

Dear Pupil,

It is a great privilege for me, on behalf of the entire school community, to welcome you to Ballymena Academy. Everyone in this community wants you to enjoy your time with us and we trust that you will be happy here as you begin the next phase of your education.

We will help you to acquire skills and knowledge which you can use to enhance your own lives, to give you access to a rewarding and fulfilling career and to make the world a better place for others. We say that: "Ballymena Academy Cares for the Individual and Inspires Learning and Achievement" and we want that to be true for you, as for all our pupils. Above all we want to watch you grow and mature into an adult of whom your parents and the Academy can be proud.

We also welcome your parents. They are very important people in your lives. All of us - pupils, parents and school - have to work together if you are to get the best out of your education. You will be aware of the high expectations held of Academy pupils about their appearance and uniform, their attitude and behaviour as well as their schoolwork and homework. In return, you have access to some of the best facilities in any school, well-qualified staff working to support you, in and out of the classroom, and a long tradition of success and enjoyment.

This school provides you with a wide range of cocurricular activities. Today is just a way of introducing you to what is on offer. Come September you will be here, and you should definitely take the opportunity to join in and make new friends. I am very impressed by how much former and current pupils enjoy their time here and by their pride in being associated with the Academy. I trust that you too will soon experience that sense of pride in being part of this community.

I wish you and your families a sunny, peaceful and happy summer.

(Principal) June 2023

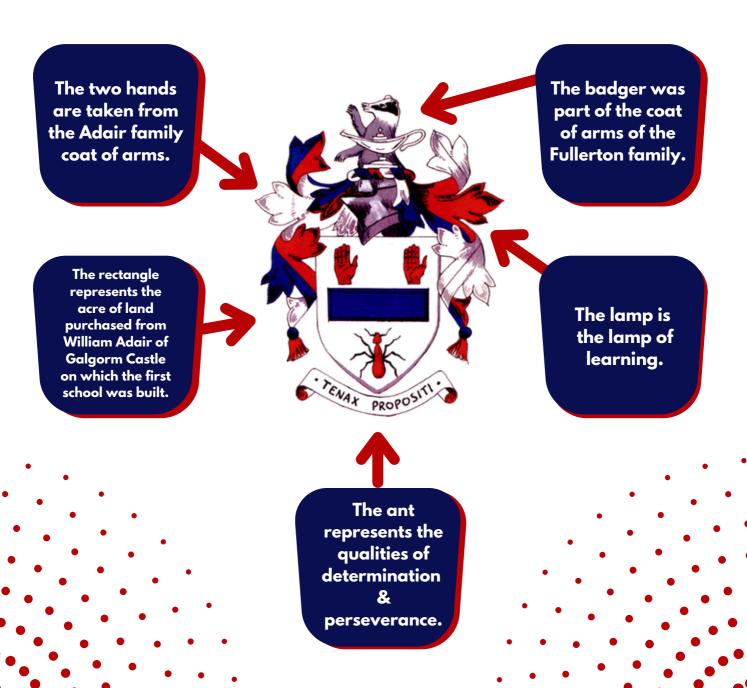


THE ARMS OF BALLYMENA ACADEMY

As you passed the main entrance gates you may have noticed the school coat of arms incorporated into the design of the gates. It is also displayed on the front wall of the school. This coat of arms was granted to the school by the College of Heralds in 1958.

The school motto, chosen by a former headmaster, Mr. J.A. Fullerton, in 1937, is part of the coat of arms. The motto "TENAX PROPOSITI" is in Latin and it means "STEADFAST OF PURPOSE". This motto with the Seven Towers emblem was used in the school badge on uniform in years gone by.

Each part of the coat of arms has a particular meaning.



TUTORS

In Year 8 you will have two Tutors who take a special interest in your class. In addition, your Tutors will take your tútorial topics each week. In class you will have the opportunity to get to know your Tutors and your classmates as you work through topics designed to help you to make the best use of your time at Ballymena Academy. Your Tutors will look after you on Day I and will always be willing to answer your questions and help you in every way.

Miss Forsythe is in charge of Year 8. You will see her each morning in Year Assembly. She has overall responsibility for your year group. This means that she will follow your progress during your first year and discuss any matters of concern with you, your tutor and your parents.

PASTORAL ADVISER

The Pastoral Adviser,
Mr. Blacoe, will work with
your Tutor and with the
Head of Year to check your
progress in school. He will
be available should there
be any circumstances
where you need any help
or advice.

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Subjects for Year 8

HOMEWORK
A Learning Organiser is provided so that you can easily record the homework you have to do and your Tutor will check that you know how to use the organiser effectively.

Homeworks are often set in advance. Write the homework down against the day on which it is to be handed in. Try to ensure you spread the load of work evenly.

You should expect to have homework to do each evening.

PEER MENTORS

Your class will also have Peer Mentors.
These are Year 14 pupils who are there to assist the Tutors and help you to settle in to school.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (After School Clubs)

A full range of these are available for you to choose from. Joining an after school club is a really good way to make new friends, have fun, develop new skills and get involved with the wider life of school. Everyone should try to go to at least one afternoon club.

Day 1

Wed 30th August, 2023

8.55 a.m. -12.25 p.m.

- Schoolbag & Pencil-case
- £5.00 (non-refundable) for a locker key and a key ring to put it on [a single charge for the duration of Years 8 – 12. If a replacement Locker Key is required this will cost an additional £5]
- Book to read
- Your 'name' badge to wear
- Come in by the Ğirls' or Boys' Entrance

When you arrive

Bring

- A Senior Pupil/Tutor will meet you
- You will be taken to Year 8 Assembly in the Girls' Gym

Assembly

- You will meet your Tutors and Sixth Form Peer Mentors
- You will be given your class grouping
- Your Tutors will take you to a classroom

In the classroom

- Your Tutors will give you:-
- Exercise Books
- Jotters
- Learning Organiser
- Time-table
- Bus Pass (if eligible)

When you leave

• Exit by the Girls' or Boys' Entrance

Day 2



8.55 a.m.

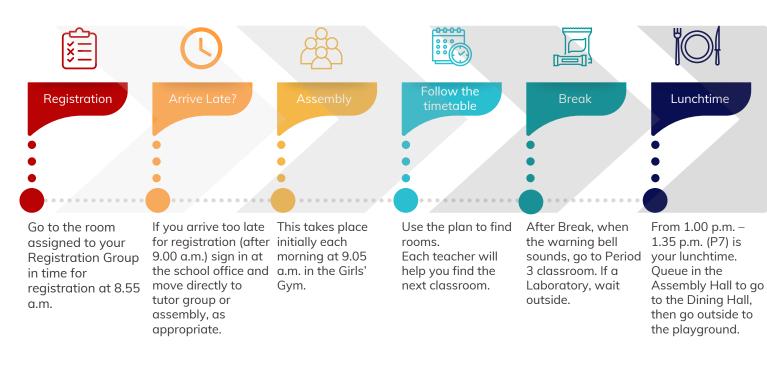
3.10 p.m.

- Enter by the Girls' or Boys' Entrance
- Proceed to the Girls' Gym (same as previous day)
- Mentors will be there to help you find your way
- Bring a packed lunch (if not taking School Dinners)
- Bring money to put on your Biometric Account (e.g. £5 £10)
- The Lunch routine will be explained to you during the day









We recommend that electronic devices e.g. mobile phones are not brought to school. However, if they are brought to school the following quidelines must be followed:-

- You may only use your mobile phone before school, after school, or if permission is given by a member of staff.
- You must switch off your mobile phone at all other times during the school day.
- · You must take the responsibility of looking after your mobile phone at all times.
- Devices of any kind must not, under any circumstances, be used to take photographs / videos in school.
- Mobile phones cannot be carried in your breast pocket or used whilst walking in corridors.
- AirPods or equivalent cannot be used during the school day.

Go to Lockers only before Assembly, at Break, at end of Lunch time and at the end of the day. You may also use your locker before P.E. and Games classes to leave your schoolbag and collect your P.E. bag.

Bring a letter of explanation from your parents to your Tutor on the day on which you return.

