

P7 Transition Information For Parents & Carers View in full screen mode

School Website

www.beeslackhigh.co.uk

Email for enquiries that have not been answered through the website, please

contact us on

Beeslack.hs@midlothian.gov.

Twitter

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[@BeeslackHigh](https://twitter.com/BeeslackHigh)

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At Beeslack we **#striveToBe**
successful, **curious**, **responsible**, **resilient** and **respectful**
to allow us all to flourish, grow and achieve.

#1

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Beeslack Community High School. Although the move from primary to secondary is exciting for your child we understand that there is often an element of apprehension for both pupils and parents/carers. We want to ensure that both you and your child feel as prepared as you can be during this process.

As with last year, this experience will be different due to COVID but we will endeavour to ensure the transition process is supportive to all. We will contact you via your primary school to ensure you know about all the transition activities we have in place. You will also find information on our school website.

Understandably, we are unable to hold our parent/carer evening in the building this year. Instead we will be hosting a virtual event on **Tuesday 25th May**. This will be an opportunity to hear directly from school staff and ask any questions you may have. We would love to welcome you to this event. Please [click here](#) to register your interest.*

We are all looking forward to meeting with you all on the 25th May. If you are unable to attend, we will ensure all information from the evening will be shared via our school website.

Kind regards,

Susan Semple
DHT Pupil Support (Acting)
Conal Kelly
Parent Carer Engagement Co-ordinator

***If the Hyperlink does not work please follow this link:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/35PHHRx6kE>

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Primary 7 Transition

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Throughout this year, we have been working hard with all our primary schools, sharing information about every child who will be joining us in August. It is important that we know as much information about your child to ensure a good start to S1 and set a firm foundation for ongoing successful learning.

We have also been collecting some questions about High School from our P7's . These questions and answers can be found in this correspondence. Please take time to read these with your child. We would be delighted to answer any further questions you may have. There will be an opportunity to do this at our virtual event or you can email us at the school address.

Some of our most vulnerable P7's and those with Additional Support Needs have already visited our school to meet some staff and begin to find their way around our building. Planning is also underway for our enhanced summer transition.



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P7 Pupil FAQ: Maps/Directions

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Maps / Directions

What does the school interior layout look like?

There is a virtual tour available on the website. Please have a look at it.

<https://www.thinglink.com/videocard/1317188214292742147>

Will we get a map in advance of S1?

Yes – we will make sure you have a map of the school.

How does the one way system work?

It would be too complicated to describe it given the many entrances and stair cases Beeslack has. If in August we are still required to follow a one-way system, you will be provided with a map and also in the first couple of weeks, you will have S6 buddies to support you with getting from one classroom to your next one.

How will social distancing work in the corridors?

We have a one way system operating in school. This means everybody will walk in the same direction.

Will there be people to guide us in our first weeks?

There will be senior pupils supporting you when you move from one classroom to the next. Teachers will be also guiding you to the right direction for your next class.

Do we get a buddy to help us at the start?

We operate a buddy system to make you feel as comfortable as possible. You will not get an individual buddy but a few buddies will be allocated to your class.

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P7 Pupil FAQ: S1

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How many children will be in S1?

Usually somewhere between 130-140 pupils will start their studies at BCHS every year. The numbers are very similar this year as well.

How many primary schools would make up my year and which ones?

We have 4 catchment schools (Roslin, Glencourse, Mauricewood and Bilston). Pupils from Loanhead and Paradykes Primaries can decide whether they wish to attend Beeslack or Lasswade HS. However, we have pupils attending for approximately 7-8 other primary schools in and out with Midlothian.

Will there be people from my Primary School in my class?

Yes. We make sure that everybody has a friend from their old school/class in their new high school class.

How big will a class be?

For some subjects (English, Maths, RME, etc.) there might be as many as 30 young people in the class. For practical subjects, the maximum is 20.

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P7 Pupil FAQ: Houses

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How are Houses chosen?

If you have or have had a sibling at BCHS already then you will go into the same house. For those who are new to the school, it will be decided by looking at information we have received from your primary school, the number of boys and girls in the year group and many other factors. It is a really complicated process. However, do not worry as you will surely have friends/peers in your classes as well as many other young people from different schools.

What are the Houses?

We have three houses at BCHS, Hoy, Livingstone and Stevenson.

When do we find out what House we are in?

We will let you know before the summer holidays.

Do we meet the House Captains?

You will likely meet your house captains at an assembly.

What House Events are there?

House Events change every year and they will be decided by the house captain team. They are fun and inclusive, so you will enjoy them when they happen!

