



# Welcome

## P7 Transition Parents/Carers' Information Event 12th June 2024

Alison Reid,  
Head Teacher

Sarah Colville,  
Depute Head Teacher,  
Pupil Support



# Background

- Opened 1979
- Approx. 840 pupils
- Around 70 teaching, 20 support staff
- 4 associated primary schools



# Strengths



- Attainment
- Inclusive Ethos
- Young People
- Learning Experiences
- Partnerships
- Leadership



## Our Vision, Values & Aims

- At Westhill Academy, our vision is of an inclusive school environment where each individual is safe, valued and achieving.
- We are a place where learning and teaching is at the heart of everything we do.
- Our aim is to prepare all young people for life by enabling them to become:
  - Successful Learners; Confident Individuals;
  - Responsible Citizens; Effective contributors

## Our Principles

Be Safe

Help Learning & Teaching

Consider All Others



# Communication

Working together....

- Contact person
- Timescales
- Sharing information
- Outside agencies
- Attendance
- Appointments
- Contact details
- Praise/Concern/Step forms



From mountain to sea

## Parents as Partners

**What you can expect from us:**

- A positive school ethos and high expectations
- Effective, clear and respectful communication
- A commitment to do our very best and strive to get it right for every child in our community within existing resources
- A commitment to work with parents and other professionals to ensure that together we can support your child to achieve their best
- We will operate within Aberdeenshire Council's policies and guidance taking account of parental rights and responsibilities

**What we expect from you:**

- Support the school's ethos and expectations
- Effective, clear and respectful communication
- A realistic understanding that schools need to support all their young people within the constraints of available resources
- That you will work with us and other agencies to support your child to Achieve their best
- Your support and understanding of our policy framework and professional standards



# Attendance

190 school days; 27.5 hours per week

- 95% = 10 days' absence      90% = 20 days' absence      85% = 27.5 days' absence
- Average 90% over school career = equivalent of a school year by S3
- A two-week holiday in term time = 95%
- <90% = progress, attainment and achievement affected  
*(Scottish Government (2019a) Included, engaged and involved part 1: promoting and managing school attendance)*
- 1% increase in absence = 3% decrease in post-16 qualification tariff scores  
*(Klein et al, 2022)*



# First Year Classes and Courses

How are classes made up?

- Mixed ability and schools (maths)
- Information passed on from primary schools
- Specialist advice
- Siblings' Guidance Teacher/ House (one family – one phone call)
- Overall Caseloads



# Transition

- Guidance Teachers have visited each primary school
- Individual pupils discussed by primary and secondary teachers
- PT ASL working with primaries
- Extended transition has taken place for some young people





## Houses and Guidance Teachers



**Arnhall**  
**Ms**  
**Bradford**



**Brimmond**  
**Mr East**



**Carnie**  
**Mr**  
**McEwan**



**Denman**  
**Ms**  
**Stewart**



**Echt**  
**Mr**  
**Barclay**



## What does class name mean?

- 5 Houses
- 1A1, 1A2, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E
- 6 non-practical sets - registration groups
- 10 practical sets
- Time split 60/40 between sets



## Which courses do S1 do?

### Non Practical (Up to 30 pupils)

- English, Maths, French, Humanities, PE, RMPS, PSE, Drama, Music

### Practical (up to 20 pupils)

- Business and IT, Science, Technology, Art, Home Economics



# School Life – a typical day





# The School Day

The school runs from 9.00 am - 12.05 pm and 12.45 pm – 3.30 pm

9.00 – 9.10 am: Tutorial (Registration)

