



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 in Summer Term:

- 6th May - May Day Bank Holiday
- 7th May - Start of External Summer Exam Season
- 14th May – 17th May - DOE Bronze Expedition
- 27th May— Staff Development Day—Pupils do not attend.
- 30th May – 4th June – Year 8 to Year 11 Internal Summer Assessments

Examinations Information

- 17th April - GCSE Music Practical
- 18th April – February Exam Results
- 29th – 30th April – GCSE French Orals
- 29th April – 1st May – A-Level Art Exam
- 30th April - AS Performing Arts Exam
- 3rd May - AS Music Practical
- 7th May - A2 Music Practical
- 16th May - A2 Performing Arts Exam

February Science Module Results

Module results will be available from 8:30am in the Assembly Hall on Thursday 18th April for those pupils in Years 11 and 12 who completed Science exams in February.

General Information

Music Tuition Payments

A reminder that all payments for term 2 should now be complete. Fees for term 3 will appear shortly on Sims Parents App. Please try to have these paid by the end of May if possible. Many thanks, Mrs Stewart.

Music Exams

Pupils who will be sitting instrumental/vocal music exams in June will have received a letter this week. Please ensure these are returned promptly and the outstanding balance on Parent Pay App has been paid so that entries can be processed. If there are any issues or concerns, please contact your child's tutor or Mrs Stewart.

Drama Club

Drama Club will take place on Thursdays from 3 - 4pm this term.

InternetMatters.org has produced a Guide for Young People on 'sextortion'. They have also produced a Guide for Parents.

The PSNI are also concerned about rising levels of 'sextortion' in NI. They have produced some very useful materials and videos to use with young people – and although the focus is on young men, it can also happen to young women. There are useful posters and printable leaflets for young people in English and in Irish on the same webpage (scroll to the bottom of the page).

InternetMatters.org focuses on many online issues – with guides for parents and teachers based on age. Their ‘Online Together Project’ aims to empower young people to tackle online hate and challenge negative behaviours in their digital spaces. Online age based interactive quizzes generates discussion (in the classroom with a teacher or at home with a parent/carer) about different types of ‘online hate’ which is then supported by companion guides to support children and young people’s learning. Breaking down gender stereotypes has a separate interactive quiz – age based, that is a useful pre-cursor to any discuss in about online hate of girls and women or online misogyny.

Vaping

The use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for children, teens, and young adults. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine which 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

- April 17th - Transport Training Services Open Evening.
- May 10th – Registration for Experience Maths at Queen’s University.
- July 14th – 17th – Swansea University summer school, Medicine, Healthcare and Psychology.
- Online conference on social work in Northern Ireland—TBC
- Additional information on higher apprenticeships. <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeship>
- Ulster University Scholarship – Please see attached flyer
- Deloitte Career Shaper programme is now open for years 11 and 12 more information is on Google Classroom— June 2024.

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