



Welcome to Dumfries High School
Ambition & Respect



How should I prepare for my first day?



School blazer

White shirt

School tie

Black skirt or trousers

Black shoes



We are delighted to welcome you to Dumfries High School and have put together this booklet to help you to feel confident and informed about what to expect when you arrive. We are really looking forward to meeting you and working with you.

We expect high standards of presentation from your very first day so you will need to:

- arrive at school on time
- wear the correct uniform
- bring the equipment you will need.

We will provide your parents/carers with a full list of the uniform you will need, including PE kit.

Making sure you are feeling comfortable and confident in the school uniform will help you feel a part of our community.



Equipment

You will need to bring pens, pencils, a rubber, a ruler and a water bottle in a strong backpack. Bring your PE kit on your first day in case it is on your timetable.

Food

If you are going to have a meal in the cafeteria, you will need to bring money or load some money onto your 'Young Scot' card (your parents/carers will be given information about this). The card is an easy way to pay for your food and means you don't need to bring cash every day.

You can pre-order and pay for your meal at the cafeteria first thing in the morning or at interval, and it will be ready for you to collect at the start of lunchtime. You can bring in a packed lunch from home if you prefer.

What support will I have?

Everyone at Dumfries High School is friendly and will help you to settle in and feel at home. You will soon make new friends with classmates. We also help you fit into the wider school through our 'House' system.

We have three Houses which have members from every school year group. This helps you to get to know pupils who are in different classes or years. Houses help you develop a sense of belonging through completing House challenges such as sports competitions and earning merits... more about that later.



HEAD OF HOUSE
MISS HOLMES
DEPUTE - MR DAVIDSON



HEAD OF HOUSE
MISS BRYCE/MR KIDD
DEPUTE - MRS HOGG



HEAD OF HOUSE
MS KILMURRY
DEPUTE - MR PULLEN

There are lots of people looking out for you in school. Each House has a Depute Head Teacher and a Pupil Support Teacher (Head of House), as well as pupil House Captains who are there to help if you need any advice or want to talk about any worries you have.

You will also have a Register Tutor who you will see every morning and for one period in the week for a Health and Wellbeing lesson. We try to keep you with the same tutor throughout your time at Dumfries High School so you will get to know each other very well.

If you have particular difficulties with your learning and need extra support, our Removing Barriers to Learning (RBL) staff will work with you to create a plan to help you to get the most out of your lessons.



What does the school day look like?

There are seven periods in the school day. Here is the timetable:

08:50-09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00-09:45	PERIOD 1
09:45-10:30	PERIOD 2
10:30-10:50	INTERVAL
10:50-11:35	PERIOD 3
11:35-12:20	PERIOD 4
12:20-13:05	PERIOD 5
13:05-13:55	LUNCH
13:55-14:40	PERIOD 6
14:40-15:25	PERIOD 7

Don't worry about getting lost as you move around the school. There are signs up all over the school to direct you to the different subject areas, and we will allocate senior pupils to lead you from class to class when you first arrive.

You will study a wide range of subjects, including: English, Literacy, Mathematics, Numeracy, Social Subjects, French, Spanish, Physical Education (PE), Religious and Moral Education, Health and Wellbeing, Skills For Life, Science, Home Economics, ICT, Business, Art and Design, Technical, Drama and Music.



What is expected of me at Dumfries High School?

Dumfries High School is a safe, caring environment where everyone treats each other with respect and where pupils feel able to develop their personality and interests, talents and abilities to the full, both educationally and socially.

Our two school values are Ambition and Respect. You will hear a lot about these during your time at DHS! You will be encouraged and expected to approach your learning with ambition and to show others and yourself respect at all times.

To maintain our high standards, we have a simple Code of Conduct which helps keep our school a happy, calm environment where you can reach your full potential.

In lessons

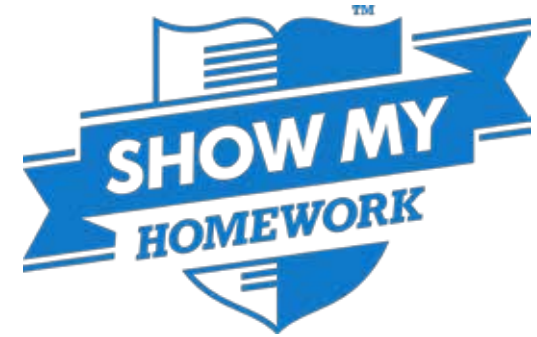
- Be on time and ready to learn with all the equipment or books you need
- Come in quietly
- Take off outdoor clothing
- Follow your teachers' instructions and safety rules
- Participate in lessons and always give your best effort
- Have fun!



Homework

You will receive regular homework for most of your subjects. Homework helps you to develop skills such as independent study, organisation and self-reliance as well as reinforcing what you have learnt in lessons.

You can check your homework assignments on the 'Show My Homework' app. You will need to complete your homework on time and to the best standard you can achieve, so make sure you schedule time to do it, taking into account other commitments such as hobbies.



Around the school

- Mobile phones and headphones are only allowed to be used during interval and lunchtime in either the main hall or outside in the school grounds
- Behave responsibly in all areas of the school
- Eating is only allowed in the cafeteria or outside the school
- Be respectful and kind to other pupils.



