

Post Primary Transition

From Primary School to Newry High School

Parents' Guide
2020



We are delighted that you have chosen Newry High School as your child's secondary school. We appreciate that due to the current Covid 19 restrictions, your child has not been able to visit the school for their Transition Day, and likewise you have not been able to attend the Parents Evening. We hope this booklet will however, provide you with a wealth of information to help your child settle into life at Newry High School. We will endeavour to ensure a meeting is arranged in August/September.

The move from Primary to Secondary School can be just as worrying for you, as a parent, as it is for your child. Hopefully this booklet will give you some support as parents. Please contact us however, if you would like to discuss anything about the school, the transition process or your child.

If you have any further questions or queries please contact the school via email info@newryhigh.newry.ni.sch.uk and we will ensure a member of the Transition Team gets back to you.

What will their day be like?

The school runs a one-week timetable. The timings of the days do differ, please see below. Students attend a variety of lessons each day in different areas of the school. When they first join, they will be helped to each class, until they find their way around.

Period Times

with effect from September 2020

PERIOD	TIME (Mon-Wed)	PERIOD	TIME (Thurs-Fri)
Registration	8.35 - 8.45 a.m.	Registration	8.35 - 8.45 a.m.
Assembly	8.45 - 9.00 a.m.	1	8.45 - 9.20 a.m.
1	9.00 - 9.40 a.m.	2	9.20 - 9.55 a.m.
2	9.40 - 10.15 a.m.	3	9.55 - 10.30 a.m.
3	10.15 - 10.53 a.m.	4	10.30 - 11.05 a.m.
Report to period 4 class	to 10.53 - 10.55 a.m.	report to period 5 class	to 11.05 - 11.08 a.m.
Morning Break	10.55 - 11.10 a.m. (bell at 11.08 a.m.)	Morning Break	11.08 - 11.25 a.m. (bell at 11.23 a.m.)
4	11.10 - 11.50 a.m.	5	11.25 - 12.00 p.m.
5	11.50 - 12.25 p.m.	6	12.00 - 12.35 p.m.
6	12.25 - 1.03 p.m.	7	12.35 - 1.10 p.m.
report to period 7 class	1.03 - 1.05 p.m.	report to period 8 class	1.10 - 1.13 p.m.
Lunch Break	1.05 - 1.40 p.m. (bell at 1.38 p.m.)	Lunch Break	1.13 - 1.50 p.m. (bell at 1.48 p.m.)
7	1.40 - 2.20 p.m.	8	1.50 - 2.25 p.m.
8	2.20 - 3.00 p.m.	9	2.25 - 3.00 p.m.

For the first few weeks it may help your child if you pack their bag with them the night before to ensure they have everything they need for the next day. This encourages less panicking, as well as instilling good organisational habits.

Students will also have a designated period each week, where they will study PSE as a Tutor Group.

How much homework is set?

This is a frequently asked question by many parents and students joining the school. Below is the KS3 Homework Timetable which indicates the amount of homework per subject on a weekly basis. Getting used to organising their time can be a problem for some children. However, once they get into the routine it will be easier. Please encourage them to show you their Planner regularly, where homework should be recorded daily. Lots of support in the early days helps greatly in establishing a good working routine.

Year 8 Homework timetable

Year 8 - Approximately 30 minutes per piece

Homework is essential as it helps improve your thinking and memory as well as developing your study skills and your independence as a learner.

- All homework should be completed on the night that it is set, submitted on time and importantly, to the best of your ability.
- The homework timetable should be clearly displayed in your planner.
- When homework is set it must be recorded carefully in your planner, to include when the homework is due in.
- Some homework may be set to cover more than one night and may not always be written homework.
- We encourage you to read at home beyond the guided 30 minutes, as reading supports all aspects of your education.
- Ensure you also take time at home to review work completed in school to both

DAY	BR/BRP	BY/BYP	EG/GP	8 BP
Monday	RE English/ Reading Maths	History English/ Reading Maths	Art Maths History	Music Maths
Tuesday	Technology Geography Science	ICT RE Maths	English/ Reading Science	HE English/ Reading
Wednesday	Music French	HE English/ Reading	Maths RE	Technology
Thursday	ICT Maths English/ Reading	Music French Science	ICT Technology French English/ Reading	Art ICT Science
Friday	HE Art History	Art Technology Geography	Music HE Geography	Maths English/ Reading

★ homework

Fit For Learning

At Newry High School we ask for students to be fit for learning. Please ensure your son or daughter has the equipment below:

- A school bag
- A reading book
- Scientific calculator
- A pencil case with: Black and or blue pens, a red pen, pencils, colouring pencils, ruler, rubber and a pencil sharpener.
- An English Dictionary

Attendance

At Newry High School we believe excellent attendance is the key to enjoying school and academic success. We expect all our students to have 100% attendance. Attendance is regularly rewarded. If attendance falls below 95% intervention will be put in place to improve attendance and parents will be expected to support this.

