



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

I would like to welcome everyone back to the final term of the school year. It has been an incredibly busy start to the new term as we work towards the first set of SQA exams since 2019. There is no doubt that the last two year period has brought some of the biggest challenges that we may ever face in education, but the manner in which our young people have addressed this is nothing short of remarkable. As always, I would also like to thank all parents/carers for your ongoing support.

Staffing Update

Kenny Pullen, DHT, has been successful in securing a seconded position within the Education and Learning Directorate and will take up his post as of Monday 6 June; congratulations to Kenny. Kenny will continue to teach his current S3 Maths set next session, taking the pupils through to the their N5 exam. The seconded position will be for a period up of 23 months. I have already started the process to recruit an Acting Depute Headteacher and I will give a further update once an appointment has been made.

Adam Park continues in his role as Acting Principal Teacher of Removing Barriers to Learning (RBL) while Andrew Johnstone is seconded to work with the Supporting Learners team. Iona Hoyle has joined us as a teaching member of staff within RBL.

Susan Farquhar who has been covering as Principal Teacher of Physical Education and Home Economics since 2020, has now secured the post on a permanent basis. Graeme Campbell remains as Principal Teacher with responsibility for whole-school Health and Wellbeing.

S4/5/6 SQA Exams

SQA exams for all pupils undertaking National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications started on Wednesday of this week. All pupils have been issued with individualised exam timetables detailing all of the required information. We wish all of our senior pupils good luck with their exams.

Exam leave officially begins for senior pupils on Tuesday 3 May. The whole-school timetable will change on Monday 6 June. All year groups will move forward as pupils begin new courses and subjects of study.

S3 Exams

S3 pupils will also be starting a ten-day period of exams as from Monday 9 May; exam timetables will be issued next week. The experience of completing these exams will help to prepare the pupils for the S4 prelims in January of next year. It will also prove to be a useful benchmark to assess pupil progress at this point in time. It goes without saying that third year pupils should approach these exams in a focused, positive and mature manner to ensure they attain as highly as they possibly can.

Guid Nychburris Celebrations 2022

As part of the Guid Nychburris celebrations this year, Abi Kelly, S6 at Dumfries School will perform the role of attendant to The Queen of the South. Abi was selected to fulfil this role in 2020, but due to the cancellation of Guid Nychburris over the last two years has not had the opportunity to perform her duties. We wish Abi well as she takes part in this year's celebrations.

May Day Holiday

Please note that next Monday 2 May is a holiday for all pupils and staff.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June are additional holiday dates to help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Therefore, pupils and staff will not be in school on these dates.

P7 Transition Days

Due to a two-year gap as a result of Covid-19, it is with great pleasure that Dumfries High School will once again be able to offer our Primary 7 transition days to the new S1 cohort who will be attending Dumfries High School after the summer break. We will be welcoming many pupils from a number of different schools to life at Dumfries High School on Wednesday 23, Thursday 24 and Friday 25 June. We look forward to seeing them here in school.

Uniform

When S4/5/6 pupils are on study leave completing SQA exams, there will be an increased focus on the standard of uniform amongst our S1/2/3 pupils.

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.

House Assemblies

S1/2/3 year groups will be returning to House Assemblies from this point and continue during the SQA exam period. Assemblies each week will focus on different elements of Health and Wellbeing as part of the wider school curriculum.

Mobile Phones/Headphones

Mobile phones and/or Headphones should be not visible or used by pupils in corridors when at school. They should also not be used by pupils in a classroom setting unless instructed to do so by a staff member; on occasion they may be used to aid learning and teaching. When pupils are using mobile phones for personal use they are not engaged in learning and this can cause distractions, disruption and sometimes danger for themselves and others. All pupils have been reminded of this. Pupils may be asked to hand their mobile phone to a member of staff if they fail to follow this clear instruction.

Mental Health First Aid

The MHFA is Dumfries High School's Mental Health First Aid service, aimed at promoting positive mental health in the school community. Please be aware of the support that is available to pupils in relation to any mental health issues, including stress, feelings of uncertainty, anxiousness or low mood. Pupils can contact our fully-trained team using the 'get help' button on the home-page of the school website.

Filling in the referral form will result in our Lead for Mental Health, Miss MacPherson, contacting a pupil within 24 hours to arrange a session with one of our trained members of staff. They will be able to offer support and signpost a pupil to the appropriate services and resources.

Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place in the main school library on Thursday 12 May at 6pm. Please contact the Parent Council Chair Lorrie Kyle: lorriekyle@btconnect.com or 07859939895 for further details.

Ski Trip February 2023

I am happy to announce that Dumfries High School intends to run a Ski Trip to Pila in Northern Italy. This exciting excursion is open to pupils who are currently in S5. This trip will provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to ski proficiently. Students will be organised into ability groups, so this trip is suitable for beginner, intermediate and advanced skiers. The tour company we will be using is Interski with the intended dates of the trip as follows: leaving Dumfries on Saturday 28 January 2023 and returning to Dumfries on Saturday 4 February 2023.

The full cost of the trip is £950. The cost will be spread throughout the coming months, a £150 deposit is to be paid by Tuesday 26 April 2022 to confirm your child's place on the trip. Three further payments will be made so the full balance is paid before the 19 November 2022. If you would like to secure your child's place, please contact Mrs Eileen Adamson in the PE department.

S1 Reports & Parents' Evening

Reports for all pupils in S1 will be issued on Friday 13 May. The subsequent Parents' Evening will take place between 4pm – 6pm on Wednesday 18 May; more information clarifying details will be issued soon.

Sports Day

Heats for all pupils in S1/2 will take place on Monday 23 May with S3 heats taking place on Wednesday 25 May. Sports Day Finals will take place on Tuesday 31 May.

Dumfries and Galloway Schools Regional Athletics Championships will take place here at Dumfries High School on Wednesday 15 June.

Child Protection Concerns

I would like to take the opportunity once again to ensure that our community is aware of the fact that Mrs Daniella Hogg (Depute) is the main point of contact within Dumfries High School should a child protection concern ever exist.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 27 April 20122	SQA Exam Diet Begins
Monday 2 May 2022	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 3 May 2022	SQA Exam Leave Begins (S4/5/6)
Monday 9 May 2022	S3 Exams Begin (Finish Friday 20 May)
Thursday 12 May 2022	Parent Council Meeting (4pm – 6pm)
Friday 13 May 2022	S1 Reports Issued
Wednesday 18 May 2022	S1 Parents' Evening 4-6pm
Tuesday 31 May 2022	Whole-School Sports Day
Thursday 2 & Friday 3 June 2022	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday
Wednesday 22 June – Friday 24 June 2022	P7 Transition Days
Friday 1 July 2022	End of Term

Kind regards

