



Dumfries Carnival is back!

Expression of interests now open!!

Big Burns Supper are pleased to announce the return of Dumfries Carnival to schools throughout Dumfries & Galloway as part of the region's largest community engagement project.

[Click here to register.](#)

Dumfries Carnival runs on 18th January 2025!

The Carnival will feature over 1,000 performers from all over Scotland and will be broadcast to the world on our YouTube and Facebook channels starting at 5pm.



The first Carnival which ran in 2014.

How can your school get involved?

Dumfries Carnival is a **whole community project**, open to everyone and completely free of charge to participate in. There are two ways that schools can get involved in Dumfries Carnival.

1. **Take part in the Carnival** in one of our sections as a class group. (Usually one group per school)
2. Register your school to become a **Community Lantern Hub** to support whole school involvement.

- **Take part in one of our sections.**

Pupils from P5-P7 can take part in performance workshops delivered in your school between August and January to create a Carnival section. This will include being costumed and taught dance and theatre by visiting practitioners to your school. Pupils will take part in the event on the day with their class teacher.



- **Register your school to become a Community Lantern Hub**

Throughout January communities can host lantern making workshops ahead of Dumfries Carnival and welcome an artist to their school community. Artists can come to sessions after school or at the weekend. This is completely free and all materials are included. School pupils and their families can then take part in the Lantern Procession which is at the front of the Carnival.

You can host these after-school or at the weekend, and theme a whole event around this. Some schools have used this to hold Burns Night events, or as the starting point for fundraisers.

The theme of this year's lantern procession is **The Last Zoo on Earth** - which will offer some context building around Animals facing extinction, nature and the climate.



Carnival Timeline

April	<p>Expressions of interests from Primary schools.</p> <p>Register interest to become a Community Lantern Hub.</p>
May	<p>Participating schools confirmed.</p>
Aug - Dec	<p>Workshops in schools begin.</p>
Jan	<p>Dress rehearsals for Carnival.</p> <p>Lantern workshops accross the region.</p>
<p>Carnival Day</p> <p>1.30pm - 2pm</p> <p>4pm</p> <p>5pm</p> <p>6.30pm</p>	<p>School pupils arrive at Dumfries Academy.</p> <p>Staging begins.</p> <p>Carnival leaves George Street.</p> <p>Parents / Carers pick pupils from Irish Street.</p>



What we do in our sessions.

Each school can opt for three full days of delivery, however we know in a busy curriculum environment your time is important. You can choose how long a session you want, and when you would like us to be there. We need a big enough space to do movement in, but if a school hall is being used we are happy to move tables to use a bigger classroom.

All of our sessions start with game-play and we create each scene using devising which all pupils get to own. We will usually start with some spacial warm-ups and then start working on the themes.

These can be great term tools for PE as they can be used as warm-ups throughout the term.

Session	When	Activities	Time needed
Session 1	Aug - Sep	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduction to Carnival and the community</i> 2. <i>Exploring stimuli and the storyboard.</i> 3. <i>Characterisation</i> 4. <i>Devising performance</i> 5. <i>Carnival movement.</i> 	<p><i>3 hours min</i></p> <p><i>6 hours maximum</i></p>
Session 2	Nov	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dance development 2. Characterisation 3. Street theatre and outdoor performance. 	<p><i>3 hours min</i></p> <p><i>6 hours maximum</i></p>
Session 3	Jan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refining performance 2. Carnival day preparation 3. Costume fittings 4. Dress rehearsal 	<p><i>3 hours min</i></p> <p><i>6 hours maximum</i></p>

Themes

You will be able to watch the story board before or after our first session which is told as a story. Pupils will be asked questions about this during our sessions, so it is good to encourage them to check this out in advance. The storyboard is located [here](#) and lasts approx 30 minutes.

This year's Carnival explores the following themes.

- Local history - post-1945 and how people worked in the olden days.
- Sustainability - look at ways to help reduce climate
- Conservation - looking at animals that will be extinct in the future.
- Multi-culturism - how our communities are changing.

Meet the team



Justin

Creative Director

Youth Arts Specialist with over 20 years experience in young people's theatre. Co-Founder of the Blg Burns Supper



Zoe

Movement Director

Senior Choreographer working for major schools like Royal Conservatoire and Rose Bruford.



John

Dance Specialist

One of Scotland's most emerging dance practitioners with a strong CV currently working with Scottish Dance Theatre.



Ashley

Dance Specialist

Owner of Attitude Dance in Dumfries and specialist in street dance with credits including NT and MTV.



Hollie

Dance Specialist

Owner of Next Level School of Dance based in Dumfries and specialist in aerial and contemporary dance styles

How to Carnival?

We know it is quite a lot to take in - so we have made a short video about the last Carnival which was shown to pupils, parents, carers and teaching staff. We will be updating this for this year but as a reference you can see it [here](#)

Who supports Carnival?

We are very fortunate that the Holywood Trust supports Dumfries Carnival which means your participation is absolutely free. That means that any child can take part, irrespective of their household income. We are very grateful for this support.



The Holywood Trust

Why do we do it?

Dumfries Carnival is part of the Big Burns Supper which runs in January. The festival is committed to using arts and culture as a way to connect our communities. The organisation has worked with children and young people in a variety of different ways for over 13 years. Most of all, bringing people together in the middle of winter makes us feel better - and that has got to be a good thing.

What do pupils need?

All we ask is that pupils wear black warm clothing on the day of the Carnival. We have lots of spares if pupils cannot find anything. The reason we ask for black is that their costumes go over these and really make the colours stand out.

Parental Consent to take part, to have their images published and to have make-up as part of the overall design.

Our volunteers will put a water based make-up on pupils, only if we have your consent.



Learning Outcomes

Through workshops

Art & Design

- I can respond to the work of artists and designers by discussing my thoughts and feelings. I can give and accept constructive comment on my own and others' work. *EXA 3-07a*

Dance

- I have created and taken part in dance from a range of styles and cultures. *EXA 3-08a*
- I can respond to the experience of dance by discussing my thoughts and feelings.
- I can give and accept constructive comment on my own and others' work. *EXA 3-11a*

Drama

- I can create, develop and sustain a realistic or stylised character through the use of voice, movement and language. *EXA 3-12a*
- Having developed ideas from a range of stimuli, I can contribute to devising, rehearsing and presenting drama or scripts. *EXA 3-14a*
- I can respond to the experience of drama by discussing my thoughts and feelings. I can give and accept constructive comment on my own and others' work. *EXA 3-15a*

Personal and Social Education

- I am experiencing enjoyment and achievement on a daily basis by taking part in different kinds of energetic physical activities of my choosing, including sport and opportunities for outdoor learning, available at my place of learning and in the wider community. *HWB 3-25a*

Physical Education

- As I encounter new challenges and contexts for learning, I am encouraged and supported to demonstrate my ability to select, adapt and apply movement skills and strategies, creatively, accurately and with control. *HWB 3-21a*
- I practise, consolidate and refine my skills to improve my performance. *HWB 3-22a*
- I can analyse and discuss elements of my own and others' work, recognising strengths and identifying areas where improvements can be made. *HWB 3-24a*

Religious and Moral Education

- I can demonstrate my developing understanding of moral values through participating in events and projects which make a positive difference to others. *RME 3-02b*

Previous Carnivals.





Want to find out more?

Get in touch with me for any questions or clarifications, please reach out to the project lead:

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