



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)



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

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

November 2025

## Welcome to Wallace Hall's Parent Council Newsletter!

**A warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us, and welcome back to our returning families.**

### Purpose of the Newsletter

We will publish a newsletter once a term, to detail any significant changes and events.

### What does a parent council do?

Parents play an essential role both in their own child's learning and in the life of their school, and Parent Councils help parents and carers to become more actively involved in their children's learning. They work to represent their school and its interests effectively and:

- provide a voice for parents, in schools and in the Council, on issues that are important to them and their children
- help the school understand how to involve parents most effectively in their children's learning and in the life of the school
- support the school in its development and improvement, and in understanding and making links with the wider community
- support the school and head teacher in developing strong home/school partnerships
- help promote the skills, interests, knowledge and experience that parents can offer
- be involved in the recruitment of head teachers and deputies
- organise social and fundraising activities to support the school in its educational and extra-curricular work

If you would like any more information about the role of the Parent Council or would be interested in joining, please contact [wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com)

#### Winner of

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

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability  
World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival  
First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions





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)



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

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

## Parent Council Fundraising

In our Parent Council newsletter in June, we reported that the Wallace Hall 2-18 Projects Sub-Committee had raised over £5,000 since April for projects that are intended to strengthen the education and wellbeing of students and staff at Wallace Hall 2-18.

We reported that Thornhill, Keir, Tynron Community Councils and Durisdeer Hall Committee had generously donated a total of £4,500. In addition, a parent made an anonymous donation of £500.

Since then, further donations have been received from Windfarms and parents. The donations were as follows:

£50 Parent donation for set of books for English  
£105 Parent donations for calculator for Maths  
£500 Renewco Power for 20 Higher Graphic Communication textbooks and dual tip marker pens  
£500 Parent donation to the 2026 school show

Thank you to all the funders, Community Councils and parents for their generous contributions to improving educational resources at Wallace Hall.  
The Projects 2-18 Subcommittee is working with staff to fundraise for further projects this academic year.  
More details below.

## How to get involved

You can get involved in lots of ways, including:

- Attend a parent council meeting
- Email thoughts and suggestions [wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com)
- Donate

## How to Donate

If you would like to donate, please can you accompany your donation with a short email detailing what you would like your donation to be spent on, and whether you would like to be anonymous or named.

Bank account details:  
Wallace Hall Primary School Parent Council  
Sort code: 80-19-02  
Acc no: 00280609

## Interested in coming along?

### Here are our Dates of Parent Council meetings for academic year 2025/26:

Monday 17 November 2025, online 7pm  
Monday 12 January 2026, online 7pm  
Monday 2 March 2026, online 7pm  
Monday 27 April 2026, Wallace Hall Library 7pm  
Monday 15 June 2026, Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel 5pm

**All welcome**

### Winner of

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

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability  
World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival  
First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions





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)



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

*"Together we grow, learn and achieve"*

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

## Parent Council Fundraising 2025-2026

Last academic year, the Parent Council raised over £5,000 to strengthen the education and wellbeing of pupils in response to teacher requests, and hope to do the same again this year. The Parent Council is preparing funding applications, writing to Community Councils and local businesses for sponsorship, as well as organising fundraising events. If you would like to make a donation, details of how to donate are above.

Here is the list of resources Academy Staff have identified that will make a positive impact on Learning and Teaching and on pupil experience. If you would like to see more detail, please email the Parent Council on [wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com)

### School Trip Support - £1,000

Lower income families who are ineligible for free school meals (FSM) are struggling to pay for their child to go on school trips. We have managed to support some non-FSM pupils through the PEF budget, however if given the additional funding we could support more pupils on trips. We currently have many pupils on free school meals, but we know that there are more families who would really appreciate the support in funding trips who are not FSM. This would also encourage families to allow their child to go on trips if it was partially funded who would otherwise have not been able to afford for their child to go.

### Religious Education: Ritual Masks - £173

The performing and plastic arts are important for understanding religious myth, beliefs and practices. The boxes of Berol to make ritual masks are now 15 years old and starting to run dry. To be able to continue with this task, cartridge paper and two sets of Berol broad bullet tip markers are required.

### Expressive Arts: School Show - £830

This year the school trialled a wireless headset communication system enabling communication from backstage to tech which was a real game changer. A professional sound system would be used for every school show and Christmas concert and any other future events.

