



Parent/Carer Update 24 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that all our families have managed to overcome the worst of Storm Eowyn and are safe and well.

Thank you for your patience on Thursday. We endeavoured to issue messages regarding school closure to our community as quickly as possible, but the messaging system was experiencing a high volume of traffic, and our school app was also unavailable. We made the decision to close, and this was then confirmed by the local authority. Thankfully, having carried out an assessment of the school over the weekend, there appears to be very little damage to our building.

Monday is a non-uniform day for pupils to support families who may have experienced loss of power during the weekend. Should you require any additional support due to the effects of the storm, please let the school know.

Parents Evenings

A reminder that our S3 Parents Evening takes place on Monday 27 January from 4.00 – 6.30 PM. Parents/Carers are strongly advised to attend, as subject choice forms for S4 courses will be issued to pupils/parents on the evening.

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>

The first meeting option is on Wednesday 29 January from 4.00 – 5.00 PM. Please complete the form to indicate if you would like to come along. I am also happy for you to just turn up on the evening.

Parent Council Burns Night/ Next Meeting

This will now take place on Friday 31 January.

Tickets for the original event are still valid. Tickets are also still on sale. Refunds will be given to those who now cannot attend the re-scheduled event. 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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The next meeting of the Parent Council is on Wednesday 29 January at 6.00 PM in room G4. All new members are most welcome to come along.

Vision, Values and Aims



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

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

Fairness – We try to take account of individual circumstances regarding uniform but also try to ensure that we apply a minimum expectation that differentiates between school and leisure wear.

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

Ambition – Many of our pupils were ambitious to achieve success in their learning on Friday, completing work independently on Microsoft Teams and Satchel

Responsibility – The ASN learning base embodied the school value *responsibility* this week by welcoming Child Smile into their life skills class to teach them the importance of oral hygiene and demonstrate the correct way to look after their teeth.

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



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Dates for the Diary

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, 4.00 PM, G4; Parent Council, 6.00 PM, G4

Friday 31 January – Regional Disability Sports, all day, DAGCOL; Burns Supper, 6.00 PM, School Café

Save the date

Wednesday 5 February, all-day, Cross-Country Championships

Monday 10 February, S5/6 Tracking Reports Issued

Wednesday 12 February, S5/5 Parents Meeting, 4.00 PM – 6.30 PM

School Uniform

The standard of school uniform has improved over the last 2 weeks and almost all pupils are now wearing our school tie, appropriate trousers/jeans/skirts 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.

I would now ask for your support in ensuring that child wears appropriate 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.

We are mindful of exceptional circumstances, especially in the light of the recent storm. This is why we have a non-uniform day on Monday 27 January, and why we will speak to parents on an individual basis regarding any special arrangements for their child(ren). Please let the school office/your child's Tutor know of any mitigations that need to be taken into account.

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.

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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