



CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SHEET OF CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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Issue 85

Tuesday 11th February 2020

February 2020 School Calendar Announcements

Wednesday 12th February 2020 – Year 13 and 14 parent/teacher consultations from 1.20 to 3.25pm. School will close at 12.40pm for all pupils. There will be alternative timetable arrangements and all pupils will need to have their books etc. for ALL 5 periods.

Friday 14th February 2020 – School finishes for Mid Term break at 3.25pm. School reopens on Monday 24th February on a **WEEK 2 TIMETABLE**.

Tuesday 25th February 2020 – Year 11 parent/teacher consultations from 1.20 to 3.25pm. School will close at 12.40pm for all pupils. There will be alternative timetable arrangements and all pupils will need to have their books etc. for ALL 5 periods.



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Class Tutors and Heads of Year will be talking to pupils this week about attendance. The Department of Education produces attendance statistics based on AM and PM sessions. To get 100% attendance pupils must be present for both sessions. Pupils with 100% attendance in December received Merits and in the new Merit system there are 2 Merit points for full attendance in one month. The link between academic achievement and excellent school attendance is very clear and while 90% attendance can seem high, this equates to 19 days of learning missed - half a school day each week, nearly 4 school weeks.

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/attendance-matters-a-parents-guide.pdf>



Carrickfergus Grammar School has been presented with a Safe School Award by Women's Aid ABCLN, demonstrating a commitment never to commit, condone or stay silent about domestic violence. The school has been working with Women's Aid ABCLN to raise awareness and equip

teachers to recognise, respond and support children living with domestic violence. This includes 'Safe School' training for teachers and a 'Heading for Healthy Relationships' programme for pupils. One in four women experience domestic violence in their lives and the number of cases reported against men has increased by 40% over the last nine years. This issue impacts all of us – pupils and staff - and we are committed to providing a safe place for anyone affected by domestic violence. The onus to address domestic violence is on all of us and through Safe School everyone can play their part.



Senior Mathematics Challenge

Senior Further Mathematics pupils Andrew Martin, Ryan Brady, Josh Dimpleby and Jessica Smyth receiving their awards from Head of Mathematics, Mr Keith Marshall, for their achievements in the United Kingdom Senior Mathematics Challenge. The competition has thousands of participants from throughout the UK. Andrew Martin achieved the 'Best in School' award and proceeded to the 'Senior Kangaroo' challenge where he was awarded a merit for being in the top ten percent.



SU Weekend – 7th-9th February 2020



The annual weekend in Castlewellan Castle is the highlight of the SU calendar and not even Storm Ciara could dampen the spirits of the forty-five pupils who met at the turning circle on Friday evening ready for two days of fun and fellowship.

After arriving and organising our rooms, we had a quiz and enjoyed a supper of hot dogs. Bedtime was 11.30pm but it may have been considerably later before some of us actually went to sleep. An early-morning prayer meeting was attended by some tired pupils on Saturday morning but after a hearty breakfast everyone was ready for the day ahead.

Rebekah Revey, the East Antrim E3 Scripture Union worker, was our guest speaker focusing on the life of Joseph and our SU theme of the year: perseverance. After the first “Worship and Word” session, Mrs McKeeman consulted the weather forecast and made the excellent decision to schedule a walk around the lake before lunch rather than leave it until later in the day. As a result of this we enjoyed beautiful sunshine on our stroll, as can be seen from the group photograph.

After lunch we had the choice of walking into Castlewellan, watching the Six Nations rugby match or exploring the maze in the castle grounds. I chose a trip into the village even though experience had taught me that Hollister and Pull and Bear have yet to open their Mourne branches!

In the evening, we had a second talk from Rebekah on how Joseph was able to persevere in following God throughout his life even in the face of extremely difficult circumstances. Everyone participated enthusiastically in a series of Lego-themed games and some final rounds of the quiz before heading on our way to bed, a destination that took some longer to reach than others.

Sunday morning was spent doing a Bible study in small groups, enjoying the beautiful scenery on a quick walk, which was curtailed by the rain, and meeting together for the final session. Lunch and final reflections brought another brilliant SU weekend to a conclusion.

