



## Parent/Carer Update 1 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back. I hope you and your child(ren) had a very pleasant October Break.

Although just back, we have had a very productive week. Seven S2 pupils took part in a 3 day residential trip at Barcaple Outdoor Centre; S3 pupils took part in a STEM trip to the National Museum of Scotland; we had an S1 Family Learning Event to showcase the S1 experience and highlight how families can support their child; many of our junior pupils donned some spooky costumes for our Hallowe'en Disco (Thank you to our S6 Events Committee and our Parent Council Chair, Liza Vinnie, for organising) and our N5/Higher Music pupils are attending Music Concert at the bridge today.

Today, we are holding assemblies on safety in the lead up to Bonfire Night. These are being held to ensure that pupils understand the importance of safe practices and behaviour. We have been advised that there have already been concerns in Dumfries about risk taking behaviour and we want to ensure that no-one is hurt or injured. Pupils should only attend events which have been organised by responsible adults.

### Dates for the Diary

**Monday 4 November –**

**Tuesday 5 November**

**Wednesday 6 November –**

**Thursday 7 November – School Photographer, all day; Disability Sports Boccia Festival; Celtic Clash Netball Emirates Arena Glasgow; P7 Teachers visiting S1 classes**

**Friday 8 November –**

### Save the date

Monday 18-Friday 22 November – S3 Exams

Wednesday 20 November – Parent Council Meeting

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

We currently have 2 vacancies for full time teachers in Craft Design and Technology and Modern Languages. Despite attempts to recruit, we have not managed to secure teachers in these subject and this is in line with national trends and shortages in certain subjects. In the meantime, we are pleased to have managed to secure very strong supply teachers. We have also modified our timetable for some junior classes to ensure a consistent experience, based on developing key skills, whilst we seek to address the recruitment challenges we face.



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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.

Please be aware that we have various pre-loved and new items available in school. We will be displaying these at family events and merely asking for a small donation, depending on the item.

Tights, socks and shoe laces can be obtained by pupils at any time, at no cost, from our equity boxes placed in Minerva.

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