



## Parent/Carer Update 02 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

This is the last update of session 2024-2025.

On return to school in August, I will issue our Standards and Quality Report to the wider community, as well as a copy of our 2025-2026 Improvement Plan. In the meantime, please spare a few moments to complete a short form to gather your thoughts on our planned priorities for next session:

<https://forms.office.com/e/85dkPkkTiq>

We have had a fantastic year. Our school community has gone from strength to strength and we have seen so much talent, hard work, ambition, compassion and respect from pupils and staff this session. We have enjoyed working with families and meeting new pupils.

We look forward, with optimism, to what lies ahead next session.

We wish all pupils awaiting exam results on 5 August the very Best of Luck. School is closed during the whole of July for survey work to be carried out to support our planned refurbishment – this is exciting news, and I hope to share updates and plans early next session. Senior Managers will be in school from 10 AM – 2 PM on Tuesday 5 August. Pupils/parents may phone the school office if they have queries/require support with exam results.

We wish all of those pupils leaving us to undertake employment, training, Further/Higher Education the best of luck and look forward to hearing their success stories.

We look forward to welcoming over 120 new S1 pupils in August. We will share the date for blazer pick-ups when it has been confirmed by our supplier. Ties may also be collected at this time, or from 5 August onwards.

### **Non-Uniform Day**

There is a non-uniform day on Thursday 3 July. We ask that pupils donate food for local food banks and to support families over the summer. All donations should be handed in to Minerva Breakfast Bar on arrival at school.

### **Dates for the Diary**

**Thursday 3 July – Last Day of Term, Non-Uniform (school closes for summer holidays at 3.20 PM); Talent Concert, Main Hall, Periods 6 & 7**

### **Save the date**

**Tuesday 5 August – SQA Results issued**

**21<sup>st</sup> August – Pupils return to school, 8.50 AM**



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### Staffing

We say “Farewell” to the following colleagues and wish them all the very best for the future; they have been assets to our school and will be missed by pupils and staff. We wish them all the very best for ventures new, whether that is new posts, new babies, new direction or retirement:

Mrs Adair (Art and Design) – Retiring

Mr Viola (Physics) – Retiring

Mrs Murray (Art and Design) – Change of career

Mr Kirkpatrick (English) – New post at Castle Douglas High School

Miss Gibson – New Teaching Post

Ms Desai (Chemistry) – Maternity Leave

Mrs McColl (Art and Design) – Maternity Leave

Miss Gillan (Admin/Support Team) – New post at Queensberry Learning Centre

Mr Leadbetter (Careers Advisor) – New post at DAGCOL

We have a number of new staff starting in August who will be introduced to our community in the first update of the new term in August.

### Reminder - Change to School Day

The new school day is now in place.

Please note that it is imperative that pupils turn up on time for school, as lessons begin at 8.50 AM. Tutor Time now takes place later in the day. Please see structure of school day below. **Being 5 minutes late to school every day equates to 3 days of lost learning per year!**

Period 1	8.50 am - 9.35 am
Period 2	9.35 am - 10.20 am
Check In (Tutor time/PSE/Learning)	10.20 am - 10.35 am
<b>Break</b>	10.35 am - 10.50 am
Period 3	10.50 am - 11.35 am
Period 4	11.35 am - 12.20 pm
Period 5	12.20 pm - 1.05 pm
<b>Lunch</b>	1.05 pm - 1.50 pm
Period 6	1.50 pm - 2.35 pm
Period 7	2.35 pm - 3.20 pm



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### Parents Evenings/Pupil Reports

Please see provisional dates for next session:

Year Group	Parents Evening	Reports
S1	29 October – Meet the Teacher 23 April – Tutors	18 September (Tracking), 9 March (Tracking), 21 April (Full)
S2	26 February – Subject Teachers	18 September (Tracking), 13 November (Tracking), 23 February (Full)
S3	10 December – Subject Teachers	18 September (Tracking), 3 December (Full)
S4	14 January - Subject Teachers	2 October (Tracking), 8 January (Tracking), 25 March (Tracking)
S5	10 February – Subject Teachers	2 October (Tracking), 6 February (Tracking), 25 March (Tracking)
S6	10 February – Subject Teachers	2 October (Tracking), 6 February (Tracking), 25 March (Tracking)

### Social Areas

Social Areas for pupils from August are as follows:

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)

S5 – Minerva (indoor), front of Minerva (outdoor)

S6 – Minerva (indoor), front of Minerva (outdoor)

**\*Please note S1-3 pupils are not allowed off site at morning break; S4-6 pupils are allowed off site for break and lunch**

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher