



'RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EXCELLENCE'

# NEWRY HIGH SCHOOL

November 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

I very much hope that you and your family had a good half-term break. It has been a pleasure to start the academic year and welcome our new Year 8 and Year 13 students. All students returned after the summer break with a very positive approach and we have had a very productive first half-term and it is our intention to build on this.

In order to assist with effective communication with parents, every half-term we will provide information regarding key events that are taking place during the forthcoming months. The information will include any updates / changes to the already published parent calendar and also provide more detail of future pupil events and trips planned. This letter also contains general information and reminders and a snapshot of what our pupils have achieved and experienced already this term.

## Update on Year and Year 9 Parents afternoon

Our Year 8 and Year 9 parents teaching meetings were originally scheduled for 29 November. These meetings give you the opportunity to meet with you son's/daughter's tutor and discuss their progress. Due to a number of circumstances we are changing slightly how these meetings will be organised. Meeting days will be arranged for individual tutors over the week beginning 25 November. A separate letter with an updated schedule will be emailed to all parents shortly. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

## Important amendment to the school calendar

17 December 2024 was originally scheduled to be a staff training day. This day will now be **a normal school day and all pupils should attend.**

## 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.

It is essential that the school maintains an up-to-date record of contact telephone numbers, email address & home address. It would be appreciated therefore if you have recently changed any of your main contact details you could inform Mrs Dawn Dunne (028 30262383 – Option 1) as soon as possible.

## Extra-curricular activities

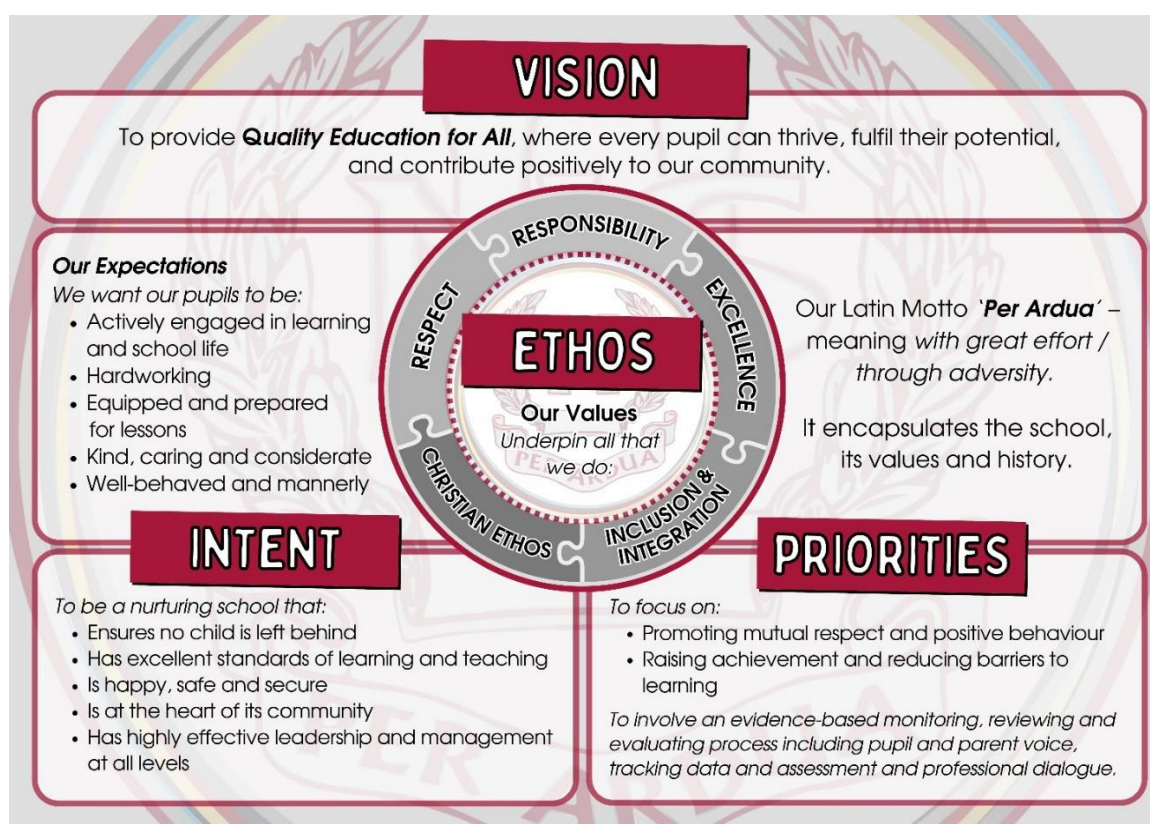
Studies show that children who engage in activities beyond the classroom not only have a better school experience but perform academically better and will learn skills that will make them more employable in the future. Below is our new timetable for our extra-curricular activities this half-term. Please encourage your child to engage in at least one activity a week.