9.10 – 10.30 am: Period 1

10.30 – 10.45 am: Morning Break

10.45 – 12.05 pm: Period 2

12.05 – 12.45 pm: Lunch

12.45 – 2.05 pm: Period 3

2.05 – 2.10 pm: Transition time

2.10 – 3.30 pm: Period 4



# Timetable

Register Group: 1C2

Stage: S1

Reg	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2
Registration School Mr Eusufzai M14	French CfE Miss McCornick M07	French CfE Miss McCornick M07	Physical Education CfE Miss Clements GH	Physical Education CfE Miss Clements GH	English CfE Mr Foy M22	English CfE Mr Foy M22	Humanities CfE Miss Donegan T01	Humanities CfE Miss Donegan T01
Registration School Mr Eusufzai M14	Music CfE Mrs Pirie-Smith G02	Music CfE Mrs Pirie-Smith G02	Religious Studies CfE Mr Reid T02	Religious Studies CfE Mr Reid T02	Science CfE Mr Harthill G28	Science CfE Mr Harthill G28	Mathematics CfE Mr Challab M17	Mathematics CfE Mr Challab M17
Registration School Mr Eusufzai M14	Art CfE Miss Macaskill T10	Art CfE Miss Macaskill T10	Mathematics CfE Mr Challab M15	English CfE Mrs Pellington M20	PSE CfE Mr McEwan G18	PSE CfE Mr McEwan G18	Home Economics CfE Miss Watson G08	Home Economics CfE Miss Watson G08
Registration School Mr Eusufzai M14	English CfE Mr Foy M22	English CfE Mr Foy M22	Physical Education CfE Miss Clements GH	Physical Education CfE Miss Clements GH	Drama CfE Mrs Stuart DR2	Drama CfE Mrs Stuart DR2	Humanities CfE Miss Donegan T01	Humanities CfE Miss Donegan T01
Registration School Mr Eusufzai M14	French CfE Ms Kiejdrowska M04	French CfE Ms Kiejdrowska M04	Mathematics CfE Mr Challab M18	Mathematics CfE Mr Challab M18	Business Education CfE Miss Reid T07	Business Education CfE Miss Reid T07	Science CfE Mrs Lorimer G19	Science CfE Mrs Lorimer G19



## Tutorial / Registration 9 – 9.10am Daily

- Meet with tutor
- Attendance check
- Daily bulletin
- Absence notes
- Appointments made
- Daily point of contact



Home Economics



PSE





## Lunchtime



- Young Scot cards – cashless
- Westhill pupils in the community
- Extra-curricular
- Library



# Extra Curricular

Westhill Academy

Extra-Curricular Activities 2023-2024



Activity	Day and Time	Location
<b>Art Club</b>	Tuesday 12.10 – 12.40	T6, T8, T10
<b>Christian Union</b>	Thursday 12.10 – 12.40	G21
<b>Westhill GSA</b>	Mon lunch (two weekly)	M10
<b>Coding Club</b>	Tues & Wed – 12.15 – 12.40	M12 & M14
<b>Debate Club</b>	Thursday lunchtime	T4
<b>S1/2 Science Club</b>	Tuesday lunchtime	G23
<b>S1 Netball</b>	Tuesday 3.45 – 4.45	Games Hall
<b>S2/3 Netball</b>	Monday 3.45 - 4.45	Games Hall
<b>S4/5/6 Netball</b>	Monday 4.45 – 5.45	Games Hall
<b>S1-3 Basketball</b>	Thursday 8.00 – 8.45	Games Hall
<b>Senior Basketball</b>	Friday 8.00 – 8.45	Games Hall
<b>S2/3 Drama Club</b>	Monday lunchtime	Drama 1
<b>Senior Drama Club</b>	Tuesday lunchtime	Drama 1
<b>Cheer Club</b>	Thursday 3.30 – 4.45	Small Gym
<b>Rugby</b>	Thursday 3.40 – 5.00	Playing field
<b>Ceilidh Band</b>	Thursday 12.15 - 12.40	Music Dept
<b>Ukulele group</b>	Tuesday 12.15 – 12.40	Music Dept
<b>Singing for Joy!</b>	Wednesday 12.15 – 12.40	Music Dept
<b>Creative Writing</b>	Tuesday Lunchtime	M22
<b>S5/6 Young Enterprise</b>	Thursday Lunchtime	M5

