



Parent/Carer Update 23 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

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

The SQA exam diet is almost finished, with the last exams for pupils in our school taking place on Tuesday 27 May. Our pupils have been a credit to themselves and our school. Please continue to ensure that your child is familiar with exam protocols and that he/she arrives in plenty of time.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 26 - Friday 30 May – Health Week (various events and sports)

Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May Senior and Middle Leaders' Learning Walks

Tuesday 27 May – U15 Girls Football Tournament, 9.00 AM – 3.00 PM; Troqueer Primary Sports Day, 9.00 – 3.00 PM (pupil helpers); DA School Media Awards, Periods 6&7, senior Media classes

Wednesday 28 May – Head Person Interviews, 9.00 AM – 11.30 AM; Headteacher's Office; Laurieknowe and Troqueer Primaries Sports Days, 9.00 AM – 3.00 PM (pupil helpers); U13 Football Gordon Cup Final, 4.00PM – 6.00 PM; St Joseph's College

Thursday 29 May - S2 Walking Tour of Dumfries, Periods 6&7

Save the date

New Timetable begins 2 June 2026 – Please see information below on change to school day

S6 Induction Day Thursday 5 June, various locations in school

Battlefields Trip to France/Belgium – Saturday 7 June to Thursday 12 June

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

School Show – Mary Poppins Junior – Thursday 19 June and Friday 20 June, 7.00 PM, Main Hall

P7 Induction Days Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 and Friday 27 June

Change to School Day

A reminder that the structure of the school day is changing and that this 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.

Please note that it is imperative that pupils turn up on time for school, as lessons begin at 8.50 AM. Tutor Time now takes place later in the day. Please see structure of school day below. **Being 5 minutes late to school every day equates to 3 days of lost learning per year!**

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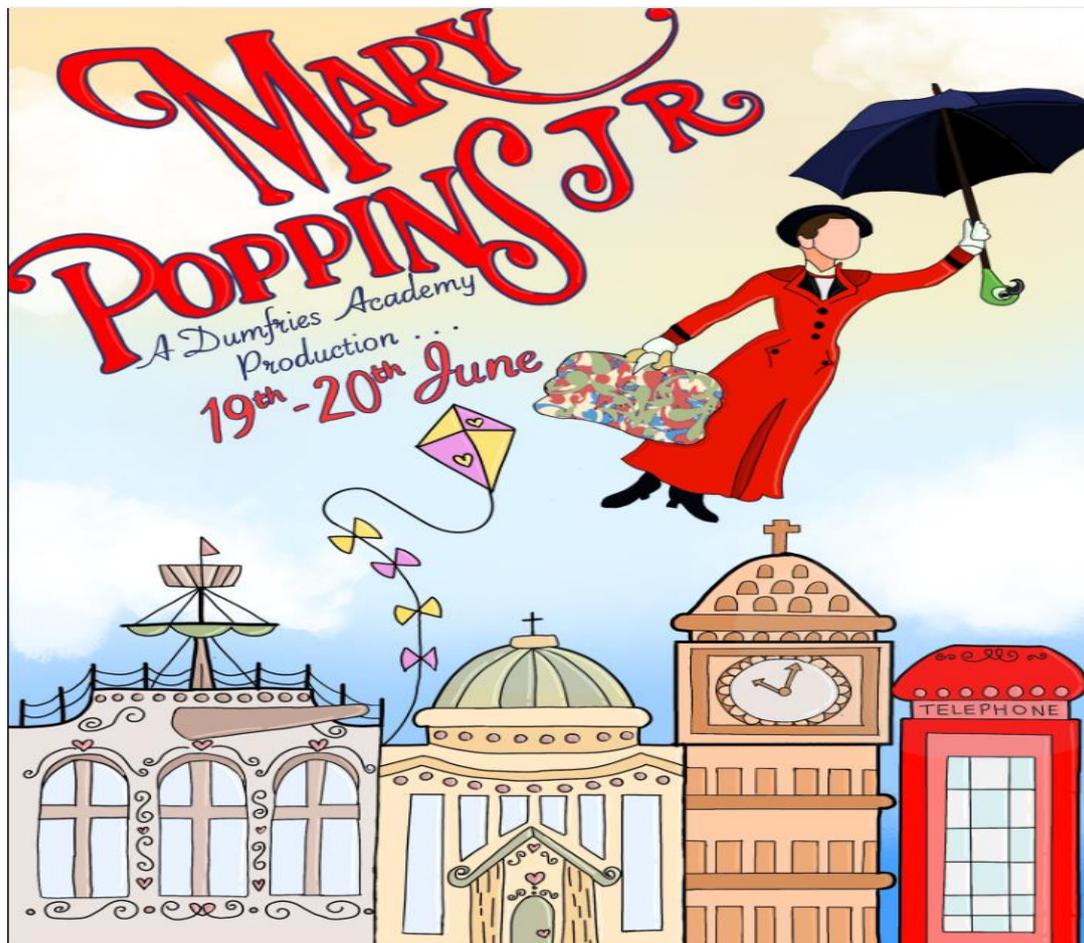
Period 1	8.50 am - 9.35 am
Period 2	9.35 am - 10.20 am
Check In (Tutor time/PSE/Learning)	10.20 am - 10.35 am
Break	10.35 am - 10.50 am
Period 3	10.50 am - 11.35 am
Period 4	11.35 am - 12.20 pm
Period 5	12.20 pm - 1.05 pm
Lunch	1.05 pm - 1.50 pm
Period 6	1.50 pm - 2.35 pm
Period 7	2.35 pm - 3.20 pm

School Show – Mary Poppins JNR

We are delighted to announce that tickets are on sale for our school show, Mary Poppins JNR, which takes place on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June at 7.00 PM. Please come along and see a wonderful production, performed by our very talented cast. Tickets are available now from the school office priced at £8 Adults and £5 concessions.

Or online at £9/£6.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../mary-poppins-jr-tickets...>





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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 that 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 2 June to 1 July are as follows:

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

* Will be allowed off-site at **lunch time only** from August

S2 (New S3) – Main Hall (indoor), front of link corridor (outdoor), town centre for **lunch time only**

S3 (New S4) – Main Hall (indoor), front of main building (outdoor), town centre for lunch time

***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: I have seen various pupils and staff showing kindness and compassion this week. These acts may seem very insignificant but can help ease others' anxieties around exam stress, illness and learning. Well done to those who have helped others.

Fairness: We had a very positive Parent Council Meeting this week, where parent council members are helping the school to ensure that there is fairness and equity and have lots of plans for next session to support events, individuals, and projects.

Respect: Our Nurture Hub pupils were respectful to staff and members of the public when they visited Edinburgh Zoo and were a credit to the school, as were those pupils who took part in the DG STEM event at Easterbrook Hall this week.

Ambition: Our school show cast members and staff are working very hard to produce our school show – Mary Poppins – and are being ambitious in the process, learning and developing new skills to a very high standard.

Responsibility: Greg and Mia attended our Parent Council meeting to show how the UNCRC group is ensuring pupils and staff understand rights and responsibilities. This will enable us to achieve our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award in June.

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