



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC
"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

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Head Teacher: Barry Graham

7th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

These are definitely unusual times that we find ourselves in. Our summer holidays were a very short five weeks this year and staff and pupils were not able to meet physically for approximately twenty-one weeks. I would like to thank everyone for the way in which they have approached the return to school.

How we communicate

This year again we have taken the generic information out of this letter and the other termly letters and transferred the information into a booklet which you can keep for the year. We hope that this will be an easy reference guide for you and that you will find it useful. The termly letters from now on will only refer to subjects relevant to that term. The major change to all of this will of course be the references to Covid-19.

Staffing

Mr Euan Mack has now been appointed as the permanent Depute Head Teacher for the academy. I would like to welcome Tracy Collins (PT Expressive Arts) who is joining us for a year in an Acting capacity, Mrs Kim McVeigh who will be teaching Science this year and Mrs Linda Jardine (QTVI) and Mrs Anne-Marie Flannighan (Braille Communicator) who are joining us as our team for the visually impaired. Mr Adam Torbett has been appointed Acting PT Pupil Support for Scaur and Mr Euan Laverty has been appointed as Acting PT Support for Learning to work in partnership with Mrs Marchant. We also welcome Miss Claire Ritchie, Miss Nicole Steggles and Mrs Rachel Templeton who have joined our support staff team. Mrs Joy Taylor and Miss Gillian Watret are currently supporting us as teachers through the Restart and Recovery process, and Autism Outreach Support Officers Mr Robert Dickson and Mr Paul Riding will be working in Wallace Hall Academy until October. Mrs Peigi Brough has retired from SDS and we wish her well for the future. Mr Allan Kinley has joined us as our SDS Careers Adviser for this academic session.

SQA Results

I am delighted with our pupils' SQA results. I have detailed these in the tables below for your information.

S4 - Type of Qualification	2020 S4 Results for WHA	2020 S4 Results for D&G
3 or more National 5s	77%	66%
5 or more National 5s	65%	47%



Winner of
The Scottish Education Awards – Enterprise & Employability 2011
D & G LEADER Smarter Scotland Award 2010



SQA Results (continued)

S5 - Type of Qualification	2020 S5 Results for WHA	2020 S5 Results for D&G
1 or more Highers	75%	59%
3 or more Highers	51%	40%
5 or more Highers	24%	16%

S6 - Type of Qualification	2020 S6 Results for WHA	2020 S6 Results for D&G
1 or more Advanced Highers	36%	20%
3 or more Advanced Highers	6%	2%

As a result of Covid-19, pupils were not given the opportunity to sit their examinations in the normal way. Teachers were asked to provide estimates which were then reviewed by the SQA. We are very pleased with the overall results and we are waiting for further information from the SQA which will help us to plan for the 2021 examination diet.

Parent Council

Parent Council meetings are in the process of being organised and the first meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on Monday 14th September at 7pm. To register your attendance and request the meeting link, please email wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com. Further information and dates will be circulated to parents as soon as this is available.

All parents/carers are welcome to participate in the meetings and more information including previous minutes can be found on the school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk. If you would like to contact the Chair or the Vice Chair of the Parent Council, please email them on: wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com.

S4-S6 Options

All pupil course options are now finalised. It is essential that every pupil attends all their classes and catches up on any work they may have missed due to course changes. To help in this process, staff will be doing a final check to ensure pupils are entered at the appropriate level following their examination results. It is now expected that all pupils will complete any course they have started and that they will not be requesting changes.

Annual Data Checks

The annual data check forms were sent home during the week beginning the 24th August. Please can you complete and return this form as soon as possible to the school office to allow any changes to be made to our database. It is important that details such as parental contact information and medical conditions are kept up to date. Also in the envelope is a local trip/sporting fixture permission form and for some a request for photo permissions and parental email if we do not already have these details.

University Open Days

Over the coming months some of our senior students will be applying to study courses at university. With many higher education establishments to choose from, we encourage our young people to explore their options by attending university open days. Many of these days will be organised on a virtual basis and pupils should join in with the institutions that they are interested in. You can find links to many of the Scottish university webpages from the Pupil Area on the Wallace Hall Academy website and within the Career and Future Planning Team which was created for senior pupils. These web pages display pertinent information on open days. Further information regarding universities and open days can be found on www.ucas.ac.uk and www.opendays.com.

School Photographer

The School Photographer will be in school on Thursday 5th November and students will get the opportunity for individual and family photographs. Family photographs with primary and nursery siblings will take place on Thursday 29th October.

