. Please be assured you will be kept informed of any changes.

## UNIFORM

Uniform is required to be worn and the school appreciates the Parents/Carers support in ensuring the young people wear the appropriate clothing. This promotes a sense of identity and community. We are proud of our school and want all our young people to be too.

All new S1s will be provided with a school tie and these will be issued when available. The tie is purple with the school logo.

The uniform is black trousers or black skirt, white shirt, plain black jumper or cardigan, black shoes and tie (which will be provided). Black **formal** shoes. These can be purchased from local stores.

PE Uniform – Plain T-shirts with sleeves, plain sweatshirts, shorts, jogging trousers and training shoes which can be any colour. Football tops are not permitted. Swimming – usual swimming gear of swimsuit/swimming shorts and remember to bring a towel.

Clothing grants are available and you can apply for these by visiting –

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/43281/School-Clothing-Grants-Free-School-Meals-Milk>

If there are any concerns regarding uniform the Support Team will contact home.

## HOMEWORK

Homework varies from subject to subject. Your class teacher will explain when and how they would like you to complete this work. This may be in the form of research work, project work, creating posters or graphs to name a few. This may be completed using a computer or in jotters.

The class teacher will also post your homework on to 'Show My Homework' which can be accessed by using the App or via our school website, which both parents/carers and young people will be

issued logins and passwords for. The passwords and logins will be issued in August. This allows parents/carers to know what homework is set and for when.

If there are any questions regarding homework or support needed the young person should approach the class teacher who has set this in the first instance. The teachers are always happy to help should a young person not understand something. It is always a good idea to try the homework before the due date so that if support is required there is time to ask for assistance.

If homework is not being completed contact will be made with home.

Tests in school are not there to deliberately catch you out. Tests are a way for the subject teacher to find out how much you have learned about the topic you have been studying in class. Revision for tests will support your performance. Remember we learn from our mistakes!

### **SCHOOL DAY (during normal circumstances)**

The school day starts at **8.35 am** when all young people should be in their Personal Support Group (PSG). It is essential that young people are on time so should be in the school grounds by 8.30 am. PSG lasts for 10 minutes and is a critical part of the school day. This is where important information is shared through the daily bulletin and the young people are prepared for the day ahead.

Monday to Thursday – there is a 7 period day, consisting of 50 minute periods.

<b>Personal Support Time</b>	8.35-8.45
<b>Period 1</b>	8.45-9.35
<b>Period 2</b>	9.35–10.25
<b>Period 3</b>	10.40-11.30
<b>Period 4</b>	11.30-12.20
<b>Period 5</b>	12.20-13.10
<b>Period 6</b>	13.55-14.45
<b>Period 7</b>	14.45-15.35

**Friday** the school day consists of Personal Support Time and 4 Periods. Starting at 8.35am and finishing at 12.20pm.

### **Break time lasts for 15 minutes 10.25 am – 10.40 am.**

You can bring a snack from home or buy something from the canteen.

You can go outside during break time but you are not allowed to leave the school grounds.

## **Lunchtime lasts for 45 minutes 1.10 pm – 1.55 pm**

You can bring a packed lunch which you can eat in the canteen or buy something to eat from the canteen. When you first arrive you are not allowed to leave the school premises at lunchtime. After the October holiday, if your parents agree and communicate this with the school, you can go to the centre at lunchtime.

You will be given a PIN number (no card) in August to use to buy food. This can be topped up with money in the dinner hall or at home, by your parents/carers online using ipayimpact.

The school canteen sells hot meals, pizza, baguettes, fruit and cakes. There are vegetarian and gluten free options – the young person should just ask the kitchen staff what is available.

There are some clubs which run on different days at lunchtime – you will find out about these when you arrive

Many go to the library over lunchtime and engage in a variety of activities.

Football can be played at lunchtimes on the pitches. Young people can bring their own ball and the PE Department are happy to store this.

There are also quiet spaces available for you to access.

## **Breakfast**

Pupils are able to enter the school building from 8.00 am and there is food available to buy in the canteen for breakfast.

