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Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you had a good holiday. The term ahead is always a busy one in the secondary and I am sure that our senior students are working hard to get ready for their SQA examinations. We are looking forward to seeing you at our various school events over the coming months.

Staffing

Mrs Diane Jarvie retired as our School Support Manager at the end of last term and we wish her well in her new venture as proprietor of JD Catering at Thornhill Golf Club. Mrs Sharon Gibson has been appointed as our new permanent, full-time, School Support Manager and took up this post at the beginning of term.

We also said farewell to Robert Patterson, one of our Janitors. Robert retired in February and we hope he enjoys a happy and healthy retirement. We welcome Michael Henry to our janitorial team.

Parent Council

Our next meeting of the 2-18 Parent Council is planned for **Monday 17th June**. The meetings start at **7pm** and all parents/carers are welcome to attend. Meetings have varied agendas and provide a wide variety of information on current activities and future projects as well as a chance for discussion.

Our Parent Council meetings currently take place in the Academy library.

Celebrations of Success

Wallace Hall welcomed back Mr Peter Adair, our former PT of Mathematics, to present the awards at our recent senior Celebration of Success evening. The evening was very well attended and, as well as the presentation of awards, the assembled audience enjoyed some excellent musical performances from some of our senior students.

Our junior Celebration of Success evening will take place in our Bailey Hall on Monday 3rd June, starting at 7pm prompt.

SQA Examinations - National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Courses

Study Leave:

Study leave will run from Monday 22nd April – Friday 24th May with pupils returning to school on Monday 27th May. For pupils studying mainly National 4 qualifications, we are organising an employability programme and if your child is involved in this you will already have been sent information.

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 Leave (continued):

Pupils have been issued with their individual SQA timetable and a range of support, including a supervised study area and timetabled Study Seminars, which will be available to pupils in S4-6. Pupils have also received:

- A yellow information booklet with Exam Information for Learners, Key Points for the Days of the Exams and a range of Study Opportunities including our attainment boosting 'Study Seminars'.
- The pink SQA 'Your Exams' booklet containing key information and advice on preparation for exams, code of conduct during exams and the SQA results service. This information is also available on the SQA website – www.sqa.org.uk.

Pupils are not expected to take more than 10 days for study leave and are, of course, welcome to attend any of the study seminars mentioned in the Exam Information for Learners booklet.

Please remember that, because our school day does not start until 9.15am, many of our exams are scheduled for slightly later times than on the official SQA timetable.

School uniform should be worn at all times when pupils are in school for study or exams.

All key information relating to the exams can be found on the school website <https://www.wallacehall.co.uk/pi-sqa-exams>

Please encourage your child to continue to revise effectively following a clear study plan. Study leave is **not** a holiday for pupils.

Illness or Exceptional Circumstances on the day of any exam:

It is essential that contact is made immediately with the school office if your child is unable to sit any exam as planned. In the case of illness, a medical certificate will be required. This should be submitted to the school office for the attention of the SQA Co-ordinator within 3 days.

Lateness:

Any pupils who sleep in or who are unable to get to school in time for an exam, for whatever reason, must also contact the school office as soon as possible. We will do our very best to get them to school so that they can sit their exam. We have a very good relationship with our invigilators who also want the very best for our pupils, however, sleeping in or car breakdowns would not constitute 'exceptional circumstances'.

Study classes:

A reminder that during study leave teachers are offering a range of study classes for pupils to attend to support them in advance of their final exams ([Appendix A](#)). Please encourage your child to attend as many as possible.

Supporting Study with Parentzone:

With this year's exams fast approaching, we know this can be a difficult time for pupils and their parents/carers. It is important that young people are supported at home as well as school in preparing for exams. Parentzone, the Education Scotland website for parents and carers which gives information about education and ideas to help support children's learning, has collated some of the support available in one place and you may find this useful in helping your child to prepare for assessment.

The 'Supporting Study' page on [Parentzone Scotland](#) hosts hints and tips for managing time, getting organised, encouraging study, and keeping well during this difficult time; links to useful websites containing revision guides, past papers and marking instructions; and 'Nationals in a Nutshell' guides.

Supporting Study with Parentzone (continued):

In addition to the updated Supported Study page, Parentzone will also be using [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to 'spotlight' individual resources. We would recommend that you look out for these posts and share the relevant resources with your child/ren.

After school and lunchtime study support sessions:

Senior students have benefitted from an extensive programme of after school and lunchtime study support sessions this year. Around 40 hours of supported study opportunities have been offered every week since September. This is thanks to all the staff who have voluntarily given up their own time to help our young people prepare for their SQA exams.

