

Selkirk High School

Values in Action



Head Teacher Mr J Bryson
Hillside Terrace, Selkirk
TD7 4EW
01750 20246
@SelkirkHS
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www.selkirkhighschool.org.uk

Back To School Update – August 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had good times over the summer holidays- and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school for the 2023-24 session.

School starts for students at 0850 on Wednesday 16th August and I will be standing as usual at the front door ready to welcome all students, including of course our new S1 arrivals! Can't wait!

Our Breakfast Café- free and available to all - will be open as usual from 0830.

The School Day begins at 0850 with RTL (Ready to Learn) which will be extended on Wednesday to ensure key messages and expectations are shared, ipads are updated and everyone knows where they are going and what they are doing. Staff and S6 students will be on hand to ensure our new S1 know where to go when they arrive and through the day.

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome some new faces to the SHS team!

Mr Andrew Foggin joins Miss Blair and Mrs Thomson as Depute Head- amongst other responsibilities, Andy will be working to support S1/S2/3 and developing the BGE experience (Broad General Education –S1/2/3)

Miss Katy Hill (Maths)- Katy fills the vacancy left by Mr Cove.

Miss Emma Bryson (English)- Emma (no relation!) is an addition to the current team.

Miss Hope Carolan (Art)- Hope takes the place of Mr Dolan who has moved to PT Pastoral role

Miss Natasha Robertson (Social Subjects)- Natasha takes on the role vacated by Mrs Dodds.

Miss Hannah Mairs part-time (PE)- Hannah is an addition to the current team.

Please note...

- Extra-Curricular: a comprehensive list of extra-curricular opportunities will be shared with families soon after the return to school. We urge all students to engage with at least one lunchtime or after school club.
- School Calendar: we just need to confirm a few dates and then this will be sent to families.
- From September, our S2 students will gain the privilege of having their lunch in the town- once we have agreed expectations and shared safety messages. Similarly, S1 students will be allowed to access the Pringle Park at lunchtimes from September, following agreement of expectations and safety messages- this will be supervised.



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Please find below ...

- Communication Summary: there are lots of ways to keep track of what's going on and get in touch- please see below.
- Ready To Learn checklist- thank you to all families for supporting our expectations about uniform and mobile phones. Your support makes a significant difference to our school ethos and a sense of fairness amongst our students.

A plea to all our parents and carers: I urge you to get in touch with any questions or queries now and always without hesitation- so we do our very best for every individual in our charge and care. It's so important to hear from those who know our wonderful students best of all!

With best wishes to you all,

Jamie Bryson HT



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Communicating with your School

Tel: (01750) 720246

Call up the school any time to get information, raise a concern, and arrange appointments with Mr Bryson HT, Mrs Thomson, Miss Blair, Mr Foggin, Guidance staff or teachers. Do not hesitate – we really want to hear from you

Email: selkirkhs@scotborders.gov.uk

As above, email the school any time to get information, raise a concern, arrange appointments with Mr Bryson, Mrs Thomson, Miss Blair, Mr Foggin, Guidance staff, teachers

Website: www.selkirkhighschool.org.uk

Our new website has a full range of school information, updates and news. The Parent Zone page is updated with key message

Facebook 'Selkirk High School'



Recommended! This is great to keep updated on the achievements of our students and to keep informed about key events at the school

Follow Selkirk High School @SelkirkHS
Follow Mr Bryson @JamieBrysonSHS



The SHS Twitter feed shares links with all info on Facebook

@selkirk.hs.gardening
@music_selkirkhs
@shs_art_department



The Border Telegraph

We celebrate the success of our students on a weekly page in **The Border Telegraph**. This is also emailed to parents by Groupcall.

School Newsletters

Newsletters are shared with families termly- these are also available on the website.

School Handbook

This has a full range of information about the school and is available on the school website or from the school office on request. This is particularly useful for prospective parents

Parent Handbook

This is a shorter version of the School handbook and is designed by the Selkirk High School Parent Partnership to support new parents

Parents Evenings and Reports

These are great opportunities to meet teachers, discuss the progress of students and discuss how best to support learning at home. Reports are also provided.

Parents' Information Evenings

The school holds a range of Parent Information Evenings about the learner journey, careers and excursions

Xpressions and Groupcall

The school communicates key updates on events and arrangements to all parents by email (or by text message on request)

SHS Parent Partnership



The SHSPP meets Termly. Its ambition is to help 'engage families and inspire students'. All parents are welcome to join the SHSPP. Updates and information about opportunities and events are communicated by Groupcall, Xpressions and on the website





Ready To Learn Checklist

Every school day begins with RTL (Ready To Learn). Key safety messages are discussed and support is provided to students who are unsure about the day ahead. This really helps prepare students for a successful day.