Please note there is a policy of NO VEHICLES allowed in the school grounds except for taxis and staff cars in the morning or at the end of the school day. This is for the Health and Safety of all students.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - <http://www.jyhs.org.uk/article/17532/Our-Community>**

JYHS is a hub of activity offering many opportunities for young people to engage in a variety of clubs and experiences. At this moment it is not possible to say what will be available and how they will run until the school is open.

I would recommend that you visit the school website under the title OUR COMMUNITY in the link above for examples of what has been offered. The young people will be informed of what is available once back in school.

Musical instruments – again please visit OUR COMMUNITY in the link above for the website to see the excellent opportunities and work that our music team provide.

The S1 students who are interested in learning an instrument should make this known to their class music teacher. The team of Instrumental Music Instructors will offer a trial and discuss which instrument each young person might be best suited to, dependent on availability. The JYHS offers Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Bagpipes and Guitar.

Those young people who started learning in a JYHS Cluster Primary School will need to re-register for lessons which they will be asked to do at the end of P7. The Music Instructors already know who the young people are and will have them included in their timetables for when they start JYHS. Those who have been learning in a non-JYHS Cluster School should make themselves known to any teacher in the Music Department when they arrive at JYHS. The Music Instructor from their Primary School

will normally inform JYHS but it is always good for the young people to still speak to the Music Department.

There is a charge of £354 (which may change) from August – June for lessons. Pupils who receive free school meals are not required to pay and anyone who has a sibling receiving full cost lessons is charged at a reduced rate of 50%. Please refer to -

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32397/Instrumental-Music-Service>

## **SUPPORT IN SCHOOL**

There are eight non-practical classes from A-G. The James Young High School runs a House System and they are currently set out as below:

Jura	Yell	Harris	Skye
A&B	C&D	E&F	G&H
Ms Colthart HH	Mrs Pirie HH	Mrs Russell (DHT)	Mr Caddick HH
Mrs Blackie PSW	Mrs Blackie PSW	Mrs Mason PSW	Mrs Mason PSW

Your young person will be allocated to a House and have specific adults who will be key contacts. If a young person has any concerns regarding any issues they can speak to a key adult who will support them to resolve the issue eg peer relationships, learning, emotional wellbeing. Parents/carers will also be able to contact the House Head or PSW allocated (Pupil Support Worker) in the first instance with any queries regarding progress or pastoral needs.

If there is any external agency support House Heads will liaise as appropriate and joint meetings including Parent/Carers and young people will take place to ensure continuity and planning.

Pupil Support is always open and available during breaks and lunches.

If your young person would like to speak to someone and it is not urgent he/she can complete a note and pass to the Pupil Support Office and someone will arrange a meeting.

Positive relationships are the key to success.

## **SUPPORT FOR LEARNING**

At the moment you should contact your associated Primary School with any learning concerns and they should be able to support you until the end of P7.

When the young people transfer to JYHS any additional learning needs will already have been communicated to our Support for Learning staff and Classroom Pupil support Workers, as well as shared as appropriate with teaching staff. Appropriate supports will be put in place.

Team – Ms Boyle SfL Teacher, Ms Dewar SfL Teacher. Classroom Support assistants – Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Crosby and Mrs Kerr.

If your young person is working with any external agency support such as Boghall Literacy Unit Ms Boyle will be the person who liaises with the external agency to continue support at JYHS as appropriate.

There are other learning areas and support available, please see some examples below:

Nurture – life skills and wellbeing

i-Aspire – emotional wellbeing and learning

Support for Learning Classes – additional support

ESOL – support for English as an additional language with West Lothian College and Deans CHS

i-Grow – small group classes

SMILE counsellor

Family Support Worker

In class support

Link to Educational Psychology support information -

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/EducationPsychologyService>

## **ATTENDANCE & MEDICAL**

**Absence** – If your young person is ill or not able to come in to school you should contact the school first thing in the morning saying why they are unable to attend. Please say for how long the young person is likely to be absent. On return they should bring a note and pass this to the Personal Support Teacher first thing in the morning.

**Lates** – It is essential for your young person to be on time to ensure they do not miss any important information or disruption to learning. Please inform the school if there are ongoing reasons as to why the young person is unable to start at 8.35 am.

Mr Crookston (PSW) will be the main contact regarding attendance/lates.

