



All pupils deserve a rewarding educational experience.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 13th March 2023

English Language CCEA Moderation

Tuesday 14th March 2023

Re-sit OCN Essential Skills in Communication (English class)

Duke of Edinburgh Orienteering Day for the Bronze Award

Year 13 Seamus Heaney Homeplace trip

U14 Rugby Final at Meadowbank, Magherafelt.

Wednesday 15th March 2023

GCSE Drama practical moderation

Duke of Edinburgh Orienteering Day for the Silver Award

Thursday 16th March 2023

Half day; School ends at 12:30; Year 9 Parent Interviews 13:00 – 15:00. Year 14 are to remain in school until 2pm

THERE WILL BE NO BUSES AT EITHER 12.30PM OR 3PM

HiP Psychology Exam Preparation workshops for Years 12, 13 and 14

GCSE Single Award Science practical exam for Mrs Parr's and Ms Russell's classes (periods 1-4)

Friday 17th March 2023

School closed for pupils (Staff Development Day)

Monday 20th March and Tuesday 21st March 2023

Year 12 CCEA GCSE Art Exam - 08.40

Wednesday 22nd March, Thursday 23rd March and Friday 24th March 2023

Year 13 & 14 CCEA GCE Art Exam – 08.40

Tuesday 28th March 2023

Half day; School ends at 12:30; Year 8 Parent Interviews 13:00 – 15:00 Buses will be available at 12.30pm

Wednesday 29th March 2023

Music Department Spring Showcase 5pm to 6pm

Monday 1st May 2023

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May 2023

King's Coronation Bank Holiday

Friday 26th May 2023

School closed for pupils (Staff Development Day)

Friday 29th May 2023

School closed for pupils (Staff Development Day)

IMPORTANT Year 9 Parent Consultation Afternoon Arrangements on Thursday 16th March:

To accommodate the Year 9 parent consultations via Schoolcloud, pupils from Years 8 to 13 will leave school at 12.30pm. The consultations will be between 1pm and 3pm. Year 14 pupils will be attending the HiP Psychology workshops to help them prepare for their examinations. Please be aware that:

THERE WILL BE NO BUSES AT EITHER 12.30PM OR 3PM.

Mrs Duncan and Mrs Porte will be taking some exam classes after 12.30pm and information will be sent via the Sims Parent App, before the 16th March.

Free Breakfast: The free breakfast will continue for all year groups, daily from 8am to 8.30am in the school canteen.

External exams: The re-sit of the OCN Essential Skills in Communication (English class) will take place on **Tuesday 14th March** from 1:00-2:30pm in Room 211.

English Language CCEA Moderation: The external moderation visit from CCEA will take place on **Monday 13 March** from 9.30 until 11.30. This will involve 3 groups of year 12 students-18 students in total. This is an external exam.

Art Examinations: **Year 12 CCEA GCSE exam** is **Monday 20th March** and **Tuesday 21st March** both days start at 8.40am and end at 3pm and will be held in your Art Classroom. Those pupils entitled to extra time will attend Wednesday 22nd March 8.40am to 11.30am. Deadline for all work to be handed in is Monday 17th April.

Year 13 & 14 CCEA GCSE exam is **Wednesday 22nd March, Thursday 23rd March** and **Friday 24th March** all three days start at 8.40am and end at 3pm and will be held in your Art Classroom. Those pupils entitled to extra time will attend Tuesday 21st March 8.40am to 12.40am. Deadline for all work to be handed in is Tuesday 9th May.

Single Award Science Practical Exam: Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to postpone the GCSE Science practical exam for Mrs Parr's and Ms Russell's classes. This exam will now take place on **Thursday 16th March** from Periods 1-4. It is essential that all pupils attend and are present in school for preparation.

Year 11 Digital Technology class: As discussed on Year 11 Parents Afternoon, Miss Nevin will be running an after-school class for Year 11 Digital Technology pupils to support pupils in having the best chance of success in Module 1 on 18th May. The classes will continue on Wednesdays and run until their module on Thursday 18th May. It would be highly beneficial for your child to attend these classes.

CCEA Advanced Information: On Monday 27th February, CCEA released Advance Information to help students with their preparation for the exams in May and June. They have produced a presentation and a digital poster to help explain what this information is. *Please find attached.*

EMA advance notice: Eligibility courses starting 2023/24 FAO Year 12 and Year 13: If you decide to stay on at school or go to a further education college in Northern Ireland, you may be able to get the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). It is available for both academic and vocational courses. EMA is a weekly award of £30 which is paid fortnightly to students who meet the eligibility criteria laid out in the leaflet attached. It is intended to help cover the day-to-day costs that you have to meet when you stay on at school or college like travel costs, books and equipment for your course. Please read the attached leaflet to see if you qualify for the scheme. Application packs will be available soon. The school is only allocated a limited number of packs, so please read the information ahead of their release to ensure we can direct the packs to those who will need them. You do not have to have a firm plan for September 2023. Successful applications can be transferred to another learning centre if necessary. If you are in Year 13 and already receive EMA you do not need to reapply for 2023/24. If you are in Year 13 and were not eligible this year but think your circumstances might change for the new academic year, please read the *leaflet attached* for the most up to date information.

