

Parent/Carer Update 17 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

This week our S4 Parents Evening took place. We had a really good turnout. National 5 prelims were held in December and feedback has been very positive. We have also recently surveyed all of our S4-6 pupils to gather their views on their experience of school this session.

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 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](#)

Vision, Values and Aims



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



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Compassion – Just before Christmas our Charities Committee raised £146.83 for Shelter (Scotland).

Fairness – In trying to improve our standard of school uniform, we are being fair to all pupils and families

Respect – I have been mightily impressed with how respectful our pupils have been in school, holding doors open and being very polite

Ambition – Once again, our pupils have studied hard for prelim exams and have shown that they care about their learning and want to achieve. This is also one of our school aims.

Responsibility – Since returning, we have seen many examples of pupils taking responsibility, helping younger pupils in classes and nurture, supporting school events and carrying out Prefect duties

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

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

Save the date

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

Tuesday 28 January – Cast of Mary Poppins Trip to Festival Theatre, 3.30 PM – 11.30 PM, Edinburgh

Wednesday 29 January – Parent Focus Group on Reporting and Parents Evenings (reference at beginning of letter if you would like to be part of this)

School Uniform

The standard of school uniform has improved over the last 2 weeks and almost all pupils are now wearing our school tie 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 tie to see how we can help.

I would now ask for your support in ensuring that your 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.

Over the next week we will be notifying parents/carers by SMS if their child is not dressed in appropriate skirt, trousers/black jeans. Please note that skirts should be of an appropriate length and leggings/jogging bottoms are not permitted.



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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



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