

Dumfries Academy

Parent Update 3 November 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to all our pupils.

We've had a busy first week. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Hallowe'en Disco. However, we have lots of events and activities planned for this term. We did have a very successful S1 Interim Parents Meeting on Thursday this week, and it was great to meet with our S1 families to provide more information on the S1 experience here.

We launched our Breakfast Club this week, too. We are committed to promoting a healthy start to the day, and have been chosen as a pilot school for Magic Breakfasts. This means we are likely to increase our provision in the longer term. For the short term, we are running an S1-3 club on a Monday and an S4-6 club on a Friday. Please encourage your child to come along for a healthy breakfast. Recent surveys showed us that at least 50% of pupils do not eat breakfast before school.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 6 November – S1-3 Breakfast Club, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM, Main Hall; MVP Training, all day, the bridge

Tuesday 7 November – Trip to Manchester City Etihad Stadium, Noon - late

Wednesday 8 November – School closed to pupils; MVP Training, all day, the bridge

Friday 10 November – S4-6 Breakfast Club, 8.30 AM -8.50 AM, Main Hall

Industrial Action

School is closed to pupils all day on Wednesday 8 November due to industrial action by Unison members.

Dumfries Academy Refurbishment Plans

You may have heard through local news channels that we were unsuccessful in achieving LEIP 3 funding to augment the monies available for our school to be refurbished, and for the relocation of Loreburn Primary to the Minerva Building.

This is hugely disappointing. We still have guaranteed funding from our local authority for the project, but it will certainly not cover the extent of refurbishment needed to afford us the scale and quality that the school rightly expected, as part of the Dumfries Learning Town project that was started over 10 years ago.

I am currently liaising with local authority representatives to set up discussions around next steps and will keep our community up to date with any new information. In the meantime, I trust that I can count on your support to ensure that we receive the funding promised and

that we think creatively about how to ensure that our building is upgraded to give our learners the resources and experiences they deserve.

School Trips

The S4 Trip to Barcelona was launched this week.

Pupils who are interested should have taken letters home.

The S3 Trip to London will be launched to pupils next week.

S1 Trip to West Linton - 15 – 17 April 2024 and 17-19 April 2024. We will be running the same trip twice during week beginning 15 April. This means all S1 pupils can participate if they wish to do so. This trip will be launched shortly.

Meeting with Staff

A reminder that parents/carers who wish to meet with a member of staff to discuss matters regarding their child's welfare or progress should telephone the school office to make an appointment. We are seeing an increasing number of parents/carers arriving in school requesting to see staff immediately. Whilst we are delighted to welcome parents/carers to the school, the nature of the working day for staff means that unarranged meetings are usually not possible.

Save the Date

Community Evening – Tuesday 14 November (please note change of date), Main Hall, time TBC

Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 15 November, 6.30 PM, G4

Senior Dance – Thursday 14 December, 7.30 PM to 10.30 PM, Main Hall

Junior Dance – Wednesday 20 December, 7.00 PM to 9.30 PM, Main Hall

Attendance

A reminder to report pupil absences via the pupil absence line below. You should state the pupil's name, Tutor Group, reason for absence and expected duration of absence.

Pupil Absence Line: 01387 274356

All previous updates will be archived on our new website. You will be able to find reminders about school uniform, social areas, health and safety and other key school information.

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher