



## Parent/Carer Update 30 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of last term, the school revised its Vision, Values and Aims. I attach a copy of our new poster, which has been completed in collaboration with pupils. The refreshed Vision, Values and Aims underpin the work of the school and we will be working with our community to ensure these are embedded in our culture.

### Dates for the Diary

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

### Save the Date

**Tuesday 10 September – Senior Phase Information Evening, Main Hall, Time 6.00-7.30pm**

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

### Staffing

We are delighted to have been joined by the following new staff:

**Mr Kirkpatrick – English**

**Miss Chalk – Social Subjects**

**Miss Wilson – Business Studies**

**Miss Gibson – Science**

**Mrs Caldwell – Music**

**Mrs Bathgate – Modern Languages**

**Miss Hyslop – Home Economics**

**Mr McWilliam - Mathematics**

**Mr Drummond – Craft, Design and Technology (re-joins us after secondment)**

**Mrs Nicol – Administrative Assistant (re-joins us following maternity leave)**

**Miss McKellar – Support for Learning Assistant**

**Mr Drennan has taken up a 12-month seconded post at Douglas Ewart High School. We wish him well in his new post.**

### Breakfast Bar/Universal Support

Our breakfast bar has gone from strength to strength. Our S1 pupils are enjoying the positive start to the day and our S6 pupils are enjoying serving them breakfast and helping them settle in. Breakfast bar is open to any pupil and member of staff from 8.15 AM to 8.50 AM every morning. There is no charge.

We are also delighted that pupils are using our equity boxes in Minerva. These boxes contain items such as tights, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary products, toiletries and stationery. Pupils can take whatever they need to support wellbeing and learning. Again, there is no charge.



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### School Uniform

I must compliment all pupils who adhere to our school uniform policy. In particular, I want to congratulate our new S1s who have embraced the policy and made a fantastic start in relation to school uniform standards. Well done to our pupils and families for showing that they are proud to wear our uniform and be identified as a Dumfries Academy pupil.

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.

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.

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.



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### **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

# OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

## Aim 1



Our school is a safe, nurturing environment for all

## Aim 2



Our pupils care about their learning and want to achieve



**OUR VISION**  
**Learning together for a better future**  
*- Doctrina Promovet*

## Aim 3



Our pupils develop skills for life, learning and work

## Aim 4



With others, our school creates a community we can be proud of

## OUR VALUES



Compassion



Fairness



Respect



Ambition



Responsibility