



Parent/Carer Update 8 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The school photographer visited us this week. Almost all pupils were photographed. There will be a catch up session and S6 Group photo on Friday 29 November.

P7 Teachers from our cluster schools visited Dumfries Academy on Thursday, too, and enjoyed a day of shadowing their former pupils to see how they had settled in to secondary school. They were very complimentary about pupils' progress in S1.

Pupils also represented the school at U16 Football and we took a group of pupils to a netball fixture at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow and some of our pupils participated in the Disability Sports Boccia Festival.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 11 November – Remembrance Assembly, Main Hall, Period 3

Thursday 14 November – Dumfries and Galloway Schools' Swimming Championships, DG1, 8.30AM – 3.15 PM; NHS and YouthWork Healthzone Drop-in, Minerva, lunchtime

Friday 15 November – S1 Nurture Group Visit to Canine Rescue Centre, 11.35AM – 1.05 PM

Save the date

Monday 18-Friday 22 November – S3 Exams

Wednesday 20 November – Parent Council Meeting; S1/2 Parent/Pupil Family Engagement Event (details to specific families)

Tuesday 26 November – Manchester City Trip; Opportunity for P7 Parents to visit 4-6 PM if they missed P7 Evening on 10 Oct

Wednesday 27 November – Flu Vaccinations

Friday 29 November – School Photographer visit (catch up for those who missed out on 7 November)

Staffing

Dr Gordon will be absent from Thursday 14 November recovering from surgery. We wish Dr Gordon a speedy recovery. In her absence, Mr Mika will be Acting Depute Head Teacher and Miss McGuire will be Acting Principal Teacher of Social Subjects. We wish them good luck in their new posts. Congratulations are also extended to Mrs Farish, who has just been appointed to the permanent position of Administrative Assistant.

Mr Taylor joins us on Fridays. Mr Taylor is a teacher of Craft, Design and Technology and will be covering National 5 Practical Woodworking and National 5 Design and Manufacture classes.



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Breakfast Bar

A reminder that our Breakfast Bar is available to all pupils Monday to Friday from 8.15 AM in Minerva. During this term, we are also having two themed breakfasts where we will be serving Scottish Breakfasts for our St Andrew's themed breakfast on Friday 29 November and our popular Christmas Hot Chocolate Friday on 20 December.

Equity Boxes

As the winter weather creeps in, we want to remind you that we provide socks and tights free of charge in our equity boxes. We also provide toothpaste, toothbrushes, toiletries, stationery, sanitary products and shoe laces. Pupils may take what they need.

School Café

All S1 pupils must remain on site at lunch time. They may bring a packed lunch or use our school café. The school café provides an excellent choice of hot and cold foods. We have become aware that not all pupils are purchasing lunch from the café. Given that they are not permitted to be off-site, we are concerned that they may not be eating lunch. Please advise your child that he/she must remain on site and use the school café.

Should you feel you require any financial assistance with school meals or clothing, you can contact us at the school for advice or use the link below to see if you are eligible for assistance:

[Free school meals | Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

School Uniform

The standard of school uniform is satisfactory but could be better. We are one of very few schools that has provided ties free of charge to ensure that every pupil has a tie at the start of S1. I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child wears a school shirt, tie, appropriate skirt/trousers and black footwear to school every day. School blazers should also be worn and are particularly needed as an extra layer under an outdoor jacket as we see the colder weather creeping in.

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