



Parent/Carer Update 12 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a very busy week. We had a very successful S3 Parents Evening. Turnout was just below 60%. We understand that this is a busy time of year and are pleased that so many parents managed to come along. We were also pleased to complete our S2 options over the last 2 days. Thanks to parents who come along to take part in this pathway planning exercise for their child. We have also seen some great work from our life skills pupils and Enterprise Group. Staff enjoyed a lovely lunch prepared by our life skills group and our enterprise group sold their Christmas crafts in the space of 15 minutes. What talented pupils we have. Our keen netballers brought family members along to our family fun event on Wednesday night to continue the theme of community. We even managed to squeeze in a school trip to Glasgow for our Higher History pupils.

Our school is looking very Christmassy, thanks to Dumfries Lion's Club who kindly donated our Christmas Tree for our foyer. We have also added a very lovely tree to Minerva. Both trees were decorated by our eager pupils from the Nurture Hub and Learning Base.

We would be delighted to see as many pupils as possible attending our dances next week and joining in all the fun events we have in store towards the end of the week. A reminder that Wednesday 17 is odd socks day (normal uniform apart from this) and Friday is non-uniform day.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 15 December – Life skills Trip to RBC Film Theatre; Junior Christmas Dance (7-9PM)

Tuesday 16 - S2 Enterprise and Work classes sale of Christmas goods, Morning Break

Wednesday 17 December – Wear Odd Socks Day; Senior Christmas Dance (7.30-10.30PM)

Friday 19 December – Non-uniform Day (Christmas theme); Hot Choc Friday, 8.15 -8.51, Minerva; Junior Christmas Assembly; Senior Christmas Assembly; Tutor Time Christmas Events

Save the date

Tuesday 6 January – Pupils return to school at 8.50 AM

Wednesday 7 January – Parent Council Meeting, 6.00 PM

School Dances

Ticket sales have been slow for our Junior Dance. This is a great event, and our senior pupils play a huge role in organising it. It is a great way for them to support their younger peers. Tickets are £5. This covers a guest DJ and snacks for the pupils. Although there is formal dancing, there is no need for parents to buy expensive, formal outfits. If you are worried about cost, please contact us and we will do what we can to ensure pupils are able to attend.



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Non-uniform Day

There will be a non-uniform day on Friday 19 December. Pupils are encouraged to wear something Christmassy. Please do not feel the need to purchase something extra. Christmas earrings, socks, Santa hats, red and green colours are some suggestions. Please note that football tops/items are not permitted.

We are collecting items for local foodbanks and The Salvation Army. Any donations would be much appreciated – especially at this time of year. You can donate packets, tins, toiletries, toys and any other non-perishable items. All items to be dropped off in Minerva before 8.50 on Friday 19th. Pupils may also drop items at the school office from Monday if they wish.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council Minutes and accounts can be found on our school website at the link below.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/dumfriesacademy/parent-zone/parent-council/>

The next meeting of our Parent Council takes place on **Wednesday 7 January at 6 PM**. We are planning a **Burns Night on Friday 13th February at 6 .00 PM** (arrival 5.45) and would ask that you save the date. We will be publicising this on our social media feeds shortly. Tickets will be on sale early in the new year and it promises to be a great family night out. See poster attached.

Pupils Late to School

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.

From 6 January parents/carers of any pupil who is late in the morning (without valid reason) will receive an SMS message advising that their child will receive an after-school detention. There will be a focus on each year group each week. As S3 has the highest rate of latecoming and absence, we will begin with that group on Tuesday 6 January. The focus will be as follows:

- S3 – Week beginning 5 January
- S2 – Week beginning 12 January
- S4 – Week beginning 19 January
- S1/S5/6 – Week beginning 26 January

Well done to our S5 pupils, who have the best attendance rate of all year groups. We are delighted that pupils recognise the link between attendance and achievement in school.



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Please note that thresholds for attendance and latecoming must be met if your child wishes to participate in extra-curricular events and trips. If pupils are missing school (unless for valid reasons), we cannot permit them to miss even more learning by participating in events/activities which are not part of the usual school day.

We understand that some young people have been subject to winter illnesses and take account of any short or long-term health issues.

Winter Weather

We have seen a change in the weather recently, which could bring about more severe winter weather in the coming weeks and months. Our winter weather guidance can be found at the link below. This contains information on how we communicate school closure to parents in the event we have to take that action at any point (this rarely happens. It also contains advice on ensuring your child is dressed appropriately for school in cold/wet weather.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/dumfriesacademy/winter-weather/>

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

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Dumfries Academy
Parent Council are pleased to present their annual
BURNS SUPPER
Friday 13th February

Tickets:
£12 adult
£6 concession (unemployed,
underemployed, under 25)
£30 family
(2 adults and 2 children)
£20 family concession
£60 table of 6
£80 table of 8