



Dear Parent/Carer

This week our pupils sitting SQA Music Exams practised their performances in front of families and friends. This was a lovely way to showcase their talents and prepare for final exams. S1 pupils received their reports and should be very pleased with progress to date. We were also visited by Jen Kemp from Live'n'Learn who ran workshops on entrepreneurial attitudes for some of our S2 and S3 pupils. The NHS vaccination team also carried out Teenage Booster Vaccinations for S3 pupils, who were impeccably behaved. Some of our S4/5 pupils also visited Dumfries House again and took part in outdoor learning activities.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 4 March – N5/H Music Practical Exams

Tuesday 5 March – Quality Improvement Visit 12.00 PM; S4-6 Option Information Evening, 6.30 PM, Main Hall

Wednesday 6 March - N5/H Music Practical Exams; S1 Family Football Event, 6.30 PM, Games Hall

Thursday 7 March – N5/H Music Practical Exams; S5/6 Options Interviews, All Day, G4

Friday 8 March – S5/6 Options Interviews, All Day, G4; Visit by Elected Members 12.30 PM

Parent Council

Unfortunately, our Parent Council Meeting was cancelled at short notice this week. The Parent Council will reschedule and will share the new date soon.

S1 Family Football Event

As of our school improvement planning, we have attempted to provide more opportunities for family events. This week, we have yet another exciting event for S1 families and have extended this invitation to S2 school of football families, as well. Please come along to our Family Football Event in the Games Hall on Wednesday evening at 6.30 PM for some family fun.

Important Visits

This week we will be visited by 3 members of our Education Team, who will be visiting classes and speaking to pupils and staff. This is similar to what happens in a school inspection but just focused on one Quality Indicator (Learning, Teaching and Assessment). We have been working hard to develop a consistent approach to a lesson model at Dumfries Academy, which we call the DA Way. We have been gathering pupils' views and have been focusing staff training on different parts of the lesson structure.



We are also being visited by a number of elected members on Friday 8 March. They will be speaking to staff and pupils and touring the school. This is to help show them the areas of the school that are in poor condition and to help shape plans for school refurbishment. Some plans will be presented to the Council in March but it is likely that more discussion will need to take place to work out the cost and feasibility of these plans. As always, we want the best for our learners.

Tesco Tokens

Please keep voting for us and encourage family and friends to do the same. Our slot ends mid-March so please continue to collect as many as you can.

Recognising Good Service and Support

It was lovely to receive compliments from parents/carers who felt that their children have been well-supported and cared for at Dumfries Academy. It is always good to hear what is going well, so please remember to let us know via the link below. All compliments are shared with staff concerned.

<https://forms.office.com/e/HMcANQqJn1>

Winter Weather Arrangements

These arrangements can now be found on our school website.

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.

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, Parent Portal, social areas, health and safety and other key school information.

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher