

# Dalry Secondary School



## Message from the Headteacher



As session 2020-2021 draws to a close I am sure the entire school community will breathe a sigh of relief. After the difficulties of lockdown in session 2019-2020, no one expected to be facing a similar position during this session. In many ways the lockdown from January 2021 until Easter has been even more difficult and more uncertain, especially for young people who were due to participate in SQA examinations. It is to the credit of all of our young people, their parents and their teachers that learning continued successfully during lockdown so that when pupils returned to school in April they were ready to consolidate their learning and continue to make progress.

For S4 pupils the term from Easter has been particularly challenging as they coped with completing courses while fulfilling the demand from SQA that their provisional awards must be based on evidence generated under controlled conditions. This alternative certification model placed a great deal of stress on young people, their teachers and their parents but overall the young people have demonstrated their resilience by stoically getting on with what was necessary. School staff are confident that the quality assurance procedures we put in place to generate our provisional awards for SQA are robust. The alternative certification model procedures at Dalry Secondary were recognised as 'best practice' and the moderation carried out by SQA also commended the school for the robustness of the judgements being made at school level. All stakeholders can have confidence in the award that each young person has achieved. I want to thank all of our S4 pupils who have coped so well and performed admirably in generating the evidence required to be able to award them with the National Qualifications their efforts deserve. This has been quite a term for the entire school community and all involved have fully earned and deserve their summer break.

The school continues to work hard to try to be as normal a place as possible for our young people as, on a local, national and international basis, we fight this pandemic. All of the young people at Dalry Secondary have responded well to the school control measures such as face coverings and hand sanitising. We have been very lucky so far to avoid positive cases of Covid-19 or for large numbers of young people to self-isolate.

Session 2020-2021 has once more ended without the usual celebrations and opportunities to congratulate our learners and to bid farewell to the S4 pupils who missed so much of the traditional end to their time at school. We were able to have a small celebration with the whole school gathering to congratulate the S4 pupils and to wish them well as they move on to the next part of their lives, whether that is in the work place, at college or continuing their studies at Castle Douglas High School. I want to congratulate the pupils who helped to make this event as normal as possible with their musical items. Even though they had to perform almost outdoors it was great to hear young people performing live music in the school. Well done to all involved in performing including Mrs. St Joseph. Each S4 pupil also received a copy of a DVD of photographs of their time spent at Dalry Secondary and for some at the primary. This is always a well-received, fun addition to the S4 leaver assembly and thanks are due to Mr. Murray for putting together the compilation of photographic memories.

We changed timetable on June 14<sup>th</sup> in order to give young people a motivational boost as they move up a year and for the new S4 start to settle into working towards their National Qualifications in summer 2022. The change will mean that young people are better prepared when we return to school in August.

When we do return to school in August we will be joined by a young person who has a severe nut allergy. Therefore, when we return for the new term nut products must not be brought into the school as we will be a nut free zone.

# NOTICE

We are a  
NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please do not bring nuts or  
products containing nuts into  
the school

We now hold out a great hope that session 2021-22 can be much more normal, that perhaps once again young people can be involved not only in curricular activities but also in the extracurricular experiences that make school so much more enjoyable and that we can all have confidence that we are no longer at such risk from Covid-19. Hopefully, this is not wishful thinking.

I encourage pupils, parents and teachers to enjoy their summer holiday, to recharge their reserves of enthusiasm, effort and resilience so that you can return to school in August ready for the challenges of a new session.

*James Smith*  
Headteacher

## School Blog and website

Keep up to date with what's been happening in school via  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/dalrysecondary/>

[www.dalrysecondary.info](http://www.dalrysecondary.info)

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