



Parent/Carer Update 29 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Our new S1s have made an excellent start and should be very proud of how they have settled in. They have joined us for breakfast and have made a positive start each day. Their standard of uniform, and uniform in general, is excellent. Thank you for your support in ensuring pupils are dressed appropriately for school.

Over the course of the next few weeks, we intend to hold our Fire Drill and Emergency School Closure Drill – pupils will be briefed on procedures in advance.

I have attached a poster to the end of this update that summarises our school improvement priorities for next session. Thank you to those who shared their views at the end of last term.

Please also click on the link below to access our parent-friendly version of our Standards and Quality Report for session 2024-2025:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/dumfriesacademy/our-school/school-improvement-plan/>

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 2 Sept – Scottish Chamber Orchestra Concert, 100 PM- 3.30 PM, Easterbrook Hall

Thursday 4 September – Release of Senior Phase Support Pack on our school website

Friday 5 September – Extra-Curricular Fair, Tutor Time, Main Hall

Save the date

Wednesday 10 September - P6/7 Information Evening, 6.00 PM, Main Hall

Wednesday 17 September – Parent Council AGM, 6.00 PM, G4

Pupil Support

Our Pupil Support Model has changed slightly this session, and we now have the following Pupil Support Principal Teacher team in place:

S1 Head of Year (Acting) - Miss Torrance

S2 Head of Year – Miss Barton

S3 Head of Year – Mrs Wilson

S4 Head of Year/Nurture Support (Acting) – Mr Scott

S5/6 Head of Year – Mr Leonard

PT Additional Support for Learning – Mrs Hurley

Our Depute Headteachers are linked as follows:

S1, 3 and 6 - Mr Dillon (Child Protection Officer)

S2, 4 and 5 – Mr Aitken

Curriculum, Learning and Teaching – Dr Gordon (Depute Child Protection Officer)



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Please contact the above staff should you wish to discuss your child's wellbeing in school.

Staffing

Please see reminder of our new staff who have joined us this term:

Mrs Murray – Physics/Science
 Miss Anderson – History/Social Subjects
 Mx Barthram – Art and Design
 Mrs Rooney – Broad General Education
 Mrs Roberston – Admin/Support

We are delighted to welcome them to our team.

Reminder - Change to School Day

The new school day is now in place.

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!**

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 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 |

Parents Evenings/Pupil Reports

Please see provisional dates for this session (see slight amendment to previous versions):

| Year Group | Parents Evening | Reports |
|------------|--|---|
| S1 | 29 October – Sharing the Learning 23 April - Tutors | 13 November (Tracking), 9 March (Tracking), 21 April (Full) |
| S2 | 26 February – Subject teachers | 18 September (Tracking), 13 November (Tracking), 23 February (Full) |
| S3 | 10 December – Subject Teachers | 18 September (Tracking), 3 December (Full) |
| S4 | 14 January – Subject Teachers | 2 October (Tracking), 8 January (Tracking), 25 March (Tracking) |
| S5 | 10 February – Subject Teachers | 2 October (Tracking), 6 February (Tracking), 25 March (Tracking) |
| S6 | 10 February – Subject Teachers | 2 October (Tracking), 6 February (Tracking), 25 March (Tracking) |

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Social Areas

Social Areas for pupils from August are as follows:

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

S2 – Café (indoor), front of link corridor (outdoor), town centre for **lunch time only**

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

S4 – Main Hall (indoor), front of main building (outdoor)

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

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

***Please note S1-3 pupils are not allowed off site at morning break; S4-6 pupils are allowed off site for break and lunch**

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2025 - 2026

PRIORITY ONE

Create a more varied curriculum in S1-3 that allows pupils to develop and reflect on skills that are important for life, learning and work: develop and implement our learning together programmes

IMPACT

Pupils reflect on their skills, make better progress in their learning and achieve recognised Skills for Work qualifications

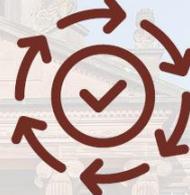


PRIORITY THREE

Improve consistency within all lessons so that almost all pupils recognise and act on teacher feedback and are being asked to make high quality contributions, through challenging questions and increased responsibility

IMPACT

Pupils recognise and act on feedback from teachers and this leads to improved outcomes and attainment for all pupils



PRIORITY TWO

Improve progress and raise attainment in literacy and numeracy for all pupils in S1-6 so that we close our attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged by an average of 10%

IMPACT

Pupils have the core skills needed to improve chances of attaining a positive destination, leading to a better future for them



PRIORITY FOUR

Improve wellbeing support for our pupils, staff and families so that we can build a community based on our school values

IMPACT

Pupils and their families are well informed, feel included, celebrate our progress and achievements and are able to make more contributions to our school community