



*All pupils deserve a rewarding educational experience.*

### Dates for your Diary:

#### **Monday 23rd – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Year 12-14 mock exams continue

#### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Year 11 and 12 Level 1 Essential Skills Communication exam 9am – 10.30am

Half day for pupils – **school ends at 12.30pm**

Year 11 tracking reports issued to parents

Year 11 Parent Consultation Afternoon. Via Schoolcloud. 1pm – 3pm

#### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Year 12 Level 1 Essential Skills Application of Number exam 9am – 10.30am

#### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

Year 11 and 12 November modules results

Careers' Convention held in Ballyclare Secondary School

Year 12 Science Practical (Chemistry)

#### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

Year 12 Science Practical (Chemistry)

### **General Information:**

**Arrangements for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January:** There will be no breaktime on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 so period 3 will be 50 minutes long. Pupils will then have an extended snack/lunchtime:

**Year 12, 13 & 14 - 11am to 11.30am**

**Years 10 & 11 - 11.30am to 12pm**

**Years 8 & 9 - 12pm to 12.30pm**

The canteen **will be** serving food.

Pupils should organise for their normal lunch arrangements, either packed lunch or school dinners.

**Pupils leave at 12.30pm.** There are **NO buses available at 12.30pm** so pupils should make their own arrangements to get home or they can remain in school for supervised study until 3pm. **Buses will be available at 3pm.**

**Free Breakfast:** We are delighted to be able to offer a free breakfast every morning to our Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 pupils daily from 8am to 8.30am in the school canteen. Further provision, to other year groups, may be rolled out, as we gauge numbers.

**Social Media links:** Our official school social media pages can be found using the following links:

[FACEBOOK](#) [TWITTER](#) [INSTAGRAM](#)



**Year 12 – 14 Mock Exams:** continue on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Please see the *attached documents* with the relevant timetables. During the mock exams, the canteen **WILL NOT** be open for pupils in year 12 - 14. Pupils in year 12 – 14 who are in school over lunch are asked to bring a packed lunch. The 6th Form Centre will be open to facilitate pupils eating lunch in school.

**Year 12 Double Award Science Practical Exam:** Year 12 Double Award Science classes will complete their first practical exam (Chemistry) on the following dates: Dr Flint's class - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Ms Boyd's and Mr McAllister's classes - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The exam will take place during normal class time. It is essential that students are present for this exam and throughout the week before for preparation.

**Results day for November Modules:** Another key date coming up in the exams cycle is the results day for the Year 11 and 12 November modules. The results date is **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**.

**Year 11 Assessment Schedule:** Please see attached, the Year 11 Assessment Schedule for 2022 – 2023.

**January external exams:**

Date	Time	Exam
25 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00-10:30am	Year 11 and 12 Level 1 Essential Skills Communication
26 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00-10:30am	Year 12 Level 1 Essential Skills Application of Number

**SU** will continue to meet on **Wednesdays** in Mrs Campbell's Geography room (215); period 6 for Years 8 and 9 and period 7 for Years 10 and 11. All pupils are welcome.

**Year 8 Art Club:** after school in mobile 4 on **Tuesdays** 3-3.30.

**String and Brass tuition:** If your child takes string or brass lessons with a board tutor (Mrs McKay or Mr Doherty), the first terms lessons should now have been paid. If you have not yet paid, could you please check your Parent Pay basket and if you have any issues please contact Mrs Stewart. The second payment for term 2 will now appear in your Parent Pay basket and we would appreciate if this could be paid before the half term break in February.

**Orchestra:** will be on Tuesday this week in the Assembly Hall from 3-4. We will be looking at pieces for Ballyclare Festival and our Spring Concert.

**Junior Choir** is on Tuesday during junior lunch in room 155.

**Senior choir:** will be on **Thursday** this week due to the school closing at 12.30pm on the Wednesday between 3pm and 4pm in Room 102 with Miss Beattie. All in Years 10 to 14 are welcome. We will be working towards Ballyclare Festival and a concert.

**Music Theory Club** is on every Friday, room 155. This is for any musicians in years 8-14, GCSE or A level students who need to improve their music theory knowledge or complete their theory grades.

**Science Show - "World of Gases":** BOC gases will be visiting school to deliver a Science/STEM show called "World of Gases" to all year 9 students on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Careers' Convention:** This will be held in our school on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Year 10 6pm to 7.30pm and Years 11-14 7.30pm to 9pm.**

**Baker Apprenticeship:** Jacksons in Ballynure are offering a Baker apprenticeship which would be suitable for pupils in Year 12. Pupils who are interested should contact Chris on 028 93352592

**Northern Regional College Open Days 2023:** NRC Open days - **Ballymena Wednesday 8th February 4-8pm. Newtownabbey Wednesday 8th February 4-8pm.** This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about their courses, meet their experienced staff, hear from their current students, and explore their industry-standard facilities. Staff are also on hand to provide advice and guidance on student finance, education support, careers and the online application process

**Belfast Met Open Day 2023:** To register for the Belfast Met Open Day at The Titanic Quarter campus on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**, please use the Eventbrite link to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/open-day-2023-tickets-494955514267>

**Higher Level Apprenticeship Event: Wednesday 8th February 5pm – 7pm** Ballymena Town Hall

**Post GCSE Apprenticeship Programmes:** On **Tuesday 31 January from 6.00-7.15pm**, some of Northern Ireland's leading professional services firms, will be hosting a virtual twilight panel session for young people in Year 10-14, teachers and parents/carers. Speakers for Schools NI is delighted to be working in partnership with Baker McKenzie, Citi, CME Group Belfast and Herbert Smith Freehills to help parents, carers, teachers and young people learn about post GCSE apprenticeship programmes, Higher Level Degree Apprenticeship Programmes and explore internships and graduate opportunities across a range of professions including Law, Technology, Finance, HR, Marketing and Administration. If you would like to join them you can register to attend via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/5G4P0xB4mn>. Online Registration Deadline: 5.00pm Tuesday 17 January 2023. Please see *attached flyer* for more details.

