



Head Teacher's Update

March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach our Spring Holiday, I would like to wish all pupils sitting SQA Examinations next term the very best of luck. The partnership between home and school is crucial in the next few weeks to ensure that all senior phase pupils are adequately prepared for exams.

Easter School

This will run from Tuesday, 4 April until Thursday, 6 April 2017 (inclusive). A separate letter has been issued to all pupils eligible to attend. Please note that this is likely to be the last year of this provision. Instead, pupils should attend on-going study sessions which are readily available after school and at lunch times throughout the year.

Study Leave

Study leave for almost all pupils in S4-S6 begins on Monday, 8 May and ends on Friday, 2 June 2017. Pupils who are mainly being presented for National 4 qualifications will receive a personalised timetable for this period, as they are not required to sit the same number of exams. Instead, they will have the opportunity to develop employability skills to prepare them for their next steps to employment or further education/training.

Staffing

We have recently appointed Mr David Aitken from Fraserburgh Academy to replace Mr Sloan as Depute Head Teacher. Mr Aitken takes up post on Tuesday, 2 May 2017.

Mr Rob Wynne (temporary Teacher of Craft, Design and Technology) has left us this term to seek work nearer to home.

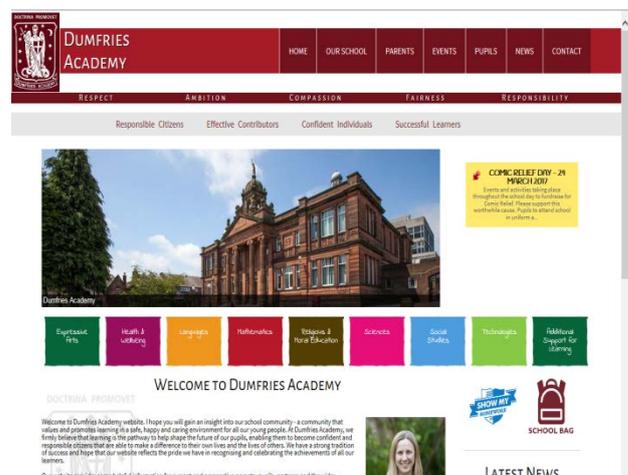
Miss Walsh has been nominated as Dumfries and Galloway Trainee Teacher of the Year and goes forward to a national final next term. Miss Walsh has been a fantastic addition to the Modern Languages Team here and has had an exceptionally successful first year in teaching. Good luck to Miss Walsh!

Achievements

This term we have been amazed at the number of pupils involved in extra-curricular activities, which has enabled them to develop confidence and skills in various areas ranging from sport to debating. At Dumfries Academy we encourage young people to take part. We also value the amount of support given to young people by parents and carers to enable them to attend clubs and competitions. We have many pupils who have experienced success at local, national and even international level and we would encourage you to share these successes with us. We endeavour to share them in our termly Focus, the local press and our Twitter and Facebook pages.

School Website

The school website has recently been upgraded. It will be available after the Easter break. The website address remains the same: www.dumfriesacademy.org



School Show

Please note that the school show "Bye Bye Birdie" will now be staged from Wednesday, 8 November to Friday, 10 November 2017. Owing to changes in staffing and conflicts with other dates, it was decided put it back. However, this allows even more scope to get even more pupils involved.

Dumfries Learning Town

There will be an event open to our Cluster Parent Councils week beginning Monday, 8 May 2017. This will be an opportunity to discuss decant options when our building work begins in Autumn 2018. After this meeting it is hoped to put proposals out for wider consultation.

Work is just about to begin on the construction of "The Bridge" learning hub at King George V Park. The Bridge is due for completion in September 2018.

All burgh secondary schools will have the same start and finish times from June this year and the same curricular structure in the senior phase (S4-S6) from June 2018.

Fundraising

Recently staff and pupils raised over £450 during a non-uniform day as part of 'Show Your Colours' (*in our case mainly purple*). Money raised was used to purchase a bench in memory of former pupil, Chloe Orr. A ceremony for family and friends was held in school to celebrate the life of Chloe and the bench has been placed at the front of Minerva building. The remaining funds will be donated to LGBT+ Youth Scotland.

Our pupils will also be fundraising on behalf of Comic Relief Day on Friday, 24 March 2017. There will be various events and activities taking place throughout the school day. School uniform is to be worn as normal.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Dillon
Rector

Forthcoming Events

24/03/2017	Comic Relief fundraiser
29/03/2017	S4 – S6 Tracking Reports Issued
31/03/2017	Alton Towers trip
31/03/2017	Easter Assembly
31/03/2017	School closes at 3.15pm for Spring Holiday period
04/04/2017 - 06/04/2017	Easter School
18/04/2017	School resumes again at 8.51am
27/04/2017	Junior Maths Challenge
28/04/2017	S6 Leavers' Ceremony
01/05/2017	May Day Holiday
08/05/2017 - 02/06/2017	Study Leave
16/05/2017	Blazer Fitting (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
16/05/2017	Parent Council Meeting
18/05/2017	S1 Full Reports Issued
18/05/2017	Blazer Fitting (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
24/05/2017	School Athletics (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
24/05/2017	S1 Parents' Meetings
25/05/2017 - 26/05/2017	Da Vinci Challenge (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
29/05/2017	School Athletics (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
30/05/2017	S3 Celebration of Achievement
31/05/2017	Salter's Festival of Chemistry
01/06/2017- 02/06/2017	Inset Days
05/06/2017	Start of new Timetable
06/06/2017	Junior Awards Ceremony
21/06/2017 - 23/06/2017	P7 Induction Days
22/06/2017	P7 Disco and P7 Parents' Evening
23/06/2017	Highland Show
26/06/2017 - 30/06/2017	Barcelona trip
28/06/2017	Interhouse Health and Wellbeing Day
30/06/2017	School closes at 3.15pm for Summer Holiday period
17/08/2017 – 18/08/2017	Inset Days
21/08/2017	School resumes again at 8.51am