



## Parent/Carer Update 16 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope everyone is enjoying the fantastic weather we are having.

The SQA exam diet is still going well. Our pupils have been a credit to themselves and our school. Please ensure that your child is familiar with exam protocols and that he/she arrives in plenty of time.

Beth and Hannah represented the school at Disability Sports and won silver and bronze medals – great achievements! Our U13 Football Team performed really well in the James Hannay and Stuart Binnie Memorial Tournament and our junior netball teams had a great day at the D&G season closer. Our 45 pupils participating in the London Trip have had a fantastic 3 days in the capital and have been a credit to themselves and the school, with staff at various venues complimenting them on their conduct. Well done to all!

### Dates for the Diary

**Monday 19 – Friday 23 May – Health Week**

**Wednesday 21 May – Bang Goes DG STEM (new S4 pupils), 10.00 AM – 12.45 PM, Easterbrook Hall; Parent Council Meeting, 6.00 PM, G4**

**Thursday 22 May – S2 Walking Trip, 1.45 PM – 3.15 PM**

**Friday 23 May – Nurture Trip to Edinburgh Zoo, 8.00 am – 6.30 PM**

### Save the date

**New Timetable begins 2 June 2026**

**S1 Junior Awards – Tuesday 10 June, 2.30 PM, Main Hall**

**S2 Junior Awards – Wednesday 11 June, 2.30 PM, Main Hall**

**S3 Junior Awards – Thursday 12 June, 2.30 PM, Main Hall**

### Parent Council

**Our next Parent Council meeting takes place on Wednesday 21 May. Please see agenda below. We would be delighted to welcome new members.**

- Welcome and apologies LV
- Approval of minutes 05/03/25 LV
- Rights respecting schools – Miss McGuire
- School uniform consultation JD
- School improvement/standards and Quality JD
- Parent council update PVG JD/LV
- Head teachers report JD
- P7 Induction JD
- DGPFC next meeting LV
- Treasurers report LG
- AOB



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### Change to School Day/Bus Arrangement

All parents should have received a letter today from the school and the local authority that outlines the change to the school day that takes effect from 2 June. This will affect some schools more than others. At Dumfries Academy, our day will start 1 minute earlier at 8.50 AM and finish 5 minutes later at 3.20 PM. Some bus timetables may change from August to accommodate pupils, mainly in rural areas, where there are significant changes to start and finish times.

### Financial Support for pupils going to University in September 2025

Please find link below to 2 sources of funding support for pupils going on to Higher Education this autumn. The first is aimed at those in receipt of a bursary for SAAS, the second is open to all who start university in the autumn, but prioritising those planning to study at Edinburgh University and is also linked to academic performance to date. Many former pupils have been recipients of these bursaries. Please read the criteria to see if your child may be eligible to apply for support:

[Dumfriesshire Educational Trust | Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

### Parents Evenings/Pupil Reports

We have had much discussion about the timing and nature of parents' evenings and reports. Our model for next session will be shared later this month.

### Social Areas

Social Areas for pupils from 27 April to 1 July are as follows:

S1 (New S2) – Café (indoor), rear of school (outdoor)

S2 (New S3) – Café (indoor) until 29 May, then Main Hall, front of link corridor (outdoor), town centre for lunch time only

S3 (New S4) – Games Hall until 29 May, then Main Hall (indoor on wet days), front of main building (outdoor), town centre for lunch time only. Will also be allowed off site at break from August.

S4 (New S5) – Minerva (Indoor), front of Minerva (outdoor)

S5 (New S6) – Minerva (indoor), front of Minerva (outdoor)

\*Please note S1-3 pupils are not allowed off site at morning break

S1 pupils are also not allowed of site at lunch time. They will be allowed off site at lunch time from August

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## Vision, Values and Aims

*Learning together for a better future*



Each week we highlight examples of how our school community ensures that our values are embedded in our culture:

**Compassion:** There are lots of illnesses doing the rounds at the moment. Thank you to all who have shown compassion to pupils and staff who have been affected by sickness.

**Fairness:** We continue to support families so that pupils are not disadvantaged by circumstances outwith their control. We have supported in the following ways recently: obtaining funds for individual families to finance trips; providing clothing; providing necessary equipment; signposting support for families

**Respect:** Our pupils on the London trip this week have shown respect to others wherever they have gone and have been complimented on their conduct.

**Ambition:** Various teams and individuals have shown great ambition this week when they have competed in tournaments and events.

**Responsibility:** Ryan did a great job to provide refreshments to people attending The Usual Place as part of VE Day celebrations last weekend.

All previous updates will be archived on our website. You will be able to find reminders about school uniform, Parent Portal, social areas, health and safety and other key school information

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher