



Newtownhamilton High School

9 Armagh Road, Newtownhamilton

NEWRY, Co. Down

BT35 ODG

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Wednesday 27th November 2024

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, Mrs McNiece & 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:

2023/24 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 2023/24 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 2024 Exam Timetable (also available to download from the school website) which commences this week. 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 13th 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 2024

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
Year 12	Wednesday 4 th December 2.00-3.00pm	£3.35	£2.50
Years 8-11	Tuesday 10 th December 12.15-1.50pm	£3.35	£2.50

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

Tickets are now available to purchase at the school office. 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 £3.05 for these pupils).

Carol Service 2024

This year we will be hosting a joint Carol Service with the pupils and staff from Newtownhamilton Primary School on **Tuesday 17th December at 1.45pm in our Assembly Hall.** This event is open to parents and friends of both schools.

Forthcoming Key Dates

School **will finish for pupils on Friday 20th December 2024 at 12 noon**, with our Spring Term commencing on **Monday 6th January 2025.**

- Thursday 28th November – Thursday 5th December
 - Monday 2nd December
 - Wednesday 4th December
 - Tuesday 10th December

 - Wednesday 11th December
 - Friday 13th December
 - Monday 16th December
 - Tuesday 17th December
 - Wednesday 18th December

 - Thursday 19th December

 - Friday 20th December
 - Monday 6th January
- Year 8-11 Term Exams
Year 12 HE Practical Exam
Year 12 Christmas Dinner
Christmas House Matches
Years 8-11 Christmas Dinner
Year 12 Christmas Markets Trip
Love for Life: Years 8, 11 & 12
Student Council Pyjamas & Movie Day
Community Carol Service @ 1.45pm
Christmas Jumper Party Day
Year 9 YE Cake & Bun Sale
Years 8-11 Banbridge Boulevard Trip
No SRC for 11V or 12V
End of Term for all pupils @ 12 noon
Spring Term Commences

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw

Principal