



## *Ballyclare Secondary School*

Doagh Road  
Ballyclare  
Co Antrim  
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Tel: 028 9332 2610

**Principal: Mrs K O Bell BA Adv Cert Ed PQH**

31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Ballyclare Secondary School Families

It is a privilege and honour to take on the role of Acting Principal. I see this role as one of working in partnership with you, the parent/carer. I value your support and contribution to the life of our school and, it is only through a united approach that we will achieve great things.

The first half term was one full of activity for all with lots of productive work, in lessons; rehearsals for the upcoming Mary Poppins show in December 2022; competitiveness on the sporting fields; Year 8 & 10 parent induction evenings; our celebration of success afternoon and, much more.

Mr Rea and I wrote to you in August 2022 about the wearing of the school PE kit, we stated that this arrangement would be kept under review. Unfortunately, this arrangement has resulted in a number of issues which can be easily avoided by the wearing of full school uniform. Our PE staff have also confirmed that the preference would be to revert back to pupils wearing their full school uniform to school and bringing their PE kit to school on the days they require it for PE lessons or extra-curricular sport. This decision may come as a disappointment to some but please be assured there are good reasons for it. Namely, a number of pupils have not followed the guidance, poor behaviour, pupil safety and welfare. Once again, this arrangement will be kept under review.

If your young person has a medical condition/need that would mean he/she cannot change in school, medical evidence must be provided to their form teacher and this will be treated with compassion and empathy. However, I stress that this is only for those who provide the evidence from a medical professional.

As a school, we ask for the consideration and support of our parents and carers in upholding standards. School uniform plays a valuable role by: instilling pride; supporting positive behaviour and discipline and; supports effective learning and teaching. To avoid the need for future addressing of the issue, please plan **now** so that your young people attend school in their full school uniform on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

It is also with great upset that I inform you of unacceptable use and treatment of school toilets. I ask for your support as a parent to speak to your child about the proper use of toilets and respect for others. I am sure this is only a small number of pupils involved in this behaviour, however, any pupil abusing the school toilet facilities will be dealt with following school policies and procedures.



On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 school will finish at 12.30pm and not 12.50pm as stated on the Friday communication. This early finish is to facilitate Year 12 parent consultation meetings via schoolcloud. Further information on the booking of meetings will be sent to all Year 12 parents separately.

The poppy appeal, any pupil wishing to purchase a poppy in school can do so during the first week back, after the half term break.

I thank you all for your continued support in helping us prepare and educate our young people with life skills and very much look forward to working with you in the next half term.

I wish you all an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Shingleton', with a horizontal line underneath it.

W Shingleton