

TRANSITION NEWSLETTER NO. 4

Hello everyone!

We hope you are well and enjoying the sunshine. Don't forget that home learning though! This will be our last newsletter until after the half term break and we will try to resume them in June. Well done to all those of you who have returned your registration forms and friendship forms to date. We still have lots missing, so please continue to send these in as soon as possible. If we receive any friendship forms after next week, we may struggle to take these requests into account, so please get them to us.



We had lots of great questions answered in our last newsletter, so now it's time to answer some more. **Eva from Rushen asked** - "[How long is each lesson?](#)" Great question, Eva. Here's how your school day looks:

Monday to Friday

09.00-09.25	Assembly/Registration/Tutor Time
09.25-10.15	Lesson 1
10.15-11.05	Lesson 2
11.05-11.20	Break
11.20-12.10	Lesson 3
12.10-13.00	Lesson 4
13.00-14.00	Lunch Break
14.00-14.55	Registration and Lesson 5
14.55-15.45	Lesson 6
15.45	End of day for students

So as you can see, each of your lessons is fifty minutes, break is 15 minutes and lunch is an hour. Don't forget to watch Episode 4 of the videos about lunchtimes and look at the clubs list on our website.

Most lessons are 'single lessons', so one class of fifty minutes. In some subjects, you may have a double lesson, for example in Design and Technology. If you were in a Food Technology, you would need a double lesson (2 fifty-minute lessons together) in order that you have enough time to prepare and cook your product.

When you have Quest lessons, we tend to make this in the afternoon as we think that the afternoon is a better time for group work and a different kind of learning. Don't forget, one afternoon a week is your games afternoon, which is also a double lesson. This is so you have enough time for matches or fixtures against other schools if you are playing in a team. Hope that answers your question, Eva!



QUESTIONS ????



Keira from Rushen asked - “When will we find out what tutor groups we are in?”

A-ha! The question on everyone’s mind. We hope to let you know in June, some time after we return on Wednesday 17th.

We have started to make the tutor groups, but still have lots of people’s friendship forms missing, as mentioned above, so get those to us as soon as you can.

Remember, you can nominate up to three people, so can your parents/carers and we have asked all of your Year 6 teachers too. We say that we will give you at least ONE of those people, but in reality there is usually more than one. Don’t forget some people may want a fresh start, or mums, dads and carers may think that you don’t need to be in a tutor group with your best friend as you see them out of school anyway. They may also disagree with your choices! Don’t forget, you will be with a different group of people for your subject lessons and will make lots of new friends anyway. Good question, Kiera. Everyone is keen to know! We will let you know as soon as we can.





Finally, another question from a Rushen girl! This one was from **Poppy, who asked -** “How many children are on the school and how many will be in Year 7 in September?”

Gosh, great question! Thanks Poppy.

So, in the school there are usually around 800 children from Years 7 to 13. We have grown quite a bit over the last year or so, as our current Year 7 is a much bigger year. Our current number for your lovely new year group for September is around 154. That will be our second biggest year group in the school. This number may grow a little before September, as we know there are some families planning to move to the Island over the summer once restrictions are lifted. One poor family had to cancel their moving plans a few weeks ago, so are hoping to get here some time in the summer. Hello to the Halls from Yorkshire! Hope things are going in your direction!

So, it’s safe to say that in September, Year 7 will probably be between 154 and 160. The total in the school will probably grow to about 825. The main thing to remember is, yes, we are a lot bigger than your primary school, but for a high school, we are one of the smaller ones, and Castle Rushen is very much a community and a friendly place.





ALL ABOUT ME!