### Barista and Bake Club: Baking Equipment - £870

Purchase of a blender, coffee grinder, mixer and air fryer would enable Barista clubs and electives to produce ice coffees, ice blended drinks and milkshakes to cater to the current trends. This would impact the 22 Baristas and allow them to learn how to use the equipment in a safe and controlled environment. It would enable the Barista group to stay up to date with automated equipment, speed up their processes and prepare them for employability opportunities.

#### Winner of

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

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability

World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival

First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions





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)



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

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

### Safety Boots - £200

With an increased number of students carrying out work experience in construction, joinery and engineering, being able to borrow safety boots would allow those unable to afford to buy their own, the same opportunity as other students.

### Science: Biology, Chemistry & Physics Equipment - £890

Microscopes, mental salts, light gate, Micropipettes and tips, whoosh bottles, safety screen, chemicals, plug leads, diffraction slide.

If you would like more detail on what the science equipment will be spent on, please email [wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com).

As an example, two whoosh bottles (£27.56) enable an exciting and memorable teacher demonstration. We currently use it for S1/S2 we to show how small amounts of fuel can generate a lot of energy. The bottles have a finite lifespan and purchasing two new bottles would not only give us a replacement but also allow us to show S3/S4/S5 the effect of different fuels. (For H&S reasons you can't carry out consecutive tests in the same bottle).

### Dumfries & Galloway Budget Consultation

The Council is seeking to make a further £35m of cuts over the next three years (on top of £133 million cut in the past 16 years). We are being invited to comment on what else could be cut from education, such as: musical instrument lessons, permanent supply teacher pool, budget for teaching staff cover, reduced staffing for early learning and childcare support, removal of playground supervisors. We would encourage you to make your voice heard [here](#). The deadline is on Sunday 23 November.

The Parent Council is deeply concerned about the perpetual reduction in funding for education and have tried to engage with Dumfries & Galloway Council and Councillors in a constructive and meaningful way, as well as reaching out to think tanks concerned with education in Scotland.

As a Parent Council we are concerned about when the cuts will end, and what the state of education in the county will become. We believe investment in education is an essential corner stone for the long-term success of the county. A failure to invest will only serve to undermine the county's strategic plans through lower education attainment, a weaker skills base, damage to the local economy, accelerated depopulation, and poorer future prospects. This will not safeguard the county's future or allow our young people to flourish.

We want to see Council leaders presenting a positive vision of the future that is not dominated by a discussion about what is to be cut next in education, but one with brave forward thinking about how we do more for our young people by lobbying for additional resources and working smarter with existing budgets. This is essential given it is our young people who will enable the future success of the county and country.

#### Winner of

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

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability  
World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival  
First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions







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

[Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]



Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

*"Together we grow, learn and achieve"*

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

## Parent Council Events

Burns Supper  
Friday 23 January 2026  
Doors open 6.30pm  
Burns Supper & Entertainment  
More details to follow!

## Parent Council Primary Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who helped with Primary Halloween Party. And thank you to all families who came along and for the fantastic effort everyone made with their costumes. The Halloween Party raised an incredible £480. Well done everyone. This will be put towards the Primary Christmas celebrations, along with funds raised from the purchase of Christmas cards.

\*\*\*\*\* Thank you for your support \*\*\*\*\*

## Mobile phone policy

The next parent council will be devoted to the development of the school mobile phone policy and digital education.

The meeting will open with two members of staff and two pupils giving short presentations about the advantages and disadvantages of mobile phone use in school.

After these presentations, it will be opened up to a wider discussion and agree the development of the next steps.

The meeting will be held online on Monday 17 November at 7pm.

All welcome

## Primary Library News

Parent Catherine Grosvenor has set up an arrangement with Chapters Book shop in Thornhill to allow customers to donate towards new books for the primary library.

Thank you to P7s and Catherine for setting this up, and to Chapters for their support.



## Link to Join Parent Council Meeting Monday 17 November 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88012562047?pwd=oOqnObb6UdVVRwPDZJu8LHdZ9KyaxE.1>

Meeting ID: 880 1256 2047

Passcode: 844298

Thanks to S6 Pupil Madison Haugh for putting together this newsletter.

### Winner of

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

Scottish Education Award – Enterprise and Employability  
World Teamwork Award Winners – World Robotics Festival  
First Lego League Robotics Scottish/UK & Ireland Champions

