



Parent/Carer Update 31 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

This week, in the aftermath of storm Eowyn, we managed to return to school with minimal disruption. We had a good turnout at our S3 Parents' Evening; several young people worked with our team to complete applications for Dumfries and Galloway College; pupils took part in disability sports; prelims for those undertaking SWEIC courses and those that were re-scheduled as a result of school closure; the Arts and Creativity ran a very successful trip to Edinburgh to see a production of Mary Poppins and P6/7 pupils from New Abbey Primary visited the school to take part in Transition activities.

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 Burns Night will now take place this evening. Thank you to all who have purchased tickets. We are looking forward to the event and will share photographs on our Facebook page afterwards.

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.

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Vision, Values and Aims



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

Compassion – We held a non-uniform day on Monday to ensure that families affected by the storm did not have the additional pressure of having to prepare school uniforms (especially if affected by power cuts).

Fairness – Our pupils have been well supported during prelims and assessment to take account of learning needs and to help them overcome any barriers

Respect – Respect for all was part of the theme for our S3 assembly this week. Pupils were educated on the need to treat each other with kindness and tolerance. Pupils also paid respect to Jane Haining at a Holocaust memorial service at Dunscore Church

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.

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

Wednesday 5 February – Social Subjects Faculty Review, 9.00 AM – 1.05 PM; S4 Options Assembly, Period 4, Main Hall

Save the date

Monday 10 February, S5/6 Tracking Reports Issued

Wednesday 12 February – S4 Options Assembly; Family Baking, 3.15 PM – 6.00 PM, HE Department; S5/5 Parents Meeting, 4.00 PM – 6.30 PM

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

School Uniform

The standard of school uniform has improved over the last 3 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

