

In Touch

Parent / Carer Update

Monday 20th January 2025

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

21st & 22nd January - Year 8 Health Checks
23rd January—Early Closure—Year 9 Parent Consultations
27th January - Key stage 3 - AU2's begin
27th January – 30th January - DAS Practical Exams
31st January - Year 12 Formal, Galgorm

General Information

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. Payment for Term 2 will be available in your Parent Pay Basket next week.

The School Day will finish early on the following dates:

| Date | Event | Arrangements |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 23 rd January 2025 | Year 9 Parent Consultations | School will finish by 1pm. There will be no buses on these days and staggered pick up arrangements will apply. |
| Monday 24 th February 2025 | Year 8 Parent Consultations | |
| Monday 31 st March 2025 | Year 11 Parent Consultations | |
| Friday 11 th April 2025 | End of Term 2 | School will finish at 11:45am. Buses will be available. |
| Friday 27 th June 2025 | End of Term 3 | |

External exams

| Date | Time | Exam | Pupils involved |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 26 th February 2025 | 9:00 – 10:00am | Double Award Science: Biology | Year 12 re-sit DAS pupils |
| 27 th February 2025 | 9:00 – 10:00am | Single Award Science: Chemistry | Year 11 SAS pupils Year 12 re-sit SAS pupils |
| 28 th February 2025 | 9:00 – 10:00am | Double Award Science: Physics | Year 11 DAS pupils Year 12 re-sit DAS pupils |
| | | Single Award Science: Physics | Year 12 re-sit SAS pupils |

November Exam Results

All pupils in Year 12, along with those in Year 11 who study Double Award Science, completed external GCSE modules in November 2024. The results from these modules will be issued to pupils on Thursday 6th February. Pupils should go to registration at 8:30am and proceed to the assembly hall at 8:40am. Results will be distributed between 8:40am and 8:50am, followed by a short assembly.

Mock exams for Years 11-14

Attached is the mock exam timetable for all pupils in KS4 and KS5. Please check the exam dates and times carefully to ensure your child is present for these important examinations. Please note that Year 11 and 13 pupils are off timetable for study leave from **24th – 28th February** inclusive. Years 12 and 14 are off timetable for study leave from **17th – 21st February** inclusive. Pupils should only come in to school for their examinations during these weeks of study but should be in school as normal any other exam days.

Misuse of AI in assessments

All pupils in Years 11-14 received an assembly this week on the misuse of Artificial Intelligence in controlled assessments in school. Attached is the presentation that was given.

Upcoming Year 12 Double Award Science Exam

GCSE Practical Biology Examination

Attendance is essential!

| Class | Date | Periods |
|-----------|----------------------|---------|
| Mr Wray | Monday 27 January | 1&2 |
| Mr Hill | Tuesday 28 January | 3+4 |
| Mrs Baker | Wednesday 29 January | 5&6 |
| Dr Flint | Thursday 30 January | 1&2 |

Education Authority (EA) Communications and Engagement Survey

Please see below a short survey the EA has shared for the attention of parents/carers which I would encourage you to consider providing feedback on.

The EA are developing a new Communications and Engagement Strategy and are very keen to get your valuable insights, experiences and views in relation to how they can improve communications with you.

This is really important for supporting children and young people and their families throughout their educational journey.

You can access the survey at: <https://forms.office.com/e/BQ6XnrwXt>

This will take approximately 15 minutes for parents/carers to complete and will close **at 16:00 on Friday 31st January 2025**. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request and for helping to help support this important work.