



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

I would like to welcome everyone back to the final term of the school year. School trips, SQA exams, Prizegiving Celebrations, change of timetable, sporting activities and many more things will be sure to keep pupils, staff and parents/carers incredibly busy as we work towards the Summer break.

Please take a few minutes to read through this newsletter which will hopefully give some useful information about the term ahead.

Staffing Update

Adam Park, Principal Teacher of Removing Barriers to Learning (RBL), has secured a new position within the Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Directorate. Adam's last day at Dumfries High School was Friday 28 March. I would like to thank Adam for his contribution over the last few years. In the short term, Natalie Rosie and Lucy McKie will assume additional responsibilities within the RBL team. The recruitment process to secure a permanent replacement for Adam is now under way.

Kirsty Hamilton (Business Education) has secured another teaching position at Annan Academy and left Dumfries High School just prior to the Easter break; Kirsty leaves with our thanks and best wishes.

Kelsey Garton (Business Education) who was a probationer teacher at Dumfries High School during session 2023-2024 has been successful in gaining a permanent post with us and will be a direct replacement for Kirsty Hamilton. We are delighted to have Kelsey returning to the Business Education team within our school. Kelsey started on the first day of this term.

Samantha Thorburn (Modern Languages) joined our team as a full-time temporary member of staff within our Languages faculty last term.

Jade Alabaster (Pupil Equity Worker) joined the wider Pupil Support team during last term. Jade's primary role is to liaise with and support pupils and families where attendance or latecoming are creating barriers which impact upon pupil learning, progress and attainment.

S4/5/6 SQA Exams 2025

SQA exams for all pupils undertaking National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications start on Friday 25 April. All pupils will be 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 28 April. The whole-school timetable will change on Monday 2 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 6 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.

Roads Works/Traffic Congestion

I have been informed by Amey that the traffic delays and congestion near the Tinwald Downs roundabout (Little Tesco) as a result of the essential drainage works which have been carried out since early January, will be completed by Friday 18 April. This should bring an end to the disruption many of us have faced in recent months.

Breakfast Club

As previously communicated, Dumfries High School will be running a breakfast club each morning between 8am and 8.45am as from the beginning of this term. The breakfast club will take place in the Home Economics department.

To help support those families most in need, the breakfast club will be available to access by the young people who may not be able to secure a healthy breakfast before they leave home each morning. Cereals, toast, hot and cold drinks will be available at no cost to any pupil who attends.

S1 Bag Packing – Galloway Activity Centre (GAC) Fundraising

Our current S1 year group travelled to Galloway Activity Centre (GAC) back in September last year and the cost of bus transport was supported by our Parent Council. Unfortunately, the Parent Council are not in a financial position to cover the costs again this year.

Therefore, our current S1 pupils are helping to 'pay it forward' by trying to raise as much money as possible to help contribute towards the cost of buses for our new S1 cohort who will be joining us in August.

The initial bag packing event recently held at Lockerbie Road Tesco raised a fantastic £679. A further S1 bag packing fundraising event has been organised to be held in Morrison's between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 3 May. If you can, please show your support for our young volunteers as they give their time to help others.

Guid Nychburris Celebrations 2025

As part of the Guid Nychburris celebrations this year, Macy True, S4 at Dumfries School will perform the role of The Queen of the South. We wish Macy well as she takes part in this year's celebrations representing Dumfries High School and our wider community.

Mhairi Chalmers and Lily Barr will undertake the role of Senior Attendants with Aisha Sonko and Cailin Currie performing the role of Key-Bearers. Ana Kelly will be the singer and perform at the Plainstaines as part of the Guid Nychburris celebrations on Saturday 21 June.

Holiday Dates

Friday 18 April (Good Friday), Monday 21 April (Easter Monday) and Monday 5 May (May Day) are all school holidays; school is therefore closed 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 25, Thursday 26 and Friday 27 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 Thursday 29 May at 6pm. Please contact the Parent Council Chair, Jackie Byrne: jackiembyrne@gmail.com or 07816061976, for further details.

S1 Reports

A full report for all pupils in S1 will be issued on Friday 9 May. Once reports have been issued, please do not hesitate to contact the school if there is anything you would like to discuss in more detail.

Sports Day

Athletics heats for all pupils in S1 will take place on Friday 16 May with S2/3 heats taking place on Tuesday 20 May. Sports Day Finals will take place on Tuesday 27 May.

Dumfries and Galloway Schools Regional Athletics Championships will take place here at Dumfries High School on Wednesday 18 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 6 June. Final arrangements are currently being made for this event. Any S6 pupil wishing to attend should ensure that ticket payment of £47.50 is made no later than Thursday 17 April.

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>.

School Show – ‘Oliver’

Following the success of our production of ‘Beauty and the Beast’ last year, Dumfries High School will once again this year be producing a school show. Rehearsals are well under way for our production of ‘Oliver’ which will be performed for three nights, from Tuesday 10 June until Thursday 12 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

S1 Paris Trip 2025

An important Parent Information Evening for the S1 Paris Trip 2025 will be held on Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 6pm in the Main Hall. A specific letter inviting you, and sharing other relevant information for the trip, was sent home by Miss Wilson during the Easter holiday.

S2 Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Scotland 2025

All S2 students are taking part in this 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 Friday 2 May 2025, with a finalist group from each registration class. In front of a packed hall of students, invited guests, parents/carers and representatives from the charities, the 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.

School Meals

Please note that the cost of a school meal has increased by 10p to £2.20.

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.

Junior Prizegiving (S1/2/3)

This event will take place on Thursday 19 June at 7pm in the main hall. Further information will follow about this evening.

Website

Our new school website continues to be updated on a regular basis. This is an important source of information and communication with parents/carers, pupils and the wider DHS community. The website will continue to be updated regularly. Your suggestions as to how further improvements could be made to the website would be most welcome; please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 16 April 2025	S1 Paris Trip Parent/Carer Information Evening (6pm)
Friday 18 April 2025	Good Friday Holiday
Monday 21 April 2025	Easter Monday Holiday
Monday 28 April 2025	SQA Exam Diet Begins (S4/5/6)
Friday 2 May 2025	S2 Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Final (Periods 6/7)
Monday 5 May 2025	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 6 May 2025	S2 Glasgow Science Centre Trip
Tuesday 6 May 2025 – Friday 16 May 2025	S3 Exam Period
Friday 9 May 2025	S1 Reports Issued
Friday 16 May 2025	S1 Sports Heats
Sunday 18 May 2025 – Friday 23 May 2025	S1 Paris Trip
Tuesday 20 May 2025	S2/3 Sports Heats
Tuesday 27 May 2025	Whole-School Sports Day
Thursday 29 May 2025	Parent Council Meeting (6pm)
Monday 2 June 2025	New Timetable Begins
Tuesday 10 June 2025 – Thursday 12 June 2025	School Show – ‘Oliver’
Wednesday 18 June 2025	School’s Regional Athletic Championships
Thursday 19 June 2025	S1/2/3 Junior Prizegiving
Wednesday 25 June 2025 – Friday 27 June 2025	P7 Induction Days
Thursday 3 July 2025	End of Term

Kind regards

