

WELCOME TO DUMFRIES ACADEMY

WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU



WHEN CAN I VISIT THE SCHOOL?

- At the moment, we are not allowed to carry out any face to face transition but we are very hopeful that you and your parent/carer will be able to visit the school prior to the transition days in June next year
- If you need a little extra help with transition, this can be arranged
- Parents/carers can phone the school if they want more information or a meeting

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT SUBJECTS THAT I WILL STUDY IN SI?

- On our website and on our Teams page for P7 pupils, there is a PowerPoint for each faculty that tells you what subjects and topics are covered in sI
- There are also photographs of all of our teaching staff so that you will recognise them quickly once you start with us



HOW MANY TEACHERS WILL I HAVE IN A DAY?

- During the day you might move around a lot. There are 7 periods in a day, plus registration, so that means you could see 8 different teachers each day. Don't worry, they are all friendly and you will soon get to know them

HOW LONG DOES EACH PERIOD LAST?

- Each lesson lasts for 45 minutes (if you have a double period that will be 90 minutes)
- You have 7 periods in a day
- Each day starts with registration with your tutor that lasts 9 minutes

WHAT IS A TUTOR?

- A tutor is someone a teacher that will register your attendance every morning.
- Your tutor is someone to talk to, someone who will help you and get to know you very well
- Your tutor is someone who looks after your welfare
- You will have the same tutor (unless they leave) from s1-4 at the very least

WHAT TUTOR CLASS WILL I BE IN?

- If you have a sibling already at Dumfries, you will be in the same house as them so your tutor will be a tutor for that house
- Tutor classes have no more than 20 pupils
- You will find out your tutor class before you start at Dumfries academy (by the induction days in June)



WHAT ARE THE HOUSES?

- There are 3 houses at Dumfries academy
- These are Barrie, Haining and Laurie
- All houses are named after very famous former pupils

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL UNIFORM?

- The uniform is black blazer, school tie, white shirt/blouse, black trousers/skirt and black shoes/trainers
- You will be given details about the uniform and how to order a blazer
- You will also be told what clothes to wear for P.E.

WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED?

- You will need a strong school bag to carry all of your books and jotters
- You will need a basic pencil case containing pencils, an eraser, a sharpener, a ruler and a pen
- Some days you might need to bring a container for home economics
- You can bring mobile devices but they can only be used when the teacher asks you to use them for learning

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM FEELING UPSET, LOST OR LONELY?

- Don't worry. We have lots of staff and pupils who can help
- You will have buddies (older pupils) to help you find your way round the school for the first few weeks. You can also ask them for help or support
- You can speak to your tutor and he/she will give you advice and support
- You can also speak to the Principal Teacher of pupil support for your house or one of our Depute Headteachers, or you can speak to Mrs Dillon (our Headteacher)
- Or, you can speak to any member of our staff that you trust to help you



WHAT HAPPENS IF I CAN'T DO THE WORK?

- If you are having difficulty with work or homework, let your teacher know.
- Your teacher will help explain anything that is difficult and will also give you extra time to do homework if needed
- We also have learning assistants and learning support teachers in most classes, who can give all kinds of support
- Be honest, if you have forgotten to do homework; teachers will work with you to find out the reason and may give you extra help or extend a deadline



HOW MUCH HOMEWORK WILL I GET?

- Some subjects may issue one piece of homework per week, but others may issue homework less frequently
- As a guide, you are more likely to get the most homework for subjects like English, Maths and Science as you have these more times in the week than other subjects
- Most homework tasks take between 30 minutes to 1 hour
- Homework is not just writing; it can be reading, making notes, watching videos, organising learning and study, revising, etc.
- Not all homework will be marked by your teacher; sometimes you will self-mark or peer-mark homework so that you are taking responsibility for your learning and your targets for improvement



WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM LATE?

- Sometimes pupils have good reasons for being late in the morning and we understand this
- If you are late (but it is before 9 am) you should go to your tutor class as normal
- If you are late and it is after 9 am, you should go to the school office to let us know you've arrived, then go to the class that you should be in at that time
- If you are regularly late, without good reason, your tutor and your Pupil Support Teacher will speak to you and your family to find out if we can help you get to school and lessons on time

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT FEELING WELL?

- You must tell a member of staff
- They will give you a slip to take to the office and staff will then decide what kind of help you need
- You should not phone a parent/carer on your own phone (office staff will do this)

WHAT CLUBS CAN I JOIN?

- We have lots of clubs at Dumfries Academy
- We have journalism, debating, lots of sports (from cycling to table tennis)
- We have eco committee and sports committee
- We have art, music and drama events and clubs
- You can also go to the school library to read, do homework, study or even play board games



ARE THERE ANY TRIPS I CAN GO ON?

- We have day trips to places like Glasgow Science Centre, Christmas markets, Alton Towers, theatres, football stadia, etc.
- We have overnight trips in the UK to London, Chester, outdoor camping by lochs, etc.
- We have trips to Europe to see historical sites, beaches, to ski!
- We have even gone to Africa (to do volunteer work) and America in recent years



WHY SHOULD I COME TO DUMFRIES ACADEMY?

- We love it
- We hope you will love it!
- You'll make new friends, have new opportunities, learn some more, have fun, succeed, achieve, develop skills and be a good citizen
- We want you to join us in August 2022!