



Parent/Carer Update 7 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We've had a very busy and successful week this week. Our S3 pupils had a very insightful day, working with various community partners to help them make positive choices to support their safety and wellbeing. Two S1 classes visited the Oasis Centre and D&G Police to find out how to keep themselves and others safe. Our Parent Council met to discuss various matters, including to plan a very innovative employability event for parents next Thursday. Our Pupil Council also met to discuss various matters, including social areas in school. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated, as was World Book Day. We are very proud of all of the achievements of our pupils and staff in school. We are working together to create great opportunities for everyone.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 10 March – S2 Options Interviews, G4. all day; Pupil Council, G4 , lunch time; SQA Music Exams (practical) all day

Tuesday 11 March – S2 Options Interviews, G4. all day; SQA Music Exams (practical) all day

Wednesday 12 March – S4 Trip to Smiths at Gretna (ACM Group), all day; National No Smoking Day (PHSE lessons will focus on this topic this week)

Thursday 13 March – S1 Trip to Oasis Centre (2 classes); all day; Parent Employability Event, Minerva, 6 PM – 8 PM

Save the date

17 March – HPV Vaccinations, Powering Futures Event at DAGCOL

19 March – Music Competition heats

21 March – Nurture Bake Sale/Comic Relief

24 March – Malory Nursery visit

27 March – S6 Leavers Ceremony, S4-6 tracking Reports issued (final estimates)

28 March – S6 Trip to Alton Towers, Easter Service

Learning and Teaching

This week we were visited by our Quality Improvement Team. The team spoke to 2 groups of pupils and 14 staff about learning and assessment and about how we track pupils' progress. It was a very positive visit. I will share key messages with you once we have the published report. Our pupils were a credit to themselves and the school.

Easter School

We are fortunate to be able to run Easter School revision sessions during the second week on the Easter holidays. Revision sessions will run for 3 days from Tuesday 8 -Thursday 10 April between 9.15 AM and 1.00 PM. Pupils will be asked to sign up for sessions they wish to attend. A Microsoft form will be issued to them next week for this purpose. We will also be providing general purpose space for study during these three days, should a particular subject not be

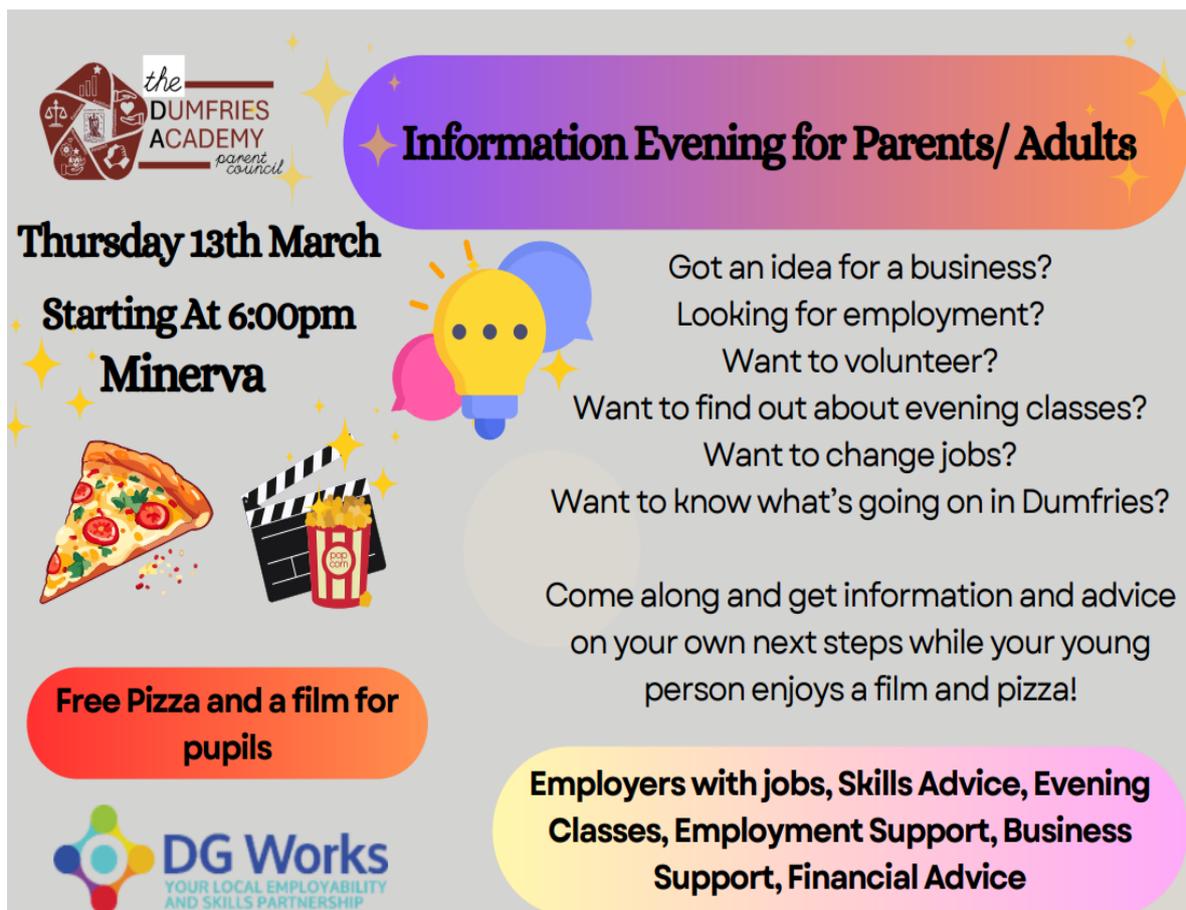
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available as a revision class, or a pupil just wishes to study away from their home environment.