Report to Mrs. McGarry (School Nurse). Your tutor will show you where to ao.

Bring a letter from your parents to the Head of Year/Pastoral Adviser at least one day before your planned absence.

Lunchtime

Name taas must be attached to ALL items of school uniform. Schoolbags, books and all other articles brought to school MUST be clearly marked with your name in several places. Valuables should not be brought to school.





















OUT-OF-DOORS	INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDINGS	TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY BUS
Always use footpaths when walking to and from school.	Always walk in single file on the right-hand side of corridors following directional guidance. Follow one-way system where appropriate. Never run inside school buildings. Take particular care on stairs.	Before travelling to and from school by bus, we recommend that you visit the Bus Station to familiarise yourself with the surroundings and, in particular, find out -
Wheel your bicycle when within the school grounds.	Never push or jostle in the corridor or when entering or leaving a classroom.	(1) the number of the bus you will need to travel home on, and
The driveway leading round the back of the Dining Hall is for cars only - pupils are to avoid using this area.	Only use the allocated toilet for your year group.	(2) the stand from which the bus will leave.
If you use public transport to get to school, at peak times walk along the back footpath from the Bus Station to the school - not along the Galgorm Road and front drive. Don't loiter in the Bus Station.	Queue quietly in single file outside classrooms.	It is expected that your behaviour will be of the highest standard when using public transport to and from school.
Pupils coming to or leaving school alone should use the main drive and not the bus path.	Enter a laboratory ONLY when there is a teacher present.	Those who misbehave and do not respect others, or Translink property, will have their Bus Pass removed and can expect to be punished by the school.
Never use the railway crossing at the Cullybackey Road end of the school grounds or climb over boundary fences.	Be respectful, courteous and sensible at all times.	
Pupils must not approach the pond area except under the immediate supervision of staff.		



STAY TOGETT

> It's easy to get lost at the start when moving around the school so remember you can always ask for help if you are unsure.

5 FIVE

USE YOUR LOGNER

Avoid carrying around heavy schoolbags, get into the habit of storing the books in your locker which are not needed.

4

FOUR

TAME CARE OF BELONGINGS

Ensure your name is on all of your belongings e.g. stationery, bags, school and P.E. uniform.

6 SIX

MOBILE PRONES

Mobile phones should be switched off during the school day. They are your responsibility, so make sure you have them stored safely.

3 THREE

It's fun to join new clubs and it's a great way to make new friends.

It's important to arrive at school on time and to be punctual for all classes. SEVEN

MELP IS AT

Peer Mentors, Tutors, Class Teachers, School Nurse, Pastoral Adviser or Head of Year are here to help, so speak to someone if you have any worries at any time.

Sleep

It is important to get enough sleep (approx. 9 hours) to help your overall sense of wellbeing, and prepare for the day ahead.

Healthy Habits

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so make sure to eat first thing in the morning and keep hydrated throughout the day.

Mobile Phones / Electronic devices

Get into the habit of switching off all devices at least half an hour before bed time to ensure a good night's sleep.

Healthy Habits at home

Homework

Do homework when it is issued rather than leaving it until the last minute. Make use of your Learning Organiser to check all homework is completed.

Be organised

Check your school bag each night to make sure you have all books and equipment ready for the next day.

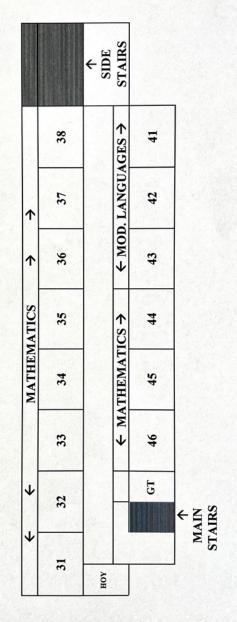
Be safe online

We would discourage you from being part of large group chats and always know who you are talking with online.

