

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 8th April 2024

Timetable: Week 2

On behalf of the teachers, staff and governors at Ballyclare Secondary School, I wish you and your family a happy, healthy holiday and look forward to your continued support in the summer term.

Dates for your Diary

Key dates in April:

8th April – SLB2 Vaccination – Year 11 (including some Yr12)

9th April – Year 8 ARC21 Recycling Workshops

11th – 13th April – DOE Silver Expedition

17th April – BOC World of Gases Year 9 Event

18th April – February Exam Results

29th – 30th April – GCSE French Orals

29th April – 1st May – A-Level Art Exam

A 6th Form information evening for potential external applicants

We are holding a 6th Form information evening for potential external applicants on Monday 8th April from 6:00 to 7:30pm. The evening will include a welcome from the Acting Principal, information on the 6th form curriculum offer, small group tours and an opportunity to meet key staff and current pupils. If you have a child in Year 12 who is currently attending another school, you and your child are warmly invited to attend this informative evening.

Examinations information

29th – 30th April – GCSE French Orals

29th April – 1st May – A-Level Art Exam

General information

Farewell message to Mrs McKay, Head of Media & Key Stage 3

At the end of term, we bid farewell to Mrs McKay, as she embarks on a new challenge as President of the Ulster Teachers' Union. This is simply au revoir and not goodbye as the post is only for one year. We wish her well. Ms O'Connor will be taking over Mrs McKay's classes.

Year 11 Parent/Carer Consultations – Thursday 11th April 2024

The Year 11 parent/carers consultation afternoon will take place via School Cloud on Thursday 11th April. Consultations will run from 4pm-6pm in 5 minute slots. The booking system will go live at 12 noon on Thursday 4th April and close at midnight on Wednesday 10th April. Please see the attached Parents' Guide for help with booking appointments.

<https://ballyclaresecondary.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Reports for Years 8 to 10 and Years 12 to 14

Reports for these year groups will be available on Sims Parent App tomorrow.

General Information

Year 14 Leavers' Hoodies

The online shop for Leavers' Hoodies and other items is now open (hoodies and sweats are live, other requested items will follow). It will close at the end of the business day on Tuesday 10 April. Orders after this date will not be processed. The link to the shop has been sent to the school email accounts of Year 14 pupils. All payment is processed directly through this online shop, not via school parent pay.

Vaping

The use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for children, teens, and young adults. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s.¹E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine. Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future. See the attached factsheets on Vaping.

Paper Cut Printing Credits

At the start of the academic year, each pupil received an allocation of printing credits. If your child has exhausted their allotted printing credits, additional credits can be purchased by visiting the school office. Upon payment via Parent Pay for additional credits, the office staff will update their Paper Cut account with the additional printing credits.

Breakfast Club

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

Canteen Menu

Please see attached.

Pupil Drop Off

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils, we wish to reiterate the drop-off procedures at our school. We kindly request that parents refrain from driving through the back gate for pupil drop-off. This decision has been made with the utmost consideration for the health and safety of our pupils. In addition to this it causes congestion issues which poses safety risks to both pupils and drivers. By avoiding 2-way vehicular traffic in this area, we can create a safer environment for everyone. We encourage parents to explore alternative drop-off points, while this may require a slightly longer walk for your child, it significantly enhances safety. Special circumstances are accommodated on an individual basis in consultation with our pastoral staff.

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.

Careers Information

May 10th – Registration for experience Maths at Queen's University.

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-apprenticeship>

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