Year 7 Student Profile



Name:	Matthew
Primary School:	Victoria Road
How did you feel before you started Castle Rushen?	Nervous, but excited too.
How easy was it to find your way around?	Quite easy. It was a bit overwhelming at first but then I quickly got used to it. You will get a map and this really helps. If you're stuck, ask a Sixth Former or a teacher and they will help you.
What was it like at Castle Rushen once you got used to it?	It was good. You get used to it and you quickly stop feeling nervous and then you realise there's nothing to be afraid of.
Did you make new friends?	Mine are really kind and it's a lovely community.
Which are your favourite subjects?	I like English because I like learning about punctuation and there's bits of History in it too.
What are the teachers like?	Nice. They're kind and helpful too.
What advice would you give to a Year 6 who is coming to Castle Rushen in September?	Follow the rules!
Finally, what is your favourite thing about being at Castle Rushen?	The food. The chips are really good! I also think games afternoon is really good and I like the opportunity to play as part of a team.





YEAR 7 TUTOR PROFILE



Name: Mrs Livingstone

Subject taught: The best one! Maths!

Background: I attended Peel Clothworkers Primary School and QEII High School up to my GCSE years. I then left the island to study for my A Levels at Welbeck VIth Form College in England. When I returned I tried working in an office, but did not like sitting at a desk all day, so I joined the Isle of Man Constabulary (where I definitely did not sit at a desk all day!) After many years and 2 children, I decided I needed a change so I worked as an E.S.O. at QEII. I had completed a maths degree with the Open University and enjoyed working within the school environment so much that I decided to train to become a maths teacher here at CRHS. I am now fully qualified and living the dream! 😊

Describe a typical day at Castle Rushen: Wow! I can't remember what a typical day was!

What's the best thing about Castle Rushen?

- 1) The views out of the classrooms are beautiful, and sometimes a little bit distracting.
- 2) The school is full of lovely people who are here to make sure you get the most out of your school day.
- 3) Outdoor classrooms. Lovely in the summer.

Why do you like being a Year 7 form tutor? I love to see the start of the CRHS journey and the huge growth of the students over the year. Year 7s are full of fun!

What do you do to relax? I love to walk my dog and ride my horse on the beach (not at the same time!) I swim in the sea whenever I can, kayak, body board, surf, coasteer, hike and camp. I love being in the outdoors and playing in the sea. I also love to read, however, if I pick up a book I can't put it down until it's finished!

What interesting thing would you like your new tutor group to know about you? I once met Take That in in Belfast, I love Strictly Come Dancing and my elbows turn the wrong way round. 😊





EXPERT ADVICE

And finally for this newsletter, advice from a current student.

If you remember, we were running a competition for current Year 7 students to give some advice to Year 6 students about coming to big school. Charlotte came to us last year from Scoill Phurt Le Moirrey. We don't want to embarrass her, but she is a brilliant example of a Castle Rushen student. She works hard, asks for help if she needs it and is a really positive person to be around. She has written some great advice for Year 6 children. We hope you like it too!

Over to Charlotte....

These are my top tips for Year 6 coming into Year 7:

1. Keep on top of homework, make sure you have it done on the same day because otherwise it all builds up.
2. Join lots of clubs to make new friends, to have new hobbies and to get to know the teachers.
3. Think of this as a new opportunity to make new friends and move away from the people that weren't very nice to you in primary school.
4. Always remember your equipment for the right day, always remember your bus card, lunch card and PE kit, make a list of what you need to take each day.
5. Don't spend all your lunch money on snacks at break. This tip may come in handy with people that have a limit on their lunch card. Don't do what I did and spend all your money on pizza at break and then not have enough money for lunch!
6. Join in with the musicals, I watched 'Back to the 80s' and wished I had done it so badly.
7. When you get the bus to school sit where you like, but on a double decker bus sit on the bottom deck closest to the driver as possible, if there is no room, sit on the top deck closest to the front.
8. It is also a perfect opportunity for a fresh start, so if you are someone that is getting into trouble all the time or you are a daydreamer, it is a brand new start.
9. My final point is, relax; it is not as scary as you think it is.

Thanks Charlotte!

That's all for this newsletter. We hope you enjoy the half term holiday.

Stay safe!

Mr Kay

Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Kneen

Head of Year 7

