NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

With the new term now underway, I would like to welcome everyone back following the October break. I hope everyone had a lovely holiday.

With yet another busy term ahead, our senior pupils will be working towards prelim exams in January of next year. Our S1/2/3 pupils will also be busy completing coursework and undertaking assessments to help monitor progress and performance.

Regardless of year group, it is important that all pupils continue to demonstrate a positive approach to their studies and to learning. Your role at home to help reinforce the importance of hard work and determination is important and I would like to thank you in advance for your support this term.

Uniform
With the onset of more inclement weather following the October break, I would like to clarify the situation in relation to school uniform, specifically the wearing of blazers, during winter months. This is a query that has been raised a few times by parents/carers in recent times.

With your support, our pupils have looked amazing during the first term of the new school year. With every pupil now wearing a green school blazer, we are keen to maintain the high standards that we have set for all young people within the school.

The expectation for pupils to continue to wear their blazer at all times when in the school building remains during periods of cold and/or wet weather. If they choose to do so, pupils can absolutely wear a coat or jacket over their blazer to remain warm en-route to and from school. However, when in the school building, blazers must continue to be worn.

S4/5/6 Reports
Senior interim reports will be issued to all parents/carers no later than Friday 15 November and in advance of the subsequent parents' evening. Please take some time to discuss the reports with your child as this will be based on progress to date and reflect performance in the recent October Assessment week. Importantly, reports will also give advice and guidance about how pupils can make further improvements in advance of the January 2025 prelims.

S4/5/6 Parents' Evening
Please note the dates and times of our senior parents' evenings this term. Discussions following the October Assessment week will play a vital role in advance of the January prelims and your attendance at parents' evening is crucial to help us work together to support pupils during this examination year. Please note the following dates:

*S4 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 19 November (4pm – 6pm)

*S5/6 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 27 November (4pm – 6pm)

Study Support
Study support sessions for subjects/levels are available for pupils in all year groups to attend during lunch and after school each week day. Such sessions will be of particular benefit to senior pupils who are working towards National Qualifications this year. Please encourage your child to attend where possible and build this into part of a weekly study programme. Details of study support sessions available are attached with this newsletter.

S4/5/6 Prelim Exams - January 2025
Prelim examinations for pupils in S4/5/6 will begin on Wednesday 8 January 2025 and finish on Tuesday 21 January 2025. Prelim performance is an absolutely vital element to help ensure that all senior phase pupils achieve the best possible outcomes in every course this year. Parents/carers have a crucial role to play within this and once again I would ask for your help to ensure that your child has a programme of study in place at home for the term between October and Christmas.

School Show - June 2025
I am delighted to announce that following the success of 'Beauty and the Beast' earlier this year, Dumfries High School will once again be performing a school show next June. Rehearsals are now well underway.

'Oliver' will be staged over three nights next year: Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 June 2025. More information about ticket sales will be issued in due course.

School Car Park – Drop Off and Collections
At the beginning and end of each school day, the front of the main building is an incredibly busy area with hundreds of pupils walking around and numerous vehicles travelling in a variety of directions.

When dropping pupils off at the front of the school prior to the start of the school day, please do so by stopping in Bane Loaning to allow pupils to get out of the vehicle; do not bring your vehicle into the school grounds at the front of the school. At the end of the school day, the main gates at the front of the school building will be closed and manned by the janitor as from 3pm to prevent vehicles entering the car park. Please also be vigilant in Bane Loaning at these busy times. Thanks for your support and understanding with this matter.

Christmas Fayre 2024 – Thursday 14 November
I am delighted to be in a position once again to open our doors for our annual Christmas Fayre. This takes place on Thursday 14 November between 6pm – 8pm in the main school hall. We have over 60 arts and crafts stalls available to help purchase some early Christmas presents. Hot and cold food will also be available in addition to festive entertainment.

As a school, we are always very grateful for the support that we receive throughout the year. To help ensure our annual Christmas Fayre is a success once again and help to raise much-needed funds for our school, we would welcome your support. We are aware that many of our parents/carers have businesses or may work for businesses who may be willing to donate. If you think that you would be able to support this event by donating a prize for our raffle, please get in touch. Donations can be dropped off at the school office or, if easier, arrangements can be made for collection.

Christmas Ceilidhs
Our junior ceilidh will take place on Tuesday 10 December with the senior ceilidh taking place the following week on Tuesday 17 December. The Nicky McMichan Ceilidh Band will be providing entertainment on both evenings. Tickets will be on sale soon.

S1 Parents' Evening

After consultation with parents/carers and staff, please note that the timing of the S1 parents' evening will now take place during term 2 (Thursday 12 December) and not in May as it has done in recent years.

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 copy and instructions is also attached along with this newsletter. An electronic version is also available on our website or at the following address: https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/15246/School-Clothing-Grants

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) forms and guidance notes, which are applicable to pupils in S4/5/6, are attached to the email along with this newsletter; paper copies are also available at the main office. In relation to EMA, a fresh application must be made each academic year and submitted with all documentation needed to complete the assessment. https://dumgal.gov.uk/EMA

Dates for the Diary

Monday 11 November	P7 Open Evening
Tuesday 12 November	Cluster P7 Health and Wellbeing Day
Thursday 14 November	DHS Christmas Fayre (6pm – 8pm)
Friday 15 November	S4/5/6 Interim Reports Issued
Tuesday 19 November	S4 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Wednesday 27 November	S5/6 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Thursday 28 November	Flu Immunisations – Pupils
Monday 2 December – Friday 6 December	S3 Berlin Trip
Tuesday 10 December	Junior (S1/2/3) Christmas Ceilidh
Thursday 12 December	S1 Parent's Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Tuesday 17 December	Senior (S4/5/6) Christmas Ceilidh
Friday 20 December	End of Term
Tuesday 7 January 2025	New Term Begins (Pupil's return)
Wednesday 8 January 2025 – Tuesday 21 January 2025	Senior (S4/5/6 Prelims)

Best wishes