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P7 Pupil FAQ: Daily Routines

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What routine would I have?	You will get used to your new routine. You might have to leave home earlier than when you went to primary school, you might have to catch a public bus or a school bus. You will be required to wear a uniform every day. You will have to remember your tie, too. You will need to prepare your school bag accordingly (look at your timetable!). Once you get to school, it will be easy to follow your timetable. You will have morning interval and lunch break as well. At the end of the school day, you might take the bus home. Use this time to chat and socialise with your peers and relax. You might want to have a short break at home before you sit down to look at school work.
What time does school start at?	8.30 am. We do not have registration so you will start with your first lesson every morning.
What happens if I'm late?	You will have to go to the school office to be registered and get a late slip before you go to your first class. It's important that you come to school on time every day so you can be there for all of your learning and not miss anything.
When does School end?	School ends at 3.20pm Mon- Thu and 12.05 on Fridays.
When is break?	Mon-Thu 11-11.15, on Fri 10-10.15
How long is break for?	Morning interval is 15 minutes long
When is lunch?	12.55-1.40pm
How long is lunch for?	45 minutes
How would I get School lunch?	You can get a school lunch by visiting our dining hall at lunchtime.
How do I pay for School lunch?	Your parent or carer will put money on your lunch card by using Parent Pay. This means you do not need to bring money into school.
What food is on the menu?	You can buy lots of delicious lunch options from the school dining hall such as hot or cold sandwiches, baked potatoes, soup, fruit and more!

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P7 Pupil FAQ: Daily Routines

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Do School lunches cater for vegetarians / Gluten Free / etc?	There are always vegetarian and gluten free options on the school menu.
Can I bring a pack lunch?	Yes, you can.
Can I go to the (Penicuik) shops at lunchtime?	We recommend S1s to stay in/around the school up until the December holidays so you get to know the building, school grounds and also just to help yourself settle in. Also, as you might find it difficult to find your classrooms in the first few weeks, staying in the school is a better way to ensure you are not late for your afternoon classes.
How will I get home?	You can walk, get the school bus, get a public bus or be picked up by a parent or carer. You will let us know in your first week how you intend to travel home.
Where do I get the School Bus?	There is a bus turning circle to the left of the school within the school grounds. You can see this on the virtual tour, on the school website.
What happens if I miss the bus?	If you miss the school bus and you are in the school grounds, you will go to the school office to let them know. They will be able to contact your parent/carers to make alternative arrangements, If you miss the school bus in the morning before you get to school, you must return home to inform your parent/carers. They will then make arrangements to transport you to school.
What happens if you have a problem in School?	It depends on the nature of your problem. Your best bet is to speak to your Guidance Teacher or any members of the Pupil Support Team (Support for Learning, Inclusion).
Are there lockers?	Yes, lockers are available to rent for a small amount. A deposit also needs to be paid for the key. When you hand back the key at the end of the school year, you will get your deposit back.
What can you get detention for?	If you get something wrong (e.g. behaviour) we want you to think about what has happened and how you can move forward positively. This could include reflection time (break, lunch, after school) or completing a reflection activity at home with your parents/carers. If you have said or done something that has negatively impacted another person, we will organise a restorative conversation or meeting which will encourage you to listen to how you have made that person feel, understand each other's point of view and talk about what can be done to move forward.
How does detention work?	We have reflection time at Beeslack. Reflection time can be given to you at lunchtime or after school and it is where you and your teacher can discuss how you might make better choices in school, to avoid getting into difficulties in the future.
If I have medicine or an inhaler where is that kept?	We have a first aid/medical room. All medicine is kept there in a locked cupboard. We have first aiders (some learning assistants) who you will meet at the medical room as and when you need to take your pills.

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P7 Pupil FAQ: Classes/Subjects

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What equipment will I need in my school bag?	Please bring a pen, pencil, rubber, sharpener, ruler - you are welcome to bring coloured pencils, highlighters etc. if you have them – but don't worry if you don't! If you forget any of these items, teachers will give you a spare.
Who would be in my class?	There will be some pupils that you already know from primary school and there will be lots of others from other primaries. Some classes are between 25-30 pupils, practical classes never include more than 20 young people.
What subjects will I have?	In S1 you will study English, Maths, Science, PE, Music, Art, Modern Languages, Computing, Social Subjects, PSE, RME, Drama.
How many subjects will I have?	In S1 you will either have 14 or 15 subjects including literacy and numeracy across learning.
Do we get to pick our level of work?	Teachers will differentiate work to meet the needs of every pupil and to ensure that everybody is able to cope and also that pupils feel challenged. If you think the work is too easy or the opposite, too difficult, please feel free to let your subject teacher or your Guidance teacher know how you feel.
How long is a Class for?	50 minutes
When do we get to pick our own classes / subjects?	The first opportunity for course choice is when you are about to move from S2 to S3. After that every year (S3, S4, S5) you will have the opportunity to choose the subjects and its level you would like to study at.
How many classes / lessons will I have in a day?	Mon – Thu you will have 5 periods in the morning and 2 more periods after lunch. On Friday you will have 4 periods only.
Will the same people be in all my classes?	No. There are different classes for different subjects. Some subjects you will learn in your register class, other subject classes might include more students than your register class so you will either have some students from your own house or another house and practical sets (Science, Home Ec, etc.) are much smaller with a maximum of 22 pupils.
What if I don't like the people in my classes?	You are encouraged to make new friends at Beeslack and it is likely you will know at least one person in your class from primary school.
Are we allowed to switch classes if we really don't like it?	Your classes will be set and you will not be able to move class. If you have any difficulties, we will look to find solutions and support you in being happy in your class with your new peer group.

