



Dates for your Diary:

External exams information:

Upcoming Year 12 Double Award Science - GCSE Practical Examinations

GCSE Double Award Science - Physics Practical Exam

Date	Teacher	Periods
Monday 22 January	Mr McAllister	1&2
Tuesday 23 January	Dr Flint	3&4
Wednesday 24 January	Mrs Baker	3&4
Thursday 25 January	Mr Hill	5&6

GCSE Double Award Science - Biology Practical Exam

Date	Teacher	Periods
Monday 5 February	Mr McAllister	1&2
Tuesday 6 February	Dr Flint	3&4
Wednesday 7 February	Mrs Baker	3&4
Thursday 8 February	Mr Hill	5&6

Key dates information:

24th January – District Cross Country Event

25th January - Year 9 Parent Consultations (4pm – 6pm).

1st February - Issue of exam results from the November modules (Maths, English and Science)

2nd February - Year 12 Formal, Galgorm

6th February - Careers Convention

8th February - Yr10 Parent Consultations (4pm – 6pm)

9th February - Science Mock Exams for Year 11 Science Single Award and Science Double Award Pupils

21st February - DAS Biology (U1) - Yr12 Resit (9am – 10am)

22nd February - DAS Chemistry (U1) - Yr12 Resit and SAS Chemistry (U2) - Yr11 and Yr12 Resit (9am – 10am)

23rd February - DAS Physics U1 - Yr12 Resit and SAS Physics U3 - Yr12 Resit (9am – 10am)

26th February - All Day Year 12 GCSE Drama Performance Exam

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available every morning from 8am in our canteen.

Years 10-14

The annual Ballyclare Careers Fair has been adopted by the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and this year will be taking place on Tuesday 6 February 2024, 5-9pm in the Theatre at the Mill. Details will follow at the start of term 2, but in the meantime please save the date for this important and informative event.

Take 5 and other wellbeing resources for parents/carers and families

This week marks the start of 5 weeks where we will focus our morning pastoral time on the Take 5 approach to mental and emotional wellbeing. Please find attached a copy of the Take 5 leaflet for your own information.

Take 5 steps to wellbeing is an evidence-based public health message aimed at improving wellbeing. Based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing developed by the New Economics Foundation (NEF), these simple and effective messages are grounded in solid evidence and complement the both the EA and NHSCT's Health and wellbeing strategy.

After a year groups assemblies to revisit the Take 5 theme classes will have planned activities for class assembly time to explore the 5 themes in more depth in their form class groups over the coming weeks.

The Take 5 approach has long been part of our work in school: a number of years back our Student Form worked with our business partner Westrock to produce a student-friendly, pocket sized leaflet. Work is in progress to update our pupil information to reflect the same symbols and terminology as the Health Service now uses in order to increase awareness and consistency.

Don't forget, there are many more wellbeing resources on our school website....

<https://ballyclaresecondary.co.uk/parents/pastoral-learning/>



Music Tuition Payments

All payments for term 1 should now be complete. Fees for term 2 are now in your Parent Pay basket. Please try to have these paid by the end of January if possible.

Mrs Stewart

Musical instruments

Could you donate a musical instrument?

Have you been doing a clear out in the New Year? Have you found an unloved, unused instrument in the cupboard, under the bed or hiding in the attic? We would love to put it to good use while also giving a child the opportunity to learn an instrument. If you think you could help please contact Mrs Stewart via email at cstewart825@c2ken.net . See the attached flyer.

Ballyclare Music Festival

Ballyclare Music Festival will be running again this year from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March in Ballyclare Presbyterian Church. We encourage all instrumentalist and vocalists to take part in this event as it is a worthwhile experience to prepare and perform in front of an audience as well as getting feedback from the adjudicator. For those pupils who receive lessons in school, their tutors will be discussing with them a suitable solo piece to perform. Consent letters will then be sent out on Parent Sims App to confirm you are happy for your child to take part. If your child gets lessons outside of school and you would like us to enter them, please ask them to speak to a member of the Music Department.

There will be a small entry fee of £4.00 for all solo entries and this will be added to your basket in the Parent Pay App on completion of the consent form. All entries will need to be paid by Wednesday 24th January. All pupils will be accompanied by the festival accompanist and must provide a copy of their music by Friday 26th January.

Many pupils will also be involved in Ensemble Classes, Orchestra and Choirs. These entries will be paid for by the Music Department and we will keep you informed as to when these classes will take place.

Rehearsals will be as follows and we ask all pupils taking part to attend all rehearsals.

Tuesday Lunch Time (Week 1)– Junior Choir

Tuesday 3.00 – 4.00 pm – Orchestra, String Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and Brass Ensemble.

Wednesday 3.00 – 4.00 pm – Senior Choir

Thursday Lunch Time (Week 2)– Junior Choir

Thursday Lunch Time (every other week) – Junior/Senior String Ensemble

Mrs Stewart

Parent/Carer Survey

We want to hear from you. Your feedback and thoughts are so important in making our school even better. Please complete this survey by scanning the QR code below or clicking on the link. Deadline for completion is Friday 26th January 2024.



<https://forms.office.com/e/EZbsDHEMR3>

60th Anniversary/Fundraiser Dinner

We are organising a belated 60th celebration/fundraiser dinner for the 1st June 2024 to be held in Dunadry Hotel, the cost of a ticket is £50 per head. Information has been released on social media. Please contact the school office to purchase tickets.

Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 Formal takes place on Friday 2nd February at Galgorm Resort and Spa, from 6pm to 11pm. A photographer will be present on the evening. Photographs are printed straight way, placed in a card strut mount and then in a protective cellophane sleeve; they are distributed immediately.

One print is £15

Two prints are £25

Three prints are £35

Special deal on the night is four prints for £40

Any additional prints are £10 each

Payment is made on the night and cash or card/contactless are accepted.

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Year 10

In preparation for selection of final options choices, Year 10 pupils will participate in small group interviews during the week beginning 29th January. These interviews will be conducted by the Careers' team and will encourage pupils to consider their strengths and future pathways when making their options decisions.

Another important event in helping your child make wise options choices is the Year 10 Parent Consultation afternoon on Thursday 8th February. We would encourage you to prioritise speaking to the teachers of subjects your child is interested in studying in Year 11.

Careers information

NIE Apprenticeship

NIE are recruiting for 22 Apprentices to start in September 2024 across 3 different disciplines

- Overhead Linespersons
- Plant Maintenance Electricians
- Metering Electricians

More information can be found on the NIE [website](#).

NRC Open days

Coleraine - Mon 5 February: 4pm to 8pm

Magherafelt - Tues 6 February: 4pm to 8pm

Ballymena (Farm Lodge and Trostan Avenue) - Wed 7 February: 4pm to 8pm

Newtownabbey - Wed 7 February: 4pm to 8pm

Ballymoney - Thurs 8 February: 4pm to 8pm

Belfast Met Open Day

27th January 10am -1pm

Place must be booked on line using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/belfast-met-open-day-tickets->

BBC Apprenticeship

BBC are offering a **Level 3 Broadcast And Media Systems Technical Operator** scheme – for those students who want to work at the front-end of technical operations in sound and/or vision in newsrooms, galleries, studios, post-production areas or out on location. For information on this scheme, please keep an eye on the main careers page which lists all our current opportunities - [BBC Apprenticeship schemes](#)

British Army Virtual Insight Event

Apply by 25/01/2024

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/results/?opp=9146A440-EC7A-4976-302D-08DBFA353A9F>

NRC Higher Apprenticeship Event

Ballymena 7th February 5pm-7pm

Quote of the Week:

