

In Touch

Parent / Carer Update



Week Beginning:

Monday 9th September 2024

Timetable: Week 2

Menu: Week B

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.



**The BSS
Steps
to Success**
This is how
we do it here!



READY to follow directions
& procedures



RESPECTFUL of self, others
& surroundings



RESPONSIBLE & prepared at
all times

Dates for your Diary

Year 14 Information Evening

An information evening for Year 14 students and their parents will take place on Thursday 19th September from 6.30 to 7.30pm. We appreciate your presence on this evening as we work together to support your children through their final year in school.

Thursday 26th September—European Day of Languages

As part of these celebrations Crepes2Go will be in school selling crêpes for £4.00.

Crêpes 2 Go
Fresh crêpes bursting with flavour



Year 8 and 9 pupils will be allowed out of class to purchase these and the remainder of pupils can purchase them at break and lunch time. Feel free to help them practise saying 'Je voudrais une crêpe s'il vous plaît' at home!

Pupils must pre-pay through ParentPay by Tues 24th September.

Year 11 Subject Choices

The deadline for Year 11 pupils to make changes to subject choices is Monday 30th September. Please note that changes are dependent on availability of space in other classes.

General Information

Mobile Phones

Please find attached a letter from the Minister of Education regarding Mobile Phones.

Emotional Wellbeing Teams In Schools

Ballyclare Secondary have partnered with Emotional Wellbeing Teams in Schools (EWTS) to provide a bespoke programme of emotional wellbeing support for our pupils, across all key stages. Through this partnership, we will be developing and enhancing our preventative pastoral curriculum. Please take a look at the resources shared by EWTS for school staff and parents/carers. Resources include: Understanding Anxious Feelings / Emotional School Based Avoidance / Building Healthy Relationships / Exam Stress & CAMHS Referral Information .

[Emotional Wellbeing Teams in Schools \(EWTS\) – Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership \(CYPSP\) \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/emotional-wellbeing-teams-in-schools-ewts-children-and-young-peoples-strategic-partnership-cypsp)

Exploring School Avoidance

An event is being run by the CYPSP at the Royal Hotel, Cookstown regarding managing school avoidance. This is for Parents, Carers and Professionals. See attached brochure for details.

Provision of Special Diets in schools

Please see attached important information and application form for provision of special diets in school.

BFFS (Ballyclare Friends and Family Society)

If you are a parent that would like to volunteer for BFFS, please email Miss Dunwoody (ldunwoody109@c2kni.net) with an expression of interest. This is an enthusiastic and proactive group of parents and staff who discuss ways of working with our community and fundraising for our school in making it a better place for everyone. If I could receive expressions of interest by Friday 13th September.

Autumn Fair

BFFS are hosting our second Autumn Fair in school on Saturday 19th October from 10am-2pm. If you as a parent or your child wants to hold a table at this event, please email Miss Dunwoody (ldunwoody109@c2kni.net) as soon as possible. Equally so, if you are aware of any local small businesses that would like the opportunity to hold a table at this event, please let me know. The table cost is £15 per table.

Careers

Saturday 7th September – Queen’s University Open Day – Please register online.

Monday 9th September - Ulster University Belfast Open Day:

Leaving school at 9am returning 2.55pm. Pupils will be leaving Belfast at 2pm and should be back in time for buses but please be aware if there are any traffic incidents you may need to plan for alternative transport home.

A full list of talks is attached. Pupils should plan ahead which talks they will attend.

A packed lunch or money to purchase food on campus will be necessary. Free school meal pupils will be provided with a packed lunch.

Wednesday and Thursday 11th and 12th September – St Mary’s Open Day – Please register online.

Wednesday 18th September 3.15pm – Workplus is the first presenter in our “Where Next Wednesday” programme and will be giving a presentation on apprenticeships and higher apprenticeships. Including what they are, levels available, how to find an employer and what next steps are available. This will take place in school and is open to all year groups and the family.

Friday 20th September – Ulster University Coleraine Open Day

Monday 30th September – In school event for Year 14 - John Moores University presentation and guidance on personal statement completion.

Monday 30th September – Atlantic Technology Universities – In school event for Year 14 - Guidance on completion of CAO application form.

Department of the Economy Individual career interviews will start on Monday 9th September. These interviews will start with 12M. To benefit the most from these interviews students are asked to complete an application for guidance form. This is in every year 12 student’s email account and can be completed in approximately 10 minutes. This information is essential to our careers guidance officer so he can give the most appropriate guidance to students during their interview.

Tuesday 1st October 6.30 -7.30 pm - British Army Online Event – Please sign up. Information available in Google Classroom.

Year 12 Only- To participate in Interview Skills training pupils need to have a complete application form. Students were given training on completing these forms in June and most students have already returned these. For any students who have not completed the forms the final deadline is 20th September. Full guidance and all forms are available on Google Classroom.

Get into Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health course are now available to sign up to for all year groups. Please see Google Classroom.

Applications for PwC’s flying start programme are now open. See Google Classroom for more details.

Free online STEM mentoring programme – An online programme for pupils interested in a STEM career. Registration closes September 10th.