



## Parent/Carer Update 16 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

This week is the second week of our H/AH Prelim Diet. I wish everyone the best of luck with these exams. So far, our pupils have been a credit to themselves and the school in terms of their hard work and determination.

Our S3 options interviews took place this week. This was an excellent opportunity for pupils, parents and staff to discuss pupils' future learning and pathways. Our Careers Advisor Mr McColl was on hand to provide further advice and support.

We have seen a real improvement in timekeeping this last two weeks. A prompt start to lessons ensures better learning and progress for all. Well done!

### Dates for the Diary

**Monday 19 January –**

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**Tuesday 20 January –**

**Wednesday 21 January – D&G Schools Engineering Challenge, all day, the Bridge**

**Thursday 22 January –**

**Friday 23 January –**

**Saturday 24 – Friday 30 Jan – Ski Trip**

### Save the date

**Wednesday 28 January - Regional Disability Athletics**

**Tuesday 10 February – Meat Your Future Employability Event – The Bridge (Better Futures/Learning Together Group)**

**Friday 13 February – Parent Council Burns Supper**

### Staffing

We are still trying to fill our vacancy for a full time Teacher of Chemistry. Mrs Roberston is currently with us 2 days a week.

We are beginning the recruitment process for a Principal teacher of Health and Wellbeing and Music, to cover Miss Hailes Maternity leave which commences after the Easter Break. We are also beginning the process of recruiting a Principal Teacher of Sciences for session 2026-2027, as Mr Grierson will be stepping down next session as he works towards full retirement. He will still be teaching Biology 3 days per week.

### Study/Revision

Our Higher Prelims started last Monday and run until 23 Jan. We have an extensive programme of study support/revision classes and encourage pupils to make the most of these opportunities.



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We are planning a study session on Saturday 14 February, which will include a warm space and refreshments for anyone who wishes to use it. Any senior phase pupil can come along to revise/study for forthcoming SQA exams.

### 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.

There will be a focus on each year group each week. This week we have focused on S2. We have seen a significant decrease in latecoming (approximately 50%) as a result and aim to continue to focus on latecoming.

The focus will be as follows:

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.

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/>

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### 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/>

Tickets for our Burns Supper on Friday 13 February, jointly organised by our Parent Council, are now on sale from the school office. You can also contact the Parent Council directly via email (dumfriesacademypc@gmail.com) to reserve tables. See poster below for more details.



Joanne Dillon

Headteacher