



Dear Parent/Carer

We managed to brave the very stormy weather this week. You may, however, have seen reference, in the media, to some areas of our school that are not wind and water-tight. As with most school buildings like Dumfries Academy, which has had different teaching areas added over the years, there are parts that are in need of repair. Thankfully, repairs related to a confined area of RAAC have been carried out and that is one less thing to worry about. However, we continue to put forward our views on our entitlement to a building that meets the needs of our learners and staff. Our elected members have been invited to visit the school to see the great work we do, despite under-investment in some areas of the building, which are largely irreparable and require a refurbishment or re-build. Costed options for our refurbishment are being presented to Education Committee in March, and we will keep you updated on progress. Meanwhile, rest-assured that we will do our utmost to lobby for the best possible outcome for Dumfries Academy pupils.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 29 January - Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM

Tuesday 30 January - Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM

Wednesday 31 January - Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM; S3 London Trip Parent Information Evening, 5.30 PM

Thursday 1 February – Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM; S2 Parents' Meeting, Minerva, 4.00 PM -6.30 PM

Friday 2 February – Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM;

Sunday 4 – Saturday 10 February - Ski Trip

Save the Date

SQA Musical Showcase – Tuesday 6 February, Main Hall, 6.00 PM – 8.00 PM

S4-6 Prelims – Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February (2nd diet)

Mid Term Holiday for pupils - Monday 12 February - Wednesday 14 February (inclusive)

Tesco Tokens

Voting is now open. Please vote for us and encourage family and friends to do the same. You can collect Tesco tokens from your local store. Please make sure you pick them up from the tubs at the self-service checkouts, too. We are one of three organisations to be featured until the end of March. The school could receive up to £1500 to help sustain our breakfast bar, which is available for all pupils 5 mornings a week.

Winter Weather Arrangements

These arrangements can now be found on our school website and were shared via Groupcall Xpressions earlier this week.



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.

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