



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

On behalf of all staff at Dumfries High School, I would like to welcome our pupils back to the new term following the Christmas holiday and extend the very best of wishes to all parents/carers for the year ahead. This will be another busy year I am sure, but as always, we will continue to work together to ensure our young people attain and achieve as best they can.

I'd like to take this opportunity once again to thank pupils, parents/carers and staff who contributed to our foodbank appeal just before the end of term. As always, the support we receive from the Dumfries High School community is nothing short of astounding and this year we were able to donate approximately 3000 items to help local families most in need.

S4/5/6 Prelims

Prelim exams for senior pupils started on Friday 13 January and run until Monday 30 January. Prelim timetables were issued prior to the Christmas holiday. Reports will be issued and Parents' Evening will take place 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 May/June. Details of study support sessions are listed on the school website.

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 and registration class to the following address: gw08officedumfries@ea.dumgal.sch.uk. This will help us as a school to ensure effective communication channels are in place.

Sixth Year Senior Prom

Please note that the S6 Prom this year will take place at Hetland Hall on Friday 23 June. The Prom committee are busy making arrangements for this event and details will be shared with pupils and parents/carers in due course.

UNICEF Rights Respecting School

This year Dumfries High School have embarked on the journey to be recognised as a Rights Respecting School by participating in the Rights Respecting School Award. A link containing a Sway newsletter update was sent out last week to all main mobile contact numbers.

Holidays During Term-Time

In recent times there has been a significant increase in the 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.

S3 Exams

Please note that all S3 pupils will undertake a ten-day period of exams as from Monday 8 May. The experience of completing these exams will help to prepare pupils for the demands of studying National Qualifications and 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. Therefore, it is important that all current S3 pupils continue to work hard between now and the May exam period.

S1 Swimming

We are delighted to inform you that as of January 2023 our S1 Swimming Block will return. Pupils in S1 will undertake a series of learning experiences at DG1 to build confidence, technique and safety in the water.

Below are the dates and times of each session - please note that due to holidays some classes have slightly fewer sessions.

Class: 1B1	Class: 1C2	Class: 1D1	Class: 1C1	Class: 1D2
<u>Tuesday</u> 10th January 17th January 24th January 31st January	<u>Wednesday</u> 11th January 18th January 25th January 1st February 7th February 15th February	<u>Tuesday</u> 7th February 14th February 21st February 28th February	<u>Wednesday</u> 1st March 8th March 15th March 22nd March 29th March	<u>Tuesday</u> 7th March 14th March 21st March 28th March

Due to the session starting at 9am pupils will require to meet their PE teacher at DG1 at 8:45am to register instead of coming to Dumfries High School. Pupils should arrive to their swimming session in full school uniform. Pupils will be walked back to Dumfries High School in time for break.

To allow each pupil to have the best possible experience during this block we require them to have the following kit at each session: appropriate swimwear (1-piece swimsuit for girls is preferred), goggles (if they choose), towel, waterproof bag for wet kit, £1 for a locker.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Susan Farquhar, Principal Teacher Home Economics and PE.

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.

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.

Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on Tuesday 7 February at 6pm in the main school library. Please get in touch with our Parent Council Chair (Lorrie Kyle) if you have any questions: lorriekyle@btconnect.com or 07859939895. A strong Parent Council can have a huge impact upon a school community and we are keen that as many new members join and support the work of the group. Meetings usually last no longer than an hour and it would be fantastic to have more parents/carers as part of the group.

Dumfries & Galloway College and Barony College Applications 2023

Pupils in S4/5/6 who are considering an application to either Dumfries & Galloway College or Barony College for courses starting in August/September 2023 should note that online applications have been open since before Christmas. Any pupil who has not yet applied, should do so as soon as possible. Help and advice is available from Pupil Support staff if required.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

At this point of the term, many senior pupils will be considering their options for later in the year. Zoe Knox (nee Winpenny), our school Career Advisor can offer a face-to-face meeting to provide career information, advice and guidance. Many of our senior pupils and parents/carers may require specialist help to finalise future career paths. Please use the following contact details:

- Telephone: 01387 – 272500
- Email: zoe.winpenny@sds.co.uk

Dates for the Diary

Friday 13 January – Monday 30 January 2023	S4/5/6 Prelim Exams
Saturday 28 January – Friday 3 February 2023	S5/6 Ski Trip – Pila, Italy
Wednesday 8 February 2023	S3 Parent/Carer Information Evening – 6pm
Tuesday 14 February 2023	S4/5/6 Reports Issued
Thursday 16 February 2023	S4 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Friday 17 February – Tuesday 21 February 2023	S4 Option Meetings
Wednesday 22 February – Friday 24 February 2023	Pupil Holiday
Monday 27 February 2023	S5/6 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Tuesday 28 February – Thursday 2 March	S5 Option Meetings
Tuesday 7 March 2023	S3 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 8 March – Friday 10 March 2023	S3 Option Meetings
Wednesday 15 March 2023	S2 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Thursday 16 March – Monday 20 March 2023	S2 Option Meetings
Friday 31 March 2023	End of term – Easter Holiday
Monday 17 April 2023	New Term Begins

Best wishes once again for the year ahead.