## Car drop off and collection points

Traffic in and out of the school can be very busy, can I kindly remind parents 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.

## Information on our vision, values and school development plan

Staff and school governors have been amending our school vision and ethos statement. It was felt that our previous ethos statement was too long and wordy and it was time for an overhaul. The purpose of a school vision and ethos statement is to try and clearly set out our core goal (vision) and highlight the ways we are planning to achieve this goal - our mission (which includes our values, expectation, intent and priorities). A full consultation has been on-going involving staff, pupils, parents and governors and for your information below is a draft of our new vision & ethos statement.



In addition detailed action plans focused on our key intentions and priorities above area annually produced in our school development plan. This a vital document that drives school improvement and change. The 2024-25 school development plan will be available to all parents on our website shortly.

## Updated RSE policy

Over the past number of months, we have been working on a new Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy for use in school. This follows guidance from DENI and CCEA and a compulsory requirement to have a RSE policy in place at every school. Attached is a draft version of a provisional RSE policy for parents and guardians to have a look at.

If you have any comments, issues or suggestions for improvement, please let us know via the following email address: [info@newryhigh.newry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@newryhigh.newry.ni.sch.uk)



### **Opening of our new Learning support class (LSC)**

Our new KS3 LSC unit opened on the 16 September. The Education Authority worked over the summer and fully refurbished a room finally. Our new LSC teacher Mrs Michelle McClean was appointed in August and Marietta Murphy (classroom assistant) has also just recently started. The pupils have settled in really well and this is a fantastic extra provision we can now offer.

Finally, 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.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Brown', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Mr I Brown  
Principal



## snapshot of recent events and achievements:

A-Level scientists and geographers completing a sand dune study on Murlough Beach



Our U16 girls travelled to Ballymoney to play in the Ulster Hockey, U16 High Schools Cup. The squad of 14 comprised of girls from Year 9-12 and everyone played their part in a well-deserved 6-0 victory.



Newry High Careers department are delighted to welcome our new Careers Reps. Their role will include a variety of responsibilities and they will serve in a supporting role within the careers department.



YENI (Young Enterprise Northern Ireland) in to do a workshop with our Year 8 pupils



Our U16s girls football team won the first round of mid Ulster cup. 3-2



Our Sixth Form students had a great day at the Open Day for Ulster University, Belfast campus. The event allowed students to see the campus, attend talks, sample the extra-curricular activities and speak with







The Art department joined forces today with St Marys & St Josephs in the launch of the "Amazing the space project. They visited The Ulster Museum to see the RUA Exhibition which will ignite new ideas for their own work.



Year 8 participated in a Big World Breakfast as part of Good Relations week. They tried foods from different countries and were entertained by Chinese and Indian dancers as well as musicians from Africa. They had a



We were so excited to launch our 12-week Highland Dancing extra-curricular activity in school, under the expert tuition of talented champion dancer Kathryn Stewart's Highland Dancers and Display Team



Two of our sixth form students, Adam Moffatt and Ben Freeburn, recently took part in the Golf Futures Programme.



The programme is partnered with the Golf Forum and provides students the opportunity to experience a range of careers that are available within the golf sector.

Thursday 24th October saw our assembly hall filled with support, community and celebration as we gathered together for our Annual Awards Ceremony. It was a night filled with inspirational words, admirable performances and celebratory praises. Thank you to everyone who attended our night, your support is invaluable. Thank you also to past pupil, David Taylor for being our guest speaker. It was great to hear about where life has led him and to hear such highly spoken words about Newry High School.

Congratulations to all of our students who excelled in the past academic year, earning yourselves well deserved awards.

## KEY DATES & EVENTS SPRING TERM

Autumn Term	
14 November	KS3 SEN Shared Ed 9.45 - 11.15a.m.
15 November	English Language GCSE module exams
18 November	English Language GCSE module exams U15 football match v Rathfriland
19 November	Maths GCSE module exam M2-4 Shared Ed 8LK St Josephs Yr13 UPS Palace Barracks visit 9am-3pm
21 November	Maths GCSE module exam M6-7 SEN Open Day 2.30p.m. - 3.30p.m. KS3 SEN Shared Ed 9.45 - 11.15a.m.
22 November	Y8 Jurassic Arc 8EB Yr12,13,14 Art students visit to Ulster Museum & FE McWilliam Gallery
25 November	<b>Year 8 &amp; Year 9 Parent/Tutor Meetings Week</b>
26 November	U15 football match v Dromore
27 November	Open Night 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
<b>28 November</b>	<b>Staff Training Day no pupils to attend</b>
29 November	Ice Hockey trip GM
3 December	SEN Trip to Pantomime
4 December	Love For Life – Yr 12, 11 & 9
5 December	KS3 SEN shared Ed 9.45 - 11.15a.m.
11 December	AS/A2 Intaglio printmaking workshop with artist Robert Peters YE company programme St George's Market Belfast
12 December	<b>School Carol Service St. Patricks COI @7pm</b> Freelands Art Project Yr11, 13/14 Art students
17 December	Was originally scheduled as a Staff Training Day but now a normal school day - all pupils to attend
19 December	Yr11 GCSE Intaglio printmaking workshop with artist Robert Peters
20 December	<b>Last day - Term 1 non uniform day—School ends at 12.05 pm</b>
<b>23 December - 3 January</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>
Spring Term	
6 January	<b>Staff Training Day 3 – No pupils to attend</b>

7 January	<b>WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS</b>
20 – 23 January	Whole School Exams
24 January	Marking Day – School open only to pupils who have missed exams
<b>10 – 14 February</b>	<b>Half Term Holidays</b>
17 March	St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday
25 March	Year 10/11 Parent Teacher Meeting includes GCSE subject choice presentation 2.45 pm – 3.15 pm
<b>16 April</b>	<b>Staff Training Day 4 – No pupils to attend</b>
<b>17 April – 25 April</b>	<b>Easter holidays</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	
28 April	<b>WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS</b>
<b>5 May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>26 May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>27 May</b>	<b>Staff Training Day 5 – No pupils to attend</b>
<b>2 – 5 June</b>	Whole School Summer Exams
6 June	Marking Day – School open only to pupils who have missed exams
10 – 11 June	Yr 13 Enrichment
12 – 14 June	Yr 13 Work Experience
17 – 21 June	Yr 11 Work Experience
27 June	Last day of term 3
14 August	AS & A2 Level results
21 August	GCSE results



# EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
<b>MORNING</b> 8.10 - 8.35 am	+----- BREAKFAST CLUB - Canteen -----+					
<b>LUNCH TIME</b> 1.15 - 1.50PM	+----- TABLE TENNIS - Assembly Hall -----+					
	CHOIR Music Rm 1  MINECRAFT CLUB Room 10	BRASS BAND GROUP Music Rm 1  LIVING LIGHTS Room 24  DEBATING CLUB- Rm 2	PI @ LUNCH Room 24  YOU CAN UKULELE Music Rm 1  KALEIDOSCOPE- Room 11	TABLE TENNIS - Coached by Ulster Table Tennis  ULSTER SCOTS BAND PRACTICE Music Rm 1	MINECRAFT CLUB Room 10	
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b>  <u>MON, WED &amp; FRI</u> 3 - 4PM  <u>TUE &amp; THUR</u> 2.30 - 3.30PM	+----- HOMEWORK CLUB - Room 10 -----+					
	GIRLS' HOCKEY All Years  BOYS' FOOTBALL- Yr 8 (Games Hall) Yr 11 (Tennis Courts)	GIRLS' FOOTBALL- All Years (Tennis Courts & Games Hall)  BOYS' HOCKEY- Year 8 & 9 (NOHC)  ART CLUB- All Years  HIGHLAND DANCING All Years 2.25 - 3.15pm  COME DINE WITH ME (GEOGRAPHY)- Music Rm 2  YEAR 13 COMPANY PROGRAMME Room 16 - EN	BADMINTON- Boys & Girls All Years (Games Hall)  BOYS' FOOTBALL- Year 9 & 10 (Tennis Courts)	DANCE CLUB All Years  RUNNING CLUB- Girls & Boys All Years  VOLUNTEERING CLUB- Room 11 (Starts 11th Nov)  CHAT & SNACK Nurture Room 2.25 - 3pm		
	<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b>  KS4 REVISION CLASSES		YEAR 11 MATHS M3 REVISION CLASS Room 24 - EF (last session 26th Nov)		YEAR 12 BIOLOGY RE-SIT REVISION CLASS Room 28 - JC  YEAR 12 ICT CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT CLASS Room 17 - CL  YEAR 12 ENGLISH UNIT 1 RE-SIT REVISION CLASS Room 12/13/14	