Health and Wellbeing Update August

All S1-6 pupils participate in Health and Wellbeing lessons on a weekly basis. These lessons are delivered by tutors or outside organisations and aim to support our young people in improving their overall health and wellbeing. Please find below a summary of the general topics that will have been covered by the end of this term.

At their first Health and Wellbeing lesson this term, every class was able to discuss the impact Covid-19 has had on their life outside school and the changes within school. They learned about how the school can support pupils transitioning back into school. We are going to have 1:1 HWB conversations with every pupil to catch up on how lockdown went and how they are feeling being back in school over the coming weeks.

Current Year	Term 1 (August- October)
S1	<u>Settling In</u> Getting to know each other and expectations, friendships, team building. Healthy lifestyles.
S2	<u>Mental Health</u> Self-esteem, body image, resilience, respect, break ups and eating disorders.
S3	<u>Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood</u> Impact/influence of social media and healthy relationships.
S4	<u>Live 'N' Learn and Profiling</u> Focussing on positive growth mind-set and establishing good study habits. SQA Employability booklets.
S5	<u>Risky Behaviour</u> Consent, Is this Rape? STIs, Contraception, Pornography.
S6	<u>Future Planning</u> Employability skills, researching courses, UCAS/College applications, interview skills and mock interviews.

HPV and other Vaccines

Based on last year's information, the Immunisation Team has informed us that the plan for secondary school vaccinations is that S3 teenage boosters, S6 catch-ups and S1-S6 MMR will be administered in late January/early February. HPV for all S1 & S2 and MMR catch up will be done in March. This schedule is provisional and may change due to Covid-19. Further information and clarification on vaccination dates will be sent home in due course.

School Clubs and Extra Curricular Activities

School clubs and extra-curricular activities play a very important part in providing opportunities for achievement for our youngsters and we encourage pupils to take part in these. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the offer of clubs may be more limited than usual and we are awaiting further guidance from Education Scotland on what activities we are able to offer. Once we have these, we will inform our parents of all school clubs and extra-curricular activities taking place this academic session.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme

Due to Covid-19 school lockdown in March, this year's cohort of Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) students were unable to complete the award process. It is hoped that, subject to health and safety risk assessment, the expedition part of the award will be able to take place at some point. Pupils who have not yet registered and who are interested in taking part in DofE will get the opportunity to sign up over the course of this academic year. We will update you on both the expedition arrangements and the registration process when further details are available.

If you are interested in helping with the DofE Award Scheme, please contact Mr McKenna at the school. Any help or assistance would be appreciated and we are especially keen to find individuals who are willing to support our expeditions. We will provide all the training required.

The School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) sets out our strategic priorities for the year ahead. I have attached an overview of our SIP for your information – please see Appendix A.

Wallace Hall Electives Programme

Every week pupils take part in an 'Elective' period. This is designed to give them some wider experiences outside their usual timetabled classes. Our current electives cover such diverse areas as Mandarin, computer games design, 3D modelling photography and bird mythology. Pupils find our Electives really rewarding and develop a number of new transferrable skills that will benefit them in the future.

The School Calendar

Due to the constraints of Covid-19 we are unable to fully populate our school calendar until further guidance is received from Scottish Government and Education Scotland. However, we will communicate dates for organised events/activities with you as soon as we are able to. Please keep an eye on our school website, www.wallacehall.co.uk, and our social media pages for further information.

School Trips

We normally have a list of provisional trips in our information booklet to help you to make decisions about which trip your son or daughter should take part in. As a result of Covid-19, Scottish Government is currently advising against overseas or domestic trips (residential and non-residential) for children under 18 organised by educational settings and therefore we are not planning to organise any national or international visits requiring an overnight stay until Government advice changes. If this guidance is relaxed, we will have to monitor the level of risk before deciding that any trip can go ahead and we will inform you of any potential trips as soon as we are able to. Please keep an eye on our school website, www.wallacehall.co.uk, and our social media pages for further information.

Bring Your Own Device

Dumfries and Galloway Council has decided to widen access to school internet services. It is recognised that there are lots of benefits from offering learners the opportunity to use their personalised devices in schools. The authority has developed a policy to support the personal use of ICT devices in school to enhance learning. Learners are expected to use personalised ICT devices in accordance with this policy when using any such device in school. In order to use their own device, learners will have to agree to be bound by the additional school rules and the requirements set out in the policy. Later this term, learners and their parents will receive further information about the policy and will be asked to sign a statement which says that they agree to all of the rights and responsibilities within the policy.

Free School Meal and Clothing Grants

Free School Meal and Clothing Grants are to assist with the cost of school meals and school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on a low income. Pupils already receiving school meals normally do not need to re-apply every year and our school office will be able to confirm if your details are on our school list. However, this year, parents are asked to re-apply.

