

In Touch

Parent/Carer Update



Week Beginning:
Monday 19th September 2022

All pupils deserve a rewarding educational experience.

Special Announcement:

As a school we acknowledge the death of our late sovereign Queen Elizabeth II. Her diligence, her open confession of religious belief and her commitment to duty, is worthy of emulation. We record our thanks for what she has done during her long reign.

In her first televised broadcast in December 1957 she stated simply and eloquently:

“I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else, I can give you my heart.”

Unquestionably, she did, and for that we are grateful. We shall as a school acknowledge this historic moment.

God save the King.

Reverend E T Kirkland

Chair of Governors

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 19th September 2022

School closure: Bank Holiday for the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Year 8 Gideon Assembly

Monday 26th September 2022

European Day of Languages...Years 9 & 10 and GCSE French classes can prepay crepes costing £3 on ParentPay

Thursday 29th September 2022

Year 8 Parent Induction Evening 7pm to 8pm.

Friday 30th September 2022

Years 8, 9 & 10 Online Safety Talks

General Information:

Senior school ties: Unfortunately, we have a shortage of senior school ties. The expected delivery date is 26th September 2022.

School Nurse information If your child is feeling unwell, they should NOT call home if they feel unwell, they should attend the nurse. Currently a number of pupils are calling parents to go home, and parents are arriving at school to collect their child, and no one knows about it. A lot of the time it is the nurse's clinical judgement that these pupils are well enough to sustain in school. Also, if a pupil has an appointment, a note needs to be sent in and given to form teacher. This information should not be received via a phone call to school on the day of the appointment unless it is an emergency appointment.

Coats/jackets: as the colder weather approaches please remember that only dark coloured coats and jackets are acceptable to wear over our school uniform. These coats should only be worn to and from school and should not be worn in and around the school building.

Free school meals:

I would strongly encourage any family who may be eligible to make an application for Free School Meals (FSM) to check their entitlement and get registered on the Education Authority's (EA) Free School Meals register so your child/children can receive free school meals.

Further information is available at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grant-eligibility>

Dangers of Gambling:

As a parent are you concerned about gambling and gaming? Here is a useful link... [Parents.Ygam](#)

SIMs App: The technical glitches with the app is not singular to our school – these are system wide issues.

ParentPay:

To date 402 parents/carers have activated their ParentPay account. If you have not done so, please activate this as soon as possible. You should have received an email to activate your ParentPay account. Please download the app and any issues please refer to: <https://support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/engb/sections/6089568194577-Parents-and-guardians>

Please note ParentPay is not a cashless system for the canteen. It is a cashless system for the school to collect money for items, trips etc. We have only requested payment for the crepes at this time, information about the school fund payment will be issued next week.

House Leaderboard update:

Our House Leader Board continues to stand at:

MacConnell 1

Ollar 4

Collin 3

Lindsay 2

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Homework club commenced on Tuesday 13th September 2022 3pm to 4pm. This weekly club is available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 3pm to 4pm.

Netball club started on Wednesday 14th September 2022 3pm to 4pm – Year 8 in the Assembly Hall with Miss Paisley and Years 9-12 in the Gym Hall with Miss Stewart. This will be a weekly club, pupils are to keep an eye on the PE noticeboard.

Hockey – Year 8 & 9 hockey started on Thursday 15th September 2022 3pm to 4pm. Coaches are Miss Stewart, Miss Paisley and Miss Nugent. This will be a weekly club, pupils are to keep an eye on the PE noticeboard.

Hockey U14, U16 and U18 hockey squads – Training commences again on Tuesday 20th September 2022. Coaches are Ms Oliver and Mrs Bothwell-Moore. Pupils are to keep an eye on the PE noticeboard and Google Classroom.

Girls' Football

After school girls' football will be running from 3-4pm on Thursdays, starting 22nd September.

Science Club will commence on Wednesday 21st September and will run on alternate Wednesdays. All Year 8 pupils are very welcome to come along. Details will be given in Science class and will be on the screen in the Entrance Hall.

More extra-curricular activities coming soon!

Instrumental Lessons

All lessons are now up and running. If your child is having lessons with Mrs McKay (strings) or Mr Doherty (brass) please be aware that this will now be paid through the Parent Pay System and the amount will appear in your basket and we ask that this is paid promptly. Any pupil who is hiring an instrument from the school will also have a small payment of £40 for the year which will shortly appear in the ParentPay System.

If your child is interested in taking up a musical instrument, we have availability with the following tutors.

