

THE ROYAL SCHOOL ARMAGH

Founded by Royal Charter in 1608

Headmaster: P. Crute MA BA PGCE



Dear Parent/Guardian

June 2017

As we move to the end of another busy and highly successful academic year, I write to update you on key matters.

As I write, the Duke of Edinburgh Department ends a three week stint of putting students through the Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions. The CCF is away on Summer Camp in Okehampton, Devon. The debaters are about to leave for London for the UK National Debating Finals having won the Scottish and Ireland title. The Oxbridge hopefuls are over in Oxford researching colleges, the Taekwondo Belt Gradings are taking place today with Master Iqbal flying in from Manchester to officiate! To round the week off we have the Highland Games on Thursday! That is just the last week of term. As you know the year has been just as busy with the visit of HRH Prince Andrew to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the CCF, the senior girls winning the inaugural Ulster Superleague in Hockey, the senior choir winning through to the semi-finals of the Ulster Choir of the Year competition and the Medallion side winning the Medallion Rugby Shield for the first time in the school's history. Let us hope that the year is crowned with strong academic results which enable the best possible sixth form and university progression for those involved.

KEY MATTERS

Back to school BBQ

The back to school BBQ will be held on Saturday 9th September. Tickets will be available from Mr Parker in school from the first day of the school term. If you wish to reserve tickets prior to this date, please contact Mrs Harrison on 028 37520306 or aharrison965@c2kni.net. It promises to be a super evening with entertainment, dancing and a hog roast!

Minibuses

The school fleet of minibuses has been mothballed due to a sudden change in licencing laws. This affects all schools in Northern Ireland. We are hoping that common sense will prevail over the summer period and the decision will be reversed. If not, extra-curricular activities and Area Learning Community provision will be impacted profoundly.

Bus Passes and Transport Claims

For those parents that wish to apply for home to school transport assistance I can confirm that The Education Authority has introduced a new, online application process for parents applying for home to school transport.

Further information on eligibility for transport assistance and how to apply can be found on the Education Authority website at the following link www.eani.org.uk/transport

Engineering (BTEC)

This was offered last year by the Southern Regional College to Year 13 students. It was hoped that the offer would be continued with next academic year's Year 13 students. Sadly, the SRC cannot accommodate the staffing on this so students who have opted for it will need to reconsider their AS choices.

School Formals

Sixth Form students organise independently of the school, their own formals and pre-formals. These are sometimes billed as "Royal School" formals and parents are under the impression that they are organised and supervised by the school. This is not the case. Hotel licensing dictates that nobody under the age of 18 can attend such functions.

Information for Parents' Booklet and School Calendar

This information is available on the school website www.royalschool.com

Results Days

A2/AS 17th August (Thursday)

GCSE 24th August (Thursday)

Staff leavers, new staff appointments, internal changes and reorganisation:

As with any school year, we have staff leavers and new appointees. These are as follows:

Leavers:

- Mrs Fiona McConaghie relocates to her native North Antrim Coast
- Mr David Walker retires as Head of Careers
- Mrs Elizabeth Heslip retires as Head of Home Economics

The legend of pupil supervision, Mrs Betty Brown, retires after over 36 years of loyal service.

New appointees:

- Mrs Tanya Simms as Head of Food & Nutrition Science/Health & Social Care
- Mr David Cunningham as Head of Careers
- Mr Simon Cardwell is the new Head of Mathematics
- Mr Stephen Maclaine is the new Head of History

Important Dates:***AUGUST***

Wednesday	16-Aug-17	Pre Examination Meeting 2.00pm
Thursday	17-Aug-17	A-Level Exam (AS/A2) results available - 9.15am / 8.00am respectively^
Wednesday	23-Aug-17	Pre Examination Meeting 2.00pm
Thursday	24-Aug-17	* GCSE Exam results available - 8.00am^^ * Staff Administration Training Day 1 * School Shop open all day
Friday	25-Aug-17	* Staff Administration Training Day 2 * Staff Meeting * Staff Committee Meeting * Pastoral Team Meeting
Sunday	27-Aug-17	SU - Planning Night (Committee)
Monday	28-Aug-17	Bank Holiday - School closed
Tuesday	29-Aug-17	* Staff Administration Training Day 3 * Year Head and Class Tutor Meeting * Careers Department Meeting
Wednesday	30-Aug-17	* Y9, 10, 11, 12 & 14 in school * Y14 Careers Meeting - Reid Hall 10.40am * New Y13 students Parents' Evening - Reid Hall 7.00pm
Thursday	31-Aug-17	* Y8 & Y13 Induction Day * School Shop open all day * Management Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Friday	01-Sep-17	* All Year Groups and Preparatory Department in School * Y8 Library Registration
Monday	04-Sep-17	* New Prep Y1 entry - Meet the Teacher Day 1 * Y9 House Hockey (TBC) * Board of Governors Meeting * Y11 CATs week
Tuesday	05-Sep-17	* New Prep Y1 entry - Meet the Teacher Day 2 * UUJ Open Day for all Y14 Students * Introduction to GCSE Information Evening for Y11 Parents
Wednesday	06-Sep-17	Old Armachian Society Committee Meeting
Thursday	07-Sep-17	* QUB Open Day for all Y14 Students * Y10 House Hockey (TBC) * AQE Information Evening
Friday	08-Sep-17	10-Sep-17 ASHA Training Weekend
Saturday	09-Sep-17	* Back to School BBQ (OA & Rugby) * CCF - NI Regional First Aid Competition - Palace Barracks
Monday	11-Sep-17	* Y8 CATs week * Photographer in School (TBC)
Wednesday	13-Sep-17	* Vote for Student Council * Amazing Brains (TBC)
Thursday	14-Sep-17	* Geography Y13 Fieldwork - Day 1 * Y14 UCAS Parents' Evening
Friday	15-Sep-17	Geography Y13 Fieldwork - Day 2
Saturday	16-Sep-17	17-Sep-17 CCF - RSA Range Weekend - Ballykinler

Monday	18-Sep-17		Moneysense activity on starting a business (organised by the Ulster Bank for Y10 pupils)(TBC)
Tuesday	19-Sep-17	20-Sep-17	Senior Hockey Fixture (North Coast)
Thursday	21-Sep-17		Speech Night Ceremony - St Mark's Parish Church
Friday	22-Sep-17		Geography Y14 Urban Fieldwork
	22-Sep-17	24-Sep-17	CCF - Military Skills Weekend - Ballykinler
Tuesday	26-Sep-17		Geography Y12 Urban Fieldwork
Thursday	28-Sep-17		* Management Committee Meeting * Student Council Meeting * National Poetry Day
Friday	29-Sep-17	01-Oct-17	* Senior SU Weekend (Y11 –Y14)
	29-Sep-17		* Pastoral Team Meeting
Saturday	30-Sep-17	01-Oct-17	CCF -N ISCRM - Ballykinler

*^Y13 students to ensure they confirm their A2 choices **on this day** with Mr Hooks following receipt of their results
^^Please encourage your child to come in to school **as early as possible** to secure A Level subject choice options*

All that remains is for me to thank you for your unstinting support in helping to maintain the vibrant ethos of the school and the success that accrues from this. The staff and I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating summer break!

Yours faithfully



Paul Crute
Headmaster