



## Parent/Carer Update 10 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

This has been a great term. This week we had a lovely family cooking event attended by 17 families. We have had several day trips, auditions for our school show, completed Cognitive Ability Tests and Wellbeing Surveys and carried out an evaluation of our learning and teaching in our Faculty of Language, Literacy and Drama. We are very proud of all we do and the fantastic contributions that our pupils make to our school community. Well done to everyone. We hope everyone has a well-deserved October Break.

### Attendance

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 will be writing to parents/carers to advise of the impact of attendance and latecoming on overall success in school at the start of next term.

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.

### Uniform Consultation

Please note that any new policy will not come into effect until session 2026-2027 and that, although items **may** be available from October this year, there is absolutely no compulsion to buy them. Equally, we will allow time to phase out any items that may not be part of the new guidelines. Further information and a final consultation will be issued shortly. Many thanks to all who responded to our initial consultation.

We had approximately 520 responses from parents, pupils and staff. There were many comments, some of which were related to cost, colour, availability, choice. There was no overwhelming view regarding these individual comments.

Across all 3 groups 73% are in favour of a maroon hoodie, 68% are in favour of a maroon cardigan and 70% are in favour of a maroon sweatshirt. Initially, we have sourced hoodies and cardigans and will work with our supplier to make these available. We will also look to price unbranded items from local suppliers and hope to have samples to show next term.

Across all 3 groups 47% were in favour of blazers as an optional item in the junior school and 45% as a compulsory item in the senior school. Our senior pupils wanted to point out that the maroon blazers for our Head Persons look better than in the photographs and they



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want to make a short video to support further consultation around blazers. For instance, they want to raise the question of whether blazers should be compulsory for Head Persons and Prefects. Further consultation on blazers will be issued next term

### Dates for the Diary

**Monday 27 October – School resumes at 8.50 AM**

**Tuesday 28 October – GRIT Trip to Dumfries House; Dumfries Academy Cluster Family Roadshow (event for Cluster parents on what support/events are available for families in our area)**

**Wednesday 29 October – S1 Parents Family Learning Event, 6.00 PM (information evening for S1 parents with information on homework, mobile devices, learners' experiences and support for wellbeing)**

**Friday 31 October – Non-uniform day (more details to follow)**

### Save the date

**Wednesday 5 November – Trip to Etihad Stadium**

**Thursday 6 November – School Photographer; Trip to Scottish Parliament**

Have a lovely holiday!

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher