

Castle Douglas High School



August 2026

Dear parent's and carers welcome back to the new school year. I hope that everyone had an excellent break filled with fun activities and making memories with family and friends. I thought it useful to share a few key messages as we start this new academic year.

- Our exam results across almost all measures have improved year on year with our 5th year higher results showing a pleasing upturn. They have done exceptionally well. Whilst we begin our analysis of the results our full picture will become clearer when our systems update in September. Needless to say, that we will continue to build on this year-on-year picture.
- We welcome our first years and wish them well as they settle into high school. We will early in the term send a settling in letter but if there are any early concern's then parents or carers should contact the pupil support teacher to discuss.
Threave (Mr Ingram / Mrs Clive)
Solway (Mrs Fulton)
Kelton (Mrs Cathro)
- Attendance. It is critically important for pupils to attend school, and our target attendance is 95%. We have given that message to our pupils. Clearly things can happen through the term so catching up on work is also important. Below 90 – 95% attendance without catchup work does affect the grades pupils achieve.
- For our second years it's an early reminder that options will be in Feb 2027 so it's important to get a good start in all subjects so that they have as wide a choice as possible.
- For our third years this begins the push for the national exams in 4th year with 3rd exams to come in May 2027. It is important to establish routines and study patterns to prepare.
- For our seniors these first weeks are about setting target grades and getting ready for October tests. Our assessments this year are in October / Dec and potentially for some March. All assessments are weighted and count towards the predicted grade so it's important that all seniors begin studying. The October tests begin in approx. five weeks. The expectation should be for every national / higher / adv higher sat that 1.5 hours in that subject should be spent weekly. Pupils can also stay in school until 5 pm and attend supported study. This has all been explained in assemblies yesterday.
- Uniform turnout was excellent, so I thank you all for that. We will continue to challenge pupils who do not hold to the standard that we all expect for Castle Douglas high school.

I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events and parent's nights through the year.

With regards

Stephen Foster
Headteacher