



All pupils deserve a rewarding educational experience.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 31st January 2023

Year 10 Young Enterprise Event

Thursday 2nd February 2023

Year 11 and 12 November external modules results

Year 10 – 14 Careers' Convention held in Ballyclare Secondary School

Year 12 Science Practical (Chemistry)

Friday 3rd February 2023

Year 12 Science Practical (Chemistry)

Wednesday 8th February 2023

Year 12 Mock Results morning

Thursday 9th February 2023

Science Show - "World of Gases"- all Year 9 pupils

Friday 10th February 2023

Half day; school ends at 12.30pm

Year 10 Parent Interviews and Options Afternoon from 12.45pm to 3pm

There will be no buses available at 12.30pm but they will be available at 3pm. Any pupils wishing to remain in school will be supervised in the library until then.

Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2023

School Closed for Half Term

General Information:

The 8th May 2023: has been confirmed as an additional public holiday for the Coronation of His Majesty the King.

Free Breakfast: The free breakfast is now open to all year groups, daily from 8am to 8.30am in the school canteen.

Zero Tolerance: As a school we continuously work to provide a safe, calm, orderly environment for pupils and staff. We encourage all of our parents and external visitors to adhere to an appointment system, should they need to speak or consult with a member of staff. There are benefits to this, in that it ensures a calm, orderly running of the school. We have sent out previous safeguarding messages about visitors reporting to our visitor's reception, please continue to do this. As a further safeguarding update, we want to advise all our parents and carers that swearing, threats or any act of violence will not be tolerated. Anyone giving verbal abuse to members of staff will be asked to leave the premises.

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

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



School Uniform: A gentle reminder to parents that pupils are not permitted to come into school in their PE kit without supporting medical recommendations. Full school uniform should be worn at all times. Please see our [school website](#) for the policy. Coats and hoodies should not be worn as part of the school uniform but can be worn to and from school. Thank you for helping us to maintain high standards.

Year 10 Parent Interviews and Options Afternoon:

An important event for Year 10 parents & their young people is taking place on **Friday 10th February 2023 from 12.45pm to 3pm**. Please see below for details:

We are having a joint Year 10 parent consultation and GCSE subject choice event. The event will begin with a short presentation in the assembly hall at 12:45pm to 1pm. Parents are being asked to join their child from 12.30pm in the school assembly hall. 1pm to 3pm is an opportunity for you and your young person to speak with subject teachers. Please note that we have 182 Year 10 pupils, therefore, teacher interviews must be no more than 5 minutes per parent, and you should consider prioritising speaking to teachers of the subjects your child is considering choosing. The event will also have a prompt finish at 3pm. Please note that we along with all other schools are currently operating in a time of industrial action, your understanding is much appreciated as we continue to provide a high-quality education for your child. We look forward to seeing you on **Friday 10th February 2023**.

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

Year 10 to 14 parents: It's that time of year to be thinking about subject choices, options and careers. Please look out for information being released next week.

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 2nd February, Ms Boyd's and Mr McAllister's classes - Friday 3rd 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.

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 be 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.

Entries for Ballyclare Festival: have now closed. Please ensure your child has handed a copy of their music and accompaniment, if needed, to the appropriate member of staff. Mrs Stewart - Vocal and Piano; Miss Francis - Brass and String; Miss Beattie - Woodwind, Guitar and Snare Drumming (Traditional). More information on exact times of classes will be sent out in a few weeks.

Cookery Club 2023: **Year 8 students** are invited to attend Cookery Club on Tuesdays between 3.00-4.00pm. Pupils must bring their own ingredients (weighed). Starting **Tuesday 21st February**. To attend **Cookery Club**, students **MUST** attend a meeting on **Tuesday 31st January** at break time (10.05-10.20am) in Room 121.

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 2nd February 2023**.

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

School Formal: the deadline for final payment has been extended to **Monday 30th January**. All payments must be made by this date via the ParentPay App. If your child is bringing a guest, who is not a pupil of Ballyclare Secondary School, their guest's ticket must also be paid for. The total cost per ticket is £36.

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 9th February**.

CricHITT programme: Please see the attached flyer about a 6 week cricket based fitness session. Any girls that are interested can either give their name to their class teacher, their PE teacher or Mr Cowden.

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 31st 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.

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

Draft Consultation: Please see attached a draft Curriculum policy. We would welcome any thoughts in relation to the structure and detail of the proposed policy. This period of consultation will close on **Friday 3rd February 2023**.

Operation Encompass: Please see attached an important safeguarding update From Mr Nicholl.

House Points:

Lindsay 31

Ollar 33

McConnell 20

Collin 33

Canteen Menu:

WEEK 1 MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pizza Slice Breaded Fish Fingers Beef Burger Chips Curry Sauce Gravy Beans Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar	Chicken Pie Chicken Curry/Rice Pizza Slice Finger Bread Pizza Soup of the Day Bread Roll Pasta/ noodles & sauces Salad Bar	Roast Pork or Chicken Dinner Toasties Soda Bread Pizza Pizza Slice Soup of the day Wheaten Bread Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar	Stew Chicken curry /rice Pizza Slice Finger Bread Pizza Soup of the Day Bread Roll Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar	Sausages Chicken Goujon Pizza Slice Chips Curry Sauce Gravy Beans Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar

Bakery available daily

Thought for the week:

“No act of kindness,
 however small, is
 ever wasted.”

-Aesop