**Ulster University Schools Outreach - Engineering Event:** The upcoming 'Dream Big' Engineering event, due to be held on the Belfast campus on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January has been postponed due to an unforeseen logistical circumstance. A new date has been confirmed and the event will take place on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**, from **6:30pm - 9:00pm** on the Ulster University Belfast Campus, Building. 'Dream Big – Engineering Our World' promotes education through Engineering and hopes to inspire the next generation of Engineers in Northern Ireland. It is aimed at Year 11 - Year14 school pupils studying Mathematics, Science, Technology, Engineering or other STEM based subjects, who have an interest in studying Engineering at University. Pupils can come along with parents/guardians to interact with industry professionals and to receive information, advice and guidance on the world of Engineering. 'Dream Big – Engineering Our World' encompasses an Engineering fair attended by industry professionals and employers from Civil, Structural, Transport, Mechanical, Computing and Software Engineering as well as the opportunity to see the 'Dream Big – Engineering Our World' movie in one of two showings on the night. To get insights of the film please view the trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huVNsT8BIM8> Pupils can register for this free event using the Eventbrite link as follows: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/488739050657>. Should you have any queries contact Siobhán Flynn (s.flynn@ulster.ac.uk 075 92101130) or Sarah Reynolds (s.reynolds@ulster.ac.uk), who are coordinating the event.

**NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience:** Registrations for the NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience Programme are open for their next session on **Sunday 5th February**. This programme is suitable for students in years 10-13 interested in working in healthcare. Registration Link: [CLICK HERE](#). This is the largest programme for students who are considering the following careers: Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Radiography, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Speech and Language Therapy, Pharmacy. Once they've registered, students will be emailed links to their virtual work experience portals. Students are awarded a Work Experience Certificate for every session they complete. Those who complete the full 5-month programme will be awarded a Highly Commended Reference from the Presidents of Allied Healthcare Mentor. These are fantastic additions to their CVs! During the work experience day, students will follow 2 patients from their initial presentation to recovery. They will gain a unique insight into how patients interact with a variety of healthcare professionals and what it's like to work in an NHS multidisciplinary team. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with healthcare professionals throughout each day. This will empower students to make informed career decisions and demonstrate their commitment to healthcare in their UCAS applications. Students can register individually at any time throughout the 5-month programme using the link below. We recommend booking early to gain as much out of this programme as possible. Places are £10 a session to cover administrative and technological costs. Enquiry Form: <https://airtable.com/shrM6UPT8Z2uxx7OL>) Allied Healthcare Mentor Helpline: 01530 417299 (Open 10am - 5pm Monday - Friday)

NI4Kids latest magazine issue: [CLICK HERE](#).

**EA Catering Service Survey:** The catering service is undergoing a rebranding project which will involve the creation of several new brands across the service. New logos will be developed to include an overarching school meals logo and a logo for our post primary school offering. They value your opinion and contribution to this exercise so they have developed a pupil survey and a separate parent survey to gather your views to assist in the progression of this project:

Parent Survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/uWJRBXeqJD>

Post Primary Pupil Survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/rAZMNecHch>

**Valentine House Competition:** Our next house competition is to write your own poem or song to be used for our Valentine delivery service. This can be in a romantic sense or can also be about friendship. This should be short enough to be printed and put inside a small box or sung by one of our talented singers. The deadline for this competition is **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**. All entries should be brought to Miss Dunwoody in room 212.

There will be house points allocated (categories to be confirmed) and a small prize for the overall winner.

**House Points:**

Lindsay 27

Ollar 26

McConnell 18

Collin 30

**Canteen Menu:**

<b>WEEK 4</b>				
Breaded Fish	BBQ Chicken & Noodles	Roast Beef or Chicken Dinner	Mince pie	Chicken Goujon
Steak Burger	Chicken Curry/Rice	Chicken Dinner	Chicken Curry/Rice	Hot Dog
Pizza Slice	Pizza Slice	Toasties	Pizza Slice	Pizza Slice
Chip	Finger Bread Pizza	Soda Bread Pizza	Finger Bread Pizza	Chips
Curry Sauce	Coleslaw	Pizza Slice	Soup of the Day	Curry Sauce
Gravy	Soup of the Day	Soup of the Day	Bread Roll	Gravy
Beans	Bread Roll	Wheaten Bread	Past & Sauces	Beans
Pasta & Sauces	Pasta/noodle & Sauces	Pasta & Sauces	Salad Bar	Pasta & Sauces
Salad Bar	Salad Bar	Salad Bar		Salad Bar

Bakery available daily

**Thought for the week:**

“

Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway; we might just as well put that passing time to the best possible use.

”

**Snow Snaps**