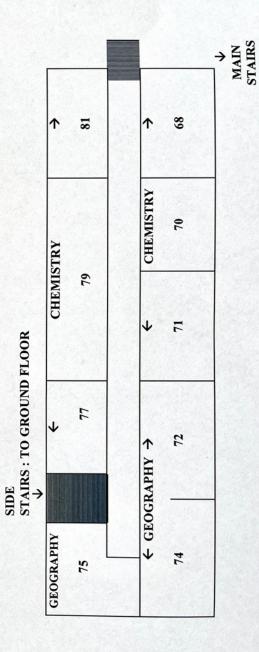
FIRST FLOOR 3-STOREY BLOCK

		+	SIDE STAIRS	† TO DRAMA SUITE	
^	22				
1	21		STAFFROOM	ND GEOGRAPHY	
JAGES	20				
LANGI	19			MAIN STAIRS: TO SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY	
MODERN LANGUAGES	18				
4	17			MAIN ST	
V	16				
CLASSICS	15		VP		

SECOND FLOOR 3-STOREY BLOCK



FIRST FLOOR 2-STOREY BLOCK





BALLYMENA ACADEMY HOCKEY CLUB

YEAR 8 GIRLS

- SATURDAY MORNINGS, AFTER SCHOOL AND DURING GAMES.
- MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS FOR TEAMS.
- UNDER 12 A/B/C&D AVAILABLE!
- A GREAT WAY TO GET INVOLVED IN SCHOOL, GET TO KNOW OTHER GIRLS IN YOUR YEAR AND GET FIT!





- · ALL ABILITIES WELCOME.
- GOOD TRAINING.
- LOCAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS
- IF YOU ENJOY RUNNING, COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN!



NETBALL CLUB

- ALL YEAR 8 GIRLS ARE WELCOME, WHETHER YOU HAVE EVER PLAYED BEFORE OR NOT!
- THROUGHOUT TERM ONE AND TWO, MATCHES ARE PLAYED IN THE LOCAL BALLYMENA LEAGUE AND IN THE NEBSSA LEAGUE.
- SO COME ALONG, HAVE FUN AND KEEP FIT!





BALLYMENA ACADEMY RUGBY CLUB YEAR 8 BOYS

- SATURDAY MORNINGS, AFTER SCHOOL AND DURING GAMES.
- LEARN THE GAME.
- HAVE FUN.
- EXPERT COACHING.
- GET TO KNOW THE BOYS IN YOUR YEAR.
- DADS ARE WELCOME TO WATCH OR HELP.
- MINI-GAMES, MATCHES AGAINST OTHER SCHOOLS & AREA TOURNAMENTS!
- EVERYONE WELCOME.



BALLYMENA ACADEMY GIRLS' JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

- OPEN TO ANY PUPIL OF ANY ABILITY OR EXPERIENCE IN YEAR 8.
- WHEN IS IT? ONE DAY A WEEK AFTER SCHOOL DURING THE SUMMER TERM.
- WHERE IS IT HELD? SCHOOL FOOTBALL PITCH.



BALLYMENA ACADEMY GIRLS' AND BOYS' TABLE TENNIS CLUB

- WE TRAIN AND PRACTISE WEEKLY.
- ALL LEVELS OF ABILITY ARE WELCOME!
- WE COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN VARIOUS COMPETITIONS: ULSTER INDIVIDUALS / ULSTER SCHOOLS' LEAGUE / ULSTER SCHOOLS' CUP.
- WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

ATHLETICS

- YEAR 8 ATHLETICS CLUB RUNS DURING THE SUMMER TERM.
- TWO AFTERNOONS AT SCHOOL
 - SPRINTING
 - RELAY RUNNING
 - MIDDLE DISTANCE RUNNING
 - JAVELIN
 - SHOT PUTT
 - DISCUS
 - LONG JUMP & HIGH JUMP

TENNIS CLUB

- OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE GAME OR DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS.
- NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.
- EXPERT COACHING PROVIDED BY BALLYMENA ACADEMY LAWN TENNIS CLUB.
- THERE ARE JUNIOR BOYS' AND GIRLS' TENNIS TEAMS IN THE SUMMER TERM.

CRICKET CLUB

- CRICKET CLUB IS FOR ALL FROM U-12 TO 1ST XI.
- COMPETE AGAINST OTHER SCHOOLS EVERY SATURDAY IN THE SUMMER.
- LEAGUE FIXTURES, CUP GAMES AND FRIENDLY MATCHES FOR YEAR 8.
- STRONG LINKS WITH BALLYMENA CRICKET CLUB.
- BOYS' U-12 XI FRIDAY GAMES AND AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES.
- EVERYONE WELCOME ALL ABILITIES AND EXPERIENCE.



GOLF CLUB

- ARE YOU GOOD AT GOLF?
- DO YOU HAVE A HANDICAP?
- YOU COULD PLAY ON THE JUNIOR GOLF TEAM!

SWIMMING

- SWIMMING CLUB IS OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS.
- MEMBERS REPRESENT THE SCHOOL AT SWIM MEETS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT VARIOUS INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS INCLUDING:
 - ULSTER SECONDARY SCHOOLS' MEET (QUALIFY HERE FOR THE ULSTER SCHOOLS, TENERIFE AND LONDON TRAINING CAMPS).
 - ULSTER SCHOOLS' GALA.
 - ULSTER GRAMMAR SCHOOLS' MEET.
 - ULSTER MINOR SCHOOLS' MEET.
 - ULSTER SCHOOLS' RELAY GALA.
 - WORLD SCHOOLS' SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS
- EVERYBODY WELCOME.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS IN:

- PIANO.
- BRASS.
- WOODWIND (INC. SAXOPHONE).
- · STRINGS.
- · SINGING.
- ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRIC & BASS GUITAR PERCUSSION & DRUM KIT.
- WE ESPECIALLY NEED UNUSUAL & LESSER PLAYED INSTRUMENTS IN THE WIND, BRASS AND STRING FAMILIES.



ACADEMY CHORALE

- THIS IS A LARGE CHOIR FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS IN YEARS 8 - 11. WE SING IN PARTS AND PERFORM LOTS OF DIFFERENT SONGS FOR PRIZE DAY, CAROL SERVICES, THE SPRING CONCERT AND MORE!
- RECENTLY WE HAVE SUNG SHOW-STOPPING MEDLEYS FROM 'GREASE', 'GLEE', 'HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL' AND 'MAMMA MIA', DISNEY AND EVEN SNOW PATROL, ADELE, COLDPLAY, LEWIS CAPALDI AND 'THE GREATEST SHOWMAN'.



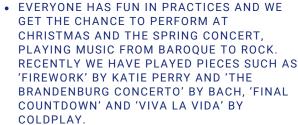
MALE VOICE CHOIR

- OUR LARGE MALE VOICE CHOIR HAS BOYS FROM YEAR 8 UP TO YEAR 14 SINGING IN FOUR-PART HARMONY! THEY PRACTISE DURING LUNCHTIMES AND PERFORM AT THE MASSIVE ST PATRICK'S CAROL SERVICES AND THE SPRING CONCERTS.
- IN RECENT CONCERTS THEY PERFORMED THE NEIL DIAMOND CLASSIC 'SWEET CAROLINE', THE BEATLES HIT 'YESTERDAY', 'WELLERMAN' AND 'COUNTRY ROADS'.



JUNIOR STRINGS







TRADITIONAL GROUP

 THE TRAD. GROUP MEETS EVERY WEEK UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SENIOR PUPILS.



VIOLINS, FLUTES, TIN WHISTLES, CELLO, HARP, GUITAR, ACCORDION, PERCUSSION AND PIANO ARE ALL INVOLVED IN BEAUTIFUL CELTIC MUSIC-MAKING.

SENIOR STRINGS

- FOR STRING PLAYERS AT GRADES 5-8. WE ENJOY PLAYING MUSIC FROM THE BAROQUE ERA RIGHT THROUGH TO JAZZ AND FILM MUSIC.
- WE JOIN WITH THE BEST WIND AND PERCUSSION PLAYERS TO FORM THE SENIOR ORCHESTRA. WE ALSO PERFORM AT CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND AT THE ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT. WE HAVE WON MANY TOP AWARDS AT MUSIC FESTIVALS.



