



## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

I would like to take this opportunity to wish pupils, parents/carers and all members of the Dumfries High School community a Happy New Year. I am sure 2018 will be a busy and exciting time as we continue to work together to support and challenge our pupils to maximise their potential in the year ahead.

### Staff Update

Mr Kenny Pullen will remain in post as Acting Depute Headteacher until a permanent appointment has been made. Therefore Mrs Becky Anderson will remain in post as Acting Principal Teacher Maths and Numeracy.

Mrs Claire Livingstone has been successful in securing a Business Education teaching post at Auchinleck Academy and will leave us towards the end of January. She leaves with our best wishes. We will now work towards securing a replacement for Mrs Livingstone.

Mr Ross Cochrane has returned to the History Department following a period of absence. Mrs Ruth McGivern has returned to school following a recent operation. Miss Fiona Bryce has now returned from Maternity leave. We are delighted to have these members of staff back at Dumfries High School.

Miss Jenny Lyon has been appointed as a permanent member of staff within the History Department at Dumfries High School and we are delighted to have her in the school.

### S4/5/6 Prelims

Prelim exams for senior pupils begin on Monday 8 January and run until Friday 19 January. Prelim timetables were issued prior to the Christmas holiday. Reports and Parents' Evening will take place quickly thereafter. Details of option interviews for current S4 and S5 pupils will be issued along with the report.

### Merits

Following a successful relaunch of the Merit system, a slight amendment has been made to the text message sent when a merit has been issued. This message will now include the name of the staff member who has issued the merit. Messages will continue to be sent on a daily basis. A hard copy of a merit/de-merit report will be posted home at the beginning of each new term.

### Latecoming/Absence

The school day begins at 8.50am and all pupils must ensure they are here on time. Parents/carers must contact the main office if a pupil is going to be late on any given day.

If a pupil is absent from school, parents/carers can contact the school on the specific absence line using the following number: 01387 702799

### Parent Council

The first Parent Council meeting of the New Year will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 18 January in the school library. All parent/carers are welcome to attend. It would be great to have a large attendance at our first meeting of the year. Subsequent meetings will take place at 6.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.

## **Uniform**

Dumfries High School uniform consists of black shoes, black trousers/skirt, white shirt, black v-neck jumper/cardigan, school blazer and a school tie. The vast majority of our pupils look incredibly smart and wear the uniform with pride.

Jeans, hoodies and tracksuit tops are not part of school uniform and therefore pupils should not wear these to school. As always, your support with this is greatly appreciated.

## **School Show**

Dumfries High School will this year be performing 'School of Rock' as our school show. Rehearsals are well underway for what I am sure will be another great show. Performances will take place on Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 June 2018.

## **Show my Homework**

Homework issued to pupils in all year groups will be recorded on this App. All parents/carers should have log-in details for this app to allow you to monitor all homework details relevant to your child/children. Anyone requiring log-in details should contact the school and we will be happy to assist.

## **Parking in Fire Evacuation Bays**

Fire Evacuation bays should not be used to park cars or as waiting areas at the end of the school day. We have been asked by the Fire Service to remind parents/carers that these clearly marked areas should be kept clear at all times as they are required to be used in the event of an evacuation as a result of a Fire Alarm. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## **Email Communication**

Could I ask parents/carers to ensure that our email contact details are as up-to-date as possible by sending an email message with the name of your child/children to the following address: [gw08officedumfries@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officedumfries@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

This will help us as a school to ensure effective communication channels are in place.

## **Young Enterprise Team – Divine**

Dumfries High School's Young Enterprise company, Divine, has recently published a recipe book which features dishes from local people and businesses. If you would like to support the team, you can purchase a copy of the book (£11.99) at Waterstone's in Dumfries, by emailing [divine.dhs@gmail.com](mailto:divine.dhs@gmail.com) or contacting the team via Facebook!

## **S2/S3 John Muir Discovery Award Residential Trip**

An information evening for this exciting opportunity takes place at 7pm on Wednesday 10 January in the main hall. This is for all parents/carers who have expressed an interest in their child attending this residential trip in May 2018.

## **Dates for the Diary**

Thursday 15 February 2018	S4 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Tuesday 20 February 2018	S5/6 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Wednesday 28 February 2018	S3 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Monday 5 March 2018	S2 Parents Evening 4-6pm
Wednesday 23 May 2018	S1 Parents Evening 4-6pm

Best wishes once again