



Newtownhamilton High School

9 Armagh Road, Newtownhamilton

NEWRY, Co. Down

BT35 ODG

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Thursday 30th November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher:

Mrs Laverty

Deputy Designated Teacher:

Mr Cousins (Vice Principal)

Principal: Mr Megaw

Designated Governor for Child

Protection: Rev Graham

Chairperson of the Board of

Governors: Mr Bingham

School Counsellor:

Leona Hoey

First Aid



Our defibrillator is located in the main school foyer.

First Aiders: Mrs Alexander, Miss Anderson, Mrs Boyle, Mrs Johnston & Mr Reid.

As we approach the end of term 1, I want to take this opportunity to keep everyone updated on some news and forthcoming events as detailed below:

2022/23 Prize Distribution

Many thanks to everyone who attended or contributed to our recent successful Prize Distribution event which enabled us to celebrate the success of the 2022/23 school year.



Emergency School Closures

Again, I remind all parents about the procedures for emergency school closures (due to adverse weather etc). Deciding to close a school is not an easy decision as I understand the disruption that it causes. However, the health and safety of all school stakeholders is the key factor for me when making this difficult decision.

In order to find out if Newtownhamilton High School is closed, parents can tune into BBC Radio Ulster, visit the BBC NI website, or check for updates on our website and Facebook page. Parents will hopefully receive a text from our school messaging service. The aim is to make an early decision (usually before 7.30am) if possible.

Year 8-11 Term Exams & Year 12 Learning & Teaching

Our Year 8-11 pupils were recently issued with their Winter 2023 Exam Timetable (also available to download from the school website) which commences tomorrow. Full Learning and Teaching will continue for Year 12 pupils during the examination period for Years 8-11.



In recent years, some pupils have stopped attending school after their exams. **Full learning and teaching for Years 8-12 will continue (where possible) up until 3.00pm on Friday 15th December so it is important that your child attends.** After this date, pupils will be participating in activities and trips that have been planned for the last few days of term, although it is important to stress that some teachers may wish to continue teaching.

Christmas Dinner 2023

Our school canteen is aiming to provide a traditional Christmas Dinner this year with a dessert option of Pavlova or Chocolate Fudge Cake. This meal always proves popular with arrangements and costs as follows:



	Date	Christmas Dinner	Dessert
Years 8-11	Tuesday 12 th December 12.30-1.45pm	£3.35	£1.65
Year 12	Tuesday 12 th December 2.00-3.00pm	£3.35	£1.65

Pupils may wish to bring a bottle of Shloer/soft drink to enjoy with their meal.

Tickets will be available to purchase at the school office from Monday 4th December. It is noted that pupils entitled to Free School Meals will receive an allocation of £2.80 towards the above costs (a dinner and dessert will therefore cost £2.20 for these pupils).

Carol Service 2023

This year we will be hosting a joint Carol Service with the pupils and staff from Newtownhamilton Primary School on **Tuesday 19th December at 10.30am in our Assembly Hall.** This event is open to parents and friends of both schools.

After the service, there will be an opportunity to visit our Year 9 Young Enterprise stalls to purchase some hand-made crafts and also enjoy some refreshments.

Lost Property (Uniform)



Over recent weeks we have experienced an increase in the amount of lost property which can be collected from our office. Parents/Guardians are asked to label all school and PE uniform so that the owners of lost items can be easily identified.

Forthcoming Key Dates

School will finish for pupils on **Thursday 21st December 2023 at 12 noon**, with our Spring Term commencing on **Friday 5th January 2024.**

- Friday 1st – Friday 8th December
 - Wednesday 6th December
 - Monday 11th December
 - Tuesday 12th December
 - Wednesday 13th December
 - Friday 15th December
 - Monday 18th December
 - Tuesday 19th December
 - Wednesday 20th December
 - Thursday 21st December
 - Friday 5th January
- Year 8-11 Term Exams
Year 9 YE @ Big Market Belfast
Love for Life: Years 8, 11 & 12
Christmas Dinner
Christmas House Matches
Year 12 Christmas Markets Trip
Student Council Pyjamas & Movie Day
Carol Service @ 10.30am
U13 & U14 Hockey @ Killicomaine JHS
Christmas Party Day (Non-Uniform)
Student Council Party (Non-Uniform)
No SRC (11V & 12V not required to attend)
End of Term for all pupils @ 12 noon
Spring Term Commences

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw

Principal