

# In Touch

Parent/Carer Update

*The community of Ballyclare Secondary School strive to provide an inclusive learning and teaching environment in which all can reach their full potential. We aim to do this by fostering the core values of respect, kindness, compassion and joy.*



## Week Beginning:

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Timetable: Week 2

### Dates for your Diary:

<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>	School closure all day for pupils Year 8 parent consultations from 1pm to 3pm. <i>Please see the Acting Principal's letter &amp; School Cloud instructions</i>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>	Year 8 to 10 assessments will be completed in class.
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>	Year 11 & 12 CAFRE Horticulture trip
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>	PE Pink Week for Cancer Focus
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>	Year 11 Learn to Earn Event
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	Pupils finish at 11.45am for the Christmas break

### ***UCL Outreach Programme***

We have received the following information from University College London regarding their schools outreach programme. If your child would be interested in any of these sessions, they need to register at the following link: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/secondary/ucl-informed-futuresUCL>

When registering, pupils need to indicate their Year group – these registration form is based on the English system, so you will need to use the following:

Year 8 = Year 7

Year 9 = Year 8

Year 10 = Year 9

Year 11 = Year 10

Year 12 = Year 11

### ***Below is the information received from UCL.***

Informed Futures is a series of online events aimed at equipping secondary school students, and parents and carers, with the knowledge and confidence to succeed in their next steps in education. With sessions for pupils in Year 8 all the way up to Year 12, there is a wealth of advice and information available for attendees.

Applications for our next series of Informed Futures events are now open. Please see below the sessions we will be running this autumn:

**Get Ready for A- Levels (Y11-12) - 30 November 2023**

**Introduction to University (Y8-10) - 5 December 2023**

**Get Ready for GCSEs (Y8-10) - 12 December 2023**

**Stepping Up Your Study Skills (Y10-12) - 21 December 2023**

All sessions run from 5-6pm

Sessions will be hosted online. Audience participation will be encouraged through interactive elements such as games and quizzes and participants will have the chance to ask questions by typing in the chat function.

Applications are taken on a first come, first served basis so apply now to avoid disappointment!

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Homework club is on every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Please note the canteen is only available to Years 10 to 14 at breaktime. Years 8 to 9 should bring a snack. Friday treat day will take place at break time every Friday for Years 8 & 9 to purchase chocolate bars and other sweet treats.

Breakfast club is up and running again, every morning from 8am to 8.30am.

Lunchtime football is on every Monday and Wednesday. Pupils must bring trainers and meet outside the 6<sup>th</sup> form centre.

Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh training begins Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 3-4pm in the Lecture theatre

## **Important information for Year 12 – 14 pupils: Upcoming Dates**

Form teachers will be distributing Formal letters on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Please return the consent form and conduct contract to Dr Flint by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Year 12-** Reminder that the Year 12 Options Survey is due to be completed by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The link has been sent out on SIMS Parent App. The Year 12 Options Booklet can also be found on the school website (<https://ballyclaresecondary.co.uk/school-life/ks5curriculum/>). The Year 12 Options Survey can be found at this link <https://forms.gle/ouNBJUyJumqCtjNd8>.

## **Belfast Met information Evening**

Belfast Met are holding Post A level information evenings at their various campuses on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Details can be found on their website. [Belfast Met](#)

## **Important information for Parents of Pupils in 8D and 8R**

### **Parents of 8R and 8D**

📣 Parents, we value your input! Check SIMS Parent App for a message sent on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November with a link to a homework survey. The deadline has been extended until 30<sup>th</sup> November! 📅 Your feedback is central in shaping our approach to your child's educational journey.

## **School Photograph**

***\*\*Special Christmas offer: £5.00 off a Print in a tube (available until the 1<sup>st</sup> December)\*\****

*This is a reminder that your whole school group photograph taken earlier in the year is still available to view and order via the Tempest Ordering website. A weblink is supplied below which will take you directly to your photograph and allow you to browse the products available and place an order should you wish.*

<https://htmp.st/600047-118WSG>

*If your order is intended as a Christmas gift, we recommend placing your order before 1<sup>st</sup> December to give the best chance of receiving your photograph/s back in time.*

## **Safety notice**

Parents are not to drive onto the school premises (both Avondale Drive & Doagh Road entrances) to drop pupils off in the morning nor should they do so at 2.55pm.

### A Reminder of our exciting fundraising opportunity

An application to Tesco Stronger Starts (the blue tokens) has been successful and voting will commence in store from the first week of October 2023 until Mid January 2024 for Ballyclare Secondary School Healthy Breakfast Club. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500. If you shop in Tesco in the following locations, **please** ask at the till for the **blue tokens** and pop them into the display for Ballyclare Secondary School.

### **Tesco stores:**

2023 Antrim Road Large Unit BT15 3BG  
2715 Newtownabbey Large Unit BT36 7GU  
5409 Mayfield Exp Small unit BT36 7WU  
5522 Ballygomartin 1 Large Unit BT13 3LD  
5585 Monkstown Newton Exp Small unit BT37 0HS  
6506 Northcott Extra Large Unit BT36 5HH  
6552 Doagh Rd Exp Small unit BT37 9QS

### Quote of the Week:

