



All pupils deserve a rewarding educational experience.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 6th – Friday 10th February 2023

Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th February 2023

Internet Safety Day

Year 10 Young Enterprise Employability Education Event

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

Monday 20th February 2023

Return to School

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**.

Early finish: on **Friday 10th February 2023 at 12.30pm** due to Year 10 Options Event & Parent Consultations.

There will be no breaktime on Friday 10th February 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, packed lunch or school dinners. Year 10 pupils accompanying their parents to the event are to go to the Assembly Hall at 12.30pm. There are NO buses available at 12.30pm, pupils can make their own arrangements to get home, or they can remain in school for supervised study until 3pm.

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.

Children's Mental Health Week 6-10 February: We would like to share these top tips from the charity 'Place 2 Be' on the theme of Connection. In class assembly this week, classes will be encouraged to explore how building good connections with those around us can contribute to good mental health. *Please see the attached PDF.*

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.

Year 8 Cookery Club: Tuesdays 3.00-4.00pm. Bring your own ingredients (weighed). **Group 1 – Tuesday 28 February & Tuesday 7 March; Group 2 – Tuesday 14 March & Tuesday 21 March.**

Ballyclare Music Festival: Solo 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 larger ensembles will be sent home via Parents Sims App this week.

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.

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

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**.

Valentine Ordering and Delivery Service: Our Valentine delivery service is back! Pupils and staff can spread some love and happiness to a friend, colleague or significant other during the final week of this half term. Pupils can purchase one of our Valentine boxes filled with a little love poem and/or message and sweet treat, at the cost of a £1. Orders can remain anonymous, or you can let the recipient know that you have purchased a box. This is a BFFS fundraiser so all proceeds will be for the benefit of the school.

House Points:

Lindsay 31

Ollar 33

McConnell 20

Collin 37

Canteen Menu:

| WEEK 2 | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| Breaded Fish Chicken Nuggets Pizza Slice Chip Curry Sauce Gravy Beans Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar Open | Lasagne Chicken Curry/Rice Pizza Slice Finger Bread Pizza Coleslaw Soup of the Day Bread Roll Pasta/noodle & Sauces Salad Bar | Roast Beef or Chicken Dinner Toasties Soda Bread Pizza Pizza Slice Soup of the Day Wheaten Bread Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar | Chicken Bake Chicken Curry/Rice Pizza Finger Bread Pizza Soup of the Day Bread Roll Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar | Hot Dog Chicken Goujon Pizza Slice Chips Curry Sauce Gravy Beans Pasta & Sauces Salad Bar |

Bakery available daily

Thought for the week:

"Everything in your life is a reflection of a choice you have made. If you want a different result, make a different choice."