Activity	Day and Time	Location
<b>String group</b>	Friday 12.15– 12.40	G4
<b>Brass group</b>	Thursday 12.15 – 12.40	G4
<b>S1 Boys Football</b>	Wednesday 3.30 - 4.30	Playing field
<b>S2 Boys Football</b>	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30	Playing Field
<b>S3 Boys Football</b>	Wednesday 3.30 – 4.40	Playing field
<b>Volleyball</b>	Wednesday 3.30 – 4.45	Games Hall
<b>Badminton</b>	Thursday 3.30 – 4.30	Games Hall
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Monday 3.30 – 4.30	Small Gym
<b>Athletics – Running</b>	Wednesday 3.45 – 4.30	Playing field
<b>Eco Club</b>	Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30	G20
<b>Girls Football</b>	Tuesday 3.40 – 4.40	Playing field
<b>Languages Film Club</b>	Tuesday lunchtime	M7
<b>S1 Lunch Drop In</b>	Thursday lunchtime	Comm. Centre
<b>Sewing Club</b>	Thursday 3.30 – 4.30	T10
<b>Charities Club</b>	Thursday Lunchtime	T7
<b>GeoClub</b>	Wednesday lunchtime	T3
<b>S3 Practical Cookery</b>	Tuesday 3.30 – 4.40	G8
<b>Chess Club</b>	Monday lunchtime	Library
<b>Books &amp; Biscuits Reading</b>	Tues lunch (two weekly)	Library
<b>Games Club</b>	Wednesday lunchtime	Library



## Keeping in touch

- Guidance
- Tracking report
- Full report
- Parents' evening
- Attendance letters
- Praise/Concern/Step forms
- Website
- X (formerly Twitter)
- GroupCall



# Technology and Online Safety

- Mobile phones and BYOD
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Online Safety:

<https://westhillacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/cyber-safety/>



# Senior Leadership Team



**Mrs Reid**  
Head Teacher



**Mr Fitzgerald**  
Depute  
Head Teacher  
(SQA and  
Curriculum)



**Mrs Colville**  
Depute  
Head Teacher  
(Pupil  
Support)



**Mrs Taylor**  
Depute  
Head Teacher  
(Learning,  
Teaching and  
Assessment)



**Ms Bradford**  
Acting  
Depute  
Head Teacher  
(Pupil  
Support –  
Friday only)



# Office Team





## Medical Staff

Lynsey Largue – School Nurse  
S1 settling in appointment

Stacey Green – School Nursing Assistant  
Daily 9.30am – 2.30pm



# Resource Room

Antibacterial wipes PE kit  
Pencil cases – clear  
Pet food – cat food, dog food  
Plasters  
Sanitary products  
Shampoo/conditioner  
Shaving kits (razors and foam) – *razors only available on request from Guidance teachers*  
Shower gel  
Socks  
Sports bras  
Stationery  
Tights  
Tissues  
Toothpaste and brushes  
Towels  
Underwear  
Uniform  
Water bottles  
Nail varnish remover  
Notebooks

Blankets  
Calculators  
Cereal bars  
Combs  
Deodorant  
Dried fruit snack packets  
Dried goods:  
soups, noodles, dried pasta, UHT milk, water, tea bags, coffee  
Face Cloths  
Facial wash  
Facial wipes  
Hair bobbles  
Hair brushes  
Hot water bottles  
Lip balm  
Microwaveable hand warmers







## Online Resources

School website:

[www.westhillacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.westhillacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

[@WAberdeenshire](#)

[@GuidanceTeamWA](#)

[@ScienceDeptWA](#)

[@WesthillPEDept](#)

[@MathsDeptWA](#)

[@BusinessEdWA](#)

[@WH Humanities](#)

[@LibraryWesthill](#)

[@WesthillAandDT](#)

[@WesthillMFL](#)

[@WesthillEnglish](#)





# Parent Council



[https://westhillacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/  
parent-council/](https://westhillacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-council/)



## What's next this evening?

- Meet your child's Guidance Teacher
- Hear about the school's Personal and Social Education curriculum
- Ask questions
- Following this please join our Parent Council for refreshments in the Library
- Meet other parents and hear about our active Parent Council



# Guidance Locations



1A1 and 1A2 – Staff room

1B – G13

1C – G16

1D – G18

1E – G11