Study support will resume after the summer holidays when full details of next year's sessions will be sent to you. If your child is taking National Qualifications next year, please consider encouraging them to take up some of the wide range of classes that will be on offer.

New Timetable

The new timetable starts on Monday 27th May. This is when pupils move up a year group i.e. S1 becomes S2, S2 becomes S3 etc.

House Points and demerits

In order to recognise the achievements of our pupils more effectively, teachers award House Points using Satchel One. These are awarded for a variety of reasons such as High Quality Classwork, Excellent Test Scores, and Excellent Effort etc. Parents and carers will be able to see the House Points that have been awarded to their child through the App. This gives you a bit more information about how pupils are doing in classes and brings about positive conversations about school, in the home.

Negative points are also awarded through Satchel One for incidents where pupils behave out with the rules of the school, these are referred to as demerits. Again, parents and carers can see their child's demerits and have conversations at home to support their behaviour.

If you require assistance getting onto Satchel One, please contact the School Office.

Parking outside the Primary 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 have 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. If you wish to wait at the school or if you are collecting a young person, please use the main car park. Please note that you should not be using the drop-off area at all between 8.30am and 9.15am and 3pm and 4pm, as per the signage in place along the drop-off bay. This route is only for buses and disabled badge holders at these times.

School Uniform

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child is dressed in uniform. Our uniform is school tie, white shirt, black skirt or trousers, and black shoes. Black shoes with white soles are allowed. Trainers and boots such as Converse are not acceptable, nor are black jeans. Pupils are now allowed to wear our Wallace Hall Hoodies - these can be purchased by clicking on the hoodie icon on our school website. No other hoodies are allowed to be worn in class. Please see [Appendix B](#) for our uniform guidance. We are always grateful of your support in ensuring that your child comes to school wearing the correct uniform.

School Show

Our school show, 'Beauty and the Beast', is taking place in October this year. Auditions have taken place, main parts have been cast and our budding performers have made a great start to rehearsals. More information on dates, ticket prices etc. will be available nearer the time.

School Holiday and Session Dates

Please see [Appendix C](#) for a copy of the holidays and session dates for 2024/2025. Please keep this information in a safe place so that you can refer to the sheet when you are planning future holidays. Every effort should be made to avoid booking family holidays during term-time.

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.

Eco News

We were successful in being awarded our fourth Green Flag last year and now have new Eco committee groups across the 2-18 school continuing on our mission to become more sustainable.

We surveyed the whole school as part of the Environmental review and from this have chosen our new topics and designed an Action plan. Please see the school website for more details:

<https://www.wallacehall.co.uk/eco-school>

We are still working to develop a wellbeing garden in our WHApples orchard and co-ordinate growing vegetables in our raised beds and polytunnels. If you have any time or gardening expertise we would really appreciate you making contact and making this a real community resource. There is an after school gardening group "Together we Grow" on Tuesdays and we'd love to see families there. We have also linked up with the new community garden space at the OST. We have been using our plastic bottle recycling to build a greenhouse for the ELC so they are also growing!

We continue to participate in the Rag Bag textile-recycling scheme which helps to recycle clothes and raise funds for the school. Please take your clothing to the bank in the corner of the school carpark. Another reminder that if the bin is full you can inform the office who may pass the bags to our Eco coordinator, please do not leave these next to the bin. Another option is to hold on to your unwanted clothes as we are planning a clothing swap event very soon!

We recently celebrated Earth Day with a series of challenges for classes such as to switch off all their power, go paper free, help nature or take their learning outdoors. See social media for how we did!

We continue to think about active travel at the school and encourage parents to leave the car whenever possible. If we could also please ask you not to idle with the car engine running when collecting and dropping off. This is not only damaging to the environment, it causes air pollution for little ones walking past and costs you money!

Please contact Mrs. Belford, Biology Teacher at Wallace Hall Academy, via our school email address (gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk) if you would like to get more involved with any of our Eco work. Thank you very much.

Career Mentoring

Pupils who have been successful in securing a place on the WHA Career Mentoring programme will receive further information by email during May 2024. Please encourage pupils to check their email inbox regularly for updates and appointment dates/times. Please stress to pupils that it is very important that they attend these appointments as our volunteer Career Mentors will be travelling to Wallace Hall Academy for the sole purpose of supporting them. Pupils will have their first meeting with their new mentor on 19th June 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Graham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

B Graham
Head Teacher

Appendix A – STUDY CLASSES

Study Seminars available during Study Leave

Subject	Level(s)	Date	Period(s)	Teacher	Room Number
PE	H	22/04/24	R - 3	Mr Steele	PE Classroom
Geography	N5	22/04/24	1 - 2	Mr Miller	2014
Art and Design	N5	22/04/24	3	Mrs Black	1030
Music	N5	22/04/24	5 - 6	Miss Girvan	1018
Geography	H	22/04/24	5 - 6	Mr Miller	2014
Music	H	23/04/24	1 - 2	Miss Girvan	1018
Admin & IT	N5 & H	23/04/24	1 - 4	Miss Park	2023
Music	AH	23/04/24	3	Miss Girvan	1018
Physics	AH	23/04/24	5 - 6	Dr Fulton	2007
Design & Manufacture	N5 & H	23/04/24	5 - 6	Mr McKenna	0008
French	N5, H & AH	23/04/24	5 - 6	Kavi Linh	2019
Admin & IT	N5 & H	24/04/24	1 - 2	Miss Park	2023
Apps Maths	H	24/04/24	1 - 4	Mr Watt	0007
Physics	H	24/04/24	1 - 6	Dr Fulton	2007
Business Man	N5 & H	24/04/24	5 - 6	Miss Young	2024
Physics	N5	24/04/24	5 - 6	Mr Evans	2005
Mod Studs	N5	24/04/24	5 - 6	Miss Stuart	1007
Design & Manufacture	N5 & H	24/04/24	5 - 6	Mr Lees	0034
Physics	N5	25/04/24	1 - 2	Mr Evans	2005
Photography	H	25/04/24	1 - 4	Mrs Simpson	1031
Maths	N5	25/04/24	1 - 4	Mr Watt	0007
Maths	N5	25/04/24	1 - 4	Mr Blair	0013
Practical Cookery	N5	25/04/24	3 - 4	Mrs Dickson	HE Kitchen
Business Man	AH	26/04/24	3 - 4	Mrs Fraser	2016
Mod Studs	H	26/04/24	6	Miss Stuart	1007
Mod Studs	H	29/04/24	R - 1	Miss Stuart	1007
Drama	N5	29/04/24	R - 1	Mrs Griffin	Drama Studio
English	N5	29/04/24	1	Mrs Robertson	1014
Computing	N5 & H	29/04/24	1 - 2	Mr Bell	0006
Admin & IT	N5 & H	29/04/24	5 - 6	Miss Park	2023
Business Man	N5 & H	29/04/24	5 - 6	Miss Young	2024
Drama	H	29/04/24	5 - 6	Mrs Griffin	Drama Studio
Mod Studs	N5	29/04/24	5 - 6	Miss Stuart	1007
Design & Manufacture	N5 & H	30/04/24	1 - 2	Mr Lees	0034
English	N5	30/04/24	4	Mr McClair	1017
English	N5	30/04/24	4	Mr Pape	1016
English	N5	30/04/24	4	Miss Brown	1015
English	N5	30/04/24	4	Mrs Robertson	1014
Design & Manufacture	N5 & H	30/04/24	5 - 6	Mr McKenna	0008
Drama	H	01/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Griffin	Drama Studio
Apps Maths	H	01/05/24	1 - 4	Mr Watt	2018
English	N5	01/05/24	4	Mr McClair	1017
English	N5	01/05/24	4	Mr Pape	1016
English	N5	01/05/24	4	Miss Brown	1015
Business Man	N5 & H	01/05/24	5 - 6	Miss Young	2024
Business Man	AH	01/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Fraser	2016
English	H	01/05/24	5 - 6	Mr Pape	1016
Practical Cookery	N5	02/05/24	3 - 4	Mrs Dickson	HE Kitchen

