



Ballyclare Secondary School

Doagh Road
Ballyclare
Co Antrim
BT39 9BG

Tel: 028 9332 2610

Principal: Mrs K O Bell BA Adv Cert Ed PQH

10th February 2023

Dear Ballyclare Secondary School Families

As we approach the half term break, I want to thank you for your continued support as we work together as a school community in raising standards and transforming our young peoples' lives.

We have had an extremely successful half term with the majority of our pupils focused on learning and doing their absolute best every single day.

I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your ongoing support during what are challenging times for all schools, including nationwide financial pressures, staffing shortages and industrial action. On a few occasions in recent months, we have had to finish classes early to facilitate parent-teacher consultation before 3pm. This will be the case for a further two school days to facilitate Year 8 and Year 9 consultations (dates to be confirmed).

I am sure you are aware of the media coverage regarding the teachers' strike on Tuesday 21st February 2023 from midnight to 12.00 midday. To manage the impact of the strike on our pupils we have taken the decision to close the school for pupils on Tuesday 21st February 2023. I am confident that this decision is the best way forward as I am unable to maintain the health and safety of the pupils and remaining non-striking teaching and support staff.

Teachers who are in school from 8.40am to 12pm on Tuesday 21st February 2023 will upload work to Google Classroom for pupils to complete. From 1.00pm to 3.00pm teachers will be conducting Year 13 & 14 parent consultation meetings via SchoolCloud (further information to follow). The decision to conduct the parent consultations on this afternoon has been taken as it minimises the number of half days required (2 instead of 3) for these meetings. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

There have been so many amazing events that have taken place this half term as a result of the hard work, dedication and resilience of our staff and pupils. Details on these events are viewable on our school's Facebook page and our school website. If you have not already done so please take time to join our school Facebook page and Instagram to view the events and other posts on the life of our school. We are also looking forward to additional exciting and informative events planned for next half term.





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I wrote to you in December 2022 to express my gratitude for the amount of funds raised via the voluntary school fund payments. By the closing date of 30th November 2022 we had received £14,306.00. Since this date, we have received further donations giving a grand total of £15581.00. We are currently researching/costing all weather shelters to make our playground a more pleasant environment for all pupils during break and lunch. Further information will be communicated as soon as we have a breakdown of costs.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of our school uniform policy. Our high standards for uniform continue to remain a focus as is the case with all aspects of school life. I appreciate your support in reminding our young people of the importance representing the school well through the correct wearing of the school uniform.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming pupils back refreshed and ready to work over the next half term.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Shingleton (Mrs) Acting Principal