Registering for free school meals can help your school as some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals. Please note that you need to submit one form response for each of your children.

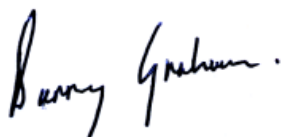
For further information on entitlement criteria and the application form, please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk and enter 'school clothing grants' into the search box or click the following link: <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15246/School-clothing-grants>. To check if you qualify or notify any change in circumstances, please contact educationbenefits@dumgal.gov.uk or phone Revenue and Benefits on 030 33 33 3000.

Instrumental Music Instruction 2020-2021

Pupils in P5–P7 will have the opportunity of instrumental music instruction. The fees for this session 2020-21 will be £200 per year. This can be paid as a lump sum, termly or as ten monthly instalments. Pupils will receive a minimum of 30 lessons per school year on a pro-rata basis. Pupils in receipt of free school meals, clothing grants or are undertaking a SQA music qualification are exempt from charges.

If you are interested in your child having instrumental music instruction please complete and return the attached form (Appendix D) either via email to MusicService@dumgal.gov.uk or by post to Instrumental Music service, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Militia House, English St, Dumfries, DG1 2HR. Further information is also available on <https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/19027/Instrumental-Music-Tuition>.

Yours sincerely



B Graham
Head Teacher

Appendix A

School Improvement Plan: 2020 - 2021



18. ELC

- Work towards a discreet ELC improvement plan in 2021/2022.
- Implement 1140 hours in the ELC.
- Develop new leadership structure.

17. Target Setting

- There will be a whole school review of target setting to:
- Investigate the impact across the school.
- Research best practice.
- Agree next steps.

16. Secondary Development Targets

- Secondary departments to agree targets for each area as detailed in main School Improvement Plan.

15. Partnerships

- Partnerships to be embedded and developed further with:
- Halo Trust
- Parent Council
- Cample Line.

14. Self Evaluation

- Strategic plans to be developed for the ELC, primary and academy.
- Classroom observation sheet to be reviewed.
- Staff to be trained on whole-school observations.

13. PEF

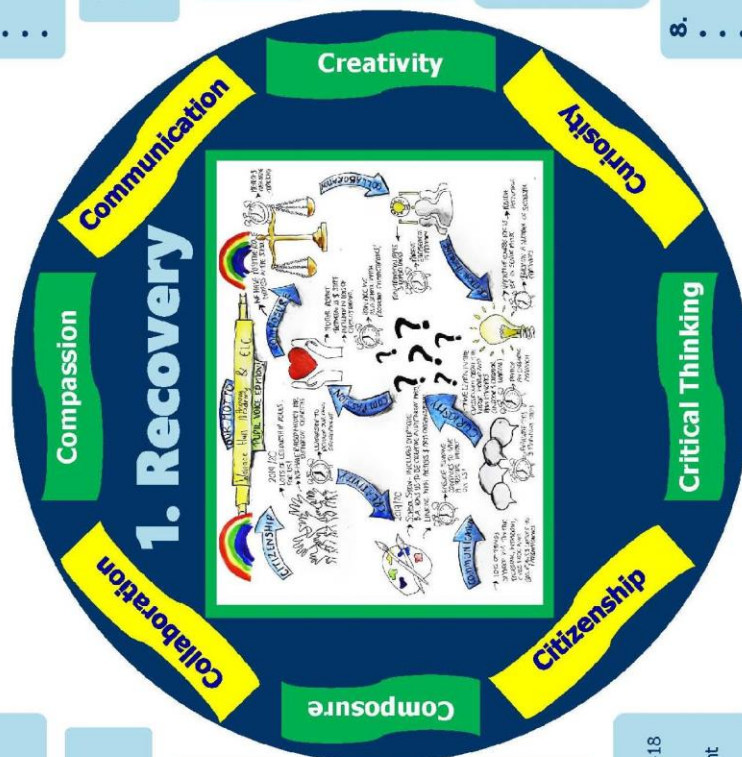
- Leadership roles in the primary and secondary to be identified.
- Interventions to be reviewed.
- Training to be organised.

12. Tracking and Data

- Progress and achievement to be fully embedded across the 2-18 school.
- Health and Wellbeing levels to be tracked across all stages.
- Further develop the confidence of primary staff in achievement of a level.

11. Transitions

- Curricular transitions to be developed further in Science and Social Subjects.
- Profiling to be reviewed.
- Parents to be surveyed about CVs.



2. Maths and Numeracy

- Teachers will be trained on the use of Big Maths in the primary.
- The PT in the secondary will evaluate recent changes to Maths courses.
- A working group will be set up to find a cluster approach to assessment.
- The National 5 Applications course suitability will be evaluated.

