



Newtownhamilton High School

9 Armagh Road, Newtownhamilton

NEWRY, Co. Down

BT35 ODG

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Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Year 8-12 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:

Katherine Larkin

First Aid



Our defibrillator is located in the main school foyer.

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

Thankfully the lighter evenings are now upon us as we enter the season of Spring, which is a time of the year that always proves to be busy in school. Please therefore see below some important information which I encourage you to read and share with your child:

Open Night

Many thanks to everyone who attended our recent successful Open Night, which attracted a large crowd. It was great for us to be able to showcase everything good about Newtownhamilton High School.

The EA online application process has now closed with applicants due to receive notification of Year 8 places via email on Saturday 18th May.



Early School Closure for Year 12 Online Parent-Teacher Meetings

Reminder that the ongoing industrial action will result in an **early closure at 12.15pm on Tuesday 27th February 2024 in order to facilitate Year 12 Online Parent-Teacher Meetings (12.50-3.00pm)**. Morning buses will run as normal, however only the Lisnadill bus service will be available when school closes at 12.15pm. Parents/guardians will therefore have to organise their own afternoon transport.

Principal Absence



It is noted that I am travelling to France with our Ski Trip pupils (and Teachers Mr Black and Miss Anderson) during the period Saturday 2nd March to Saturday 9th March 2024. Technology means that I will be keeping in touch with events in Newtownhamilton and I will be checking my emails at regular intervals. However, Vice Principal Mr Cousins will assume full responsibility of the day-to-day running of the school during my absence and he can be contacted if there are any queries or concerns.

Year 12 GCSE Science Practical Exams

GCSE Science Practical Exams will take place as follows:

- 12V – Tuesday 5th March 9.00am-11.00am
- 12X – Thursday 7th March 9.00am-11.15am



Pupils need to attend these sessions as there will be no opportunity for mop-up.

Year 12 GCSE Art & Design Practical Exam

The GCSE practical exam for Art & Design will take place on Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th March. Again, pupils must be in attendance for this exam.

School Ties

We continue to experience pupils arriving into school in the mornings not properly dressed, and in particular not wearing a school tie. Many of these pupils then cannot find their tie when they are asked to put it on and hence have to borrow one from a small supply which we have in our school office.



This trend is wasting time every morning and thus delaying the start of our school day. Parents/guardians may be contacted and asked to bring their child's tie into school thus causing further inconvenience.

However, there is a simple solution to this problem, which is that parents/guardians should ensure that their child is fully dressed for school before they leave their home.

Forthcoming Key Dates

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| • Tuesday 27 th February | Year 12 Online Parent-Teacher Meetings (school closes at 12.15pm) |
| • Wednesday 28 th February | Years 11-12 GCSE Agriculture Visit to AFBI |
| • Saturday 2 nd March – Saturday 9 th March | Ski Trip – France |
| • Tuesday 5 th March | 12V Practical Science Exam |
| • Thursday 7 th March | 12X Practical Science Exam |
| • Monday 11 th – Tuesday 12 th March | GCSE Art & Design Exam |
| • Wednesday 13 th March | Year 12 GCSE English Speaking & Listening Exam |
| • Thursday 14 th March | Year 8 Shared Education |
| • Monday 18 th March | Year 11 Shared Education Art Trip |
| • Wednesday 20 th March | St. Patrick's Day Holiday |
| • Wednesday 27 th March | Year 8-10 Science Shows & Parent Event |
| • Thursday 28 th March – Friday 5 th April | End of Spring Term |
| • Monday 8 th April | Easter Holidays |
| | Start of Summer Term |

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw

Principal