

# In Touch

Parent / Carer Update

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Timetable: Week 2

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

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

25th November - Year 13/14 Parent Consultations 2pm-4pm (amended timetable arrangements apply)

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

2nd December - NEBSSA Hockey Tournament

6th December - Christmas Jumper Day

11th & 12th December—Wizard of Oz School Production 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

## General Information

### **Important information about driving on to our school site**

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.

Parents and carers and **not permitted** to drive on to the school premises in the morning to drop off pupils. This applies to the main entrance (Doagh Road) as well as the gate at the rear of the school (Avondale Drive).

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 and carers 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.



### **Upcoming School Cloud Consultations – Years 13&14**

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

## Mental Health & Self Harm

Please see attached flyer for a workshop being delivered together with Parent Line & Papyrus. This workshop aims to build parents confidence to talk to their children and young people about mental health and self-harm.

The workshop will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm on Zoom. To book a place call 0808 8020 400.

## 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](mailto:psu.mail@education-ni.gov.uk)

<https://forms.gle/ukJsKVkY3siMcAwE9>



## 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

 **Follow the Yellow Brick Road... to Our School Production of The Wizard of Oz!**

### **Tickets Are Now Available!**

Join Dorothy, Toto, and all their friends for a magical journey through Oz! Our talented pupils have been working incredibly hard to bring this classic tale to life- you won't want to miss it!

**Show Dates:** 11th & 12th December

**Ticket Prices:** Adults £9 | Children £7

**Location:** Ballyclare Secondary School

**Time:** 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

**Grab your tickets today!** Purchase tickets from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ballyclaress>

Let's make this a night to remember – we can't wait to see you there!