

# Dumfries Academy

## Parent Update 22 September 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Despite very mixed weather during the last week, we have had a very productive time in and out of school with trips, skills for work input, a very lovely S1 family games night and a netball opener for junior school.

This week, we also have lots going on. We are working really hard to ensure that all learners are ready to learn when they enter a classroom. This involves us working together to create a shared understanding of expectations within the classroom, teachers using methods to ensure pupils understand what they are learning and learners taking responsibility for their learning, behaviour and progress.

Our Dumfries Academy lessons are underpinned by the principles of: **Ready, Respond, Reflect**

These are concepts that all of our learners should be gradually becoming familiar with.

### **Industrial Action**

A letter was issued to all parents/carers today confirming that, owing to industrial action by UNISON members, Dumfries Academy **will only be open to S5/6 pupils on Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September**. Online learning resources will be available for pupils in S1-4 during these three days. Full details of the arrangements are contained within the aforementioned letter.

### **Dates for the Diary**

**Monday 25 September – Friday 29 September, NHS Work Experience, some S4/5 pupils, Maths Week Scotland**

**Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September – School building closed to S1-4 pupils due to industrial action by UNISON members.**

**Tuesday 26 September – European Day of Languages, Parent Council Meeting, 6.30 PM, room G4.**

**Wednesday 27 September – Senior Awards Ceremony, 6.30 PM, Main Hall**

**Thursday 28 September – S4/5 History Trip to Bannockburn, 8.00 AM to 6.00 PM; Ski Trip Parents' Meeting, Castle Douglas High School, 6.45 PM**

**Friday 29 September – Disability Sports Swimming Gala, Annan Swimming Pool, 9.45 AM to 2.15 PM**

### **Coffee Morning**

A Fairtrade Coffee Morning will be held at St George's Church Hall on Saturday 30 September 10:00 AM -12:00 PM to raise money for an international trip to Kenya. There will be live entertainment performed by pupils throughout the morning and a selection of stalls. We hope to see you there.

### **Save the Date**

P7 Transition Evening - Tuesday 10 Oct, 6.30 PM, Main Hall

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

(Please note there was an error in the key dates calendar that said the senior dance was on 15 Dec)

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

### **SQA Exam Timetable 2024**

The updated SQA timetable is now available on the SQA website and can also be found on the link below:

[https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf)

Family holidays should not be planned during exam diet as there is no absentee consideration available in these circumstances.

### **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

### **Health and Safety**

We held a Fire Drill this week and will be holding a Safe Inside Together (Lockdown) Drill before the end of term. The Fire Drill was completed successfully and pupils are now fully aware of procedures in the event of a fire.

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

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher