



Wallace Hall 2-18, Station Road, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5DS

Tel: 01848 332120 (Main Office)/Tel: 01848 332140 (Primary Office)

Email: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Academy)

Email: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk (Primary)

Website: www.wallacehall.co.uk Facebook: Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

'X': https://X.com/WallaceHallSch Instagram (WHA only): wallacehallsch



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Wallace Hall Academy! We hope you all had a relaxing, enjoyable and warm summer break. It's lovely to see familiar faces returning and to meet so many new ones joining us. A very warm welcome to our new S1 pupils who are beginning their exciting journey with us after coming from a variety of primary schools (listed below), we're so pleased to have you here, and we are sure you will settle in quickly and feel right at home. As we start this new term together, we're looking forward to all the creativity, composure and compassion returning to the Wallace Hall Building. Together we will grow, learn and achieve.

Applegarth	Closeburn	Duncow	Heathall	Hollywood
Kelloholm	Lincluden	Loreburn	Moniaive	NWCC
Penpont	Sanquhar	Shawhead	St Andrews RC	Troqueer
Wallace Hall Primary				

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. This will be sent out separately and is due to be completed in November. 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.

Could we please ask, as part of our Safeguarding Procedures, if your child/children are leaving for an appointment, that you inform the school office by telephone or email.

Staffing

As this is the start of this new session, I would like to share some important staff updates. After 13 positive years at Wallace Hall Academy, Mr John Blair, Depute Head Teacher, has left to take up a Depute Head Teacher post at Marr College. We thank Mr Blair for his dedication and commitment to the school and wish him every success in his new role. We also say farewell to Mrs Patricia Dickson, who retired in August after many years of service as an HE teacher at Wallace Hall Academy and Sanquhar Academy.

Miss Emma Stuart, Principal Teacher of Social Subjects, has started her maternity leave, and we wish her and her family all the very best. At Wallace Hall Primary, Mrs Sarah McDiarmid has retired on health grounds after 12 years of service, and we thank her for her care and commitment to our pupils. Mrs Val McNeil who has supported our young people as a Learning Assistant and through Pupil Equity Funding has also retired.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new and returning colleagues. Mr Brian Asher has joined us as Depute Head Teacher, taking over Mr Blair's role. Mrs Natalie Flint has returned from maternity leave and will work three days per week, with Mrs Hazel Scott continuing to cover the remaining two days. Mr Arthur Martin is our new History teacher for four days each week, and Dr Ray Fulton takes on an acting Depute Head Teacher post. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Talia McDonald as a probationer teacher in Geography. We look forward to the contribution all our staff will make to the school in the year ahead.

Winner of

Gold Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2025

Silver Rights Respecting Schools Awareness Award 2023

D&G Rural Award Smarter Scotland

The SQA Star Award

Lantra School Project Award – 2013/2018/2020/2022/2025

Green Flag Award 2016/2018/2021/2023/2025

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions

School Sport Award 2025-2027 Primary – Gold Award

School Sport Award 2025-2027 Secondary – Silver Award

LEAF Award 2025



OFFICIAL

We kindly ask all pupils and parents to make sure they bring the basic school equipment needed for learning. This includes a pen, pencil, and ruler. Having the right tools helps everyone get off to a good start for the new term. Thank you for your support.

Qualifications Scotland Results

As Head Teacher, I was very pleased with another set of excellent Qualifications Scotland exam results for the pupils from Wallace Hall Academy. The hard work shown by pupils, teachers and support staff along with the encouragement and support from our parents and carers led to a wide range of achievements for our pupils. I have provided a summary of the Qualifications Scotland exam results in the tables below for your information.

S4 – type of Qualification	2026 S4 Results for WHA	2026 S4 Results for D&G
2 or more National 5s	81%	73%
4 or more National 5s	65%	53%
6 or more National 5s	45%	34%

S5 – Type of Qualification	2026 S5 Results for WHA	2026 S5 Results for D&G
1 or more Highers	65%	52%
3 or more Highers	49%	33%
5 or more Highers	22%	14%

S6 – Type of Qualifications	2026 S6 Results for WHA	2026 S6 Results for D&G
1 or more Advanced Highers	35%	16%
2 or more Advanced Highers	22%	6%
5 or more Highers during S5 & S6	41%	24%

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting of this academic session will be on Monday, 7th September at 7.00pm in the Academy Library. The Parent Council are always looking for new members, if you are interested in becoming a part of the Parent Council or any of our Sub-Committees, then the AGM (Monday 5th October at 7.00pm) is the perfect time to join us. To register your attendance and to receive the Agenda and any other relevant documents for this and subsequent meetings please email wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com. Further information and future meeting dates will be circulated to parents/carers as soon as they become available.

