



## Parent/Carer Update 23 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to all our learners. I hope you had a lovely summer, despite the very mixed weather.

We are delighted to welcome our new S1 cohort. They have settled in well over the past few days and it was lovely to see them enjoying our family breakfast on their first day. I would like to remind you that breakfast is available for all pupils in the Minerva building each morning from 8.15 AM. Breakfast is fully funded.

I would also like to congratulate all of our senior phase pupils for their SQA performance. I am delighted that all of our leavers were successful in their university applications and are now embarking on the next phase of their education. We wish them all the best.

In the coming weeks I will share data on our very strong SQA performance. The number of pupils attaining 1, 3 and 5 Higher passes is at its highest level in Dumfries Academy history. I am also delighted to share that S4 performance has been on an increasing 3-year trend and exceeds pre-Covid performance.

At the end of last term, the school revised its Vision, Values and Aims. I will share these with you in the next update. Your views have been considered, along with pupils, staff and partners and will help shape the future for learners at Dumfries Academy.

### Dates for the Diary

**No significant events week beginning 26 August**

### Save the Date

**Wednesday 4 September – Community Drop in- Structure of the School Week engagement session, Main Hall, 4.00 -7.30 PM**

**Wednesday 11 September, Parent Council AGM, G4, 6.00 PM.**

**S1 Football Tournament, Main Hall, 6.30-8.30pm**

### School Uniform

Our incoming S1 pupils have received a complimentary school tie. Our new S4 pupils are required to buy a senior tie from the school office. Ties are priced at £6.50. We would ask that all new S4 pupils are in possession of a senior tie by the time they return to school after the summer break.

We would be delighted if school leavers wish to donate uniform items such as school ties and blazers, as we can then recycle them and reduce costs for parents/carers. Please hand in any pre-loved items to our school office.



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A reminder that school uniform should be worn at all times in school. Pupils should wear a shirt, blazer, tie, appropriate school trousers, skirt or black jeans and black shoes or trainers.

Leggings, football/gym/cycling shorts and jogging bottoms are not part of school uniform. School-style shorts may be worn in warm weather. Please bear these guidelines in mind when buying new uniform for your child.

### **Social Areas**

S1 – Café (indoor), rear of school (outdoor)

S2 – Café (indoor), front of link corridor (outdoor), **town centre for lunch time only**

S3 – Main Hall (indoor), front of main building (outdoor), **town centre for lunch time only**

S4 – Main Hall (indoor), front of main building (outdoor), **town centre for break/lunch**

S5 – Minerva (Indoor), front of Minerva (outdoor), **town centre for break/lunch**

S6 – Minerva (indoor), front of Minerva (outdoor), **town centre for break/lunch**

### **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>

### **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