



## Ballyclare Secondary School

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Tel: 028 9332 2610

Dear Ballyclare Secondary School families

Welcome back!

We hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer and you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. We are so delighted that you are part of our great school. We welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education and look forward to working with you and your children as part of our great school community.

Below is a reminder of return to school dates:

- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022: Year 8 only from 8.40am to 11.45am (school buses are **not** available).
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022: Years 8 & 13 only from 8.40am to 3pm (school buses & canteen are **not** available, please make sure that your child brings a packed lunch).
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022: All Year Groups back to school from 8.40am to 3pm (school buses & canteen are operational from this date).

Our highly skilled and devoted staff are already planning and preparing for your child(ren) and our enthusiastic office team are registering new families, ordering materials and updating pupil files. The hardworking cleaning staff have spent the entire summer thoroughly washing and cleansing equipment in preparation for the new term.

### New staff

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome a number of highly qualified staff members to our team, including our second Vice Principal, Mr John Rea. Mr Rea brings a wealth of experience in leading a curriculum. Ms Anglea Hatch, our Senior Executive Officer joined us in June 2022. Mrs Hatch is highly skilled in office management and looks forward to the academic year ahead. We also intend to increase our team of Learning Support Assistants. Please see the separate document appealing for parents, carers and friends to apply for temporary positions starting on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Wendy Shingleton or Miss Julianne Miniss on 93322610.

Mr Liam Perry will continue to work with our school in the role of Associate Principal.

### Facilities update

We are very pleased to inform you of a significant investment into new computers for the learning and teaching. It is hoped that these new devices will be in school mid September 2022.

The school office will be operating a cashless system, ParentPay for the collection of monies within the school (this does not include money for purchases in the canteen). You, as parents/carers will receive information on this in coming days which will include an invitation to join the system. We encourage all parents/carers to sign up to this as soon as possible.

We will also be communicating with you via SIMs Parent App on a weekly basis. If you need to contact the school regarding anything that isn't urgent, please send an email to [info@ballyclaresec.ballyclare.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballyclaresec.ballyclare.ni.sch.uk) outlining a brief summary, your contact details and the name of the staff member you would like to make contact with.

Parents are reminded that pupils are not to be dropped off or enter the Avondale gate. This is dangerous due to the flow of traffic and is an entrance for staff only.

### Parental voluntary contribution

Unfortunately, school budgets continue to face pressures and as a school we are asking you to support us financially by paying a voluntary contribution of £50 per child or £75 per family. This contribution will enable us to enrich the learning experience of your child(ren). We are mindful of the current economic climate, therefore, we have kept the contribution requested unchanged over the past couple of years. Financial support from you as a parent/carer is vitally important and appreciated. Please be assured that your voluntary contribution will only be used for the benefit of the children.

### The term ahead

All of our staff work hard to make school a positive experience for ALL pupils. Ballyclare Secondary School is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life in partnership with you the parents/carers. Please understand that it may take a few weeks for a child to adjust to a new class, peer group and teacher. Any urgent concerns should be communicated via the school office to our pastoral care team.

As a school community we ask for your support with high standards of attendance, punctuality and uniform. Please refer to the separate correspondence detailing the wearing of our PE kit. Thank you to all who are helping prepare for the new school year. We eagerly look forward to greeting our pupils and families, together, we will make this school year one of achievement for all.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Wendy Shingleton  
Vice Principal



Mr John Rea  
Vice Principal