As ever, we are very grateful to the staff of Castlewellan Castle as well as to Rebekah and our dedicated team of CGS staff who gave so generously of their time to make the whole weekend possible.

For Jacob, Kate, Natasha, Erin and Louise, it was their last SU weekend and they will be missed by us all. The rest of us can't wait to be back again in February 2021.

Eve Wylie 10P



CAREERS EVENTS

Date	Event	Year Group	Time	Location	Contact Teacher/ Further Information
16th February	Ulster University: Coleraine Campus - Geography & Environmental Science	14	12-3pm	Diamond Hall, Coleraine	www.ulster.ac.uk/information-events
17th February	Ulster University: Nutrition Taster Day	12 & 13	9.30-1.30pm	Coleraine Campus	https://www.ulster.ac.uk/events/application-day/2020/nutrition-taster-day-2020
21st February	Queen's: Parents/Guardians' Information Evening: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	10,11 & 12	7-9.30pm	Whitla Hall, Queen's	www.go.qub.ac.uk/ahssfeb19 OR email: emma.ohara@qub.ac.uk
25th February	US Higher Education System using Harvard as an Example	12 & 13		Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School, Belfast	www.nisca
26th February	Queen's: School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering - UCAS offer holders	14	12.30-4.30pm	Queen's	http://go.qub.ac.uk/CCE-UCAS-events
26th February	Scottish Universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot Watt, Stirling and Strathclyde)	13	7-9pm	Malone Lodge Hotel, Belfast	https://informationevening2020.eventbrite.co.uk
27th February	Higher Education Careers Convention: Lisburn	13	10-12 Noon	Lisburn	Permission slip and details to follow from Mrs Buchanan
29th February	Liverpool John Moore's Applicant Day (by Invitation only)	14			-
29th February	Queen's: MHLS Offer Holder Day	14	10-4pm		-

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT QUEEN'S
HELPING STUDENTS GO ON TO BIGGER THINGS

- BUILD CONFIDENCE
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- MENTORING
- EXCELLENCE AWARDS
- PLACEMENTS
- INTERNSHIPS
- WORKSHOPS

Queen's University Belfast logo and image of the castle.

LLOYDS SCHOLARS

GET UP TO £14,500* TO HELP WITH STUDY, LIVING COSTS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

go.qub.ac.uk/UGScholar

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

BECOME A LLOYDS SCHOLAR AT QUEEN'S

Queen's University Belfast has partnered with Lloyds Banking Group to offer 15 undergraduates the opportunity to become a Lloyds Scholar. The programme is designed to reward outstanding academic performance; provide mentoring and internship opportunities; develop employability skills; and encourage involvement within the local community.

Queen's is the only university in Northern Ireland that are offering this exciting opportunity and best of all it is open to most of our undergraduate degree programmes.

As a Lloyds Scholar you will:

- Learn valuable skills and boost your employability
- Gain work experience with up to two paid summer internships
- Receive an annual bursary of £1,500 for living costs and study materials
- Benefit from the advice and support of a dedicated mentor
- Undertake volunteering opportunities
- Be entered into the Lloyds Excellence Awards with further cash prizes up for grabs
- Have the opportunity to join Lloyds Graduate Programme (not obligatory)

What you need to be eligible:

- A residual household income of under £25,000
- A conditional offer from Queen's University Belfast as your firm choice

HOW TO APPLY: Applications open in May each year. Register your interest at www.Lloyds-Scholars.com

LLOYDS SCHOLARS

*BACS Apply

Please note that there are some courses that will be excluded from the scholarship. Please get in touch with us at LloydsScholars@qub.ac.uk to discuss further.

Pan Disability Sports Club

Suitable for ages 5-16

Carrickfergus Amphitheatre Every Monday, 5pm - 6pm
Starting Monday 23 September, £3 per session
For more information contact: colin.roden@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Seven Towers Leisure Centre, Ballymena Every Wednesday, 4.45-5.30pm
Starting on Wednesday 18 September, £3 per session
For more information contact: niall.irwin@midandeantrim.gov.uk

www.midandeantrim.gov.uk

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council logo