

**If this email arrives at the school office as the designated contact address for your Parent Council, can you please forward to the Parent Council Chair for your school. Thank you.**

**Dear Parent Council Chair**

I hope you had a good summer – despite the downpours – but that is what makes Scotland so green.

To start the new term please find included the following information and articles and your new membership details for Connect. Item 2.

For local support please use the Education and Learning Parental Involvement [EducationandLearningParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:EducationandLearningParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk) mailbox for all things Parent Council and I will respond to questions and queries as soon as possible. The mailbox is checked daily but at no consistent time.

I will also be online on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September between 7-8pm (in Teams). If anyone wants to catch up on any matter in an informal online setting.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 355 976 678 667

Passcode: Cq4LMP

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Items in this update:**

- 1: Parent Council Ask - D&G Respect for All – Anti Bullying Guidance 2023 review – deadline 30<sup>th</sup> August – Parent Council**
- 2: Connect Membership Details 2023/2024 – Parent Council \* Please share with your office bearers**
- 3: Connect Information Training Sessions for Parent Council - August to September – all free as part of our membership – Parent Council**
- 4: Apprenticeships and Additional Support Needs webinar - Thursday 7 September – 6.30pm - 7.30pm – Parents**
- 5: Parenting Programme Survey Deadline Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Parents**
- 6: CAMHS NHS Dumfries and Galloway Website is now live – Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) – Parents**

**Item 1: Anti-Bullying Guidance:** A colleague has asked if Parent Councils would be able to review the draft Anti-Bullying Guidance for Schools and provide “vox pop” “informal comments/quotes” that could be used to show and share parental views of this guidance with colleagues. It is a 28-page document and feedback would be needed by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August – ***if you would like to view this and comment on the draft please email me back and I will share the document.***

**NOTE:** We will again be promoting the online learning by Respectme on Anti-Bullying – Positive Relationships this session that again might be useful in your role in school around the engagement of Anti-Bullying policies in your school. More to follow later this term.

**Item 2: Connect Membership Documents 2023/2024 are now available!**

Dumfries & Galloway Council has purchased Connect Membership which includes membership-linked insurance for your Parent Council.

**Your Membership Pack is here** [Connect Membership Pack 2023/2024](#)

You will need to log in or register with the website here <http://bit.ly/connectwebregister> and then click the link to the Pack above or search Membership Pack in the Resources section.

In the Pack, you will find:

- **a link to the online form to provide your Parent Council's Key Contact details (this is a requirement for your insurance cover. PLEASE take time to complete)**
- Connect Members' Leaflet, detailing your Membership benefits
- Connect Membership Certificate 2023-2024
- Employer's Public Liability Certificate 2023-2024
- Extended Public Liability Record Form (for non-professional, volunteer or amateur stallholders) Public liability for clubs and activity groups run by Members

- Insurance FAQs from Zurich Municipal
- Insurance Summary of Cover.

Here are details of the insurance policy we hold for Connect Members. The insurer is Zurich Municipal, **Policy number: XAO-272102-8193**

**There is a dedicated email address as well as a telephone number for contacting our insurer Zurich Municipal directly with your insurance-related**

**queries:** [connect.scotland@uk.zurich.com](mailto:connect.scotland@uk.zurich.com) or 0800 232 1927 (option 2).

You will need to be logged into your account on the Connect website to view the documents. You can register here <http://bit.ly/connectwebregister>. As Members, all parents and staff at your school can register to access Members' only resources.

### **3: Connect Information Training Sessions for Parent Council - August to September – all free as part of our membership**

**Booking is essential.**

<p>Chat with Connect for Parent Groups 22 August 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3MzH7BaAug23">https://bit.ly/3MzH7BaAug23</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chat-with-connect-tickets-645272656887">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chat-with-connect-tickets-645272656887</a></p>	<p>Join us for this very informal and relaxed opportunity to discuss your parent group, its activities and priorities, or whatever you like!</p>
<p>Welcome to Connect Membership for Parent Groups 29 August 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3MP0vKWAug23">https://bit.ly/3MP0vKWAug23</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-connect-membership-for-parent-groups-tickets-646925029177">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-connect-membership-for-parent-groups-tickets-646925029177</a></p>	<p>Find out all about the benefits of Connect Membership and how the Connect team can support you and your parent-run group</p>
<p>New to Parent Councils - Induction 5 September 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3oFBI3MSept23">https://bit.ly/3oFBI3MSept23</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-to-parent-council-induction-tickets-646951117207">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-to-parent-council-induction-tickets-646951117207</a></p>	<p>Are you new to the Parent Council and you're looking for some pointers? Join us for an introduction to Parent Councils - what they are, what they do and how you can contribute</p>
<p>Good Practice for Parent Groups Tues 12 September 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential.</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/43tCcbOSept23">https://bit.ly/43tCcbOSept23</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/good-practice-for-parent-groups-tickets-646961548407">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/good-practice-for-parent-groups-tickets-646961548407</a></p>	<p>Join us for this session to share ideas and discuss good practice in running and managing your parent group. We will share our tips and resources with you to help you run your group well.</p>

