



## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

I would like to welcome everyone back to the final term of the school year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our Easter Egg appeal prior to the holiday. Your generosity and support helped us to collect 240 Easter Eggs that went to local families most in need as part of the wider appeal. The support provided by the Dumfries High School community at times like these never ceases to amaze me; your kindness and compassion goes a long way to help bring happiness to families most in need. Many thanks once again.

### S4/5/6 SQA Exams 2023

SQA exams for all pupils undertaking National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications start next Monday 24 April. 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 2 May. The whole-school timetable will change on Monday 5 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 nine-day period of exams as from Tuesday 9 May; exam timetables are in the process of being compiled and will be issued to pupils soon. 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 2023

As part of the Guid Nychburris celebrations this year, Ruby Shaw, S4 at Dumfries School will perform the role of attendant to The Queen of the South. We wish Ruby well as she takes part in this year's celebrations.

### May Day Holiday

Please note that Monday 1 May is a holiday for all pupils and staff.

### The King's Coronation Bank Holiday

Monday 8 May is an additional holiday date to help celebrate the King's Coronation. Therefore, pupils and staff will not be in school on this date.

### P7 Transition Days

Primary 7 transition days for our new S1 cohort who will be attending Dumfries High School after the summer break will be taking place in late June. We will be welcoming many pupils from a number of different schools to life at Dumfries High School on Wednesday 21, Thursday 22 and Friday 23 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 continue to attend House Assemblies this term during the SQA exam period. Assemblies each week will focus on different elements of Health and Wellbeing as part of the wider school curriculum.

### **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**

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, Mr Campbell, 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 Wednesday 10 May at 6pm. Please contact the Parent Council Chair Lorrie Kyle: [lorriekyle@btconnect.com](mailto:lorriekyle@btconnect.com) or 07859939895 for further details.

### **S1 Reports & Parents' Evening**

A full report for all pupils in S1 will be issued on Friday 5 May. The subsequent Parents' Evening will take place between 4pm – 6pm on Thursday 11 May; more information clarifying details will be issued soon.

### **Sports Day**

Athletics heats for all pupils in S1 will take place on Tuesday 16 May with S2/3 heats taking place on Wednesday 24 May. Sports Day Finals will take place on Tuesday 30 May.

Dumfries and Galloway Schools Regional Athletics Championships will take place here at Dumfries High School on Tuesday 13 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.

### **Junior Prizegiving (S1/2/3)**

This event will take place on Thursday 1 June at 7pm in the main hall. Further information will follow about this evening.

### **Sixth Year Senior Prom**

Please note that the S6 Prom this year will take place at Hetland Hall on Friday 23 June. Final arrangements are currently being made for this event. Any S6 pupil wishing to attend should ensure that ticket payment is made by next Friday 28 April.

## Latecoming

Our school day begins at 8.50am and pupils should ensure they are in registration by this time. Morning registration finishes at 9am each day and during this, important information and announcements will be shared with pupils. This is also a time for pupils to focus and prepare themselves for the lessons they are about to attend. Please ensure your child is in school no later than 8.50am to attend morning registration.

## DHS 'House' Contacts

All pupils at Dumfries High School belong to a 'House' - Buccleuch, Caerlaverock or Devorgilla. If you have any concerns or queries the following people are the relevant contacts:

	Buccleuch	Caerlaverock	Devorgilla
Pupil Support	Debbie Holmes gw11holmesdebbie @ea.dumgal.sch.uk	Fiona Bryce gw09brycefiona2 @ea.dumgal.sch.uk	Jan Kilmurry gw08kilmurryjan01 @ea.dumgal.sch.uk
Depute Headteacher	Billy Davidson gw08davidsonwilliam @ea.dumgal.sch.uk	Daniella Hogg gw11hoggdaniella @ea.dumgal.sch.uk	Claire Harrison gw08harrisonclaire@ ea.dumgal.sch.uk

## Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Zoe Knox, our school Career Adviser, continues to be available to provide career information, advice and guidance for those pupils wishing it. Many of our senior pupils and parents/carers may require specialist help to finalise future career paths. Please use the following contact details and websites which I hope you find useful:

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

## Dates for the Diary

Monday 24 April 2023	SQA Exam Diet Begins
Monday 1 May 2023	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 2 May 2023	SQA Exam Leave Begins (S4/5/6)
Friday 5 May 2023	S1 Reports Issued
Monday 8 May 2023	King's Coronation Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 May 2023 – Friday 19 May 2023	S3 Exams Begin
Wednesday 10 May 2023	Parent Council Meeting (6pm)
Thursday 11 May 2023	S1 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Monday 22 May 2023 – Friday 26 May 2023	S1 Paris Trip
Tuesday 30 May 2023	Whole-School Sports Day
Monday 5 June 2023	New Timetable Begins
Wednesday 21 June 2023 – Friday 23 June 2023	P7 Transition Days
Friday 30 June 2023	End of Term

Kind regards

