



14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

P7/S1 Transition to North Berwick High School

The preparations for welcoming our new S1 pupils are always a priority in the work and life of North Berwick High School at this time in the academic year. We do recognise that for pupils, and parents, the transition to secondary school can be an experience which is emotionally charged. We want to reassure you that we have been working very closely with Head Teachers and P7 teachers in our associated primaries in the past few weeks and we will be regularly communicating with pupils and parents/carers throughout the forthcoming period.

We have been informed this week that, in line with the national COVID-19 guidance for schools, in-person P7 Transition Days are not possible at the moment. We are therefore planning a virtual P7 Transition in the week beginning 14 June. Although this is disappointing news, it is important to highlight that the transition process is more than just the two or three transition days in June. Our transition programme always continues through the early part of the new session, with supports in place to ensure all pupils feel comfortable settling in to the school environment. Our plans are to augment this supported start for our new S1s in August, putting in place bespoke activities that will prioritise relationship-building with teachers and peers, and familiarisation with the school building.

Should COVID-19 guidance to schools change before the end of this term, we will review our plan for a virtual transition, and decide what is possible and practicable within our school and local context.

At this stage, we can also give you some detail on how we compose S1 classes, as this is typically one of the areas that generates a number of questions:

- S1 classes are mixed ability. The maths department do, however, look to broad-band classes, taking specific account of pupils' prior knowledge and ability in numeracy
- S1 classes contain pupils from different primaries
- Classes have a gender balance
- We aim, where possible, to keep siblings in the same House
- Each pupil has one of their selected friends in their register and practical classes.

As we cannot hold our planned information evening for parents in the school building, we are working on a video presentation which will cover all the information that pupils and their parents will need to know about the virtual transition in June and starting school in August.

Kind Regards,

Lauren Rodger
Head teacher

Fraser McCallum
Depute head teacher