

UPDATE PAPER

29TH APRIL 2022



Building Update



The Winchburgh Academy building is progressing well and ahead of schedule. WLC will receive keys to the building on **Friday 8th July**. From that date, we will have access to the building, although ongoing WLC property services work will be ongoing including IT installation services etc between then and August.

The Sports Block facility will be available slightly after this date, on **Monday 1st August** (the same day as the keys for Holy Family Primary School will be handed over to WLC).

Relevant staff have enjoyed a number of visits to the school site. All newly appointed Acting PTs have visited the site recently and plans are in place to provide a tour for P6 & P7 pupils from Winchburgh PS on **Friday 13th May** and on **Friday 20th May** for all other primary 7 children joining our school community in August.

Below is a link to a short fly through video of our new school building which has previously been sent to all parents/families and can also be accessed from our new school Twitter handle, @wlwinchburgh_ac

https://youtu.be/qJd_dmwvg8s

Following the first WLC pupil placement deadline (21st March), we have an expected first cohort of **45**, however, we are now led to believe that this may have increased to **47** as of 26th April 2022. It is anticipated that this may rise slightly between now and August. This includes almost all young people who are currently in P7 at Winchburgh Primary. Most young people in P7 at Holy Family are joining our community as are some from other primary schools such as St. Josephs PS, Linlithgow, Whitdale PS, Gylemuir PS and St Nicholas PS. Initial plans are to **create 3 S1 classes for our first school session** – beginning with **approximately 15/16 young people in each class**. School staff will be working very closely with Primary HTs, P7 pupils and parents/families to design class lists throughout the month of May.

Start up costs are agreed and our new Area Support Business Manager, Jennifer Brydon is working closely with Catherine Campbell and all Winchburgh Academy staff to ensure appropriate resources are in place at the earliest opportunity including subject specific materials and equipment. Each staff member has been allocated a laptop and will have access to an Ipad in the near future.

20 Netbooks are ordered for learners to use and **20 Ipads** are ordered for learners to use from August 2022. Our IT system supports use of personal devices and young people will be encouraged to bring/use these as appropriate learning resources in the first instance. Any young person who does not have access to a device will be given access to one.

We are continuing to work closely with Morrison's Construction for staff to visit the site as appropriate to inform future planning and we are also continuing discussions with the Graphic Design Team – SuperGraphics.

Morrison's Construction preference is that parents/families do not visit the site until the keys are officially handed over to WLC on Friday 8th July.



Staffing Update



From left-right, J Mitchell, L Duffin, S Oliver, S McCallum, K Borthwick, J Brydon.

We are delighted to have appointed the following members of staff:

Colin Kerr
Jennifer Brydon

Acting DHT
Area Business Support Manager

Laura Duffin
Sarah Oliver
Stacey McCallum
Karen Borthwick

Acting PT Maths & Technologies
Acting PT Pupil Support
Acting PT Science & Art
Acting PT English, Languages & Humanities

Colleagues will begin working together on **Tuesday 3rd May**.

Interviews for our Administration Assistant (School Office) will take place on **Thursday 28th April** with a view to joining our staff team in June 2022.

Interviews are to be arranged for a **Pupil Support Worker** who will join the staff team in August 2022.

Discussions with HT colleagues are ongoing with a view to entering into partnership arrangements with teaching colleagues to cover the full entitlements of the BGE in the following subjects:

Art	(Armadale Academy – TBC)
Music	(St. Kentigern's – TBC)
Modern Languages	(JYHS - TBC)
CDT/Technologies	(JYHS - TBC)
HE	(St. Kentigern's - TBC)

Creative curriculum approaches will be designed to ensure coverage of other subject areas including RE and Drama.

Identity Update



Following a host of surveys, focus group meetings, parent council discussions, Q & A sessions and workshops with pupils, our consultation regarding our school badge and school tie has now been completed.

