



August Newsletter



50th Anniversary

I am pleased to welcome you all back to school, we look forward to working with you again. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome new pupils, parents and staff to Georgetown and hope you find your time with us an enjoyable and valuable experience.

Georgetown celebrates its 50th birthday this year and we are planning a number of events to commemorate this during the month of September. This will include a 70's dress up day, a concert, a school fundraiser, an open day and more. Details will follow soon.

Staffing

The class teachers at the start of the session are:

P1D– Mrs G. Dingwall	P1C - Mrs L. Cairns
P2M—Miss C. Murray	P2D– Mrs G. Doyle
P3HI—Miss J. Irving/Miss K. Harkness	P3GH - Mrs L. Gillespie/Mrs L. Hodge
P4S– Mrs M. Shuttleworth	P4/5C– Mr C. Cannon
P5T– Mr Taylor	P6L—Miss E. Leonard
P6JB—Mrs W. Jones/Mrs J. Brown	P7JP– Mrs K. Jardine/Miss L. Penman
P7I– Mrs J. Irving	QLC—Mrs J. McNay/Mrs J. Crombie/Miss Z. Duncan

We welcome a number of new staff to school this year. Mrs Dingwall is our new P1 teacher. We have 2 newly qualified teachers, Miss Murray in P2 and Miss Leonard in P6. We welcome back Miss Harkness and Miss Rogerson from their maternity leave. We also welcome Miss Malone to our school office.

Mrs Denman left the QLC over the summer and Miss Duncan is now a full-time permanent teacher in the QLC.

We currently have had issues with staff absence and retention in the QLC and have four Support for Learning Assistant posts advertised with a closing date of 28th August. For pupil safety reasons, we have had to start the school year for QLC pupils on a reduced timetable, this is for pupil safety due to lack of staff training for temporary supply staff. This is not a decision that was taken lightly and we hope to have this remedied as soon as possible.

Structure of the school week

Information on the new structure of the school week proposal can be found [here](#).

The proposal says that there could be slightly longer days and one day per week that finishes at lunchtime. The council are holding various drop-in sessions regarding this and there will be information and staff available on the night and the opportunity to fill in a survey.

A full list of drop sessions is available on the above link and you are welcome to attend any of the drop-in sessions.

Our local consultation dates are

Dumfries High School – Mon 9th September

St. Joseph's College – Wed 11th September

Xpressions App

We ask that you download the 'Xpressions' app onto your smart phone or tablet device. This allows the school and local authority to contact and send you information for free. This will be used to send important school information and newsletters. Please see the link below for how to do this or go to app store and download Xpressions directly and follow log in information.

<https://parents.groupcall.com/setup/account-registration/>

The app uses the same name, mobile number and email address we have for you on the computer so any errors will flag up when you try to log in.

Should you receive any error messages trying to login please get in touch and we will check the information we have for you is correct.



Flu Nasal Spray

You will receive a form next week re flu vaccination in school. Please return this form to school even if your child does not require the vaccination.

The vaccinations will take place on **Thursday 5th November**.

Parent Council

The first Parent Council meeting of this session will be held on **Wednesday 28th August at 6pm**.

I would like to encourage as many parents as possible to come along and get involved for the benefit of the school and its pupils. For the Parent Council to continue in the valuable support it provides, it is important that as many parents as possible participate and support their children through the Parent Council. All are welcome to attend, being part of the Parent Council is a very rewarding experience with a friendly, relaxed group of people. Meetings are generally twice per term, they last approximately 1 hour and a range of topics are discussed including school development and social events.



School Uniform Expectations

We still have a big pile of unclaimed, sweatshirts, hoodies and jumpers from last session. Can we please ask you to put your child's name on their clothing as this saves us time and you money.

The expectation is that all pupils wear school uniform – polo shirts, sweatshirts, etc. These do not have to have the school badge on but this is preferable.

Pupils, especially younger children, who have P.E. at 9am, can come dressed ready for PE but are expected to change afterwards.

Class Newsletters

Each term you will receive a class swag / newsletter via Xpressions. This will have information regarding each individual class, PE times, topic work etc. The first class newsletter will be sent out next week. Photos and information on learning will be added by staff regularly.

Finally, I have taken the decision to 'retire' from my post as Head Teacher at Georgetown at the end of Term 2. Having been Head Teacher at Georgetown for over 15 years, the time is right for a change, both for myself and the school.

The Local Authority processes for the recruitment of a new Head Teacher will begin soon and will involve members of the Parent Council.

I will miss working with the many dedicated and talented staff in school, but I am sure that Georgetown will remain a fantastic place for children to learn and grow.

Any enquiries please contact

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