Drum Kit

Brass

String

Woodwind

Piano

Voice

Bagpipes

The cost of lessons will vary slightly depending on the tutor, but a 20-minute lesson would be between £8-£9 per week. If your child is interested, please ask them to speak to their music teacher for more information or come to me directly.

Mrs Stewart

Orchestra

We are delighted to announce that Orchestra will commence again on Tuesday 20th September in the Assembly Hall and will run from 3.00-4.00 pm. This is open to all pupils who play a musical instrument and is a great opportunity to have fun and make music together. We will be performing at various events throughout the year and the pieces will be a variety of film music, pop music, traditional and classical.

Mrs Stewart

Junior Choir

Junior choir is on a Tuesday during junior lunch. Anyone who is interested please bring your lunch with you to room 155. No auditions are required, we have lots of exciting plans for the year including the school show! Please come a long and join in the fun.

Miss Francis

Celebrating success.... past pupils Kofi Balmer and Paddy McNair called up to the Northern Ireland Squad

Huge congratulations to our past pupil and current Crystal Palace player Kofi Balmer who has been called up, for the first time, to the Northern Ireland football squad for the upcoming UEFA Nations League fixtures against Kosovo and Greece. This is an incredible achievement for Kofi and richly deserved.

The PE Department and the whole school community are absolutely delighted for Kofi and we wish him well for the upcoming games. Enjoy the experience and we hope it is the first of many!

Also, congratulations to fellow past pupil Paddy McNair of Middlesbrough who is once again named in the squad.



We want to hear of current and past pupil success. Please let us know of achievements by emailing us on info@ballyclaresec.ballyclare.ni.sch.uk

Now is the time to get involved with our PTA as we re-establish the strong parent and teacher connections. Please see the attached letter.

An opportunity for past pupils/parents...

McCandless Opticians are seeking a **Full Time Optical Assistant / Trainee Dispensing Optician** No experience essential, all training can be given in house by our friendly, long established team.

Gain new skills in communication, frame styling, computer administration, technical lens and frame knowledge.

Opportunity for the right candidate to progress and carry out a diploma whilst working with us to become a GOC registered Dispensing Optician.

Great working hours of Mon-Fri 9-5pm one week and your alternate week late night Monday and Saturday 9-1pm with a day off during the week. Closed every Sunday.

Salary dependent on current qualifications and experience.

To apply send your CV and a short cover letter to Alan McCandless

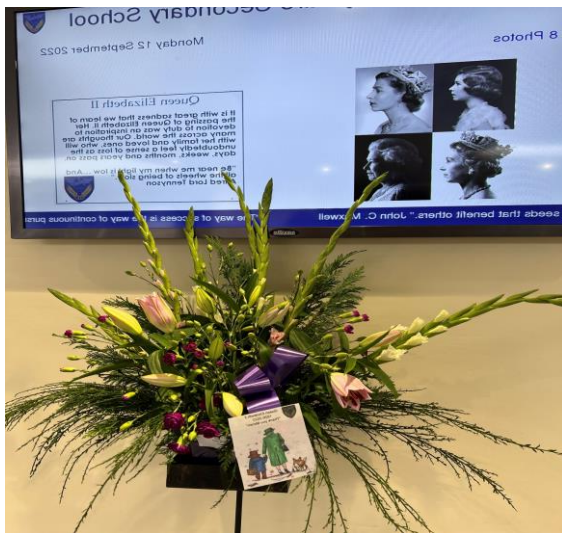
email mcopticians@gmail.com

Canteen Menu:

WEEK 4				
Breaded Fish Steak Burger Pizza Slice Chip Curry Sauce Gravy Beans Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar	BBQ Chicken & Noodles Chicken Curry/Rice Pizza Slice Finger Bread Pizza Coleslaw Soup of the Day Bread Roll Pasta/noodle & Sauces Salad Bar	Roast Beef or Chicken Dinner Toasties Soda Bread Pizza Pizza Slice Soup of the Day Wheaten Bread Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar	Mince pie Chicken Curry/Rice Pizza Slice Finger Bread Pizza Soup of the Day Bread Roll Past & Sauces Salad Bar	Chicken Goujon Hot Dog Pizza Slice Chips Curry Sauce Gravy Beans Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar
Selection of baguettes, paninis and wraps made to order daily				

Due to supply and demand, there may be occasions where the supply or size of items will vary. We are hoping that over the next number of weeks that this will rectify itself.

Thought For The Week:



These floral tributes were created by our horticultural students in honour of Queen Elizabeth II