

30th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I write to you, pupils are about to sit RMPS today – the last of our exams. Today is the last day for all our pupils in their current year group and we move up a year into the new timetable, starting on Monday. As a reminder, the new timetable is below. Please remember that classes start period 1 in the new structure – it isn't registration first as it used to be. Lessons start straight away **at 8.50**.

Our friends who operate the bus companies in partnership with us are working really hard to accommodate these changes as best they can in June – please bear with them as some of the timetables are not able to change until August. We will work through any issues as they arise. Once again, the new period times are as follows:

Period 1	Warning Bell 8.45 - go to class	8.50am	9.35am
Period 2		9.35am	10.20am
Check In (Tutor time/PSE/Learning)		10.20am	10.35am
Break		10.35am	10.50am
Period 3		10.50am	11.35am
Period 4		11.35am	12.20pm
Period 5		12.20pm	1.00pm
Lunch		1.05pm	1.50pm
Period 6	Warning Bell 1.45 - go to class	1.50pm	2.35pm
Period 7		2.35pm	3.20pm

This allows all pupils in Dumfries and Galloway in the new S4 the possibility of studying 7 National 5 Courses. For us, as well as this change, the shift in period times to 45 minutes is significant, so a great deal of work has been done by staff to prepare.

For all our pupils, a new year of study is a fresh challenge and a good opportunity to keep the best of what worked and review those aspects that were less successful. Key points I will be making at my assemblies next week with all year groups fall under our three school aims, to be:

- Ready
 - have the right equipment for each day
 - be on time
 - good attendance is strongly linked to achieving good grades (aim for 95%)
- Respectful
 - Listen to the adults in the school and do as they ask
 - Be kind to others – just as they want others to be to them
 - Behave well in class
- Safe
 - Attend class. Safety starts by being in the right place at the right time
 - Keep hands and feet to yourself, no physical contact in school
 - Online safety is key. Behaving well online is now just as important as in person

Contact with the school

I have a request from our admin staff team. It makes it much more manageable for us if you could please text the following number or use ParentsPortal rather than calling in to report pupil absence:

The Groupcall number is **07860029414**

This is the link for Parents/Carers to login to ParentsPortal <https://parentsportal.scot/pportal/>

Upcoming School Events

Week beginning	New timetable starts at 8.50
Monday 2 nd June	
Friday 6 th June	PROM (evening – 6.30 p.m.)
Tuesday 10 th June	Celebration of Achievement (evening) – 7.00pm
Monday 16 th June	Poland Trip leaves (1 week)
Wednesday 18 th June	Regional Athletics Sharing Practice Roadshow 4-6pm
Monday 23 rd June	P7 Induction Week (all week)
Wednesday 25 th June	P7 Curriculum Information Evening
Monday 30 th June	Celebration of Achievement (day S1 – invitations to follow – 1.50pm) National 4/5 Grasmere Trip (Geography)
Tuesday 1 st July	Celebration of Achievement (day S2 – invitations to follow – 1.50pm) H / AH Bowness Trip (Geography)
Wednesday 2 nd July	Celebration of Achievement (day S3 – invitations to follow – 1.50pm)
Thursday 3 rd July	Alton Towers Trip End of Term
Thursday 21 st August	Pupils return to school

It has been a busy year, session 2024/25. We have worked very hard to address the feedback from HMle. I have no indication yet when they will re-visit us, but it will be some point between exam results being published and the end of the year, I have no doubt. We will all continue to work together to secure the best outcome for our school with your support. I wish you our parents/carers a smooth transition into the new timetable with your young people.

Yours faithfully,



Brian Asher
Headteacher

As always, we welcome your feedback. If you have a complaint, a compliment or even just a comment for us to consider, please use the form available here:

<https://bit.ly/3utZTVk>

Groupcall Xpressions - Account Registration for Parents

The following steps to create an Account Registration will only work if the school holds your correct **email address** and **mobile number**. If you are unable to create your account, please contact the school office to check this information is up-to-date.

When you are ready to set up your Xpressions login make sure that the mobile phone number that you have recorded at the school is switched on.



1. If you have not already done so, install The Xpressions App by searching for Groupcall (using wifi, where possible) from:-



2. When you have installed the app, open it and enter your email address then click 'Next'.
3. Enter your mobile number and click 'Next'.

If your details do not match the school records you will see the text 'incorrect answer' in red below the box. Correct and click Continue.

All personal details will be taken from the school records, so the information you provide needs to match what they have on file. If you are unable to enter details successfully you will need to speak to your school office. If you are sure you have entered information correctly but you still see an error message, it is likely that the school records are incorrect so please contact your school.



When you have entered details correctly you will receive a text message to your mobile phone containing a 6 digit code.

4. Enter this code on screen.

5. Press 'Login'.

If you do not receive a code, use the 'Resend Code' function. However, there can be delays due to mobile phone providers and other factors outside of the control of the Xpressions app and the school, so please wait for at least 5 minutes and ensure you are in an area with mobile phone coverage.

Set Password

It is possible to use the Xpressions app without setting a password – you can simply use your mobile phone number in conjunction with your email address instead of a password. You will have to enter a code sent to your mobile number each time you log in to the app (or to the website) however, so you may find a password quicker.



When you have successfully entered your email address, mobile number and the code you were sent by SMS, you will be asked if you'd like to set a password;

1. Enter secure password.
2. Re-enter the same password to confirm your choice.
 - You will see an error message if the passwords do not match exactly. Simply try entering the password of your choice again taking extra care to enter it the same each time.
3. Press 'Next'.

Alternatively you may select 'Skip' if you'd rather not add a password to your account.

Protecting data

Whilst having convenient access to your child's data on your mobile device has many benefits, the portability and small size of many devices can make them easy to lose or an easy target for thieves. We recommend that you take some simple steps to protect your device.

The **Groupcall Xpressions app** can be secured with a PIN code that is independent of any codes set on the device. We recommend you set one when you login to **Xpressions** initially. This can also be done by clicking the padlock icon in the upper left corner of the app home screen entering a 4 digit passcode.