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DOUGLAS-EWART
HIGH SCHOOL
CORSBIE ROAD
NEWTON STEWART
DG8 6JQ

6th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

START OF THE NEW ACADEMIC SESSION 2023/24

We are delighted to welcome our young people back to the school and wish everyone all the best with the term and year ahead. I thought it timely at this stage to write to inform you of a few updates and items of news emerging from the school.

Staffing

We have a number of new staff who have joined us this session – Mr. Taylor (Technical), Miss Wilson (Science), Miss Martin (Physics), Mr. Riddick (Music) and Mr. Muir (Physical Education). We are sure that all pupils and parents/carers will make them feel welcome when the opportunity arises.

SQA Results

Preliminary analysis of recent SQA results suggests that within S5/S6, the pupils have responded well and achieved. I am slightly concerned regarding the S4 results and will be continuing our analysis and next steps in order to improve this area. I will keep you informed and will communicate supports that both the school and home can get involved with.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our young people for the excellent manner in which they prepared for and managed their SQA assessments and the resilience they demonstrated throughout. Without doubt, they are a credit to themselves, the school and their families.

National 5 Maths & Application of Maths

“How to Pass” Evening Meeting - Tuesday 19th September 2023

This term, the school is offering evening sessions on Tuesday 19th September, for parents/carers to meet with Maths staff, to look at strategies for parents/carers to help with their child’s work in National 5 Maths and Applications of Maths courses.

4.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. – “How to Help your Child Pass ...”

5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. – “How to Help your Child Pass...”

Each of the National 5 Maths and Applications of Maths short sessions will explain the demands of the courses and how best parents and carers can support young people with their studies. School staff will deliver these sessions. Individual meetings with staff can be arranged for a future date if required. You are asked to let the school office know by **Friday 15th September** which of the sessions you are interested in attending.

Parent Council Meeting

The first Parent Council Meeting of this session will take place in the school on Monday 9th October 2023 from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. approximately. An invitation is extended to all parents/carers who wish to come along to this.

Uniform Code/

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The uniform code is as follows for the Douglas-Ewart High School. It can also be viewed on the school website and in the school handbook.

S1-S4

Black trousers/black skirt/plain black leggings (no sports' leggings)/plain black shorts of reasonable length

White shirt

School tie

Plain black jumper - minimal branding - small logo on arm or left /right of chest - no branding across the chest

Plain black belt

Plain socks/tights - flesh, white, black or grey

Footwear that is sensible - black shoes, black trainers, black converse

Limited jewellery

Limited makeup

S1-S4 - New additions to Uniform - online orders only

White polo shirt with school logo - Cost £13.00
Pupils do not need to wear a tie with the polo shirt.

Black sweatshirt with school logo - Cost £15.00

Black hoodie with school logo - Cost £18.50

White polo shirts, black sweatshirts and black hoodies, all with the school logo, are available for parents/carers to order from website: www.stevensons.co.uk who have a special offer for free delivery to the school if orders are placed by Tuesday 19th September 2023 (please ensure you select delivery to the school option when ordering). Orders can take up to 3 weeks to process by Stevensons. After 19th September, if you order any of these uniform items from Stevensons, then you will be charged postage. Stevensons will offer another couple of dates during the school session where free delivery to the school is an option for a set period.

S5 - S6/

S5 - S6/

Black trousers/black skirt/plain black leggings (no sports' leggings)/plain black shorts of reasonable length

Black shirt

School tie

Plain black jumper - minimal branding - small logo on arm or left/right of chest - no branding across the chest

Plain black belt

Plain socks/tights - flesh, white, black or grey

Footwear that is sensible - black shoes, black trainers, black converse

Limited jewellery

Limited makeup

S5-S6 - New additions to Uniform - online orders only

Black polo shirt with school logo - Cost £13.00
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Black sweatshirt with school logo - Cost £15.00

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Black polo shirts, black sweatshirts and black hoodies, all with the school logo, are available for parents/carers to order from website: www.stevenson.co.uk who have a special offer for free delivery to the school if orders are placed by Tuesday 19th September 2023 (please ensure you select delivery to the school option when ordering). Orders can take up to 3 weeks to process by Stevensons. After 19th September, if you order any of these uniform items from Stevensons, then you will be charged postage. Stevensons will offer another couple of dates during the school session where free delivery to the school is an option for a set period.

The aforementioned is the Uniform Code we will be working towards as we progress through the session. If parents/carers have previously bought the wrong colour of clothing, then this is a year of transition. If there are concerns about anything regarding the uniform, please contact the school. We have dealt with a few instances where alterations have been made to support pupils' needs.

Non-compliance with Uniform Code

On the first occasion, the pupil will be spoken to and a message shared with parent/carer via Groupcall.

On the second occasion within a term, parents/carers will be contacted via phone with a view to investigating any difficulties or challenges preventing their child from following the uniform code. A meeting will be held between the young person and the support team.

On the third occasion within a term, parents/carers will be asked to join a meeting with the school to discuss ways in which we can work together to ensure their young person follows the dress code.

We hope to build on our positive relationships. However, persistent non-compliance, could constitute a challenge to the authority of the Head Teacher and could lead to disciplinary action. This action may include, although not exclusively, removal of social time privileges or extra-curricular privileges until a resolution is reached. If safe to do so and with parental support, a member of the Senior Management Team may instruct the young person to return home and change.

SET Time

It is my intention to change the time of SET from 8.55 a.m. and move it to before lunch so the school would start at 8.55 a.m. with a subject rather than SET. I will communicate this change to you in due course. We are also making changes to SET to enhance the educational experience and will be discussing these with the pupils and parents/carers at a later date, to gather opinions.

Mobile Phones

I am greatly concerned by the use of mobile phones within the school campus and the impact of mobile phones on pupils' mental health and wellbeing, and academic studies. It is my intention to begin discussions around no mobile phones being used in the campus or during social time within the building, other than for supervised educational reasons.

I am keen to gather opinions and discuss further. Later in the term, I will seek consultation with pupils and parents/carers on this matter.

We are all looking forward to this academic session, filled with opportunities. I have asked teachers to consider offering educational trips as these are an important part of school life. You will be hearing about our proposals as the term continues.

We will endeavour to keep you informed of the various news and opportunities arising in the school.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Foster
Acting Head Teacher