

Dumfries Academy Proposed changes to S1 – S3 Awards 2019 Rationale



Dear Parent/Carer

We are inviting feedback on a proposal for the upcoming **2019 S1 – S3 awards process**; a longer term review will take place in the 2019/20 session. The proposal can be found on the next page.

This proposal was developed following meetings with staff and pupils from across S1 – S3 and we also consulted our Parent Council. The majority view is in favour of having a combined S1- S3 Awards Ceremony, holding it in St George's Church and holding it at a new time of 4pm – 6pm. Pupils and staff were also in favour of a 95% attendance threshold for all award categories and they supported removing the use of behaviour merits and demerits to determine a pupils' award category.

Staff and pupils are also in favour of introducing celebrating achievement assemblies which would take place throughout the year so that there is an ongoing recognition of success. This would allow us to continue recognising the success and achievements of our pupils in activities outside of school, for example in sports such as ice-skating or martial arts, but it would mean these successes wouldn't contribute towards a pupil achieving an award during our formal award ceremony.

Benefits of the interim proposal include:

It could reduce the time commitment for pupils, parents/carers and staff by not having to attend multiple events.

Higher turnout would mean a better atmosphere, with young people having their success celebrated by more people.

A new venue could support a higher number of attendees meaning more family members could attend

Clearer criteria for awards and the removal of criteria which are inconsistently applied or tracked i.e. merits and demerits, volunteering hours.

This revised system maintains our commitment to recognising the successes and achievements of all our young people and I hope you find this information useful. I would like to thank you for taking the time to complete our short survey. Please do get in touch if you have any other questions.

Yours Sincerely

D. Aitken Depute Head Teacher (Laurie House)

Proposed Interim S1 – S3 Award Ceremony criteria

SUCCESS AREA	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Academic Merit Awards	1 or 2 Awards	3 or 4 Awards	5+ Awards	Merits in all subjects studied for which a merit award was available.
Contribution to the School and/or Community	<p>Participation in any school club, team, or event out-with the normal curriculum.</p> <p>A single act of involvement in the wider life of the school which displays the school values.</p>	<p>Representing the school at any fixture or event.</p> <p>Commitment over time or on more than one occasion which displays the school values e.g. participating in the school show, assisting with school events.</p>	<p>Representing the Region as a result of a school-based activity or increased level of performance based on selection in any activity/event.</p> <p>Sustained, long-term commitment which significantly reflects the school values e.g. house captains/pupil council reps, leadership role in a major school event, key role in school show.</p>	<p>National representation as a result of a school-based activity.</p> <p>Sustained, long-term commitment which reflects an outstanding display of the school values e.g. organising a major event, attracting positive, national press coverage.</p>
Attendance	95%+	95%+	95%+	95%+

Please click on the following link to take our short survey, which should take less than a minute to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G8BSXGB>