



3rd September

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first of my letters in Term one of this session. Summer is now officially over and we are into Autumn already. This is such an important term for us all as staff get to know new classes and pupils settle into the timetable properly after starting in June.

Buses are not quite perfect as you will know, but we are working closely with our transport providers who are doing their very best within their contracts. I would say on record, how well both our main companies work with us to try and address issues as they arise. If you have particular concerns remaining about transport and wish to let me know these, please complete this short survey. I will pass your views on to our providers. I cannot promise solutions – those are outwith my control, but I can at least gather your views and pass them on to see what could be done to help:

<https://forms.office.com/e/t4zKXKEugx>

Staffing Update

A few new team members to let you know about this Term:

- Mrs Paterson joins us in Maths
- Mr Martin joins us in Modern Studies / History
- Miss Kerr joins the Technical Team
- Miss Davis is our new Business Studies Teacher
- Mrs Carrick is a new name, but a well known person. Our warmest congratulations to Ms McNay, who was married in the summer, so we will all get used to using her married name

Inspection

We now know HMIE will return this Term in the week beginning Monday, 22nd September. We have worked really hard as a school to improve on the four key areas asked of us last time. As a reminder, the high-level summary feedback from our inspection was as follows:

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The positive and calm learning environment across the school, which is underpinned by the school values. Young people are polite, respectful and are proud of their school.
- Motivated and enthusiastic staff are working hard to improve learning, teaching and assessment. They have established 'The Lockerbie Lesson', which is providing a clear structure for high quality learning, teaching, and assessment.
- There are a wide range of wider achievement activities and clubs for young people to participate in. These are enhancing young people's leadership, confidence and contributions to the school and community.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Dumfries and Galloway Council.



- Continue to improve the consistency of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment across the school, ensuring appropriate pace and challenge for all young people
- Continue to implement the recently developed approaches to monitoring young people's progress. This will support staff to make better use of data to inform judgements and plan for learning more effectively
- Continue to raise the attainment of all young people, with a particular focus on literacy and the percentage and quality of passes in S4-6
- Senior leaders should ensure that additional qualifications in S4 are adding value to the attainment of young people

We are working towards preparations as you would expect and aim for a positive outcome.

I am asked to share this with you from Education Scotland:

Dear Parent/Carer,

HM Inspectors from Education Scotland will be visiting to conduct an inspection during the week commencing Monday, 22nd September. You can find out more about inspection, from the Inspection and review documentation pages of Education Scotland's website.

As part of the inspection, Inspectors gather the views of stakeholders via an online survey which is available [here](#).

I would like to encourage you to complete the survey. Inspectors will also be meeting with groups of parents during the inspection so to be part of that discussion you should complete the survey with additional links provided to indicate your interest in taking part. You should complete the survey by Friday, 12th September for one child or for each of your children in attendance.

SQA Results

Overall, it has been a very positive year for us as a school in relation to SQA results. Both S4 and S6 have produced some of the best results overall we have ever had as a school. Congratulations to the young people themselves, our staff and you, the parent/carer body for your support and help. Working together, we get the best for our young people. S5 results were slightly more mixed, but those pupils achieving 5 Highers is the second highest we have achieved as a school – also really positive.

Child Protection

A reminder to parents/carers that if they have a Child Protection Concern for any young person, they should contact Ms Currie (Child Protection Coordinator) or Mrs Bowker (Deputy Child Protection Coordinator). If neither are available, please ask to speak to Mr Asher. When contacting the office, please only state to our office staff that you "have a Child Protection Concern and would like to speak to Ms Currie". Please do not share any further information. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy can be found here:

https://www.lockerbieacademy.dumgal.sch.uk/documents/%5B1074182%5DChild_Protection_Policy_.pdf

Free School Meals and Clothing Grant

If you think that you might be eligible for Free school meals and Clothing grant for your child, please complete the form (link here)

<https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/schools-learning/schools/school-meals/free-school-meals>

Pupils enter their PIN/ show young Scot and their allowance is on the card, just as if it is added by folks at home. If you need any help with this please contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher.

Upcoming School Events

Wednesday 10 th September	P7 Open Evening – 6.00pm – 8.00 pm
8 th – 19 th September	S1 CAT Assessments
Thursday 25 th September	S4-6 Tracker 1 issued
Friday 26 th September	Wider Achievement Fair
Thursday 9 th October	S3 Tracker Report 1 issued
Friday 10 th October	Last day of term. Two week holiday. Pupils return Monday, 27 th October
18 th – 26 th October	New York and Syracuse Trip

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>