March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Please find below an updated copy of the term 3 calendar of events which provides information on our key dates and events for the rest of the school year.

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

* Car drop off and collection points - Traffic in and out of the school can be very busy. Please remember to use the turning circle and the set down area as appropriate when dropping off pupils in the morning. In addition, can parents **not park in front of the buses /area** by the bus shelter when collecting pupils at the end of the day.
* School communication - I am conscious that parents are not always clear as to which member of staff to contact on particular issues and I would like to ask for your patience and co-operation when contacting the school by phone. If you can be specific as possible with your query to the office staff, then it can be directed to the correct person. The first point of contact on many issues is likely to be your child’s form tutor. Heads of Year are also likely to be points of contact on overall progress and general issues. Also, please understand that staff are most likely teaching a class and are not always available immediately to deal with concerns. However, they will return your call as soon as possible. Furthermore, while we appreciate that dealing with issues can be stressful and emotional, staff will not continue with any conversation if parents become overly argumentative. Our only intention is to work in partnership with you to best support you child.
* Reminder regarding our policy on vaping - Any pupil caught vaping / smoking or found in possession of a vape, liquid, cigarettes, lighter or other smoking related items in school will automatically be suspended for a minimum of 1 day. For repeat offenders, this suspension is likely to be extended and will be followed up with preventative measures in school e.g. detention / supervision at break & lunch.

If you have any questions, queries, or comments regarding any of the items above, please do not hesitate to contact the school and your continued support is much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and safe Easter break.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Brown

Principal

**KEY DATES & EVENTS SPRING TERM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 28 March – 5 April | Easter holidays |
| Summer Term |
| **8 April** | **WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS** |
| 9 April | School Nurses - Leaver Booster (confirmed) |
| 11 April | PSNI Talk - Internet Safety Year 9 |
| 18 – 25 April | Book Fair - break & lunch |
| 22 April | Yr12 MVRUS practical exam 10.00a.m. |
| 24 April | Inter/Senior District Athletics |
| 26 April | MMJ Selected events - District athletics |
| 1 May | Last day for Yr. 12 |
| 2 May | MMJ District Athletics - Main Event |
| 3 May | Study leave starts for Year 13. **Year 13 pupils must return to school on Monday 10 June.**  |
| **6 May** | **May Bank Holiday** |
| 7 May | GCSE External Exams start |
| 10 May | Last day for Year 14  |
| 22 May | Sports Day - TBC |
| 24 May | Yr. 8 trip to Carrickfergus |
| **27 May** | **Bank Holiday**  |
| **28 May** | **Staff Training Day 5 – No pupils to attend** |
| 31 May | Internal whole school examinations start Yr. 11 only. Yr. 8 -10 normal classes |
| 3 June – 6 June | Internal whole school examinations (Yr. 8 - 11) |
| **7 June** | **Marking day** – school open only to pupils who have missed exams |
| 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 |
| 25 June  | New Year 8 Parents Morning |
| 15 August | A level results available in school from 9.30 am |
| 22 August | GCSE results available in school from 9.30 am |