All parents/carers are welcome to participate in the meetings and more information including agendas, previous minutes and our Information Booklet can be found on the school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk. If you would like to contact the Chair of the Parent Council, please email: 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. Mr Asher will now be responsible for any option changes.

Annual Data Checks

The annual data check forms are being issued to pupils in one of two ways at the start of this session. For those that have signed up for the Parent Portal you will have already received an electronic version of the form. For any parents that are not signed up these forms will be issued to your child during their Health and Wellbeing classes. Please can paper copies be completed and return to the school office as soon as possible 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. All pupils will also receive in an envelope with other forms to complete such as local trip/sporting fixture permission form and for some, a request for photo permissions and parental email. In addition all our S1 and S4 pupils will receive a 'Safe use of Technology Agreement' going forward and for next session it is hoped that we will be able to use the Parent Portal for all of these forms.

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. 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.

Reflection Time

The school has introduced Reflection Time (RT) to allow a consistent approach to developing positive behaviours among students. Students will attend RT based on demerits gained and behaviour events. Demerits will be tracked weekly, and, if a student receives three or more demerits in a week, or if they accumulate a significant number of demerits over a few weeks, they will attend RT at lunchtime on the day allocated for their school house group. Students could also be asked to attend RT when an isolated behaviour incident has taken place. RT will run from 1.20pm until 1.50pm. During RT, pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on their actions and on how they can learn from these to build positive future behaviours, whilst being supported by a member of staff.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in Wallace Hall during Term 2. Please see dates below.

Secondary Pupils with Primary Siblings	Thursday 1 st October
ELC and Primary	Monday 5 th October
Catch-up Session (All Stages)	Friday 20 th November

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. This session we are aiming to offer as many activities as possible and an updated programme will be available to all our young people and families in September. Our extra-curricular programme provides excellent opportunities for our learners, improving both their mental and physical health.

Wallace Hall Electives Programme

Every week S3, S5 and S6 pupils take part in an Elective period. Elective periods are designed to give our pupils some wider experiences outside their usual timetabled classes. Pupils find our Electives really rewarding and they develop a number of new transferrable skills that will benefit them in the future. This year our Electives are as follows:

- S3 Electives are: Duke Of Edinburgh, Rugby Fitness, Eco Group and Press Team
- S5 and S6 Electives are: Rights Respecting Schools, Equalities, Eco-Committee, Barista, Young Enterprise, Idea and MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention);
- S6 only: Charities Committee, Social Committee and Yearbook Committee.

HPV and other Vaccines

This year's vaccination programme includes Primary and Secondary FLU Vaccine 11th November, Teen Booster 5th February 2027 and HPV Vaccines on the 5th March 2027. We will send information home when this programme has been finalised.

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.

Health and Wellbeing Update August

Pupils in S1 - S3 will cover a wide range of topics supporting knowledge and understanding under the four course organisers for Health and Wellbeing: Relationships, Agency and Advocacy, Flourishing in a Connected World, and Interconnected Physical and Mental Health. They will have the same teacher each lesson and have one lesson per week. Senior students will continue to cover a variety of topics under the four course organisers, though delivery format varies between year groups. Instead of weekly Health and Wellbeing periods, S4 pupils will receive their input over two Health and Wellbeing days - one in term 2 and one in term 3. In S5, Health and Wellbeing teachers have been assigned to a topic per term and will deliver two lessons to every class within the year group. This will mean that, once a topic has been covered, pupils will move onto a new topic, and a different teacher will attend the class to deliver this. S6 pupils will be assigned one teacher who will remain with the class for the year. Topics for each year group are as follows:

S1 - Healthy Lifestyles, Positive Relationships, Rights Respecting Schools and Organisation

S2 - Puberty, My World of Work, Respecting Diversity and Rights Respecting Schools

S3 - Growth Mind-Set, Employability Skills, Alcohol, Consent and Pornography

S5 - The Highway Code and Driving Test Preparation, Alcohol, Consent and Sexual Violence

S6 - UCAS/College Applications, HWB Ambassador training and HWB lesson delivery

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme

Our Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme is underway with our new cohort of Bronze participants. They will be learning expedition skills across the year, coupled with support for the completion of their Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections.

Last year's Bronze and Silver groups will undertake their expeditions following the summer holidays, giving candidates the opportunity to complete their online sections before the expedition.

The School Calendar

Please find attached (Appendix B) a copy of the school calendar.

