



'RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EXCELLENCE'

NEWRY HIGH SCHOOL

February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Please find below an updated copy of the term 2 calendar of events which provides information on our key dates and events for the rest of the term.

In addition, I would like to highlight a couple of pieces of important information:

- **School reports** – Years 12, 13 & Year 14 have now been sent to you via email. Years 10 & 11 should be emailed before the end of the week.
- **Scooters & E-Scooters** – Please be aware that pupils should not bring a scooter or an e-scooter into school.
- **Energy drinks** – High caffeine / energy drinks e.g., Boost, are not allowed in school.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) I** – As I sure you are aware there has been a rapid development of the use of AI and this brings about many opportunities and challenges for schools. Concern has been raised regarding the use of AI by pupils particularly for use in coursework and controlled assessment. Teachers must only accept work for qualification assessments which is the students' own. Students must be able to demonstrate that the final submission is the product of their own independent work and independent thinking.

AI misuse is where a student has used one or more AI tools but has not appropriately acknowledged this use and has submitted work for assessment when it is not their own. Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so that the work submitted for assessment is no longer the student's own
- Copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content
- Using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations.
- Failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information.
- Incomplete or poor acknowledgement of AI tools
- Submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

AI misuse constitutes malpractice and malpractice sanctions available for the offences of 'making a false declaration of authenticity' and 'plagiarism' include disqualification and debarment for a number of years. The sanctions can also apply to a pupil's other subjects as well.

- **Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)** – we have received a couple of inquiries regarding our RSE programme following the introduction of new legislation by the Secretary State for NI. At present there has been no changes to our RSE delivery in school. We are still waiting for detailed guidance from the Department of Education / CCEA. Once this guidance is made officially available key staff will be working on updating our RSE policy for September. This policy will be go through a

consultation process with all key stakeholders, including parents. An overview of the planned programme will hopefully be ready to share with parents by early September.

If you have any questions, queries or comments regarding any of the items above, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brown." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Mr I Brown
Principal

KEY DATES & EVENTS SPRING TERM

Spring Term	
12 – 16 February	Half Term Holidays
21 February	DAS and SAS Biology GCSE module exams. Politics in Action, Stormont - Yr. 13
22 February	DAS and SAS Chemistry GCSE module exams
23 February	DAS and SAS Physics GCSE module exams
28 February	Year 8 Planetarium Trip Board of Governors meeting
2 – 9 March	Ski Trip
5 March	Year 11 Experience of Work
6 March	Year 13 Geography Fieldwork Bible Exhibition Year 8 Bible Exhibition
8 March	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork
11 March	Year 11-14 Intervention Interviews Year 11 Experience of Work workshop
12 March	Year 11-14 Intervention Interviews
13 March	Year 11-14 Intervention Interviews Year 9 Science Trip (Navan Centre)
14 March	Year 11-14 Intervention Interviews 8KI Shared Education at Newtownhamilton
15 March	Year 11-14 Intervention Interviews 12A1/2-English Speaking and Listening CCEA moderation UH Hockey Blitz
18 March	St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday
19 March	Year 10 & 11 PTM 12.45 – 2.45 (includes GCSE subject choice presentation). School finishes at 12.00 noon
26 March	Career and Post-16 information afternoon from 1.30 – 3.00. Pupils in Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 school finishes at 1.00pm . Year 12, 13 & 14 pupils to remain for the afternoon.
27 March	Staff Training Day 4 – No pupils to attend
28 March – 5 April	Easter holidays
Summer Term	
8 April	WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS
6 May	May Bank Holiday
27 May	Bank Holiday
28 May	Staff Training Day 5 – No pupils to attend
3 June	Whole school examinations start
10 & 14 June	Year 13 Enrichment & Year 13 Work Experience
17 – 21 June	Year 11 Work Experience
24 June	Activity week (staggered finish for different year groups) - TBC