



Parent/Carer Update 14 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

This week we had our final Remembrance Assembly; pupils representing the school at local Remembrance services, great success and participation in football, basketball and netball, significant acts of kindness in the community, with pupils helping others when they get into difficulty; trips to Sky Studios and Boccia competitions and pupils doing very well in their learning and preparation for assessment. Well done to everyone who is making the most of their opportunities at school and doing themselves and the school proud.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 17 - Friday 21 – S3 Exams/Assessments

Monday 17 November – Scottish Open Netball, 2-7 PM, Douglas Ewart High School; Self Evaluation of Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion (all day)

Tuesday 18 November –

Wednesday 19 November –

Thursday 20 November – S2 Scottish Cup Netball, 1-6 PM, Langholm Academy

Friday 21 November –

Save the date

Tuesday 25 November – Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 26 November – N5 Prelims begin

Friday 28 November – School photographer (catch-ups)

Monday 15 December – Junior Christmas Dance (7-9PM)

Wednesday 17 December – Senior Christmas Dance (7.30-10.30PM)

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/>

Parent Council

Our Parent Council met this week, and we were delighted to welcome new members. Our Parent Council works hard to raise funds, plan events and discuss school policy and procedures. If you would like to become a member, please come along to our next meeting.



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We are planning a Burns Night on Friday 13th February at 6.00 PM 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.

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.

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.

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.

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



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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