

# 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 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Timetable: Week 1

## **Message from the Acting Principal:**

I wish you all a lovely half term holiday and look forward to seeing our pupils back in school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## **Dates for your Diary:**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Year 10 Options Assembly, pupils will hear about options choices they have not studied in KS3.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Year 12 Mock Interviews

9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - Year 12 Parent/Carer Consultation Afternoon via School Cloud. Consultations will run from 4pm-6pm in 5 minute slots. Bookings will be open to parents from **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 12 noon until midnight on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.** Please see the attached Parents' Guide for help with booking appointments.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Year 10 Options Information Evening at 6.30pm. After the half-term break, your child will begin the process of choosing the subjects they will study in Years 11 and 12. At our Year 10 Options Information Evening, we will be outlining the process and providing information on the pathways that are available and how they link to KS5 pathways and beyond. This is a very significant evening for your child's future choices and we would ask that you make attendance a priority. We would also ask that your child attend the evening with you (they do not need to be in school uniform). Please let us know if you will be attending at the link below.  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfJpU3a3EyCG97DrPrXxmRBWHXgFh4k13iFkwQ5-6HeSLUuA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfJpU3a3EyCG97DrPrXxmRBWHXgFh4k13iFkwQ5-6HeSLUuA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Remembrance Assembly

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Year 12 Options Information Evening at 6.30pm. After the half-term break, your child will begin the process of considering their post 16 pathway. At our Year 12 Options Information Evening, we will be outlining the options available in Ballyclare Secondary School and how they link to future career pathways. This is a very significant evening for your child's future choices and we would ask that you make attendance a priority. We would also ask that your child attend the evening with you (they do not need to be in school uniform). Please complete the form at the link below to let us know if you are able to attend or not.  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczSExmvPDQVeN919OvtrvvhBoJliQ0qkblOMs0SK8GOoh5jw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczSExmvPDQVeN919OvtrvvhBoJliQ0qkblOMs0SK8GOoh5jw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

[Year 12 Options  
Information  
Evening](#)

[docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)

20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Year 11 to 14 are off timetable and only attend school when they have an examination. Please find attached the Examination timetables for each of the 4 year groups.

27<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – Year 8 to 10 assessments will be completed in class.

## **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.

### Shoe Box Appeal

As a school, we are supporting the Shoe Box Appeal this year again, if can please help us with support this charity. The deadline to donate a shoe box is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> November Queen's University Geography Open Evening
- 1<sup>st</sup> November Queen's University Online Careers in Planning Event
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November Ulster Insight Event Biology and Biomedical Science
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November Ulster Insight Event Optometry
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November Ulster Insight Event Food, Nutrition and Dietetics
- 6<sup>th</sup> November Queen's University Architecture Open Evening
- 7<sup>th</sup> November Queen's University Sociology Conference
- 7<sup>th</sup> November Ulster University Insight Event Drama
- 7<sup>th</sup> November Games Industry Online event
- 8<sup>th</sup> November Liverpool John Moores Open day
- 8<sup>th</sup> November BT Apprenticeship Event
- 8<sup>th</sup> November Ulster Insight Outdoor Adventure Evening
- 8<sup>th</sup> November Ulster Insight Paramedic Evening
- 9<sup>th</sup> November Queen's University Engineering Event
- 9<sup>th</sup> November Ulster University Insight Economics Evening
- 9<sup>th</sup> November Queen's Business School Virtual Event
- 14<sup>th</sup> November Ulster Insight Environment Evening
- 15<sup>th</sup> November Ulster Insight Degree Apprenticeship Evening
- 15<sup>th</sup> November Ulster Insight Nursing Evening
- 15<sup>th</sup> November CAFRE Taster day Nutrition Loughry Campus
- 16<sup>th</sup> November Queen's University Arts and Humanities Event
- 18<sup>th</sup> November Liverpool John Moores Open Day

### **External examinations in November**

There are external GCSE modules taking place in school from 13-23 November. All pupils in Year 12, along with those pupils in Year 11 studying Double Award Science, will have at least one exam during this time. Pupils have all been issued with their examination timetable so please take time to discuss these exams with your son/daughter and make a note of the dates and times of exams. Attached is an Examinations Handbook with key information on some of the regulations for external exams. The dates of these exams can be found in the table below.

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Pupils involved</b>
DAS Biology	13/11/23	9:00-10:00am	Year 12 re-sits
DAS Chemistry	14/11/23	9:00-10:00am	Year 11 DAS classes Year 12 re-sits
SAS Chemistry	14/11/23	9:00-10:00am	Year 12 re-sits
DAS Physics	15/11/23	9:00-10:00am	Year 12 re-sits
SAS Physics	15/11/23	9:00-10:00am	Year 12 SAS classes
English Unit 1	17/11/23	9:00-10:45am	Year 12 re-sits
English Unit 4	20/11/23	9:00-10:45am	Year 12 English classes
Maths M2	21/11/23	9:00-10:45am	Year 12 re-sits
Maths M3	21/11/23	9:00-11:00am	Year 12 re-sits
Maths M4	21/11/23	9:00-11:00am	Year 12 re-sits
Maths M6	23/11/23	9:00-11:00am	Year 13 re-sits

### **Parents and Guardians of Year 12 GCSE Psychology Students**

I am pleased to inform you that from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November Miss Agnew will be running **support study sessions** for Year 12 Psychology pupils. This is due to the demand for additional support with revision skills and refining exam technique in this subject. These sessions will take place **every Thursday** after school (3-4pm) and will give your child an opportunity for further study. **I would appreciate it if you could encourage your child to attend these sessions.**

### **Cycling Ulster Camp**

Please see the attached flyers.

### **CAFRE Equine & Food Course Taster Days**

Please see the attached flyers.

### **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:

**REST IS AS IMPORTANT AS  
WORKING HARD**