JUNIOR WIND BAND

- IT IS FOR WOODWIND AND BRASS PLAYERS AT GRADES 1-4.
- WE PLAY LOTS OF JAZZY AND UPBEAT MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE SPRING CONCERT, INCLUDING MUSIC FROM FILM AND TV SUCH AS THE THEME FROM 'WALLACE AND GROMIT', 'DEFYING GRAVITY' FROM 'WICKED', 'CHEERLEADER', THE BEST TUNES FROM 'SHREK 2', 'SHAKE IT OFF' AND 'HAVANA'.



JUNIOR ORCHESTRA

THE JUNIOR WIND AND STRINGS COMBINE TO FORM THE JUNIOR ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND AT THE SPRING CONCERTS.



CHESS CLUB

- . WHY PLAY CHESS?
 - LEARN ABOUT STRATEGY AND TACTICS.
 - REPRESENT THE SCHOOL
 - IMPROVE YOUR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
 - IMPROVE YOUR INTELLIGENCE: "ACCORDING TO RESEARCH, TEST SCORES IMPROVED BY 17.3% FOR STUDENTS REGULARLY ENGAGED IN CHESS CLASSES, COMPARED WITH ONLY 4.6% FOR CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN OTHER FORMS OF ENRICHED ACTIVITIES," SUSAN POLGAR
 - GREAT FOR UCAS APPLICATIONS
- THE CLUB IS FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS. YEAR 8 AND ALL BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME.



• THIS IS A FANTASTIC BIG BAND FOR WOODWIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION PUPILS AT GRADES 5-8.

- WE PLAY AN AMAZING SELECTION OF CONTEMPORARY, JAZZ AND FILM MUSIC! EXAMPLES INCLUDE SELECTIONS FROM "FROZEN", THE FANTASTIC "GREAT ESCAPE" THEME AND THE THEME FROM "GAME OF THRONES".
- WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN PLAYING CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS CONCERTS.



- OUR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PLAYS AN AMAZING RANGE OF MARIMBAS, XYLOPHONES, VIBRAPHONES AND ALL MANNER OF PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS, AND PERFORM INCREDIBLE RHYTHMIC PIECES FOR SHOWS AND CONCERTS.
- SOME MEMBERS HAVE EVEN PLAYED
 DUSTBINS, FLOOR BRUSHES, CAR PARTS AND
 'BOOM-WHACKERS'! GUITARISTS, BASS
 GUITARISTS, DRUMMERS AND SOME
 KEYBOARD PLAYERS ALSO PLAY ALONG.



JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

- DO YOU ENJOY SHARING YOUR OPINIONS?
- ARE YOU OPEN FOR DISCUSSION ABOUT CURRENT TOPICS?
- COME TO THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY!

FULLERTON LIBRARY

- WHEN CAN I USE THE LIBRARY?
 - BEFORE SCHOOL.
 - BREAKTIME.
 - · LUNCHTIME.
 - AFTER SCHOOL.
 - YOU WILL ALSO VISIT THE LIBRARY IN YOUR ENGLISH CLASS AND COMPLETE RESEARCH FOR OTHER SUBJECTS.
- WHAT DOES THE LIBRARY OFFER?
 - FICTION.
 - NON-FICTION.
 - INTERNET ACCESS.
 - REFERENCE BOOKS.





DRAMA CLUB

- DRAMA CLUB HOSTS A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT CELEBRATE THE WORLD OF ACTING. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR PUPILS CAN ATTEND WORKSHOPS, VISIT THE THEATRE, COMPETE IN SPEECH AND DRAMA FESTIVALS AND PRESENT THEIR PERFORMANCES TO INVITED AUDIENCES.
- THERE ARE ALSO OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS.



- FILME FILMS.
- KARNIVAL MASKEN CARNIVAL MASKS.
- DEUTSCHES GERMAN.
- SPIELE GAMES.
- ESSEN FOOD.
- FÜR JEDE JAHRGANGSSTUFE OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS.
- IM ZIMMER 22 IN ROOM 22.
- DAS WIRD SICHER SPASS MACHEN!! IT WILL DEFINITELY BE FUN!!



