



## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020

### Staff Update

Mrs Shona Cowie (Music) is currently undertaking a secondment position with the Education department within Dumfries and Galloway Council and will continue in this role until at least the summer break. Mr Stewart Solley continues to provide teaching cover within the Music department working alongside Miss Bebhionn Patterson.

Mr Iain Bannerman (Maths) leaves us on Friday 17 January to take up a new position in another school. Iain is a long-serving member of the DHS Maths team and we wish him well on the new challenges ahead. Mr Jack and Ms Walton continue to provide cover within the Maths team.

Mrs Heather Harvey (Art & Design) is about to start a period of maternity leave. We wish Mrs Harvey well and we look forward to hearing the news of her new arrival. Cover in Art will be provided by Mrs Suzette Stubbs.

### S4/5/6 Prelims

Prelim exams for senior pupils begin on Friday 10 January and run until Friday 24 January. Prelim timetables were issued prior to the Christmas holiday. Reports and Parents' Evening will take place soon thereafter as will Option interviews for S4/5 pupils.

It is important that all pupils in S4/5/6 continue to adopt a positive attitude towards their studies and revision to ensure success in the prelim exams and beyond. Performance in the prelim and subsequent results may determine presentation levels for the final SQA exams later this year and as such it is vital that all pupils prepare in the best possible way to ensure success.

Study support sessions in all subjects continue to be offered to pupils throughout the week. Please encourage your child to attend these sessions to assist with their learning in preparation for both the prelim exams and the final SQA exams in April/May. Details of study support sessions are listed on the school website.

### Parent Council

The first Parent Council meeting of the New Year will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 22 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.

### School Show – June 2020

I am delighted to announce that Dumfries High School will once again this year be producing a school show. Rehearsals are well under way for our production of 'High School Musical' which will be performed for four nights, from Tuesday 23 June until Friday 26 June. Tickets will be on sale soon.

### Email Communication

Could I ask parents/carers to ensure that your 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.

### May Day Holiday 2020

Please note that there has been a change to the date of the May Day holiday for pupils this year. The original date for pupils in Dumfries and Galloway was Monday 4 May. However, to fall in line with others parts of the UK and to recognise the VE Day anniversary, the new holiday date is Friday 8 May 2020.

### **S3 Exams**

Pupils in S3 will this term be working towards a series of formal examinations beginning in early May. This will be the first set of formal exams that this cohort of pupils will have undertaken and it is important that they prepare fully and appropriately to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes.

Further detail about the exams will be issued in due course. However, I would urge the parents/carers of all S3 pupils to ensure that your son/daughter is engaging fully with their learning at home; ongoing revision and a positive attitude towards all school work can go a long way to future success.

### **Medical Issues**

When a pupil becomes ill during the school day it is important that they follow the correct procedures. In the first instance pupils should report to the main office and if necessary they will be assessed by a first-aider. Parent/carer communication will follow directly from the main school office as required. Pupils should not contact parents directly to come and collect them as this can often lead to difficult or confusing situations.

### **Holidays During Term-Time**

Over recent years, there has been an increasing number of pupils taking time out of school during term to attend family holidays; in some cases this can often be a week or longer. Whilst I recognise that in some situations this is unavoidable due to parent/carer work commitments, it is against council policy to authorise this and has an obvious negative impact upon pupil learning.

As always, I would ask for your consideration when booking holidays to minimise the time out of school so that we can work together to support all of our learners as best we can.

### **Attendance at Parents' Evening**

Parents' Evening for all pupils in S1-S6 will take place between February and May (details listed below). Your attendance at these events goes a significant way to supporting our young people as they continue to work towards exams in S4/5/6. I would ask all parents/carers to ensure they attend Parents' Evening to discuss pupil learning and ways in which we can continue to work together to allow further progress.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Friday 10 January 2020	S3 Reports Issued
Friday 10 January – Friday 24 January 2020	S4/5/6 Prelim Exams
Friday 14 February 2020	S4/5/6 Reports Issued
Monday 17 – Friday 21 February 2020	Pupil Holiday (In-service Thursday 20 & Friday 21)
Tuesday 25 February 2020	S4 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Monday 2 March 2020	S5/6 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Wednesday 11 March 2020	S3 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Tuesday 17 March 2020	S2 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Friday 3 April 2020	End of Term – Easter Holiday
Monday 20 April 2020	New Term Begins
Friday 8 May 2020	May Day holiday (VE Day anniversary)
Friday 15 May 2020	S1 Reports Issued
Wednesday 20 May 2020	S1 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)

Best wishes once again for the year ahead

