



Parent/Carer Update 22 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: We are kind to people who are feeling unwell. As winter illnesses are upon us, we make sure that we support people to get well.

Ambition: Our S3 pupils are sitting assessments and are trying hard to achieve success in their learning and attainment.

Respect: Pupils participated in various activities and trips, showing respect to others outwith school.

Responsibility: Our S1/2 families came together to cook health family meals. This showed that pupils and parents/carers were taking responsibility to learn transferable skills

Fairness: Our pupils who are in need of additional arrangements for exams and assessments are well catered for to ensure they are not disadvantaged.

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 25 November-Wednesday 27 November – S1-3 Wellbeing Interviews with Pupil Support Staff (check in with all of our S1-3 pupils to seek views and track wellbeing)

Tuesday 26 November – Manchester City Trip, 12.00 PM -1.30 AM; P7 Parents/Pupils to visit 4-6 PM if they missed P7 Evening on 10 Oct

Wednesday 27 November – Flu Vaccinations, Main Hall, all day

Friday 29 November –St Andrew’s Breakfast, Minerva, 8.15 AM; School Photographer visit, Main Hall, Periods 1-5 (catch up for those who missed out on 7 November)

Save the date

Monday 2 December – Friday 13 December – National 5 Prelims

Monday 2 December, Rotary Christmas Party

Wednesday 4 December, D& G Schools Engineering Competition

Thursday 12 December, School Christmas Lunch

Saturday 14 December, Coffee and Carols 10 AM-2PM (poster attached)

Tuesday 17 December, Junior Christmas Dance

Wednesday 18 December, S1-3 Tracking Reports issued; S3 Parents Meetings

Thursday 19 December, S1 Science Trip to Glasgow, Senior Christmas Dance

Friday 20 December, Christmas Services (St George’s Church); last day of term; non-uniform day



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Winter Weather

Thankfully, we were not affected by recent snowfall that hit other parts of the country. However, there has definitely been a decrease in temperature and I would urge parents/carers to ensure pupils are well wrapped-up for winter weather and have suitable footwear in case of icy conditions. Please see link below for a reminder on winter weather arrangements for our school.

[Winter Weather – Dumfries Academy](#)

School Toilets

I am hopeful that work to renovate our school toilets will begin next week. Last term a group of S1-6 pupils carried out an inspection of our pupil toilets and made a list of what they would like repaired or renewed. I am delighted that their voice is being heard and that we can look forward to much needed improvements in these facilities. This will mean that the Minerva boys' toilets will be unavailable for one week. During that time, all boys can use the S1-3 boys' toilets in the basement and the single use toilets during class time.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council is meeting with representatives from the school estates team on 4 December at 6 PM in G4. We hope that the team will be able to answer questions about our plans and timelines for school refurbishment. Any parent is most welcome to come along and find out more. The school is being refurbished and funds have been committed to this project. Your views and questions would be most appreciated.

Staffing

Mr Mika is currently Acting Depute Head Teacher, covering Mr Aitken's absence.

Miss McGuire is now Acting Principal Teacher of Social Subjects.

Mr Wilson begins his new post as Principal Teacher of Maths, Numeracy and Technologies on 25 November.

Miss Little begins a seconded post, 3 days per week, as Principal Teacher of Additional Support with the local authority on 2 December, but remains with us as Teacher of ASL and Psychology 2 days per week.

Mr Taylor has joined us on Fridays. Mr Taylor is a teacher of Craft, Design and Technology and is teaching 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.



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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 and S4. 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