3. Modern Languages

- Primary will explore using British Sign Language.
- Transition work with all cluster primaries to continue.
- Further developments will be made to the Mandarin courses.

4. Learning and Teaching

- Training with Tapestry will come to an end.
- A STEM cluster group to be organised.
- Plans developed to make better use of Outdoor Learning.

5. Literacy and Moderation

- Moderation activities across the cluster will be evaluated.
- QAMSOs will continue to support this work.
- Secondary departments will develop further moderation activities.

6. Leadership of Change

- School Management will investigate capacity for additional leadership posts.
- Verification policy to be rolled out in the secondary.
- The 8 Cs will be used to create a structure for our assemblies.

7. Employability Skills and Positive Destinations

- The leadership and management of the Whapples orchard to be reviewed.
- Polytunnels to be re-structured and plans for greater use developed.
- Employability fortnight to be rolled out in the primary for a 2nd year.

8. DYW

- My World of Work to be used by a wider variety of groups.
- The Halo partnership will continue.
- We will investigate additional awards for Employability.

9. Curriculum Learning Pathways

- Other National Progression Awards to be investigated.
- A 3-year plan to be developed for STEM.
- Profiling will be used to help focus on Employability Skills.

10. Health and Wellbeing

- New forms to be developed for staff to share concerns.
- Tracking to be further developed.
- All primary classes will be developing the understanding of SHANNART further.



2020-21 School Improvement Plan

Together we grow, learn and achieve



Appendix B

	Date	Event
Term 1	10/08/20	INSET day – staff only
	11/08/20	INSET day – staff only
	12/08/20	First day of term
	14/09/20	Parent Council Meeting via MS Teams – 7pm
	09/10/20	Last day of term

	Date	Event
Term 2	26/10/20	First Day of Term
	29/10/20	School photographer – ELC, Primary and Families
	05/11/20	School Photographer - Academy
	18/12/20	Last Day of Term

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to organise many of the events we would normally have entered in our calendar until we receive further guidance from Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

Please keep an eye on our school website and social media pages for any updates.

Dates are also subject to change and notification of any such amendments will be issued in due course

Appendix D

Instrumental Music Instruction Application Form

Instrumental Music Instruction

Application Form – please enter details below

1. Name of Pupil

2. Name of Parent or Carer (please state Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

3. Address of Parent or Carer

Postcode

Telephone no.

Email address

4. School from August 2020

5. Class from August 2020

6. Instrument choice (Please tick one box only)

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brass | <input type="checkbox"/> Trumpet | <input type="checkbox"/> French Horn | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenor horn | <input type="checkbox"/> Trombone | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuba |
| Woodwind | <input type="checkbox"/> Flute | <input type="checkbox"/> Clarinet | <input type="checkbox"/> Alto Saxophone | <input type="checkbox"/> Oboe | |
| Percussion | <input type="checkbox"/> Drum Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuned Percussion | | | |
| Guitar | <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric | <input type="checkbox"/> Bass | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukulele | |
| Strings | <input type="checkbox"/> Violin | <input type="checkbox"/> Viola | | | |

Has your child had any experience playing the instrument requested? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please give details of how long and where.

Years/Grade

Where

Instrument

7. Exemption from Charges (Complete if applicable, otherwise move to question 8)

Free School Meals/Clothing Grants? ☐ Yes ☐ No

SQA:

☐ National ☐ Higher ☐ Advanced Higher ☐ F3F4 Unit ☐ NPA (music performance)

School Music Department Name (SQA only)

School Music Department Signature (SQA only)

8. Does your child have any additional support needs that the instructor should be aware of?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Details

9. Declaration

I agree to the conditions and understand that I am responsible for the safety and care of any instrument(s) loaned and that I may be held liable for any damage caused. I note the applicable charges explained within this application.

Disclaimer: I agree to give notice in writing to MusicService@dumgal.gov.uk one month in advance of term starting to withdraw my child from instruction and I am aware that I will be liable for fees should this notice not be given.

Signature of Parent/Carer

Date

You can scan the completed form and email it to: MusicService@dumgal.gov.uk or
post it to: Instrumental Music service, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Militia House,
English St, Dumfries, DG1 2HR

Dumfries and Galloway Council uses the information you provide via the application form to assess your application for Instrumental Music Service. In order to do this, we need to collect personal data outlined in the application form. We need to know this basic personal information in order to provide you with the services you are requesting. This information is used to set timetables, invoice parent/carers, and communicate with you regarding this service. Your data in relation to the Instrumental Music Service will be deleted if your child no longer uses this service.

Debtor Ref (For office use only)