



Dear Parent/Carer

Our ski trip appears to have gone very well this week. We wish our pupils a safe journey home. Once again, we have had a very busy week with cinema visits, careers events and sporting fixtures. Alongside this, our pupils have been excelling in and out of class. As always, please see our Facebook Page and the local press for news of our pupils' successes.

Pupil Holidays

A reminder that pupils are on holiday from Monday 12 February to Wednesday 14 February. Any senior phase pupil who wishes a safe and quiet space to study may use the Minerva Hall or High Tech. Please note that this is not supported study and pupils would not be fully supervised. If they do wish to use school facilities, they must sign in and out at the main door.

Exam Stress Workshops

Our school counsellor, Ben Hughes, is offering workshops on how to cope with exams on Tuesday 13. Should your child wish to attend, they should contact Ben via his e mail address below:

Ben.hughes@dumgal.gov.uk

Breakfast Bar

Breakfast Bar continues to be popular. On Friday 16 February, we will be serving pancakes, as well as our usual hot drinks, cereal, toast and bagels. This is to belatedly celebrate Shrove Tuesday. We hope to see as many pupils as possible coming along to join us and make a positive start to the day.

Barcelona Trip

A space has become available on the Barcelona Trip. The trip leaves on 1 June 2024 and returns on 4 June 2024. The cost is £820 per pupil. This includes, airport transfers, flights, most meals, accommodation and several guided tours. It is open to any pupil in S4-6. For more information, see Mrs Dillon, Mrs Wilson or Mr Scade.

Staffing

We are delighted that Miss Bone has been appointed Acting PT Maths, Numeracy and Digital Learning and will be taking over from Miss Mair, who leaves us today.

Mrs C Hurley joins us from Annan Academy at the beginning of March as Principal Teacher of Additional Support Needs. We are looking forward to welcoming her to the school.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 15 February – Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM

Friday 16 February – Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM

Save the Date,

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



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.

Dumfries Academy Parent /Carer Update
9 February 2024



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