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HEAD TEACHER

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Dear Parent/Carer

P7/S1 Transition to North Berwick High School

We hope that you and your families are all keeping well in this challenging time. We know that your child will have been excited – and, perhaps, a little anxious – about the transition activities planned for this term. NBHS staff were really looking forward to welcoming the P7 pupils for their three-day visit in June and to meeting the parents at our planned information evening, so we are very sorry that these events can no longer go ahead.

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. Despite the circumstances we find ourselves in, we want to assure you that these preparations remain a priority and we will do all we can to ensure that your child has a supportive and progressive transition experience.

While, at this stage, we are unsure when schools will reopen, we are beginning to plan a remote secondary school transition for primary 7 pupils, guided by the local authority. We will provide you with more information on this in due course.

We do recognise that for pupils, and parents, the transition to secondary school can be an experience that is emotionally charged; given these uncertain and unsettling times, this will likely be even more acute. With this in mind, we want to reassure you that we are working very closely with Head Teachers and P7 teachers in our associated primaries and will be regularly communicating with pupils and parents/carers throughout the forthcoming period. We held a conference call with the primary school Head Teachers last Friday where we discussed: the short-term plans associated with the collection of P7 attainment data, the support for pupils with Additional Support Needs, and the information required for the task of composing classes.

Our 'Parent and Pupil Guide to Transition' is currently being updated and will be with you shortly. This Guide provides lots of detail about things like: the structure of the

school day, the subjects pupils study in S1, the extra-curricular activities that are on offer at the High School, the school's dress code, and catering and canteen arrangements. 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.

Each year we also have a number of young people who have a supported and enhanced transition. Support for Pupil staff in the secondary school, particularly Ms Shepherd (Principal Teacher of Inclusion) and Ms McLeod (Principal Teacher of Support for Learning), are working with P7 teachers, the pupils themselves, and their parents, to ensure that the process of supported and enhanced transition is still occurring remotely.

Do look out for more communication from us in the coming weeks. As we cannot hold our planned information evening for parents, we will look to provide in June a structured forum for you to communicate, if necessary, with the key staff who are involved in the transition process.

We look forward to welcoming our new S1 pupils to the High School before too long and, in the meantime, we wish you well.

Kind Regards

Lauren Rodger
Head teacher

Fraser McCallum
Depute head teacher