In Touch

Parent/Carer Update



Week Beginning:

Monday 26th February 2024

Timetable: Week 2

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.

Dates for your Diary:

Key dates before Easter:

26th February to 5th March – Year 12-14 Examinations: pupils only attend for their examinations 26th February - All Day Year 12 GCSE Drama Performance Exam 26th February – 8th March – KS3 Assessments in class 26th February – 5th March – Year 12, 13, 14 Assessments in Exam Hall 26th, 28th & 29th February – SEN Review Meetings 4th March - 8th March - Ballyclare Music Festival 7th March - GCSE Agriculture Trip to Hillsborough 7th March - Drama Moderation 11th March – 15th March – Year 11 Assessments in Exam Hall 11th March - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Orienteering (Group 1) 11th March - English Literature Trip to the Seamus Heaney Centre 12th March - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Orienteering (Group 2) 12th March - OCN English Exam (9am) 12th March - Year 11 GCSE Geography Fieldtrip (Group 1) 13th March - Year 11 GCSE Geography Fieldtrip (Group 2) 14th March - Primary School Netball League in Assembly Hall (2pm-4pm) 15th March - CAFRE Trip (Year 11& 12 Horticulture Pupils) 18th March – St Patrick's Day Holiday 19th-20th March - GCSE Art Exam 20th March - Spring Concert (5:30pm) 21st March - Year 10 PSNI Talks 22nd March - Year 8 ARC21 Recycling Talks

25th March – 5th April – Easter Holidays

Examinations information

Misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in assessments

JCQ, the regulators of external examinations, have recently provided schools with updated information on how students can avoid the misuse of AI in controlled assessments and also what the penalties are for pupils who submit work that is not their own. Over the next few weeks, all pupils in Years 11-14 will receive an assembly about the misuse of AI in assessments. A quick guide for students has been attached for your information.

Years 11 to 14

See attached the Years 11 to 14 Internal Exam timetables

Year 12 to 14 exams information:

Our Year 12, 13 and 14 mocks start next week, please see the attached guides for navigating the exam season.

Study facilities for during the Year 12 to 14 exam period: The Lecture Theatre will be available for Year 12, 13 & 14 pupils who need a place to revise before or between exams, or whilst waiting for transport home. This will be a supervised study area. If a pupil has no exams on a particular day, study should be completed at home.

Examinations information

GCSE Business Studies Controlled Assessment information:

Research Folder (Booklet A) to be completed for Friday 15th March 2024 and Controlled Assessment Booklet B Examination paper - Thursday 21 March 2024

Year 12 Single Award Science GCSE Practical Examination

Attendance is essential for this GCSE Examination

Date	Teacher	Periods
Friday 8 March (week 1)	Mr Beggs	1-3
Friday 8 March (week 1)	Mrs Parr	4-6
Monday 11 March (week 2)	Mrs Williams	1-3
Monday 11 March (week 2)	Ms Russell	1-3
Friday 15 March (week 2)	Mr Wray	1-3

General Information

University Information

February 25th – March 3rd – Online get into medicine conference

February 26th – Deloitte online introductory event

February 29th Caterpillar apprenticeship closing date (see attached)

March – Deloitte Bright Starts higher apprenticeship scheme

March 3rd – Online UCAT conference

3rd March – Online Work experience on Recovery and Rehabilitation: Strokes & Opioid Dependence

March 3rd - NHS Allied Healthcare Work Experience online session

March 20th - Queen's University School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences open day.

July 14th – 17th – Swansea University summer school, medicine, healthcare and psychology

TBC – Online conference on Social work in Northern Ireland

June – Deloitte careers shapers programme.

Additional information on higher apprenticeships

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships

Please note many events require registration. Additional Information and links are available on google classroom.

General Information

Requesting re-marks and copies of November exam modules

Following the distribution of results from the November GCSE modules, pupils can now request re-marks and copies of their exam papers back. Forms can be collected from Miss Trimble and must be submitted no later than 29th February. The cost for a copy of the exam paper is £8.50 and for a re-mark is £18.45.

Canteen Menu

Please see attached the canteen menu for the next 2 weeks.

Breakfast Club

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

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.

Don't wish for it.