



Parent/Carer Update 7 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

This week our S3 pupils have been undertaking standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy. These help us plan our curriculum and support in these areas. We have also held Remembrance Assemblies, where our pupils presented to their peers to help them understand the sacrifices made during World Wars and more recent conflicts. All involved showed respect and compassion (2 of our school values). Pupils also took part in various trips and sports events this week and these were a great success. We are always very proud of their conduct and hope that they benefitted from learning in different contexts. We hope, too, that you will be pleased with the school photographer's efforts. You will be able to purchase your child's photographs, which may be a very nice Christmas present for friends and family.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 10 November – S2/4 Remembrance Assembly, Period 3, Main Hall

Tuesday 11 November - Parent Council Meeting, 6 PM, G4

Wednesday 12 November – D&G Netball League Match, 2.50 PM – 5.00 PM

Thursday 13 November – Dumfries Academy v's Dumfries High School Basketball, 3.20PM

Friday 14 November - Sky Studios Trip, 8.50 AM – 5.00 PM

Save the date

Tuesday 25 November – Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 26 November – N5 Prelims begin

Friday 28 November – School photographer (catch-ups)

Attendance

I would ask you to support the school by ensuring your child's attendance does not fall below our expected levels. As you know, good attendance is a very significant factor improving chances of success in SQA courses. At the moment, our overall average attendance is 87%. Our S1 & S5 pupils are doing really well and are above 90%. However, S2,3 and 4 have dipped below this minimum target. This means many pupils are at risk of underperforming. Good attendance and timekeeping are vital for success.

We realise that there are times when illness and injury prevent pupils attending school and understand that they may need to rest and recover.

We would also like to remind families that term-time holidays are unauthorised absences.

Pupils who achieve 90% attendance or higher are recognised through our sms messaging system.



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We are currently looking at strategies to reduce latecoming. A reminder that period 1 begins at 8.50 AM. Please ensure your child arrives in school on time. Latecoming is disruptive and has an impact on your child's learning, as well as the learning of others that are interrupted as a result.

Uniform Consultation

Please note that any new policy will not come into effect until session 2026-2027. We will allow time to phase out any items that may not be part of the new guidelines.

Initially, we have sourced maroon hoodies and cardigans and will work with our supplier to make these and sweatshirts available. We will also look to price unbranded items from local suppliers and hope to have samples to later this term.

We are considering the place for blazers in the senior school and as an option in BGE. For instance, our S6 pupils want to raise the question of whether blazers should be compulsory for Head Persons and Prefects. Blazers will be part of further discussion this term before finalising the guidelines to come into effect for session 2026-2027.

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher