**P7 High School - Q&A**

**Is there a girls football team for S1?**

We have had girls football previously, so if we can get the numbers, I think we would want to run it again. In fact our school prides itself with the number of success stories relating to sport, including international footballers and rugby players who have gone to our school.

**What do some of the subject stands for?** There are a lot of letters there. ICT = Computers CDT = Craft Design & Technology (woodwork and metalwork and other things) RMPS = Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies PSE = Personal Social Education

**How much homework?** Homework is given out in a number of ways by the different departments. You may find that you get maths homework regularly each week. For other subjects, you might get a project or assignment to work on which the teachers know will take you will take time to work on. For example, if you are building a model of a volcano for Geography, you might be given a few weeks to complete this work. The teachers like you to complete tasks on time if possible, but if you are struggling with anything, you just need to speak to them because their main role is to help you.

**Any sport events in high school?**

There are many many opportunities for sport in the High School. Our PE Department are fantastic and they offer a variety of sports during their lessons. There are Extra curricular sports classes too and we have run football, netball, volleyball, spin classes, running, to name but a few. To be honest, I dont know whether they will be on offer when you come up because things are different following lockdown. You should also have the opportunity for special sporting events. School sports matches (football, rugby, athletics) We have previously run successful sports days and special wellbeing days where we suspend the timetable and everybody in the school does sporting and wellbeing activities.

**What is PSE**? PSE covers topics that other subjects might not. It covers subjects like physical and mental wellbeing, substance abuse, financial education, careers talks, planning for work experience later in your school life, and of course the dreaded sex education. PSE also covers issues around discrimination and inclusion. This could be racism, disability rights, LGBTq+ issues, sexism, sectarianism. Our school prides itself in being inclusive.

**What is a guidance teacher?**  First of all, I should explain what a Guidance Teacher is. A Guidance Teacher has a very special role in the school. We have a number of responsibilities including the following: We try and make the move from P7 to High School as comfortable and smooth as possible We are the main contact to the school for parents and carers We have a big focus on the wellbeing of pupils We deal with any timetable issues or any concerns that pupil has about learning Each pupil in Penicuik High School is assigned to a Guidance Teacher. There are 4 Guidance Teachers in Penicuik High School, myself, Mrs Brandie, Mrs Murphy and Ms McLennan. At this stage, I do not know who your Guidance teacher will be.

**Why did you only ask our teachers about maths? Why not all subjects?** I think it is the same idea for every subject. If you are struggling in any class, have a word with the teacher. I promise you, they will be keen to help. You can also speak to your Guidance teacher, who may be able to look at ways of supporting you in that particular class. The key thing about maths is that classes are set. We need to make sure you are in the right set. As I mentioned in the video, if you think work is too easy or too difficult and you believe you are in the wrong set, simply speak to the teacher or your guidance teacher and we can look into this.

**Canteen / Lunch Time** I know there were a number of questions about the canteen and eating at lunchtime. It is quite difficult to answer these questions at the moment because Social Distancing will mean that our canteen, the Bitesite, will not be running normally. We are currently working on plans for lunchtime, but at the moment, I cannot confirm what these are. Normally S1 students will stay on the school grounds at lunchtime and can only leave it if they have permission from the headteacher following a parental request. But as I have previously mentioned, this is all being reviewed in the light of COVID and at the moment, I can’t even confirm what the rules will be once you start school in August.

**Will there still be school trips in S1 this year?**

Great question. But I cant answer that at the moment. We have to stick by the rules of social distancing and that means that as long as these rules are in place, it would be very challenging to arrange S1 trips. We are looking at ways of having learning away from school, such as trips and field studies, but they must stick to the social distancing rules, making it very challenging.

**What kind of after school sports do you have?** All types of sport. Our PE department pride themselves in being able to deliver a wide variety of sports from football to gymnastics, to dodgeball to rugby to cross country to the dreaded bleep test. They do badminton, general fitness, basketball, volleyball, hockey. These are just the sports from the top of my head. I'm sure there are more.

**When do we start back?** I think School will start for teachers on 11 August and 13 August will be your first day. I am not sure if that has been confirmed, but you will receive confirmation in the future.

**When do we have snack?** Regarding taking snacks, I cant answer that at the moment. We are planning to have something in place where you can have a snack and you have to socially distance yourself too. The most important part of this is making sure you are safe when snacking.

**Do we all get to go to s6?** It is your choice if you want to stay on in school to the end of S6. Some of you will be able to leave school earlier than that. I think the law states that you must stay on in school up to the end of S4 (or Christmas S5 for younger pupils) but I really hope you are already thinking that it would be a positive move to stay on in school for as long as possible!

**Will we get to go on the trips we missed in p7 e.g risk factory, leavers trip etc** We don't really have answers to this at the moment. However, like I said when I spoke to grown ups, we are hoping to do something for you in terms of leavers. We just don't know when this will be and what it will look like!

**Will we have to read I get very nervous about talking in front of people?** I guess the answer is yes you will have to read, but please don’t worry about it. If you are genuinely nervous about this, speak to your guidance teacher and they can let your teachers know. Teachers will then not ask you to read out in front of others.

**Will we have single desks?** I can’t confirm this at the moment but suspect you will have single desks. The classes are currently being set up for having classes which stick to the social distancing rules. So you will need to be 2m away from others

**How many classes do you normally have in a day?** Great question. Last year we had 6 periods a day for Monday to Thursday and 4 periods on a Friday. Our timetable is currently being reviewed because of lockdown. So things will inevitably change.

**Do you get the same guidance teacher as your older sibling**

We try to but sometimes we just aren’t able to.

**When will we get our timetables?** Another great question. We are currently trying to work out exactly what the school will look like in August. What I do know is that you will have something called blended learning. This means that some of your learning will be at home on google classrooms and some of your learning will be in school. But when you are in school we need to make sure you are safe and sticking to the social distancing rules. This will probably mean your classes will be very different from what you are used to. I suspect there will be fewer pupils and it could be that the corridors have an intricate one way system. We are currently looking at setting up a new and creative timetable which I really hope will be ready for August!

**When is the virtual tour of the school coming on Google classroom?** The plan is for a transition booklet with the virtual tour to be sent to you at the start of next week. The virtual tour is available to view online now via the Midlothian website.