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What if I'm late for Class?	Your teacher will mark you late and ask why you were late. They will help you find a solution to make sure you get to class on time.
What if I can't find my Class?	Please feel free to ask for help. It is ok to get lost especially in the first few weeks. Students and staff at Beeslack are very nice and caring. If you are lost, look around to see if you can see anybody in the corridors, if not, you can either pop your head into a classroom and ask the teacher for help or you can go downstairs to the Guidance room to seek assistance. I am sure though that somebody will notice you are lost and will help you find your class before you would need to do anything. You will not get into trouble!
When do I get a timetable?	If we are able to have a transition day in June, you will get a snippet of your timetable that will include the subjects you will study on that day. You will receive your full timetable in August when you first come to Beeslack as an official S1 student.
When do I find out my teachers?	You will meet some your teachers during the transition day in June if we are allowed to welcome you into the building (it is COVID dependant).
What foods do we make in Home Economics?	We look at developing your food preparation and cookery process skills through making coleslaw, apple crumble, scones, sausage kebabs, carrot cake, sticky chilli chicken, chilli nachos, spaghetti Bolognese and many other dishes. We also so a Textile Project leading up to Christmas during which we create a patchwork stocking.
Can I have my phone in Class?	You need to keep your phone in your school bag.
Can I use my phone in Class?	No
Can I use my phone in the playground?	We suggest that you spend your break and lunch time playing and interacting with your friends – take this opportunity to have some time away from your phone.
What happens if my phone is broken or stolen at school?	That's why you shouldn't bring your phone to school. If you do – it is your responsibility if it gets broken or stolen. If you do need to bring a phone to school please keep in bag at all times. When you are in PE and need to leave your bag in the changing room, staff will collect your phone and put it somewhere safe.
How often do we get homework?	Homework is important as it helps teachers to know you are understanding your work. It also gives you an opportunity to explore learning on your own. Please do not worry about homework. Always ask your teacher for help if you don't understand. That's what we are there for.
How much homework is there?	Class teachers will give out homework at different times. Sometimes this will be every week or every few weeks.
How many books / jotters will I have to carry?	You don't have to carry all your books every day, you would end up with a very sore back! We encourage students to organise themselves the night before school, and pack any equipment for the subjects you have the next day into your school bag.

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What is the uniform?	White shirt/blouse; Black skirt/trousers; Plain black jumper or cardigan (no logos or hooded tops); Plain black footwear; School Blazer and your School House tie.
Where can I get uniform from?	You can purchase school clothes e.g. black trousers, black trainers, white shirt, etc. from any retailer including supermarkets. We will let your parents/carers know by email when suppliers have opened and it is possible to buy blazer and tie.
Do I have to wear a tie all the time?	Yes. Most Beeslack pupils are proud to wear their tie – which shows which house they belong to!
What shoes do you have to wear?	We encourage you to wear school shoes. But, we listened to our pupil voice and many felt strongly about wearing them for practicality and comfort. We have changed the rules so you can wear trainers but they must be completely black (no patterns/stripes).
Is there a uniform for P.E.?	There is no set uniform for PE, however, we do ask that you bring appropriate clothes to carry out physical activity in all weathers. This means a change of trainers, a change of jogging bottoms/shorts/ or sports leggings, and a change of top. Remember the weather can be cold so it's important to make sure you have warm enough clothes (hoodies and jumpers are encouraged). The only restriction is that we don't allow team colours so no football strips.
Are you allowed to wear make-up and jewellery?	Yes, but please remember that school is a place of learning and work and so we ask pupils to keep this to a minimum and enjoy dressing more casually (or dressing up!) at evenings and weekends.
Will I have to wear a mask?	It will depend on government guidelines at the time.

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When will we get to visit the High School?

It all depends on government guidelines. We would like to see and meet you just as much as you would like to come to see us. In the meantime, please watch the virtual tour video.

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P7 Pupil FAQ: Policies

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What are the School Policies?

You can find lots of useful information on the school website. You can find school policies in [Beeslack High School - Policy Download Centre](#).

Where can we find copies of these?

You can print these from the website or just download them for your reference.

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P7 Pupil FAQ: Clubs and Activities

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Are there any cross country or running clubs?	This all depends on the demand. If there are enough people who want to engage in cross country clubs, then we will look at creating a club.
What Sports Clubs are there?	In the past year we have had the following sports clubs running at Beeslack: Rugby, Football, Netball, Fitness, Volleyball, Badminton and Dance. We are always open to offering more.
What is Sports Day like?	Sports Day is great! We offer a range of traditional events for pupils to engage in such as long, jump, 100m, shot putt and relay whilst also including different activities such as tug 'o' war, 3 footed race and assault courses. All pupils compete for their house. Last time winners were Stevenson House.
Is there a Football Club?	Yes, we have S1 Football clubs for both boys and girls.
How do you join a Club?	Speak to a member of the PE department or come along on the day that club is on. There is no cost!
What if you don't like a club after you have joined?	You can leave if you wish. Hopefully you can find a club that you enjoy though.

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