Parent Council Events

There is a very exciting, free event for parents/carers (and their children) on Thursday 13 March. This is a parent employability event in partnership with other organisations. Please come along between 6 and 8 PM. Please indicate your attendance via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/jsZFPvRMr6>



The poster features the Dumfries Academy Parent Council logo at the top left. A large purple-to-orange gradient banner contains the title 'Information Evening for Parents/ Adults'. Below the banner, the date 'Thursday 13th March' and time 'Starting At 6:00pm' are listed, along with the venue 'Minerva'. Illustrations of a pizza, a clapperboard, and popcorn are shown. A list of questions is provided, such as 'Got an idea for a business?' and 'Looking for employment?'. A red-to-orange gradient box states 'Free Pizza and a film for pupils'. A yellow-to-pink gradient box lists services: 'Employers with jobs, Skills Advice, Evening Classes, Employment Support, Business Support, Financial Advice'. The DG Works logo is at the bottom left.

 **Information Evening for Parents/ Adults**

Thursday 13th March
Starting At 6:00pm
Minerva

Got an idea for a business?
Looking for employment?
Want to volunteer?
Want to find out about evening classes?
Want to change jobs?
Want to know what's going on in Dumfries?

Come along and get information and advice on your own next steps while your young person enjoys a film and pizza!

Free Pizza and a film for pupils

Employers with jobs, Skills Advice, Evening Classes, Employment Support, Business Support, Financial Advice

 **DG Works**
YOUR LOCAL EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

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Vision, Values and Aims

Learning together for a better future



Each week we highlight examples of how school community ensures that our values are embedded in our culture.

Compassion – I have seen several pupils supporting their peers this week when they have felt unwell and needed to be cared for.

Fairness – We have received a further parental donation of items for our breakfast bar and equity boxes and another parent and St George’s Church have also promised donations of money and food items again this week.

Respect – Our S1 pupils visited the Oasis Centre and D&G Police to learn more about making good choices to keep themselves safe. They were very respectful to the partners who delivered these sessions

Ambition – A group of pupils went on a trip to Stirling this week to find out more about jobs in construction and engineering. This helped them be ambitious about what they can achieve in their future

Responsibility: Our S3 pupils took part in workshops under the theme of “Do the Right Thing” to help them understand how to make responsible choices to keep themselves and others safe and well.

School Café

A reminder that pupils can now pay for school lunches using Google/Apple/contactless payments. Pupils entitled to free school lunches will be able to link up to this via the wallet on their phone.



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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 has improved over the last 4 weeks and almost all pupils are now wearing our school tie, appropriate trousers/jeans/skirts and footwear consistently. Ties continue to be available at the school office, priced £6.50. We will contact parents/carers if their child is still not in possession of a basic school uniform to see how we can help.

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 let the school office/your child's Tutor know of any short-term mitigations that need to be taken into account.

Winter Weather

Please see link below for a reminder on winter weather arrangements for our school.

[Winter Weather – Dumfries Academy](#)

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