

# Selkirk High School

Values in Action



Head Teacher Mr J Bryson  
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[www.selkirkhighschool.org.uk](http://www.selkirkhighschool.org.uk)

## S1/2/3 Settling In

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been excellent to welcome students back to school and we've all been impressed with how swiftly and happily they appear to have settled in to the new routine of the school day. It's been a great start!

Our new S1 are clearly a terrific bunch and we're very excited by the promise and character they have already shown.

If you would like to see my Welcome Back message to students (from the first day back) you'll be able to find it on every student's Year Group Team. I miss assemblies!

Please see below a note on phones and S1/2 lunchtimes.

With best wishes to you all,

**Mr Bryson HT**



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## Phones

In the run up to the start of term I asked you for your support with our new approach to managing phones in school which asks parents and carers of S1/2/3 students to ensure phones are left at home. I write now to thank you for the overwhelming support we have received.

Teachers have already mentioned to me that it's making a difference: time is no longer being wasted at the start of lessons with students arriving glued to their phones and thoughts miles away from learning; nor are students needing to be re-focused as they find the temptation to peek at their notifications too great in class; trips to the toilet appear to be in decline and shortening in duration! The pastoral team are very confident that this approach will also help reduce the anxieties of individuals whose difficulties are so often exacerbated by inappropriate use of phones at social times- and that the mental health of students will be positively affected by a more balanced and less dependent relationship with their phones. Others point out that this approach is more in line with the expectations of the world of work and will help prepare students for this.

It's also been lovely to see students talking to each other at lunchtime too, rather than swiping through their social media posts! As we introduce extra curricular activities over the coming weeks, we hope to see more and more students constructively engaged at lunchtimes and we are confident our resilient young people will soon get used to the new expectation.

One parent has asked me why students can't keep phones in bags in class time but have them at lunch. This is a good and reasonable question! My answer is that this has been our policy for the past two years and remains our approach for seniors. However, it simply has not worked for our junior students, more and more of whom simply cannot resist the pull of their phones.

I am particularly thankful to parents because I know some of you may be having battles at home about this. I thank you for your efforts and urge you to consider the benefits to your child of less screen time. It may be that the students who resist this most strongly are also the ones who may benefit from it the most!

Naturally there will be times when parents and carers need their children to have their phones due to after school arrangements etc or for other reasons. Please discuss with the school and ask students to keep their phones off and in bags until the end of the day. Students who have a special arrangement who are unable to resist getting their phones out may cause a sense of unfairness amongst their peers.

In short- thank you for your help with this. Like parents and carers, headteachers know very well that what is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right!



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## S1 Lunchtime

We currently have staggered lunchtimes- this means our new S1 students have lunch at the same time as the seniors. S2 and S3 have a separate lunch. From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, S1 students will be permitted to go to the Pringle Park at lunchtimes. This is supervised by janitors. Students have discussed expectations with their RTL teachers (Ready To Learn) and signed the agreement below which I include FYI. S1 students are not allowed to go to the High Street at lunchtime- this privilege awaits them in S2!

**S1 VIA  
 AGREEMENT  
 Pringle Park**



**VALUES IN  
 ACTION**  
*Respect Responsibility  
 Relationships Resilience*

Please Remember: The Pringle Park Facilities are funded and maintained every week by a group of individuals from Selkirk who wish to support you. We show our gratitude by putting our Values Into Action when using the Park.



When I accept Park privileges, I agree to the following; I accept I will lose the privilege if I am not able to <b>respect</b> this agreement	(✓)
I understand this is a lunchtime privilege only and I have the <b>responsibility</b> to be back at school by 2 o'clock	
I will <b>respect</b> the environment and be <b>responsible</b> by never leaving litter and encourage others to do the same	
I will <b>respect</b> the facilities and make sure they are used <b>responsibly</b> and safely and not damaged in any way eg by too many people using a swing, climbing on frames etc	
I will <b>respect</b> all others including members of the public and show fantastic manners	
I will be <b>responsible</b> when crossing the road to the Park and I understand all other Town facilities are out of bounds for S1	
<b>COVID-19: I understand I must not make any physical contact with others and maintain social distance</b>	
<i>Signature</i>	



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## S2 Lunchtime

S2 students have the privilege of visiting the High St at lunchtime. RTL teachers (Ready To Learn) have discussed expectations with students and signed the agreement below which I include for your information.

### S2 VIA AGREEMENT Town Privilege



**VALUES IN ACTION**  
*Respect Responsibility Relationships Resilience*

*SHS is a proud and important part of the great community of Selkirk.*

*When we are down the town, we show our respect for others and represent ourselves and the school by putting our values into action.*

When I accept Town privileges, I agree to the following; I accept that I will lose Town privileges if I am not able to <b>respect</b> this agreement	(✓)
I understand this is a lunchtime privilege only and I have the <b>responsibility</b> to be back at school by 2 o'clock	
I will <b>respect</b> our environment and be <b>responsible</b> by never leaving litter and encourage others to do the same	
I will <b>respect</b> the Town facilities and make sure they are used <b>responsibly</b>	
I will <b>respect</b> all others including members of the public by making way on pavements and having fantastic manners	
I will be <b>responsible</b> when crossing roads and avoid the A7 and I will be an excellent role model for my peers	
<b>COVID-19: I understand I must not make any physical contact with others</b>	
<i>Signature</i>	