PUBLIC SPEAKING

 JUNIOR SCHOOL PUPILS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE IN PUBLIC
 SPEAKING COMPETITIONS SUCH AS THE QUEENIE MCMULLAN PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION AND READ AT THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES HELD IN ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

JUNIOR CU

- WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH PUPILS IN YEARS 8 TO 10 AND SENIOR HELPERS? COME TO JUNIOR CU.
 - WORSHIP.
 - PRAY TOGETHER.
 - SCRIPTURE UNION NI.
 - o GAMES.
 - A WEEKEND AWAY.
 - GUEST SPEAKERS.
- EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CREATIVITY CLUB

- ARE YOU A CREATIVE THINKER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE CREATIVE?
- THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP ARTISTIC AND CRAFT SKILLS AND TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH OTHER CREATIVE STUDENTS
- YEARS 8, 9 AND 10 WELCOME!
- TAKES PLACE IN THE ART & DESIGN DEPARTMENT (ROOM 165).





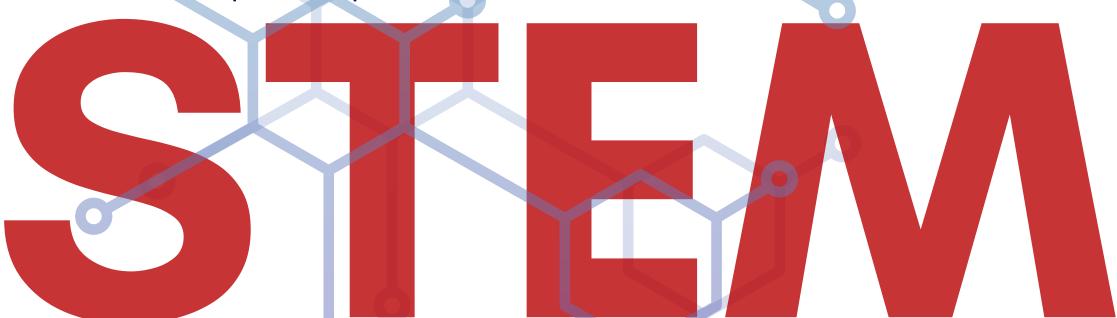


- STEM Club welcomes any pupils who are in Years 8 14, with an interest in STEM. Pupils participate in a range of varied STEM activities.
- Pupils achieve the British Science Crest Awards for project work and also enjoy some of the following types of events:
 - Trips to Microsoft Dream space
 - Meeting Brian Cox
 - Participating and winning prizes at FIRST LEGO League
 - The International Robotics Competition
 - Sentinus Young Innovators
 - The Big Bang UK Final
 - BTYSE competitions
 - U.K. Rocket Challenge
 - Greenpower car competition





- Listen out for announcements from your Maths teacher, and check out the Maths noticeboard, for information about different challenges you can enter. These include:
 - UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.
 - UKMT Team Maths Challenge.
 - Maths Week Ireland Maths Trials.



ENVIRONMENT

AGRICULTURE CLUB

The Agriculture Club is open to all pupils from Year 8 to 14 that either come from a farming background or have an interest in the Agriculture sector. We aim to meet on the first Tuesday every month. Activities include the ABP Youth Challenge, quizzes, guest speakers and possible trips out to farms. It's great fun to get together and share each other's enthusiasm for all things farming!

Y.E.S



Activities include: Wildlife surveys - Making bird boxes - Tree planting - Growing vegetables - Pond dipping - Pumpkin carving - Making recycled paper - Traditional and seasonal crafts.

YES takes place in the Biology Department - See you there!

GLOBAL ISSUES SOCIETY

Who? Everyone welcome. When? After school meetings and lunch time meetings as announced. What? Running Fairtrade chocolate sales. Raising money & collecting items for Ballymena Food Bank. Doing litter picks around the school grounds. Researching and raising awareness of global issues. Fundraising for global issues e.g. toilet provision in poor countries. Where? In the Geography Department. All new members and new ideas are welcome.