We are delighted to introduce the confirmed **Winchburgh Academy official badge and school tie.**



Our school colours will be **navy** with a trim of **sky blue** and **white**. The symbols on the badge represent the following:

- The **Forth Rail Bridge** – local inspiration to world leading **engineering (STEM)** and provides a link from one place to another (**bridging communities together**)
- The **Barge steering wheels** represent the link to local landmark and heritage- and also represents '**all steering together in the right direction**' (a vital component of our mantra for Winchburgh Academy)
- The **lantern** provides a link to the proud **mining heritage** of Winchburgh and ties in with our school motto (see below)
- **Niddrie Castle** represents another important link to **local and national history**
- The **tree** represents **growth and future** and it also reflects that the new Winchburgh Community Hub where the school building proudly sits, is **designed on the concept of 'schools in the park' as developed by the architects.**
- The **book** represents **learning** – the most vital component of the purpose of our school community
- The reference to **2022** is obviously the year the school opened
- The **Latin motto** translates in English to '**Kindle the Lamps of the World**' – linking the historic mining heritage of Winchburgh and the work of a **local poet** to what we want our young people and community members to continue to do – **bring light to the world and contribute to progress, positivity and the future.**

The **school tie** will be a **registered Tartan** of Scotland – named '**The Winchburgh Academy Tartan**'. An excellent legacy to set, acknowledging the opening of our new school.

The school blazer will be **navy blue** and our initial uniform supplier is Borders Embroidery Uniforms (**BEUniforms**)

We are continuing to consult with our community about further/modern aspects of our school uniform and will continue to work with our community on that.

Community engagement activities to date include the following:

Parents/Families:

1. HT Introduction Letter 9.2.22
2. HT Update Letter 18.3.22
3. HT Update Newsletter 25.3.22
4. Winchburgh Academy Intro Video https://youtu.be/qJd_dmwvg8s
5. Meeting with WPS PC Office Bearers 25.2.22
6. HT Q & A Session with WPS Parent Council 1.3.22
7. HT Meeting with WPS Parent Council 29.3.22
8. HT Weekly Q & A Session (Teams) started on 30.3.22
9. Ongoing updates – Twitter
10. Numerous Consultation Surveys (identity, uniform, badge, shape of school day)

Pupils:

1. HT Introduction to all WPS pupils
2. Teacher Recruitment Workshop – HT and all WPS P6 & P7 pupils
3. Almost all P7 pupils involved in interview/selection process of Acting PTs and Acting DHT (including representation from Holy Family PS)
4. HT & P6/P7 School Values Workshop
5. Ongoing working in WPS and HF PS to meet young people and build relationships

Ongoing communications through Twitter.

Website under construction and should be in use mid-May.

Other plans/next steps include:

- **in-person parent/carer Q&A Information sessions** (weekly) and will include school values consultations etc.
- A series of **video/digital communications** (meet the team, further information videos/fly through opportunities etc. including working with WLC Media Team to produce high quality school video)
- **Extensive transition opportunities where staff are working regularly with P6 & P7 pupils and parents**

A **calendar** of events will be in place and communicated to **start w/b Monday 9th May** including all **Enhanced transition** arrangements.

HT will meet with every young person and family before the end of the current school term/session.

Plans are in place for a **'Summer School'** offer late July/early August and will involve teaching staff, CLD, Active Schools and other partners.

Week 1 of the new term will be referred to in planning as **WOW week** (Winchburgh Open Week) and in addition to a first day welcome event, will include further **team building, transition activities** as led by staff and relevant partners. A number of **'open' events** will be offered for parents and community members to be involved in WOW week.

W/B Tues 3rd May & Next Steps

Our staff team will officially begin working together on Tuesday 3rd May initially in St. Kentigern's. The draft programme for the week is attached to the email that you found this update in.

The programme summary is as follows:

Tuesday 3rd May

Team inductions, allocation of devices, establishing of values.
Tree of Knowledge – 'The Change Process'

Wednesday 4th May

Curriculum Design
Working with Education Scotland (A Creamer, E McGuire & L Watson)

Thursday 5th May

Armadale Academy Learning Festival

Friday 6th May

Curriculum Design – HWB
Working with Education Scotland (T Johnston)

From Mon 9th May – Curriculum Making, Timetable, School Policies, TMR, Transition, designing strategies to provide senior role models within school (local secondary school Partnerships) – Building community and relationships – May -August Winchburgh Academy Planner/Calendar will be established, confirmed and communicated. Working with WLC colleagues to discuss use of facilities (community).