What rewards will I receive for good conduct?

We reward achievements in Ambition and Respect through a system of 'merit' categories which recognises success in areas such as:

- Working Hard
- Initiative
- Politeness
- Participation
- Good Behaviour
- Kindness to Others
- Charitable Work
- Wider Achievement

These merits can be awarded for your efforts in the classroom, your participation in wider school activities, and also for success in the various House competitions held throughout the year.

Hello. I'm Mr Cubbon,
Headteacher of Dumfries High
School. Our school values are
Ambition and **Respect** and
guide us in everything
we do.



What else do I need to know?

We will let your parents/carers know when you have done well each day via text message. Top merit winners are recognised at weekly assemblies, and all Houses compete to be the highest merit scorers at the end of the school year.

However, sometimes pupils will not meet expected standards, so we will let your parents/carers know about any demerits or referrals you receive for not following the School Code of Conduct through the same text system.

Attendance

It is very important for your learning that you are on time for lessons and attend regularly. If you cannot attend school, your parents/carers should call the 'Attendance Line' first thing. If we do not get a call to explain why you are not in, we will contact your parents/carers promptly via a 'Group Call' text asking for an explanation for your non-attendance.

If you have an appointment through the school day or need to leave for any other reason, you must report to the school office to sign out and bring a note from your parents/carers to explain where you are going. You must also report to the office to sign in again if you are returning later in the day.

If you feel unwell during the school day, you should report to the office, where you will be seen by a First Aider. If you need to be sent home then office staff will make contact with your parents/carers to arrange for you to be picked up.

What activities can I take part in?

There are lots of fantastic activities for you to take part in.
Some activities are run during lunchtime and some after school.

You can try sports such as badminton, basketball, gymnastics, football, volleyball, table tennis or parkour.

Or you can take part in activities such as dance, photography and school shows.

Or maybe you'd like to get involved in other interests such as baking, Eco club, beekeeping and Homework club.

We also encourage community links through volunteering opportunities with local groups.

Our activities are a great way to make new friends and maybe discover something you will love for the rest of your life or lead you into a career.

Try something new or do something you love already - but try something!



School trips are an important part of life at Dumfries High School. In your first term at school, you will have the chance to visit Galloway Activity Centre and take part in lots of activities with the other first year pupils in your House.

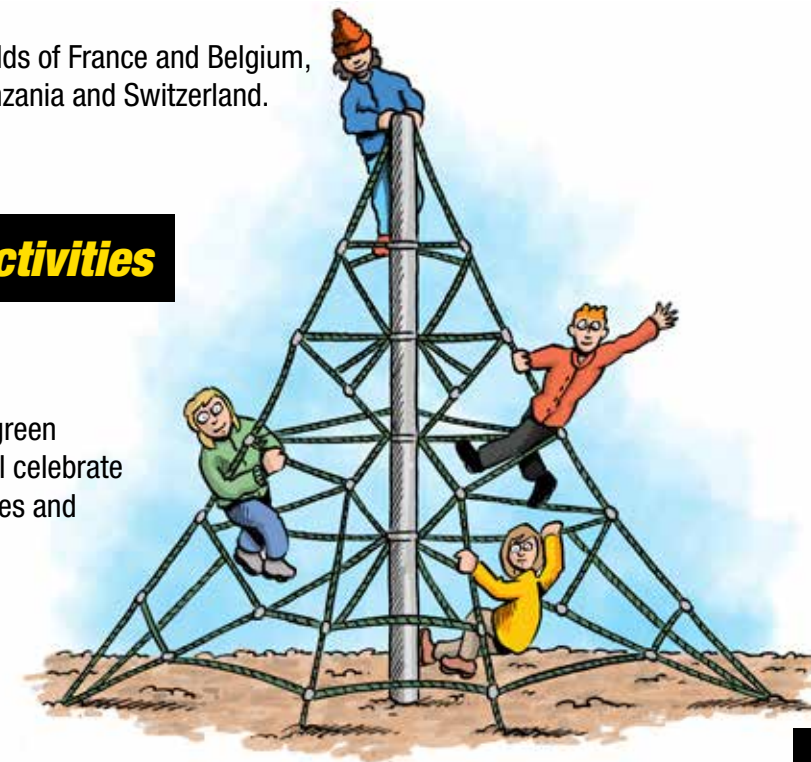
We also run regular school trips which support your studies or introduce you to a new skill or interest.

In recent years, we have run trips to the WWI battlefields of France and Belgium, Italy for skiing, and also London, New York, Kenya, Tanzania and Switzerland.

Celebrating your success in activities

We are very proud of what our pupils achieve.

If you have achieved something, you can complete a green 'Wider Achievement' slip in your register class. We will celebrate your success story on the school website, in assemblies and in the annual Prizegiving Ceremonies.





Come and start your next adventure at **Dumfries High School**



Dumfries High School
Marchmount - Dumfries - DG1 1PX

Phone: 01387 263061

Website: www.dumfrieshighschool.co.uk

Email: gw08officedumfries@ea.dumgal.sch.uk