



## Parent/Carer Update 15 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Our school values are important to us and this week we saw them in action in a variety of ways:

**Compassion:** our Nurture pupils visited the Canine Rescue Centre; they had a fantastic time and learned about care and welfare of animals in need

**Ambition:** Aaron and Ivan showed ambition this week, achieving success in swimming and Taekwondo

**Respect:** Our S1-3 pupils showed respect during our Remembrance Assembly on Monday, as did Kadie and Erin when they attended the Remembrance Service at St George's Church on Sunday

**Responsibility:** David, Archie and Sam took responsibility for presenting the Remembrance Assembly to our pupils and our pupils across a range of subjects are taking responsibility for their learning; our Prefects continue to take responsibility to serve breakfast and supervise younger pupils at social times

**Fairness:** Our breakfast bar and equity boxes ensure that all our pupils have access to breakfast and other items so that they can make a positive start to the day

These are just a few examples of how Dumfries Academy pupils are doing themselves and the school proud. Keep up the good work!

### Dates for the Diary

**Monday 18-Friday 22 November – S3 Exams**

**Wednesday 20 November- S1/2 Parent/Pupil Family Cooking Event, HE Department, 6.00 PM -7.30 PM**

**Thursday 21 November – Parent Council Meeting; G4, 6.30 PM**

**Friday 22 November – Visit from poet Matt Goodfellow, S1 and 2 Pupils, English Department, Periods 1-5**

### Save the date

**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)**

### Parent Council

Our Parent Council does great work on behalf of our school community. It is meeting again on Thursday 21 November at 6.00 PM in G4. Please come along and help shape improvements for our school, as well as getting involved in events. We are organising another Burns Supper in January. We are also now working alongside school estates staff to find out more about



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plans for Dumfries Academy refurbishment and believe we are close to seeing the latest designs for our school.

### **Staffing**

Dr Gordon's operation has been postponed, so she will not be absent at this point. Mr Mika is Acting Depute Head Teacher, currently covering Mr Aitken's absence.

I am delighted to announce that Mr Wilson has been appointed Principal Teacher of Maths, Numeracy and Technologies. Miss Bone, finishes this acting position on Friday 22 November and takes up a new post at Stranraer Academy as Principal Teacher of Social Subjects. We wish her every success in her new post and will miss her.

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.

### **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.

From Monday 18 November, we will also be serving baked beans.

### **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](#)



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### **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