



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

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Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

*"Together we grow, learn and achieve"*

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the October holidays and that everyone is ready for the new term. Can I remind you that our generic information is no longer included in our termly letters home and can now be found in our annual Secondary Information Booklet which you will find in the Secondary School Bag on the main page of our school website: [www.wallacehall.co.uk](http://www.wallacehall.co.uk). We also sent you a copy in September.

### P7 Open Evening

Our P7 Open Evening will take place on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**, starting at 6.30pm prompt. All prospective pupils and parents are welcome.

### Reporting and Parents' Evenings

Pupils in S1 will receive an Interim Report on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**. Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 will receive an Interim Report on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**, with their Parents' Evening taking place on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November**. Pupils in S2 will receive their reports on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** and their Parents' Evening will follow on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**.

Following feedback from parents it was decided to hold the Senior Phase Parents' Evening earlier in the session as they felt that it would provide a better opportunity to support their children ahead of their prelims. Please note this is a short report. The S4, S5, S6 full report will be issued in March once teachers have assessed learning and comment will be made, if applicable, regarding preliminary examinations.

### Poppy Scotland

Poppies will be on sale in the lead up to Armistice Day. Prefects have also taken the poppies round classes to give pupils a chance to support the appeal.

### The 2-18 Parent Council

The next meeting of the 2-18 Parent Council is planned for **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. The meeting will start at 7pm and will be online.

If you would like more information on any aspect of the 2-18 Parent Council or would like to get involved, please contact Louise Cochran via email at: [wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com).

### Christmas Service

Our Christmas Service will take place on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 9.30am** in Thornhill Parish Church.

### 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  
**OFFICIAL**



### Study Support Programme

Prelims for pupils in S4, S5 and S6 will take place between **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**.

Although the results of these can no longer be used to appeal against an SQA result, **they remain very important assessments** which give a strong indication of a student's strengths and weaknesses, and their likelihood of success in the final exams. Thorough revision and preparation is important in ensuring that students perform well in their prelims.

Learners will receive advice and guidance from subject teachers about the best ways to carry out study and revision at home for specific subjects. By the senior phase, students need to accept a share of responsibility for their own learning and an essential part of this involves regular study at home. To help our students, we are once again running our study support programme so we can offer lunchtime and after-school support throughout the year. You should have already received a separate letter giving full details of the extensive study support opportunities on offer for all students. Details of all after-school and lunchtime sessions are also published on the school website in the Academy section, and we would encourage all students in S4, S5 and S6 to take up the extra support our teachers are providing for them each week.

If you have a subject specific concern or query about prelims or Study Support, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Principal Teacher, the PT Pupil Support with responsibility for your child's house, or a Depute Head Teacher.

### Health and Wellbeing (Personal and Social Education)

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.

Year group	Term 2 HWB - Topic
S1	Gen+ Leadership Programme Healthy Lifestyles Bullying Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)
S2	Healthy Relationships Bullying My World of Work Saltire
S3	Contraception Substance Misuse Bullying Skills Development Scotland Input
S4	First Aid Bullying Skills Development Scotland Input Time Management and Study Skills
S5	Gambling Bullying Drink Aware
S6	UCAS/Applications Mock Interview Preparation Bullying LGBTQ

**The School Calendar**

A copy of the school calendar for Term 2 - Term 4 of this academic year is attached which lists key events – Appendix A.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Graham".

B Graham  
Head Teacher

**APPENDIX A**

## School Calendar – Term 2/3/4

**Term 2**

8/11/23	S1 Reports
10/11/23	School Photographer
20/11/23	Catch-up date for School Photographer
22/11/23	S4/5/6 Reports
28/11/23	S4/5/6 Parents Night
14/12/23	S2 Reports
15/12/23	Senior Christmas Dance
18/12/23	S3/S4 Christmas Dance
20/12/23	S1/S2 Christmas Dance
26/12/23 – 06/01/23	Christmas Holiday (pupils return Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> )

**Term 3**

08/01/24	INSET day – staff only
09/01/24	Prelims Start
16/01/24	S2 Parents Evening
25/01/24	S3 Reports
01/02/24	S3 Parents Evening
12/02/24 – 14/02/24	Mid Term Holiday – pupils only
13/02/24 - 14/02/24	INSET days – staff only
21/02/24	S4/5/6 Reports
21/2/24 - 27/2/24	Ski Trip
28/2/24	S4/5/6 Parents Evening
6/3/24	S1 Reports
14/3/24	S1 Parents Evening
25/03/24 – 5/04/24	Easter Holiday

**Term 4**

24/4/24	S2 Reports
06/05/24	May Day Holiday
16/5/24	S3 Reports
16/6/24 - 21/6/24	Washington Trip
01/07/24	Last day of Term
22/8/24 - 25/08/24	Iceland Trip

***Dates may be subject to change, notification of any such amendments will be issued in due course.***