Lesson after lesson and day after day- for all the years of school - the little things add up to make a very significant difference to the achievements of our young people.

Please have a look at the checklist below and help us to ensure every student is Ready To Learn.

<p>Healthy Start</p>	<p>The link between performance and a healthy start is really clear and thank you for supporting this. Breakfast club is available at the school every day.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Uniform</p>	<p>Pupils who wear the full school uniform contribute enormously to the purposeful atmosphere, high standards and high expectations at the school as well as a sense of equality amongst our students.</p> <p>Students are expected to arrive at school in full school uniform every day- and to bring PE Kit in a bag.</p> <p>We thank you for supporting this. Please see below for information about the support available and/or how to access Clothing Allowance.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Ipad</p>	<p>The ipad is now the 'school bag' of students at SHS- it's vital that students look after their ipads responsibly and bring their fully charged ipad to school each day.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Mobile Phones</p>	<p>It is very clear to us that students who carry their phones about or have them in pockets during class are continually aware of them and easily and often distracted from their learning. Ipad means that phones no longer have any role in class.</p> <p>More than ever, students (and everyone else!) are finding it difficult to separate themselves from their phones. In addition to the impact on learning, we are aware of significantly negative impact of social media on mental health.</p> <p>To encourage a more balanced relationship with phones, we therefore require S1/2/3 students to keep their phones at home or, if parents need students to have their mobile for particular reasons, they should be out of sight or handed to the office during the school day. If senior students bring mobiles to school, they must be in bags and out of sight during class time.</p> <p>Parents and Carers are asked not to contact their children's mobiles during class time.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Lunchtimes</p>	<p>The performance of students in the afternoon who have a high sugar lunch appears to be very significantly less effective than students who make healthy choices. If you are not confident your child is making healthy choices in the town, please consider a packed lunch or our canteen. We do not allow energy drinks or sugary drinks in school.</p>	<p>✓</p>

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SHS Uniform

All pupils should arrive at school smartly dressed and ready to learn

- A white shirt and school tie tied at the top (ties are provided by the school through parent pay)
- A plain black V-neck jumper, cardigan or black sweatshirt- not hoodies*
- Black tailored trousers or black shorts/skirt- not jeans or leggings
- Smart, sensible, black school shoes
- House T-Shirt (provided by school through parent pay)
- S6 SHS School Jacket (provided by school through parent pay)
- School hoodies or other branded sports kit are not to be worn in classes except on match days.

*Pupils wearing outdoor clothing are expected to change on arrival; lockers are available- please contact the school office.



We would like to thank parents and carers for supporting the school uniform. It is an indirect but significant factor in the school's ethos and success.

By wearing the uniform, students contribute to the purposeful school environment and demonstrate that they are Ready to Learn. The uniform is aspirational. It represents our united effort to be the best we can be. It represents the pride we have in our school and our belief in every young person's unique and magnificent potential, regardless of their background and ability. It can support a positive mind-set and give young people confidence, self-belief and a sense of community and belonging.



Students also tell us that the uniform shows that everyone is equal and helps prevent prejudice based on appearance.

Pre-Loved Uniform and Support

- The school offers a pre-loved clothes/kit recycling opportunity. We now have a stock of new and good quality uniform items. Call the School Office to find out more 01750 20246. Donations welcome!
- You may be entitled to Scottish Gov support for School Clothing and/or School Meals- Please see overleaf or contact the school to check.





Free school meals and help with Uniform

SBC can provide children with free school meals and financial assistance towards the purchase of school clothing. The current amount payable is £70 per qualifying child.

All children in primary one to three are automatically eligible for a free school meal. For all other children to qualify, you must meet one of the following criteria.

<p>School clothing and footwear grant</p> <p>Income Support Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance Working Tax Credit and/or maximum Child Tax Credit with an income less than £16,105 Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 Universal Credit</p> <p>The clothing grant is only paid once per child per school year between August and the following March.</p>	<p>Free school meals</p> <p>Income Support Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an annual income less than £16,105 Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit with an annual income less than £6,420 Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 Universal Credit with a monthly income less than £610</p>
<p>How to apply or renew</p> <p>If you are renewing you will need your claim number from your renewal letter. Fill out the online application form : Download and print the application form and return it to your local contact centre. Apply for or renew free school meals and clothing grants</p> <p>Customer Advice and Support Service Telephone: 0300 100 1800 Address: Council Headquarters Newtown St. Boswells Melrose TD6 0SA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Customer Advice and Support Service Visit your local office 	<p>EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE</p> <p>An EMA has been available to eligible young people remaining in full time education beyond the statutory leaving age of 16. It is a weekly payment made directly to the young person from a family whose annual household income is £22,403 or less.</p> <p>Payments will only be made if the pupil has satisfied attendance requirements. Pupils must complete a learning agreement. Information and application forms are available from the school office.</p>