

In Touch

Parent / Carer Update

Monday 14th October 2024

Timetable: Week 1

Menu: Week A



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

14th – 25th October - Key stage 3 Assessment Week 1

14th October - HPV Vaccinations—Year 9 & some of year 10.

14th October – EWTS Workshops (Year 9)

16th October - Wee Critters Workshop (Year 8)

16th October - What Next? Wednesday—Northern Regional College

19th October - BFFS Autumn Fair (10am-2pm)

25th October - Year 10 only to attend until 11.45am, all other year groups are working at home until 11.45am.

25th October - Celebration of Success Afternoon @ 1pm

General Information

Pupil Assessment Week

Upcoming pupil assessments will be completed in class time. To reflect the process carried out with external examinations, there will be no facility for pupils to complete assessments that they miss due to absence. We would ask that you support us by avoiding making appointments for your child and by ensuring your child continues to be present in school during the assessment weeks. Please see attached Assessment and Reporting Plan.

Attitude to Languages Survey

Year 9 pupils will be completing a 10 minute survey on Pupil Attitudes to Languages during class assembly time, week beginning 4th November. Information for parents and opt out form are attached.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Applications are now open for the 2024/25 Duke of Edinburgh programme. Please see attached information for both Bronze and Silver Awards.



Pupil Uniform

For parents requesting for their child to wear PE uniform during the school day outside of PE classes, a letter must be provided from their GP and presented to school to state that the pupil is medically required to wear a PE uniform. Letters should be given to the school Nurse.

Friday 25th October 2024

The morning of Friday 25th October will be a learning at home day for all year groups, except Year 10. Year 10 students will soon be starting their Key Stage 4 Options Process. On the morning of Friday 25th October, Year 10 pupils will be engaged in activities that will help them make wise choices; they will also be receiving vital information about subjects available at Key Stage 4, which they have not studied at Key Stage 3. It is essential that Year 10 students attend school on this morning. School will finish at 11.45am. Please note there will be no school buses available on this day.

Year 10 and 12 Options Evenings

We invite the parents of Year 10 and 12 pupils to attend our options evenings on the following dates:

Year 10: Thursday 7th November 2024 at 6.30pm

Year 12: Thursday 14th November 2024 at 6.30pm

On these evening the Options process will be explained and we request that **all pupils** have a parent/carer in attendance.

Pupil Achievement

We delight in hearing about pupil achievement outside school and as such, photos will now be shared on Fridays on our social media platforms.

Year 10 and 12 Options

Over the course of the next week, you and your child will receive an invitation to an Options Google Classroom. As all Options information will be shared via this platform, we request that all invitations are accepted.

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 Information

Careers' Information for September can be found in the attached document.

What Next? Wednesday

Wednesday 16th October 3.15- 4pm. Northern Regional College (NRC) will be in school to discuss the potential next steps for Year 12 and 14 students following their exam results. This presentation will cover information on Level 2 and Level 3 courses, apprenticeships, higher level apprenticeship, traineeships and potential study opportunities including Foundation Degree courses. This is open to parents and students from ALL year groups.

Year 8 Pantomime trip

Year 8 Pantomime payment is now accessible on the Parent Pay app. Payment due by 4th November.