

Dumfries Academy

Parent Update 17 November 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

We have had another busy week. Our Community Evening was a great success, our Parent Council Meeting was well attended, and the vast majority of our young people are working well and achieving success.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 20 November – Breakfast Club, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM; Career Visit to Police HQ, S5/5 Group, Periods 6 and 7

Tuesday 21 November – SDS S3 Group work, Period 3, M12

Friday 24 November – Breakfast Club, 8.30 AM -8.50 AM, Minerva; Netball Bake Sale, Morning Break, Minerva

Dumfries Academy Refurbishment Plans

We await further information on the committed funding from our local authority. This item will be on the agenda of the next meeting of Dumfries and Galloway Council's Education Committee. Our Parent Council met with Education Staff and our elected member, CLLR Campbell to discuss our immediate school priorities. These include our toilet facilities, our PE facilities and our digital infrastructure. Our Parent Council will be working closely with us to gather and represent views to take to local elected members in the near future. We hope new members can come along to share their views.

School Trips

There are 4 spaces on the Barcelona Trip. This is the last chance for any S4 pupil to sign up for a space. Spaces will then be offered to senior phase pupils pursuing qualifications in Modern Languages. A deposit of £150 is due as soon as possible, before Tuesday 21 November.

The S3 London Trip has been launched. Pupils must note their interest by Friday 24 November 2023. NO monies are required until their space has been confirmed.

Social Areas

Please remind your child of the following arrangements for social areas:

- S1 - Cafe (indoor); rear of school (outdoor)
- S2 - Cafe (indoor); front of link corridor (outdoor)
- S3 - Main Hall (indoor); front of main building (outdoor)
- S4 - Main Hall (indoor); front of main building (outdoor)
- S5 - Minerva (indoor); front of Minerva building (outdoor)
- S6 - Minerva (indoor); front of Minerva building (outdoor)

S1 on site at both break and lunch
S2 -3 on site at break, but allowed off at lunch
S4 -6 allowed off site at break and lunch

We are seeing an increasing number S1 pupils going off site at lunch and S1-3 pupils going off site at morning break. This is not permitted.

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

P7 Parent Event - Wednesday 29 November (for those who could not attend our event on 10 October) – 4.00 PM- 6.00 PM, Main Hall

School Photos (catch up for those who missed initial date) – Thursday 30 November, all day, Main Hall

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