<p>Role of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for Parent Groups 19 September 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential!</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3OVkqKuSept23">https://bit.ly/3OVkqKuSept23</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/role-of-chair-treasurer-and-secretary-for-parent-groups-tickets-646974236357">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/role-of-chair-treasurer-and-secretary-for-parent-groups-tickets-646974236357</a></p>	<p>For experienced and new parent group office bearers</p>
<p>Organising Social and Fundraising Events for Parent Groups 26 September 2023, 8-9pm</p> <p>Places are free, booking is essential!</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3WJwCUSEpt23">https://bit.ly/3WJwCUSEpt23</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/organising-social-and-fundraising-events-for-parent-groups-tickets-646986192117">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/organising-social-and-fundraising-events-for-parent-groups-tickets-646986192117</a></p>	<p>Fun and fundraising Thinking about how to bring the school community together and how to offer enjoyable events? Join us to share ideas for running traditional and new school events to build a sense of community and to offer fun for families</p>

#### New Session links for Parent Councils

<p><a href="#">Welcoming New Families Resource Pack</a></p> <p><a href="#">Running Parent Councils, Committees and Meetings Pack</a></p> <p><a href="#">Parent Council Essential Pack</a></p> <p><a href="#">Connecting Parents Closed Facebook Page</a> - a Connect Members' space where parent groups can share knowledge and ask each other questions.</p> <p><a href="#">Connect Resources Website registration</a> –to access all our resources and membership linked insurance you need to register on our website. As Members, all parents and staff at your school can register to access Members' only resources.</p> <p><a href="#">School Uniform Bank Resource</a> - school uniform banks in your area.</p>
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#### New resources and opportunities this year

<p><a href="#">A Short Guide to Lotteries and Licences for Parent Groups</a></p> <p><a href="#">Seeking the Views of the Parent Forum: A Guide for Parent Councils</a></p> <p>A new series of short films, <a href="#">Quick Tips for Parent Groups</a> - we'll be making more films during the course of the year too</p> <p>Mediation for parent group members in partnership with Scottish Mediation</p>
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#### Parent/carer survey report

<p><b>Connect Parent/Carer Survey Report: Prescribing the Minimum Number of Learning Hours</b></p> <p>Many thanks to the 243 parents and carers from 31 local authorities who responded to our survey</p>
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for the Scottish Government's consultation on *Prescribing the Minimum Number of Learning Hours in Schools*. You can read our submission to the consultation and the background documents [here](#). The majority of respondents agreed with the proposals to prescribe learning hours, but there was much less confidence in the proposals to make exceptions to the prescribed hours for local authorities to use. Here, a lack of clarity, fears that children and young people could be negatively impacted by reduced learning hours and the potential for local authorities to use 'loopholes' to save money were concerns.

### Key Contact Update

**Please take time to update your Parent Councils key contact details.**

Zurich, our insurer **requires** the Key Contact for your parent groups to be up to date. Anyone contacting Zurich for advice will have to be able to name the Key Contact! Please can we ask you to circulate this link to ensure Parent Councils make this important update <https://www.tfaforms.com/4920973>

### **4: Apprenticeships and Additional Support Needs webinar - Thursday, 7 September – 6.30pm - 7.30pm**

Skills Development Scotland will be hosting a free webinar aimed to provide parents/carers and individuals with information on the support available for those with Additional Support Needs to take a Foundation, Modern or Graduate Apprenticeship.

Registration takes place on Eventbrite and the webinar will be on Teams.

More information about the event is on the Eventbrite page. Register to

attend: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scottish-apprenticeships-and-additional-support-needs-tickets-677260042017?aff=oddtcreator>

### **5: Parenting Programme Survey Deadline Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. CALLING ALL PARENTS AND CARERS**

Children's services are currently assessing the need for Parenting Programmes across the Dumfries and Galloway region.

Please see the attached leaflet (with QR code) which has been developed to try and gain parent and carer views.

It is vitally important that we gain the opinions, needs, and wishes to help us to develop programmes for families that are suitable and relevant.

Could you please take time to fill this in if you are a parent or carer, closing date 29th September 2023.

Or use this link below

<https://forms.office.com/e/EUEc9SrhyQ>

Beth Hannett, Parenting Coordinator, Lifelong Learning

### **6: CAMHS NHS Dumfries and Galloway Website is now live – Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)**

Young people have taken a lead role in designing a new website for the region's Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

The new site at <https://dghscp.co.uk/camhs/> has been co-designed by the website working group including young people, parents and carers and staff.

Erin (aged 16) one of the young people involved within the website working group said: "We tried to make the website as colourful and as nice as possible, to try to bring the mood up a bit. It's important for us young people to be involved in building the service, we know what it's like to have accessed the service before or be accessing it now, so we can feed back our own experiences."

“Different people needed different information so we had sections for professionals, parents and carers, and young people. There’s also a section on the website that lets you meet the practitioners, so you have a rough idea of who you’re meeting. When I first started going to CAMHS I didn’t know who I would be meeting, and it made me really nervous. If you are in crisis and you go to the website there’s a button you can press that says ‘I am in crisis’, that tells you what you can do and you can submit an online self-referral too”

We would really appreciate if you are able to promote and share our new CAMHS website amongst your colleagues, children, young people and families who you are all working alongside.  
Alison Telfer, CAMHS Participation Lead

**End of Update**

**Many thanks and I look forward to working with you this year**

**Vanessa**

**Vanessa Morris**

Support Officer

**Quality and Curriculum**

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