



Ballyclare Secondary School

Doagh Road
Ballyclare
Co Antrim
BT39 9BG

Tel: 028 9332 2610

Principal: Mrs K O Bell BA Adv Cert Ed PQH

Date: May 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

This is a pivotal year in your child's education as he/she prepares to select their route of study at Post 16, ultimately taking them into their chosen career. Having studied for GCSE and equivalent subjects throughout Years 11 and 12, their current focus will of course be on maximising outcomes in the summer exams. However, it is also likely that they are beginning to consider their options for study at Post 16.

At Ballyclare Secondary School we offer a broad range of A-Level and equivalent subjects. Subject choices can be combined in a range of ways to build a suitable pathway into further and higher education. A special assembly has already taken place to outline the process for the coming months, both for pupils who wish to return to 6th Form and for those whose interests lie elsewhere. Before considering which courses to study at Post-16, it is important that pupils consider their career path, labour market trends, and entry requirements for Further and Higher Education.

Towards the end of the summer term each pupil will be invited to attend a careers interview with Ballyclare Careers staff and Head/Assistant Head of 6th Form, the purpose of which is to offer advice on choosing the correct courses for the chosen career path. Next week, pupils will be invited to complete a Google Survey to indicate which subjects they may be interested in, indicating their preferred Post 16 study option (Plan A) and an alternative option (Plan B). Before completing the survey, please highlight to your child the importance of reading the 6th Form Prospectus (2023) to check course content and entry requirements. The survey data will help inform our careers staff in preparation for the interviews noted above, but please note that the response in the survey commits them to nothing. Details will follow in due course, but please note that we are planning for these interviews to take place via School Cloud (video conference).

GCSE results day for 2023 is on **Thursday 24th August 2023** with the doors opening for pupils at 9:00am. Pupils should go to the allocated desks in the assembly hall to receive their results. If not returning to 6th Form, they will be asked to inform a designated staff member of their chosen destination for Post-16. Those returning will need to complete an application form, indicating their grades, contact details, desired career pathway and preferred subject choices. Heads of Department will be available to advise on course content and suitability for the course. Pupils will then have to meet with one of the careers and 6th form team before submitting the application form. It is important to note that some courses can be oversubscribed, and selection criteria may need to be applied as indicated in the school curriculum policy. Also, it is our aim to inform pupils on GCSE results day if their application is successful, but in a small number of cases the process may take a little longer.



Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish your child well in their GCSE examinations and I sincerely hope that they choose to return Ballyclare Secondary for 6th Form study.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Rea'.

J Rea
Vice Principal (Curriculum, Learning and Teaching)