



Rector's Report September 2026

HMI Visit

The school was visited by His Majesty's Inspectors in February and would like to thank all members of the community for their hard work and support, which resulted in the school receiving a very positive report. The report and supporting documents can be found at the link below. The visiting team was satisfied with the quality of the school's work and capacity for improvement and has no plans to revisit. The school is making good progress with its improvement plan, based on the summary of inspection findings and has already made significant improvement in attainment in the BGE and targeted areas in the senior phase.

<https://educationinspectorate.gov.scot/find-an-inspection-report/details/?id=2403>

SQA Exams/Assessment

As always, we are very proud of pupils' achievements. In S4, the number of pupils attaining 5 qualifications at level 5 is consistently, on average, in line with or above the local authority average. We continue to see steady performance in S5 and the number of pupils attaining 5 qualifications at Level 6 is very strong with 16% of pupils attaining 5 Highers at A-C level. There is a significant improvement in attainment for all pupils including the 20% most deprived. All pupils in S5 have performed better than our virtual comparator. In S6 we sit above average in the authority. Indeed, we have seen an increase in the number of pupils attaining 7, 8 and 9 Higher qualifications, which has resulted in an 8% increase of pupils gaining university places in the last 3 years.

Progress in literacy and numeracy measures is very pleasing with the % of pupils in our Broad General and senior phase who achieve appropriate literacy and numeracy levels steadily improving over the last 3 years.

As well as success in the measures used nationally to judge improvements in attainment, we were delighted to introduce a broader range of skills for work courses last session, which has enabled many of our pupils to achieve awards that have led to successful applications to employment, training and Further Education. In total our senior phase pupils were accredited for over 3000 qualifications – this is a fantastic achievement.

School Summary of Attainment for 2026

Overview

This report provides the summary of attainment for **Dumfries Academy** for the 2025-26 academic year. A full analysis will be completed once all the data has been checked and compared to estimates and will be available, from schools.

BGE Attainment - Literacy and Numeracy

% of pupils S3 CFE level	Reading	Writing	Listening & Talking	Numeracy
Dumfries Academy	94% (19%)	93% (30%)	97% (23%)	90% (22%)
Dumfries & Galloway	92% (17%)	92% (22%)	92% (12%)	93% (20%)

Figures in brackets show the % increase of pupils on track compared to P7 levels of attainment

Senior Phase Attainment

	S4	S5	S6	S5			S6		
	5+ at L5+	5+ at L5+	5+ at L5+	1+ @ L6	3+ @ L6	5+ @ L6	1+ @ L6	3+ @ L6	5+ @ L6
Dumfries Ac	41%	55%	57%	53%	42%	16%	61%	34%	24%
D&G	43%	55%	53%	52%	33%	14%	56%	35%	24%

Achievements

Our school is making good progress towards the Gold Rights Respecting Schools and Heritage Heroes Award. These awards recognise the collective work of pupils, staff and partners in promoting pupil voice, participation and learning.

A summary of our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report is available on the school's website at the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/dumfriesacademy/our-school/school-improvement-plan/>

Staffing News

We are delighted to have been joined by the following new staff:

Mr Walker – Physics (PT Science); Miss Lannigan – Modern Studies; Mrs Gold – Art and Design; Miss King – English; Miss McMeechan – Music; Miss Wears – Pupil Support Assistant

Mr Grierson has returned as a part-time teacher of Biology as part of a phased retirement plan; Miss Torrance, Mrs Caldwell, Mrs Cumberland-Mackay and Mrs Z Murray have left us to pursue their teaching careers in other establishments. We wish them all the best.

Mrs Wallace (Learning Support Assistant,) has left to move nearer to family in Aberdeenshire after many years of loyal service. Mr Nelson (Learning Support Assistant) has left to embark on a university degree course to become a teacher.

Ms Dunbar (Home Link Worker) has moved to another position within the Developing the Young Workforce team.

Mr Scott has been appointed to the post of Principal Teacher Pupil Support (S1/5).

Miss Chalk and Mrs N Wilson have taken on additional duties to lead on Nurture and Employability and Skills.

Mrs Spence is due to commence Maternity Leave on Friday 18 September.

Ms Carlin joins us as Teacher of Drama after the October Break.

Pupil Leaders

Lilly Mae Turnbull, Blossom Weir, Alfie Coupland and Chloe Geddes have been appointed to the positions of Head Persons and Depute Head Persons. After a highly competitive interview and presentation process they were successful in obtaining these positions, and we know they will do a fantastic job along with their teams of prefects and committees. They are very keen to work along with our Parent Council to organise family engagement events this session.

Our S6 committees were established in June and have started to make an impact, supporting younger peers, organising events and taking on ambassadorial roles.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Events

We continue to offer a wide variety of educational trips including day trips locally and nationally, and residential trips further afield and abroad. Our S1 pupils participated in an outdoor learning residential trip, S3 pupils visited London, our Learning Together Group visited Loch Eil, and we had a very successful Ski Trip. These trips are as a result a phenomenal effort from staff, pupils and parents to ensure that our pupils are able to enjoy learning in a different context and enrich their school experiences.

We have recently run an S3 Trip to Paris and are already planning further residential excursions for session 2026-7 and beyond including the WW1 Battlefields Trip; the Ski Trip; the S1 Trip (destination TBC); S3 Trip to London, Social Subjects Trip to Italy.

We marked the end of session 2025-2026 with a hugely successful school show, “Matilda JR”

As always, our exceptionally talented pupils achieved success in a range of disciplines in and out of school. There were well publicised in the local press and on our social media platforms.

Funding

Our pupil equity funding for session 2026-27-amounts of £57, 575. This enables us to fund a part-time learning assistant to support our nurture hub, staff to support our breakfast provision and resources to reduce barriers to learning.

We are grateful to a number of organisations for their support. Financial assistance helps us to run our breakfast bar, address barriers to learning, introduce new qualifications, run events, celebrate successes and build community. We continue to use school funds creatively to purchase ICT equipment, other learning resources and ensure that our building is maintained and furnished to create a positive environment.

Dumfries Academy Refurbishment/Relocation of Loreburn Primary School

The Parent Council continues to work with the school to progress its much-awaited refurbishment. A new construction company, Morrisons, has now been appointed and there is an expected completion date of late 2029- early 2030. We are currently working with the project team to ensure all of the groundwork takes place so that the design meets the needs of our pupils and staff. We have seen some of the plans

and have worked with pupils and staff to help shape them so that they are what we need to deliver an innovative curriculum for our pupils.

We continue to seek reassurances of a prompt plan for refurbishment, with a commitment to a building that is fit for learners and staff in the 21st century.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Liza Vinnie for her support as Chair of our Parent Council this session. I would like to thank all of our Parent Council Office Bearers and members, who have worked in partnership with the school to organise and support events throughout the session, to support families new to the school and the area, as well as sharing its views on school improvement areas such as reporting, school uniform, the use of mobile devices, Dumfries Academy refurbishment, fund-raising and many other important issues. It has also established Values Awards for school Awards Ceremonies to recognise the wider achievements of pupils in the school community. Ms Vinnie and the Parent Council work hard to promote equity for our pupils and to build a strong sense of community.

Joanne Dillon

16 September 2026