



Newtownhamilton High School

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Tuesday 1st October 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:

Julie Liggett

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.

The new school year is moving fast as we now enter October. I trust that all our pupils have settled well into school life and that they will have a positive experience during their time with us.

Our new school year commenced on a positive note with another impressive set of GCSE results in August. This was followed by the arrival of 44 Year 8 pupils. During September we put plans in place for the year ahead and therefore I want to take this opportunity to keep everyone updated on some news and forthcoming events as detailed below:

Charity Coffee Morning

Our Charities Co-ordinator Mrs Laverty has organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning for our pupils and staff this Friday at 10.15am. Tickets are priced at £3.50 with all proceeds going directly to this worthy cause.

Parents/guardians can support this event by donating scones/pancakes/tray bakes/cakes etc.



Year 12 GCSE English

During October, pupils will be completing important Controlled Assessment during lessons before sitting their GCSE module exam on Friday 15th November.

The Khulula Choir Concert

In partnership with Newtownhamilton Primary School, we are hosting a community concert in our Assembly Hall on Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm. This event will feature music and dance performances from The Khulula Choir from Swaziland while pupils from both the Primary and High Schools will also be performing – an event not to be missed.



Admission is free, however there will be a donation bucket at the door in aid of The Khulula Choir.

Staffing Updates

The start of the new school year saw us welcome teacher Mrs A Nicholson (RE) and Classroom Assistants Mrs Adair, Miss Andrews and Mrs Martin while Mrs McCombe (Librarian/Classroom Assistant) also commenced over recent weeks.

Unfortunately, we recently said goodbye to teacher Mrs C McNiece (Maths & RE), Mrs C Simms (Librarian) and Mrs P Knight (Cleaning Staff) and therefore I thank them for their contribution towards our school.

Year 8 Online Parent-Teacher Meetings



All Year 8 parents/guardians will have the opportunity to meet online with our teachers on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 (3.30-5.30pm). Information on how to book an appointment will be communicated in the near future.

Year 8-10 Formal Assessments

Following feedback from pupils, parents and staff we have made the decision to move from 4 to 3 Formal Assessments (FAs) per academic year, as follows: FA1 (December), FA2 (March/April) & FA3 (June). We will continue to use this system to monitor pupil progress and act accordingly.

Shoebox Appeal

We will be supporting a Christmas Shoebox Appeal in partnership with Vibe Church. Further details will be communicated in a separate letter with the collection date on Friday 15th November.

Energy Drinks & Nut Allergies



It is requested that pupils do not bring high energy drinks (Lucozade, BPM, Red Bull, Boost etc) to school. Healthier options such as bottled water or fully school compliant fruit drinks are available for sale in our vending machines and also the school canteen. Please believe me when I say that our pupils have plenty of energy without these drinks!

I would also be grateful if you would refrain from sending nuts/peanuts into school as we have some pupils with severe nut allergies.

Whole School Policies

Parents/guardians are reminded that the key whole school policies are available to view via our school website through a password protected page. Please follow the instructions below in order to access this more environmentally friendly method of communication.

Access to School Policies/Documents:

1. Log on to www.newtownhamiltonhigh.org.uk
2. Click on '**Key Docs**' on the main toolbar and scroll down to '**Policies**'
3. Type in the Username and Password

Username	newtown1955
Password	newtown1955

It is noted that Year 8 parents/guardians are normally provided with a hard copy of our Child Protection Policy. However, in the interest of the environment, parents/guardians are encouraged to view this document online but a hard copy can still be provided from the school office on request.

School Publicity, New school App & Use of Social Media

Our school website (www.newtownhamiltonhigh.org.uk) and Facebook page continue to receive a large number of hits while our text messaging service should also keep parents updated on all the latest news and events within school. Moving forward our aim is to launch a school app which will be used to communicate information.



Over recent years, Newtownhamilton High School has used social media positively to promote many aspects of school life. Unfortunately, there is an increasing trend across Northern Ireland of parents and pupils using this communication method to voice frustration about school matters which they are not entirely satisfied with. This often results in inaccurate information being shared publicly, thus quickly damaging the reputation of a school or an individual.

Therefore, I wish to take this opportunity to remind parents that **I prefer to discuss any worries or concerns either face-to-face or over the telephone rather than reading about them on social media!**

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw (Principal)

Forthcoming Key Dates – October/November 2024

Thursday 10 th October @ 7.30pm	The Khulula Choir Concert
Tuesday 22 nd October (3.30-5.30pm)	Year 8 Online Parent-Teacher Meetings
Friday 25 th October – Friday 1 st November	Half-Term Holidays (inclusive dates)
Monday 11 th – Tuesday 19 th November	Year 11 & 12 GCSE Module Exams
Thursday 14 th November @ 7.30pm	Prize Night