

Parent/Carer Update 10 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year!

It is lovely to see our pupils back in school after what has hopefully been a very enjoyable festive break.

This term is traditionally very busy with assessments, prelims, parents' evenings and other events.

Firstly, I must apologise for the late cancellation of our S3 Parents' Evening on 18 December. It became apparent that the timing was affecting turnout, but also that it made more sense to postpone this in the light of the local authority decision to move to an aligned school week and timetable. Therefore, we have had to amend our timeline for senior phase pathway planning and starting the new timetable.

Our S3 Parents Evening will now take place on Monday 27 January from 4.00 - 6.00 PM in the Main Hall. Appointments are with all subject teachers. This differs from our S1/2 Parents Meetings where only one appointment takes place with the child's Tutor, who provides an overview.

Appointment Sheets will be issued in advance. Senior Phase Option Forms will be issued at the Parents' Evening and will help shape discussions with your child's teachers around what subjects he/she might want to opt for in S4. Attendance at this meeting is highly recommended. Your child will have an options interview with his/her Pupil Support teacher or Depute head teacher week beginning 10 February.

Similarly, our S4 Parents Evening takes place next week on Wednesday 15 January from 4.00 – 6.30 PM in the Main Hall. Your child should make appointments for you with subject teachers early next week. Your attendance at this evening is strongly recommended, as discussions will be focused on progress, next steps and potential course choices for S5.

Vision, Values and Aims





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

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 13 January – Friday 24 January – Higher/Advanced Higher Prelims (Timetable attached)

Wednesday 15 January – S4 Parents' Evening, 4.00 – 6.30 PM, Main Hall (subject teachers)

Save the date

Friday 24 January – Burns Supper, 6.00 PM, School Café

Monday 27 January – S3 Parents' Evening, 4.00 – 6.30 PM, Main Hall (subject teachers)

School Uniform

The standard of school uniform is satisfactory but could be better. We are one of very few schools that has provided ties free of charge to ensure that every pupil has a tie at the start of S1. I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child wears a school shirt, tie, appropriate skirt/trousers and black footwear to school every day. 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.

From Monday 13 January parents of pupils who are not wearing a school tie will receive a text message to advise that ties must be worn. Ties can be purchased from our school office at a price of £6.50.

On Friday 20 January there will be a sale of ties in Minerva at morning break. Cash and card payments will be accepted. Should you require any financial support, please contact the school office and we will be pleased to see what we can do to assist.

Parent Council Burns Night

Our Parent Council is hosting a Burns Night on Friday 24 January.

Tickets are on sale from Monday 13 January. Please come along to this event. It is a really enjoyable evening and was very well received last year. Guest speakers include Colin Smyth MSP and our own pupils and members of our Parent Council.

The Parent Council has created a new Facebook page. You can find the link to this and to all the latest information on our school website:

[Parent Council – Dumfries Academy](#)



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Mobile Device Policy

As of Monday 3 December, we re-launched our 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](#)

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