If a young person feels unwell in school he/she should inform the teacher who will allow them to go to Pupil Support and a phone call home will be made if they need to be collected. During breaks or lunches young people should just report to the Pupil Support Office.

## **INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARE PLANS (IHCP)**

Mrs Blackie (PSW) is responsible for the coordination of Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP) and any young person who has this in Primary School will carry this forward to JYHS. The plans **MUST** be renewed yearly and Mrs Blackie will send out updated forms to be signed and completed. All medication must be provided and in date.

If there are any new health concerns please contact Mrs Blackie directly.

Dependent on the health issue some students may have a toilet card or a card to allow them to leave the class as appropriate and go to Pupil Support.

## **School Transport**

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32244/Applications-for-free-school-transport>

Please see the above link in relation to transport for your young person.

Bus passes – Parents should apply. This would normally be organised by primary schools however please see link above.

## **LOCKER FACILITIES**

Lockers are available from Mrs Wilson, our school Librarian. A form has to be completed and signed by the parent/carer and bring the payment in to school and you will then be given a key. Mrs Wilson can do an ipayimpact request when you collect the form from the library if you wish.

## **USE OF PHONES**

You may be asked by your subject teacher to use your phone (if you have one) in class to search for information. The phone should at all other times be in your bag on silent or switched off.

You may use your phone at breaks and lunchtimes for personal use.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones and social networking are taken very seriously and contact home will be made with parents/carers.

## **S1 SCIENCE COURSE**

Our S1 Science course is split into three “big questions”/topics. For example, questions could be: - can a lemon power a light bulb? Can we see everything with our eyes? Is fracking good for Scotland?

Within these topics we learn about the:

1. Elements and the periodic table, compounds, circuits and chemical cells.
2. Light, animal cells, microscopes, body systems, acids and bases.
3. Habitats, heat transfer, fracking, rocks and soils.

## **Transition 2020-2021 so far**

All parents/carers of any young person with a place at JYHS for the session 2020-2021 should already have been getting regular contact via groupcalls/e-mails from the associated Primary School. The information is being sent to the Head Teachers from Mrs Russell, Depute Head Support at JYHS.

There is ongoing communication between Mrs Russell and all Primaries to ensure that the transition will support all young people in their move to JYHS. Already information has included – SWAY e-bulletins, Form for parent/Carer to complete, S1 Trailer, We are Family Staff performance.

This week the Primaries will be working on a tailor made transition booklet and passport alongside a virtual tour where the young people will get to see the building and click on the arrows to take them round the school. The transition booklet will also include a map and a key with visual pictures. Hopefully most of the questions your young people have will be covered in this booklet. All this information will be added to the website in due course and you will get details when this is available.

Classes are made up by considering a number of factors and information from the Primaries. Initially students with siblings will be allocated a space in the same House. Using the information from primaries we try to accommodate requests as far as possible to keep young people with some peers that they know. However I would like to reassure you that many young people take this opportunity to make new friends and after a couple of weeks settle in really well. Remind them that they can meet up with 'old' friends at break and lunches and that they will be focused on learning when in class. In classes teachers may use a seating plan so there is no guarantee you will be sitting with a friend however this person may become a friend!

The young people will find out their classes soon and we are working on ways to engage them with staff from JYHS such as the use of Teams. We are also working on having virtual buddies from the current S1 to join some Teams. Regarding timetables at the moment this will be dependent on how the schools are advised to proceed and information will be shared. Similarly when the young people are able to come in to the building measures will be in place to ensure they are safe and welcomed.

If a young person was supposed to be part of the enhanced transition Ms Boyle, Support for Learning Teacher, will work with the Primary Schools to engage with the relevant young people through Teams in June.

Practical classes such as Music, Science, Art, Music, CDT, Computing, Business education and Home Economics will have a maximum 20 students. Non-practical classes such as Maths, English, History will have a maximum of 30 students.

Staff are currently working together to produce video introductions of themselves to be shared with the young people so they can put names to faces and know who does what in the school.

I hope this document has answered your questions and you are reassured that there is much work going on to ensure your young people will be as involved and engaged as possible in the current climate.

Please check your groupcalls/e-mails regularly for any information being sent out and visit our website - <http://www.jyhs.org.uk/> where there is a wealth of information you can access.