School Trips

All school trips will adhere to government guidance with the level of risk monitored on an individual basis before the trip goes ahead. Information will be communicated to relevant parents/carers prior to any trip taking place.

Parking outside the School

Can I remind you that vehicles should not be parked in the disabled spaces or in the drop-off/pick-up area outside the primary school? We would appreciate your co-operation in using the main school car park unless you or your child is disabled and has an official disability badge displayed inside the front windscreen of the vehicle.

Parents who are making use of this area should ensure that it is used just to drop off students during the school day. If you are collecting a young person or need to wait at the school for any reason please use the main car park only.

The drop-off area should not be used at all between 8.30am and 9.15am and 3pm and 4pm, as per the signage in the bay, this area is for buses and disabled badge holders only at these times.

Instrumental Music Instruction 2026-2027

Dumfries and Galloway Instrumental Service offer pupils from primary 5 onwards the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. Tuition is delivered by music instructors in the following disciplines: strings, brass, woodwind, guitar and percussion. All lessons are delivered on a group basis online through Microsoft Teams or in person, dependant on timetabling. Secondary pupils have their lessons delivered on a rota basis during the school day to ensure they don't regularly miss any one subject. Lessons follow a structured course of study which is suited to the pupil's abilities as well as SQA, local authority and school requirements.

Lessons for the 26/27 academic year are funded by the Scottish Government. The IMS is able to loan orchestral instruments to pupils free of charge. Guitars and percussion instruments are not available for loan. However, they are normally available to use in school.

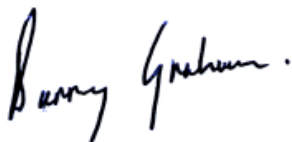
Applications are now open and can be accessed on the following link: <https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/19027/Instrumental-Music-Tuition>

Pupils will receive a letter confirming if their application has been successful or if they have been placed on a waiting list

SAVE THE DATE!!

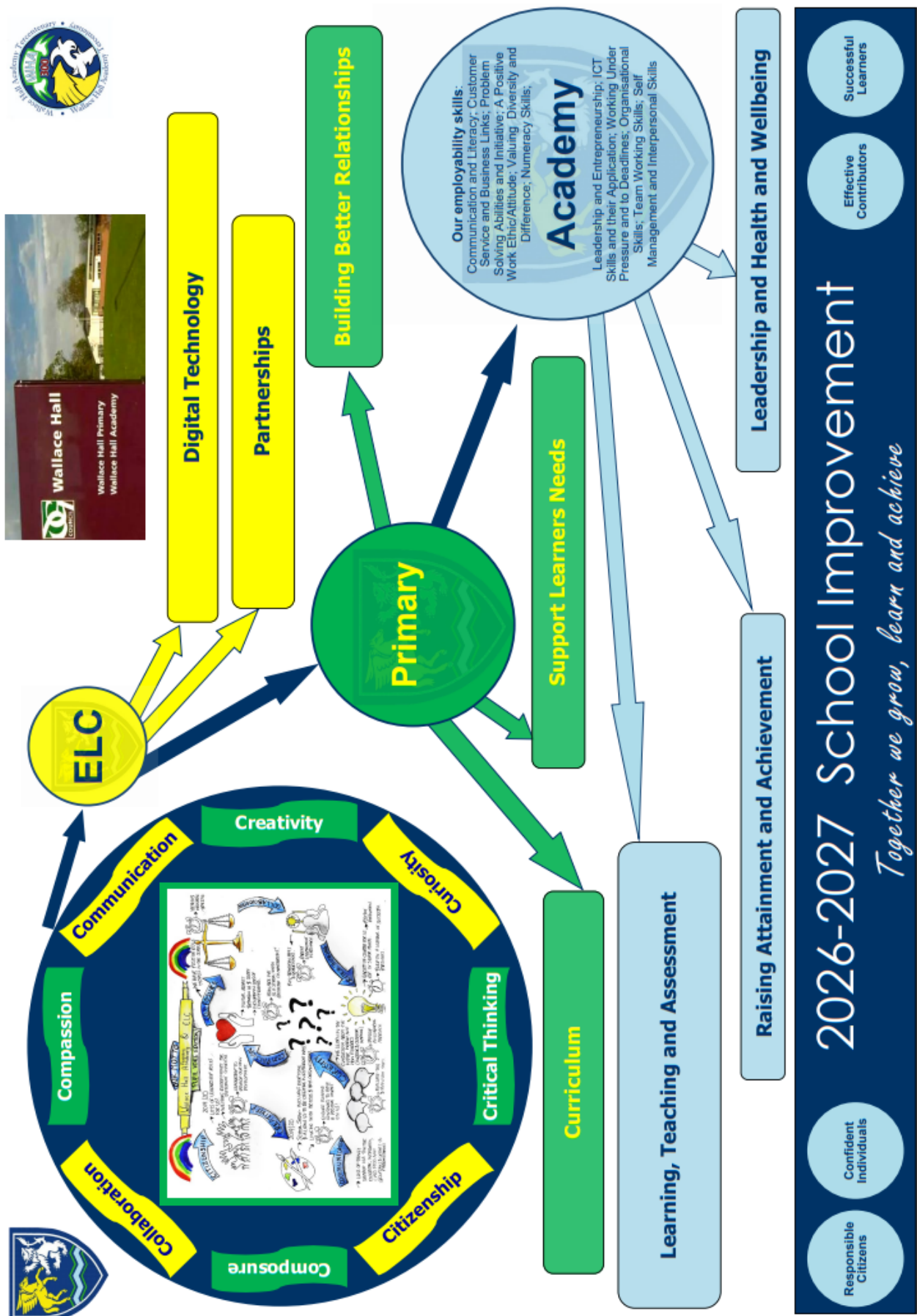
Wallace Hall Academy's production of Annie Junior is taking place on the 6th, 7th and 8th October. A wonderful group of budding actors, singers and musicians are involved. Tickets will be on sale soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours sincerely



