



Parent/Carer Update 7 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Last Friday we had a lovely Burns Night, organised by our Parent Council. Our pupils did themselves and the school proud with their performances and support. It was a very successful evening that showcased the skills, talents and diversity of our school community. A big thank you to all who supported it.

This week we carried out a review of learning and teaching in the Social Subjects Faculty. We observed lessons, gathered people's views and will produce a summary of strengths and areas for improvement. In the previous 3 weeks, we also carried out learning visits across a range of subjects in the school and gathered pupils' views. This is all part of our commitment to ensuring high quality experiences for our learners and our commitment to the Dumfries Academy Way, which is focused on clear aims, values and vision, as well as our DA lesson model.

Parents Evenings

We are looking to review our model for Parents Evenings and Parental Reporting. If you would like to share your views and be part of a small focus group (1 meeting), please click the link below to let us know what time would be convenient. We would be delighted to hear your views on what is working well and what changes we could potentially make to improve things.

<https://forms.office.com/e/8mXiraJ55e>

Parent Council Events

The next events being organised by the Parent Council are a free Family Baking event from 3.15PM – 6.00 PM on 12 February and a Valentine's Family Bingo event from 4.00 – 6.00 PM on Thursday 13 February. Both events are being held to raise funds for the Home Economics Department. There is a small entry fee for the Bingo (poster attached).

The next meeting of the Parent Council is on Wednesday 5 March at 6.00 PM in room G4. All new members are most welcome to come along.

There is a further event being planned by our Parent Council for Thursday 13 March, This is a parent employability event in partnership with other organisations. Please save the date. More detailed information will be shared in due course.

SQA Exam Diet/S6 Leavers Ceremony/S6 Leavers Trip/Study Support

This week the SQA released an updated version of the 2025 Exam diet. The revised version was shared with S4-6 parents via Groupcall Xpressions and with pupils on the Senior Phase Teams Page.

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The S6 Leavers Ceremony will now take place on Thursday 27 March in the Main Hall at 2.00 PM sharp. This has been shared with parents via Groupcall Xpressions.

The S6 Leavers Trip to Alton Towers will take place on Friday 28 March. All pupils wishing to go on the trip should have paid their deposit by today at the latest.

Our study support and revision class schedule for senior pupils will be issued along with S5/6 Reports, as well as being sent to all S4-6 parents via Groupcall Xpressions next week. A copy will also be made available on the senior phase Teams page.

Vision, Values and Aims



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

Compassion – We have launched the Tim Propp Bursary for S6 pupils. The compassion shown by Mr Propp is well represented in this award in his memory and supports a young person who may otherwise struggle to progress to Higher or Further Education

Fairness – We sought parent and pupil views on learning and teaching within Social subjects so that we could fairly represent the experiences of our learners when we report on the review

Respect – Visitors to our school have commented positively on the respect shown to them by pupil guides this week and complimented them on their politeness and pride in the school

Ambition – At our parents evenings, and at assemblies we have been discussing ambitious pathways for our senior phase learners that enable them to develop their talents and abilities

Responsibility – Several pupils across different year groups have taken responsibility to participate in and support our Burns Night. Well done to all who helped out.



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We have been holding assemblies to remind pupils of our vision, values and aims and how they can contribute to these so that we can fulfil our vision of:

Learning together for a better future

Dates for the Diary

Monday 10 February - S5/6 Tracking Reports Issued; S3 Options Interviews all day; P5 –S2 Online Safety Event, 6.00 PM, Main Hall

Tuesday 11 February – Parent Focus Group on Reporting/Parents Evenings, 5.30 PM, G4

Wednesday 12 February – School Cross Country Championship; S4 Options Assembly; Family Baking, 3.15 PM – 6.00 PM, HE Department; S5/6 Parents Meeting, 4.00 PM – 6.30 PM

Thursday 13 February – Family Bingo, 4.00 PM – 6.00 PM, HE Department

Save the date

Wednesday 19 February to Friday 21 February – Pupil Holiday

School Uniform

The standard of school uniform has improved over the last 4 weeks and almost all pupils are now wearing our school tie, appropriate trousers/jeans/skirts and footwear consistently. Ties continue to be available at the school office, priced £6.50. We will contact parents/carers if their child is still not in possession of a basic school uniform to see how we can help.

School blazers should also be worn and are particularly needed as an extra layer under an outdoor jacket as we see the colder weather creeping in.

Please let the school office/your child's Tutor know of any short-term mitigations that need to be taken into account.

Mobile Device Policy

We welcome your views on our on revised policy and would appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/RMV4nN9Bcn?origin=lprLink>

The full policy can be accessed in the PDF file attached in 29 November update.

Winter Weather

Please see link below for a reminder on winter weather arrangements for our school.

[Winter Weather – Dumfries Academy](#)

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Equity Boxes

As the winter weather creeps in, we want to remind you that we provide socks and tights free of charge in our equity boxes. We also provide toothpaste, toothbrushes, toiletries, stationery, sanitary products and shoe laces. Pupils may take what they need.

School Café

All S1 pupils must remain on site at lunch time. Please advise your child that he/she must remain on site and use the school café.

Should you feel you require any financial assistance with school meals or clothing, you can contact us at the school for advice or use the link below to see if you are eligible for assistance:

[Free school meals | Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

All previous updates will be archived on our new 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