Important message about St Patrick's Day: from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council, Queen's University, Ulster University, Belfast Metropolitan College and the University Colleges to students in your school. We have been asked to share this message with students in school to ensure a safe and respectful St Patrick's Day, please see the *letter attached*.

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

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: will continue after school in mobile 4 on **Tuesdays** 3-3.30.

Junior Choir: will continue **Tuesday** at junior lunch in room 155.

Senior choir: will continue **Wednesdays** in room 102 from 3pm until 4pm.

Orchestra: will continue **Tuesdays** in the Assembly Hall from 3pm until 4pm.

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.

Music Department Spring Showcase: It has been a busy year so far in the Music Department, and we would like to invite you to join us in celebrating our pupils' achievements in our Spring Showcase on **Wednesday 29th March 2023** from 5.00-6.00 pm. This event will take place in our assembly hall and drinks and refreshments will be available before the start of the event. Tickets for this event will be £5 for adults and £3 for children/concessions and can be purchased on Parent Pay App from Wednesday 8th March. Printed tickets will not be distributed for the event, but names will be ticked off at the door.

Robotics Challenge 2023: Pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 have registered interest for this challenge. The club continues on **Tuesday 14th March** in room 237 and is from 3pm until 4pm.

Year 9 language learning survey: Queen's University Belfast has been contracted by the British Council in Northern Ireland to conduct a survey on language trends in this part of the UK. All year 9 pupils in Northern Ireland are invited to take part. The survey is optional and you can chose for your child not to take part. The information gathered from this survey will contribute to important research on language learning. To complete the survey, please follow the link [HERE](#) The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and closes on **Wednesday 15th March**.

Parentline Discussion Groups: Please see *attached flyers* for two Parent Discussion Groups that Parentline are hosting during March:

- Parents Talk Teens, Wednesday 15th March, 7.30-8.30pm
- Parents Talk ADHD, Wednesday 29th March 7.30-8.30pm

Call Parentline on 0808 8020 400 for more information or to book a place.

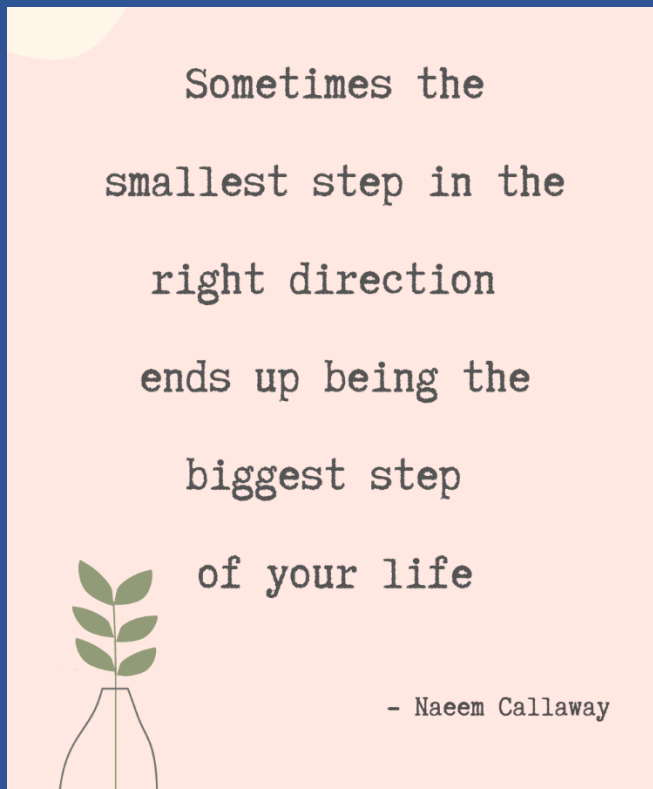
Zero Tolerance: As a school we continuously work to provide a safe, calm, orderly environment for pupils and staff. We encourage all of our parents and external visitors to adhere to an appointment system, should they need to speak or consult with a member of staff. There are benefits to this, in that 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.

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:



House Points:

Lindsay 31
 Ollar 33
 McConnell 20
 Collin 37

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

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