B Graham
Head Teacher

School Improvement Plan 2026-2027



APPENDIX B
School Calendar 2026-2027

Term 1

Date	Event
1 st October 2026	School Photographer (Secondary)
2 nd October 2026	S4 Educational Physics Excursion to Alton Towers
5 th October 2026	School Photographer (ELC and Primary and their Secondary Siblings)
6 th October – 8 th October 2026	School Show – Annie Junior
12 th October – 23 rd October 2026	October School Holiday (pupils return Monday 26 th Oct)

Term 2

28 th October 2026	S4/5/6 Reports to parents
5 th November 2026	S4/5/6 Parents Evening
11 th November 2026	Primary and Secondary Flu Vaccines
13 th November 2026	School Photographer (ELC and Primary and their Secondary Siblings)
20 th November 2026	Catch-up date for School Photographer
25 th November 2026	S1 settling in report to parents
11 th December 2026	Senior Christmas Dance
14 th December 2026	S1/S2 Christmas Dance
16 th December 2026	S3/S4 Christmas Dance
16 th December 2026	S2 Reports to parents
21 st December 2026 – 5 th January 2027	Christmas Holiday (pupils return Wed 6 th)

Term 3

5 th January 2027	INSET day – staff only
7 th January – 3 rd February 2027	Prelims
12 th January 2027	S2 Parents Evening
20 th January 2027	S3 Report to Parents
28 th January 2027	S3 Parents Evening
5 th February 2027	Teen Booster
12 th February 2027	S4/5/6 Reports
18 th February – 19 th February 2027	Mid Term Holiday – pupils only (staff training)
25 th February 2027	S4/5/6 Parents Evening
5 th March 2027	HPV Vaccines
w/c 17 th March 2027	S2 Tracking Reports
26 th March – 9 th April 2027	Easter Holiday

Term 4

22 nd April 2027	S6 Leavers ceremony P6/7
23 rd April 2027	S6 Leavers Trip
3 rd May 2027	May Day Holiday
5 th May 2027	S1 Parents Evening
w/c 19 th May 2027	S3 Tracking reports
28 th May 2027	Staff Training (School closed)
3 rd June 2027	Senior Prom
2 nd July 2027	Last day of Term (Summer holiday 5 th July – 20 th August 2027)

Future Trips

October 2026	Alton Towers trip for S4/5* *(Nat 4/5 Physics and Biology). Cost approx. £50
October 2026	S2 trip to Belfast – Titanic Museum. Cost approx. £275
February 2026	S3 Ski Trip in Feb 2026 at a cost of £1200 payable over 16 months.
April 2027	S6 Leavers trip, cost approx. £25
May 2027	S2 Liverpool trip (2 nights). Cost approx. £275
May/June 2027	S3. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition (1 night). Cost Approx. £30.
June 2027	S6 Summer Ball June 27, cost approx. £40

Various local trips will be organised throughout the year within departments at minimal cost to parents/carers.

Appendix C

BGE Curriculum for Excellence Levels

**BGE Curriculum for Excellence Levels**

Please see the above poster which shows progress through Curriculum for Excellence Levels at Wallace Hall ELC, Primary and Academy. We hope this will help to improve parental and pupil understanding of progress.