



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

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.

Staff Update

As you will be aware, Kenny Pullen had been seconded to work with the central team for around 18-months to this point. Kenny will now not be returning to Dumfries High School following his appointment to the permanent position of School Resource Manager within the Education and Learning Directorate. I would like to thank Kenny for his contribution to Dumfries High School over the last number of years and wish him well in his new position.

Interviews to appointment a new substantive Depute Headteacher, currently held on a temporary basis by Claire Harrison, will take place early this term. Once an appointment has been made, I will be sure to update all parents/carers.

DHS Fundraising - Defibrillator

Our most recent non-uniform day on Friday 6 October, was held to generate funds to allow Dumfries High School to purchase a defibrillator. Thanks to the support and generosity of all staff, pupils and parents/carers, we were able to raise an amazing sum of £700 to put towards the required total.

I would like once again, to thank everyone for the efforts to raise this sum. We will continue to hold other smaller fundraising events throughout the course of the year to help us reach the total amount required to purchase the defibrillator. Many thanks once again.

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 weeks.

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 17 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 2024 prelims.

S4/5/6 Parents' Evening

After consultation, please note that the timing of the senior parents' evening will now take place during term 2 and not in February as they have done in recent years. 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: Thursday 23 November (4pm – 6pm)

*S5/6 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 29 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 have been emailed to parents/carers and are also listed on the school website.

S4/5/6 Prelim Exams - January 2024

Prelim examinations for pupils in S4/5/6 will begin on Wednesday 10 January 2024 and finish on Tuesday 24 January 2024. 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 2024

I am delighted to announce that Dumfries High School will once again be performing a school show next June. This will be the first musical show since 'School of Rock' was performed in June 2019. Auditions and rehearsals will soon be under way following the October break.

'Beauty and the Beast' will be staged over three nights next year: Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 June 2024. 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. Unfortunately, I am sad to report that a pupil was recently hit by the wing-mirror of a car in the car park last month; the car did not stop. Thankfully, the pupil was not seriously hurt, but it is a reminder of how we need to continue to be careful at these busy times to avoid any serious injury.

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 2023 – Thursday 16 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 16 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 Christmas ceilidh will take place on Tuesday 12 December with the senior ceilidh taking place the following week on Tuesday 19 December. The Nicky McMichan Ceilidh Band will be providing entertainment on both evenings. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 13 November	P7 Open Evening
Tuesday 14 November	Cluster P7 Health and Wellbeing Day
Thursday 16 November	DHS Christmas Fayre (6pm – 8pm)
Friday 17 November	S4/5/6 Interim Reports Issued
Thursday 23 November	S4 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Wednesday 29 November	S5/6 Parents' Evening (4pm – 6pm)
Thursday 30 November	Flu Immunisations – Staff and Pupils
Monday 4 December – Thursday 7 December	S3 Berlin Trip
Tuesday 12 December	Junior (S1/2/3) Christmas Ceilidh
Friday 15 December	S1/2/3 Tracking Reports issued
Tuesday 19 December	Senior (S4/5/6) Christmas Ceilidh
Friday 22 December	End of Term
Tuesday 9 January 2024	New Term Begins (Pupil's return)
Wednesday 10 January 2024 – Tuesday 23 January 2024	Senior (S4/5/6 Prelims)

Best wishes