Drama	H	03/05/24	2	Mrs Griffin	1031
Apps Maths	N5	03/05/24	4 - 6	Mrs Graham	0009
English	H	07/05/24	5 - 6	Miss Brown	1015
English	H	08/05/24	1 - 2	Ms Carson	1013
Apps Maths	N5	08/05/24	1 - 4	Mrs Kingan	0005
English	H	08/05/24	5 - 6	Mr Pape	1016
Graphic Communication	N5	08/05/24	5 - 6	Mr Corrigan	0018
Engineering Science	N5 & H	10/05/24	1 - 2	Mr Lees	0034
Biology	H	10/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Simpson	2006
Maths	H	10/05/24	1 - 6	Mrs Bruce	0013
Apps Maths	N5	10/05/24	4 - 6	Mrs Graham	0009
Computing	N5 & H	10/05/24	5 - 6	Mr Bell	0006
Biology	AH	10/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Simpson	2006
Biology	H	13/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Simpson	2006
Biology	N5	14/05/24	1 - 3	Mrs Weir	2011
Biology	N5	14/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Flint	2013
Biology	N5	15/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Flint	2013
History	H	15/05/24	5 - 6	Mr Gray	1012
Graphic Communication	N5	15/05/24	5 - 6	Mr Corrigan	0018
Engineering Science	N5 & H	16/05/24	1 - 2	Mr Lees	0034
Chemistry	AH	16/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Mack	2013
Chemistry	N5	16/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Hunter	2017
Chemistry	H	16/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Hunter	2017
History	N5	16/05/24	5 - 6	Mr Gray	1012
History	H	17/05/24	3 - 4	Mr Gray	1012
Computing	N5 & H	17/05/24	4 - 6	Mr Bell	0006
Art and Design	H	20/05/24	R - 1	Mrs Simpson	1031
Art and Design	N5	20/05/24	R - 1	Mrs Black	1030
Practical Woodwork	N5	20/05/24	R - 1	Mr Corrigan	0018
Chemistry	AH	21/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Mack	2013
Chemistry	H	21/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Hunter	2017
Practical Woodwork	N5	21/05/24	5 - 6	Mr McKenna	0024
Art and Design	H	22/05/24	3 - 4	Mrs Simpson	1031
Chemistry	N5	22/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Mack	2013
Chemistry	N5	23/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Mack	2013
Art and Design	N5	23/05/24	5 - 6	Mrs Black	1030
Art and Design	H	24/05/24	1 - 2	Mrs Simpson	1031

Appendix B

WALLACE HALL ACADEMY - UNIFORM GUIDELINES

Acceptable Items as Part of Uniform Guidelines	Details	Unacceptable Items Not Included Within Uniform Guidelines
	<p>Trousers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain black school trousers or dress shorts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No jeans or cords. • No striped trousers. • No combat trousers. • No leggings or jeggings. • Any colour other than black is not part of the school uniform guidelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black socks. 	
	<p>Shirt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain white shirt with either long or short sleeves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No striped or coloured shirts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No blouses. • No sleeveless shirts. • No patterned shirts/blouses. 	
	<p>Tie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striped Wallace Hall Academy ties can be purchased from the school office. • S6 pupils and S5/6 Prefects can purchase a Senior tie or Prefect tie from the school office. • Ties should be worn at all times during the school day. • Ties should be worn properly with the knot tied at the collar. 	
	<p>Skirt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain black skirt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black tights. • Black socks. • Any colour other than black is not part of the school uniform guidelines. 	
	<p>Jumper/Cardigan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain black V-neck jumper or cardigan. • No logos or branded jumpers/cardigans. • Ties must be worn properly (knot on view) when wearing a jumper. • Hooded tops are not part of the uniform, unless branded school logo hoodie or zipper. • Any colour of jumper/cardigan other than black is not part of the school uniform guidelines unless wearing the school hoody. 	
	<p>Shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain black comfortable footwear. • Any colour of footwear other than black is not part of the school uniform guidelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 'Converse Boots'. • No white laces. • No white/coloured branded trainers such as Nike or Adidas for example. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No excessively high heels. 	
<p>Please also note the following general points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can choose to buy a blazer from the LogoXpres website. • There should be no excessive fashion accessories. • All outdoor clothing should be removed by learners when entering classrooms and the library. • Logos are not permitted on any item of school clothing or shoes. • For safety reasons, leather and PVC skirts and trousers are not permitted. • Jean shorts, skirts or trousers should not be worn. • Plain black dress shorts can be worn in warm weather. <p>If there is an area of concern, the head teacher has the final say in the spirit of the school uniform dress code guidelines outlined above.</p>		

Appendix C

School Holidays 2024-2025

Term 1

Staff training - Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 August 2024

First day - Wednesday 21 August 2024

Last day - Friday 11 October 2024

Autumn holiday - Monday 14 to Friday 25 October 2024

Term 2

First day - Monday 28 October 2024

Last day - Friday 20 December 2024

Christmas holiday - Monday 23 December 2024 to Monday 6 January 2025 (pupils return Tuesday 7 January)

Term 3

Staff training - Monday 6 January 2025

First day - Tuesday 7 January 2025

Mid-term holiday - Wednesday 19 February to Friday 21 February 2025*

(*Staff training - Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 February 2025)

Pupils return from Mid-term holiday - Monday 24 February 2025

Last day - Friday 28 March 2025

Spring holiday - Monday 31 March to Friday 11 April 2025

Term 4

First day - Monday 14 April 2025

Easter weekend (schools closed) Friday 18 April and Monday 21 April 2025

May Day holiday - Monday 5 May 2025

Last day - Thursday 3 July 2025

Summer holiday - Friday 4 July to Tuesday 19 August 2025