

In Touch

Parent / Carer Update

Monday 18th November 2024

Timetable: Week 1

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.

Dates for your Diary

16th November 2024 - School Show Saturday Rehearsal @ 10am

18th November - Year 12 English Unit 4 (9-10:45am)

19th November - Year 12 Maths M2-M4 Resit (9-10:45am)

20th November - Vaccinations (Years 11 & 12)

20th November - Year 13 & 14 Technology Trip to W5

21st November - Year 12 Parent Consultations (2pm-4pm) - School Finishes Early at 1pm. There are no buses on this day.

Years 8 – 10 pick-up at 12:45pm;

Years 11 – 14 pick-up at 1pm

22nd November - Vaping Workshops

25th November - Year 13/14 Parent Consultations (2pm-4pm) - School Finishes Early at 1pm. There are no buses on this day.

Years 8 – 10 pick-up at 12:45pm;

Years 11 – 14 pick-up at 1pm

26th November – Year 13 & 14 Art trip to the Ulster Museum

27th – 29th November GCSE Food and Nutrition Practicals

27th November - Science Show

General Information

Upcoming School Cloud Consultations – Years 12–14

The Year 12 parent/carers consultation afternoon will take place via School Cloud on Thursday 21st November. Consultations will run from 2pm-4pm in 5 minute slots. The booking system is now live and will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 20th November.

The Year 13 & 14 parent/carers consultation afternoon will take place via School Cloud on Monday 25th November. Consultations will run from 2pm-4pm in 5 minute slots. The booking system will go live at 12 noon on Monday 18th November and close at 12 noon on Sunday 24th November.

Please see the attached Parents' Guide for help with booking appointments.

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

Music Tuition

All payments for the board tutors (Mrs McKay, Mr Heron and Mr Doherty) should now have been paid for term 1. If this is not the case, please check your Parent Pay basket and make payment as soon as possible. If there are any issues, please contact the school office.

Music Exams

All exam entries have been processed, and Trinity Music exams will take place on Thursday 12th December. Information on individual times have been sent home. Again, all exam payments should now have been paid, if not, please do so as soon as possible through Parent Pay App.

Interview Skills Day

Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the interview skills event! Your enthusiasm and skill truly shone through, impressing our guest interviewers. Well done on showcasing your talents and making the most of this valuable experience.

A heartfelt thank you to the local businesses and guests who generously gave up their time to act as volunteer interviewers. Your support and involvement were crucial in making this event a success. We deeply appreciate your commitment to helping our pupils develop their skills and confidence.

Thank you once again to everyone involved!

What Next Wednesday – 20th November Ulster University – In school from 3.15pm – 4pm. Open to parents and pupils from all year groups.

Year 13 and 14 Moving Image Arts – Parent Interviews

Parent Interviews for Year 13 and 14 Moving Image Arts will be taking place in Ballyclare High School on Thursday 21st November 1.30-3.30pm. The pupils are being asked by Ballyclare High School to make the appointment with their teacher beforehand during class time. Please liaise with you child in relation to this appointment.

Wellbeing Talks by Chest Heart and Stroke

Friday 22 November Year 9, 10,11 and 12 have Wellbeing Talks presented by Chest Heart and Stroke on the risks of vaping. Please contact the school if you require any further information.

The Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Awards 2025

The Department of Education, in partnership with the Public Health Agency, is seeking nominations for exceptional pastoral care in schools. The Awards recognise school communities that have demonstrated exceptional co-operative effort in supporting the pastoral care of pupils by going above and beyond to make a real difference to the lives of pupils in the 2023/24 academic year. **Schools cannot self-nominate but pupils, parents or others in the wider school community can nominate a school that has provided exceptional pastoral care.**

[Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Awards](#) & [Nominate your school for Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Awards](#)

The closing date for nominations is Friday 13 December 2024. Nominations will be assessed by an independent panel. It is important to note that the panel will only assess the information supplied in each nomination, not the number of nominations a school receives. All nominations are anonymised before assessing. If you have any queries regarding the Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Awards, please email psu.mail@education-ni.gov.uk

Access Arrangements—Guidance for Parents

Please find attached, a document that gives guidance on the access arrangements that are being put into place for the pending GCSE and GCE exams.

Year 12 Parents

Following the Year 12 Options Evening, the KS5 Options Survey is now live. The deadline for submitting this is **Friday 22nd November** and it should be completed by **all Year 12 students**.

Year 10 and 12 Options Google Classrooms

The technical issues we have in giving access to all parents/carers persist. You are able to access all information via your child's access to the Google Classroom. All information will also be circulated via SIMS Parent App.

Fluid Focus - Parents of Years 11-14 Students

Does your child spend too much time on screens? Is their mobile phone a distraction to their studies? Are you concerned about the impact social media has on your child's well-being?

We have been engaging with a company called 'Fluid Focus' who have designed the 'Fluid Focus App'. This app is designed to help your child avoid the distractions that come from mobile phone use. We are planning to encourage our Year 11-14 pupils to use this app to help them control the amount of time they spend scrolling. We will be launching the app in special assemblies on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd November. If you would like your child to opt out of using the Fluid Focus App, please complete the form at the link below.

<https://forms.gle/ukJsKVkY3siMcAwE9>

Safeguarding

Please see attached documents on the subject of Safeguarding.

Upcoming Year 12 Double Award Science

GCSE Practical Chemistry Examination

Attendance is essential!!

Class	Date	Periods
Mr Wray	Monday 2 December	1&2
Mr Hill	Tuesday 3 December	3+4
Mrs Baker	Wednesday 4 December	5&6
Dr Flint	Thursday 5 December	1&2