



Education Resources
Executive Director **Lyndsay McRoberts**

Uddingston Grammar School

Headteacher Mr J McKay

Friday, 2nd October 2026

Dear parent / carer,

It has been a fantastic start to the year and I have really enjoyed getting to know our S1 young people over the past few weeks. From visiting classes and seeing them engage in their learning, to chatting with them during interval and lunchtime in the S1 playground, it has been wonderful to see them settling into life at Uddingston Grammar School.

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful group of young people. Their polite, friendly and positive approach has been a real pleasure to see and I have been particularly impressed by how well they have embraced our school expectations. Our S1 pupils have also made a fantastic start with our school uniform with the vast majority arriving each day looking smart and appropriately dressed. Thank you to parents and carers for your support with this.

Our extracurricular programme is now well underway with lots of exciting opportunities available for our S1 pupils to get involved in beyond the classroom. Details of upcoming activities and events have been added to the S1 section of the school website. I will continue to share relevant letters and information there.

Lunchtime arrangements / Looking after our school community

I am pleased to share that, following a positive start to the year, our S1 pupils are able to leave the school grounds at lunchtime to access the local community for their lunch from **Monday 5th October**. As this is a new responsibility, I would ask that you speak with your young person about making sensible choices, managing their time carefully to ensure they return to school on time and behaving appropriately within the community. This includes managing any conflict with peers appropriately, not becoming involved in negative behaviours and showing respect to members of the public, local staff and businesses. When pupils are in the wider community, the responsibility for their safety and behaviour sits outside the school's direct supervision and control. Please also remind them to dispose of their rubbish responsibly and not leave litter in gardens or other areas of the community. We are very fortunate to have strong and positive relationships with our local neighbours, restaurants and businesses, and we would like to maintain these by ensuring our young people continue to represent Uddingston Grammar School positively.

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Assemblies

Our S1 assemblies have been focused on the themes of compassion and respect, two of our school values; particularly in how we treat our school, our community and one another. These values continue to be a key focus across the school, with staff reinforcing them in classrooms and throughout the school day. We have been pleased to see many examples of our S1 pupils demonstrating compassion and respect in their interactions with others and we will continue to build on this throughout the year.

S1 Information Events

Please see the foot of this newsletter for details of our upcoming S1 information events. We hope to see you at some of these opportunities to meet with staff, find out more about life at Uddingston Grammar and support your young person's learning and progress. We really value the positive and strong relationships we build with parents and carers. Working together in partnership helps us to provide the best possible support for our young people and contributes to them thriving at school.

Contacting the school

Your young person's Pupil Support teacher (PTPS) is your **main point of contact** and will support you with any concerns or queries. Where appropriate, they will help identify the next steps and involve the relevant Principal Teacher of Curriculum (Subject) or Year Head.

As our PTPS staff also have teaching commitments throughout the school day, they may not always be available to respond immediately. We appreciate your patience and would ask that, wherever possible, you allow them time to respond before requesting to speak with a Year Head or the Head Teacher. If your concern is urgent or requires more immediate attention, please contact the school office directly. They will ensure that your query is passed to the most appropriate member of staff.

I have included the contact details for our Pupil Support staff below, allowing them to review your message and respond or take appropriate action when they are available:

House	Pupil Support Teacher	Contact
Arran	Mr MacKenzie	gw23mackenzieiain@glow.sch.uk
Bute	Mr Carter	gw20carteralistair1@glow.sch.uk
Harris	Mrs Linn	gw19linnsusan@glow.sch.uk
Jura	Ms Pryce	gw19prycepamela@glow.sch.uk
Lewis	Ms Murphy	gw14murphyclaire@glow.sch.uk
Mull	Mr O'Donnell	gw16odonnellcharles@glow.sch.uk
Orkney	Mrs Inglis	gw14inglisjoy@glow.sch.uk
Skye	Ms Adams	gw18adamsvicki@glow.sch.uk

Bus Passes

Bus passes have now been issued. We have had a small number of incidents where pupils have gone to the shops before boarding their bus and subsequently missed it. Buses cannot wait for pupils, so we ask that young people head directly to their bus as soon as the bell rings. We have also had some concerns regarding behaviour on buses, so please remind your young person that there should be one pupil per seat, and that food should not be eaten or thrown while travelling. These expectations help to ensure that everyone can travel safely and respectfully.

We have also received concerns from parents and carers about some buses being full when collecting pupils in the morning. It appears that some young people are waiting for friends to board the same bus in the morning, allowing earlier buses to leave with available seats and placing additional pressure on later buses. Please encourage your young person to board the first bus that arrives, where possible, to help ensure that buses are used evenly and that everyone can travel safely and comfortably.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping to ensure a positive and smooth transition into S1 for our young people. I hope you and your families enjoyed the September weekend and had an opportunity to relax and spend some quality time together. We look forward to welcoming our S1 pupils back and continuing what has been a fantastic start to their secondary school journey.

Social Media

As social media continues to play an increasing role in young people's lives, issues can sometimes arise outside of school. Whilst we will support our pupils where online issues impact on their daily school life or relationships, the school cannot be responsible for incidents that take place solely on social media, as these platforms are outside our control. Parents and carers are asked to **monitor and manage social media use at home** and report serious concerns to the relevant authorities where appropriate.

The school now has a new Instagram account, where we will share upcoming events, school news and highlights from activities across Uddingston Grammar. We will aim to post regularly throughout the year. To stay up to date with what's happening in school, follow us at @uddingstongrammarschool.

S1 Pumpkin Power

Throughout October, we are launching 'Pumpkin Power', a fun way to recognise and reward our S1 pupils for outstanding behaviour and demonstrating our school values. If a pupil is spotted showing one of the behaviours below, staff can send them to my office to collect a Pumpkin Power sticker. 1 sticker = 1 House Point.

- Picking up litter without being asked
- Showing kindness to another pupil
- Being polite and respectful to staff or members of our community
- Helping someone who is struggling
- Keeping corridors calm and safe
- Looking after our school environment
- Respecting our local community

We want to celebrate our S1 pupils who are showing compassion, respect, empathy, ambition and success every day.

Yours sincerely,

J O'Neill

Mrs Jenna O'Neill
Depute Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Day	Time
S1 Tracking Report	<i>Released any day w/b 19/10/2026</i>		
S1 Halloween Event	26/10/2026	Monday	Periods 5&6
S1 Parents Evening	04/11/2026	Wednesday	16:00pm
S1 Literacy Event	28/10/2026	Wednesday	15:30pm

Other useful information

- S1 Google Classroom Code: 62qvipw6
- School Transport Arrangements:
 - South Lanarkshire: <https://shorturl.at/rw2Yo>
 - North Lanarkshire: <https://shorturl.at/NMR3C>
- Parent Pay: www.parentpaygroup.com
Money can be added to your young person's account via ParentPay.
- School Instagram: @uddingstongrammarschool
- School Website: <https://www.uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk>