**NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024**

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; exam preparation, completing coursework and assessments, finalising option choices for next year, school show rehearsals, sporting events and school trips have been keeping pupils, staff and parents/carers very busy indeed. As always, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

**Staffing Update**

During last term Lauren Wilson, who for a lengthy period of time was our Acting PT Languages, secured the position at Dumfries High School on a full-time permanent basis following interview. Congratulations to Lauren on securing this post.

Avril Templeton, a long-time servant of Dumfries High School retired at the Easter break. Avril has supported hundreds of young people working as a classroom assistant with the RBL department over many years. On behalf of everyone associated with Dumfries High School, I would like to wish Avril a long and happy retirement.

Tam Kearney (Snr) also retired from Dumfries High School at Easter. Tam worked as a janitor with us for a number of years and has been a tremendous support to staff across the school within that time. Best wishes to Tam on his retirement.

Claire Bartsch who has worked as part of our office clerical team in recent years has also now departed Dumfries High School. Best wishes to Claire in her new role.

**S4/5/6 SQA Exams 2024**

SQA exams for all pupils undertaking National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications start on Monday 22 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 Monday 22 April. The whole-school timetable will change on Monday 27 May. 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 7 May; exam timetables are in the process of being compiled and will be issued to pupils soon. Pupils will undertake exams in subjects that they are continuing to study next year throughout S4. 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 2024**

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

**May Day Holiday**
Please note that Monday 6 May is a holiday for all pupils and staff.

**P7 Induction Days**
Primary 7 induction 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 19, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 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 Tuesday 7 May at 6pm. Please contact the Parent Council Chair, Jackie Byrne: jackiembyrne@gmail.com or 07816061976, for further details.

**S1 Reports & Parents' Evening**
A full report for all pupils in S1 will be issued on Friday 10 May. The subsequent Parents' Evening will take place between 4pm – 6pm on Wednesday 15 May; more information clarifying details will be issued soon.

**Sports Day**
Athletics heats for all pupils in S1 will take place on Friday 17 May with S2/3 heats taking place on Monday 20 May. Sports Day Finals will take place on Tuesday 28 May.

Dumfries and Galloway Schools Regional Athletics Championships will take place here at Dumfries High School on Tuesday 11 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.

**Sixth Year Senior Prom**
Please note that the S6 Prom this year will take place at Hetland Hall on Friday 7 June. Final arrangements are currently being made for this event. Any S6 pupil wishing to attend should ensure that ticket payment of £45 is made no later than Friday 10 May.

**School Show – Beauty and the Beast**
As you will hopefully be aware, Dumfries High School will once again this year be producing a school show. Rehearsals are well under way for our production of 'Beauty and the Beast' which will be performed for three nights, from Tuesday 11 June until Thursday 13 June. Tickets will be on sale soon from the Main School Office or the Ticket Booking Office at the Midsteeple.

**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

**Free School Meals/Clothing Grants**
Forms for parents/carers wishing to apply for free school meals and/or a clothing grant can be collected from the main school office. An electronic version is also available on our website or at the following address: http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15246/School-clothing-grants.

**S1 & S4/5/6 Reporting and Parents' Evening Surveys**
A big thanks to parents in S1 and S4/5/6 who competed the short surveys prior to the Easter break. Your feedback will help plan the schedule and timings of reports and parents' evenings during the next academic session (2024/2025).

**S1Paris Trip 2024**
An important Parent Information Evening for the S1 Paris Trip 2024 will be help on Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 6pm in the Main Hall. A specific letter inviting you, and sharing other relevant information for the trip, will be sent home by Miss Wilson in the near future.

**S2 Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Scotland 2024.**

All S2 students are taking part in the valuable experience as part of the S2 Business course. Students work hard raising awareness for a variety of social issues and charities that they are passionate about. In groups, students make presentations to try and win £3000 from the Wood Foundation and Holywood Trust for various charities. The Grand Final will be held on Wednesday, 8 May 2024, with a finalist group from each class. In front of a packed hall of students, invited guests, their parents and representatives from the charities, the 8 groups of students will share their presentations and one of the groups will hand a cheque for £3000 to their charity. We are looking forward to seeing the excellent work, both in and out of school, that this years S2s have been involved in

**Dates for the Diary**

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|---|---|
| Monday 22 April 2024 | SQA Exam Diet Begins (S4/5/6) |
| Wednesday 1 May 2024 | S1 Paris Trip Parent/Carer Information Evening (6pm) |
| Monday 6 May 2024 | May Day Holiday |
| Tuesday 7 May 2024 | Parent Council Meeting (6pm) |
| Tuesday 7 May 2024 – Friday 17 May 2024 | S3 Exams Begin |
| Wednesday 8 May 2024 | S2 Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Final (Periods 3/4/5) |
| Friday 10 May 2024 | S1 Reports Issued |
| Wednesday 15 May 2024 | S1 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm) |
| Friday 17 May 2024 | S1 Sports Heats |
| Sunday 19 May 2024 – Friday 24 May 2024 | S1 Paris Trip |
| Monday 20 May 2024 | S2/3 Sports Heats |
| Monday 27 May 2024 | New Timetable Begins |
| Tuesday 28 May 2024 | Whole-School Sports Day |
| Tuesday 11 June 2024 – Thursday 13 June 2024 | School Show – 'Beauty and the Beast' |
| Wednesday 19 June 2024 – Friday 21 June 2024 | P7 Induction Days |
| Monday 1 July 2024 | End of Term |

Kind regards