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please notify the school before 9.30am either by phone, email or by using the school app. If the school is not notified, electronic messages will be sent via email and our app. If your child has a pre-arranged medical appointment, please ensure this is communicated in their planner beforehand. We would appreciate it, if you could avoid appointments during school hours where possible. If your child is signing out for an appointment, they must do so at Reception, and will need to show their note to Reception staff.

The school day starts at 8.35am and students are expected to be punctual.

Our Safeguarding Team

Newry High School is committed to the safeguarding of all its students, staff and visitors. Safeguarding is of paramount importance, we have a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our students, by providing a caring, positive, safe and exciting environment, whereby the personal, social, physical and moral development of the individual child is supported.

The school ensures that safeguarding legislation and guidance are adhered to and taken into account when developing and revisiting policies, procedures and associated arrangements.



Our Designated Teacher for Safeguarding is Mrs Katy Feeney, Vice-Principal. Our Deputy Designated Teacher is Mr Craig McKee, Senior Teacher. You can contact them on **02830262383** or by email on safeguarding@newryhigh.newry.ni.sch.uk

The school's commitment to safeguarding is paramount to the success of all students. The schools Governing Board, Senior Leadership and the Safeguarding Team will ensure that all policies and procedures are kept up to date and in line with the latest advice from the Education Authority.

We must inform parents and carers that there may be occasions where we have to make safeguarding referrals to external agencies without notifying parents. In these circumstances, we assure you that we are acting in the best interests of the child's safety.

A Message from the Head of Year

We are delighted that you have chosen Newry High School for your son or daughter and appreciate that secondary school life is different to primary school life. Unfortunately, we have not been able to run our usual Transition Parents Evening, but I have included below the information we would have shared with you on this evening.

We have a very rigorous Anti Bullying Policy at Newry High School, which can be found in more detail in the Year 8 Booklet. We believe that every student has the right to learn and work in a secure environment and take pride that any incidence of unkind behaviour is quickly followed up and addressed. Students feel confident to speak to staff. Your child sees their Tutor every morning and can discuss any worries with them. Equally we have a strong Pastoral Team, that support students.

Moving around school and getting lost is a usual worry for our new Year 8 students in September. We are aware that students are coming from smaller schools and are not used to moving classes. When the pupils arrive on their first day they will be given tours of the school and key areas and classrooms will be pointed out to them. As they will be the only pupils in school that day, this will be an ideal opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new environment. Also in subsequent days, the rest of the school community will be only too happy to help out as they have been in the same situation themselves in previous years.

Our School Code of Conduct is based on three values- Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. We expect the highest possible standards to be strived for and we expect our students to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour and contribute positively to school life. We have high expectations of both uniform and attendance also.

We would like all students to be considerate of other views and feelings and we encourage people to work together and develop positive relationships. There are also a wide range of extra-curricular clubs available throughout the school year, ranging from sporting activities to Art and Cooking Clubs and we would love to see students availing of these. Some of these are on at lunchtime too so students can attend after having their lunch or packed lunch in the canteen.

As a school we are dedicated to the partnership that is developed between home and school. We have an open door policy. If you would like to speak or meet with a member of staff about anything, please contact reception and they will be able to facilitate this.

Daryl Strong
Head of Year 8

Hints and tips from Parents to Parents:

Previous Year 8 parents have shared the following points and recommendations to support new parents with the transition from primary to secondary.

- Help your child to pack their bags over the first few weeks; this will help with their planning and understanding their needs. It will also help with your knowledge of their timetable and gives you the opportunity to offer reassurance etc.
- Check your child's Planner every night and sign it at the end of each week.
- With homework, let your child have a go independently first and then offer support if needed; encourage your child to do some every night to avoid it building up.
- Try to encourage your child to take a snack or some fruit in case they miss lunch time for any reason.
- A water bottle is needed, try to encourage your child to drink as a habit, once they are thirsty their concentration has already been affected.
- Spend some time talking to your child about their day, pick that moment carefully, it might come in the car, after some down time etc. Some questions to focus the conversation may be:-
 - What was the best thing you have learned today?
 - What was the most surprising thing you learned today?
 - Can you remember what you learned in xxx lesson today?
 - What did you find hardest today? Is there anything you could do differently in the lesson?
 - What do you need to ask your teacher in the next lesson to make sure you understand that topic better?
- Try to spend 5 minutes just reviewing the day's work and thinking of one question that they would like to ask their teacher the next lesson.
- Offer plenty of positive feedback and praise.
- Keep in mind that success comes from learning from mistakes.
- Try to remember the way your children learn information - 6% information retained if we are lectured at; 10% if re-read; 50% if talk about it; 90% if they teach a parent or carer.