



CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SHEET OF CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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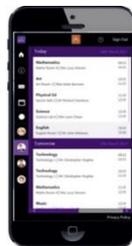


As part of our commitment to supporting engagement with children's education, Carrickfergus Grammar School uses the SIMS Parent app and webpage to provide parents with information. This service is designed for use by all parents/guardians and you will be able to access the information remotely, through a PC or mobile devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones. The app is free and available for iOS and Android and there is also a web version for Windows devices and notebook/desktop computers.

Any log in issues please contact Mrs Kirk via email – hkirk219@c2kni.net.

With SIMS Parent, you will be able to:

- View your child's timetable
- Access Reports as soon as they are published and view previous reports
- Keep contact and medical details up to date
- Access information about your child's attendance
- View Merits & Demerits



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YEAR 8 TO 10 WINTER ASSESSMENTS
MONDAY 23RD TO THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
(Friday will be a normal timetabled day on a week 2 timetable)**

**SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK AT
12.05PM ON FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER
&
PUPILS RETURN ON TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY
ON A WEEK 2 TIMETABLE**



Congratulations Rory Pollard, Year 8, who is one of five junior sailors in Northern Ireland to be preselected for the RYA NI Squad. Rory very proudly represented CGS in September and we are very proud of you!

Thinking of studying architecture and becoming an architect?

Please join our online information evening for year 11 - 14 students, hosted by staff, students and practitioners. Please feel free to invite friends and family who want to find out more about becoming and being an architect.

**Monday 23 November 2020
18.30 - 20.00**

REGISTER

<http://go.qub.ac.uk/arch-pe>

We will be joined by Prof. Julia Barfield of Marks Barfield Architects who will discuss the importance of architects in addressing the climate emergency.

Ask us a question here:
<https://go.qub.ac.uk/arch-question>



CAREERS
DEPARTMENT



WINTER ASSESSMENTS

All pupils in year 8 – 10 are reminded that their Winter Subject Assessments will be taking place from Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th November.

Subject teachers will inform Year 11 pupils about the timing of their assessments.

Christmas Assessments 2020 Year 8

Year 8

	Mon 23 rd	Tues 24 th	Wed 25 th	Thur 26 th
Session 1 (9.00 -10.05)	French (1 hour)	Physics (1 hour)	Digital Technology (30 Mins)	Maths (1 hour)
Session 2 (10.20-11.25)	History (30 mins)	REVISION	Music (30 mins)	REVISION
Session 3 (11.30 – 1.10)	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION
Session 4 (1.10 – 2.15)	REVISION	Geography (30 mins)	Spanish (30 mins)	HE (30 mins)
Session 5 (2.20-3.20)	Biology (30 mins)	RS (30 mins)	English (1 hour)	Chemistry (40 mins)

Christmas Assessments 2020 Year 9

Year 9

	Mon 23 rd	Tues 24 th	Wed 25 th	Thur 26 th
Session 1 (9.00 -10.05)	Physics (1 hour)	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION
Session 2 (10.20-11.25)	Spanish (30 mins)	English (50 mins)	Maths (1 hour)	History (30 mins)
Session 3 (11.30 – 1.10)	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION
Session 4 (1.10 – 2.15)	Chemistry (40 mins)	Music (30 mins)	Geography (30 mins)	Digital Technology (40 mins)
Session 5 (2.20-3.20)	RS (30 mins)	HE (30 mins)	French (1 hour)	Biology (30 mins)

Christmas Assessments 2020 Year 10

Year 10

	Mon 23 rd	Tues 24 th	Wed 25 th	Thur 26 th
Session 1 (9.00 -10.05)	English (1 hour)	History (45 mins)	Maths (1 hour)	Music (30 mins)
Session 2 (10.20-11.25)	REVISION	French (1 hour)	RS (45 mins)	REVISION
Session 3 (11.30 – 1.10)	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION
Session 4 (1.10 – 2.15)	HE (30 mins)	Digital Technology (40 mins)	REVISION	Chemistry (40 mins)
Session 5 (2.20-3.20)	Geography (30 mins)	Biology (30 mins)	Physics (1 hour)	Spanish (30 mins)

- Please be seated in your classroom by 8.45am sharp. Registration will take place as normal from Monday 23rd November – Thursday 26th November.
- You must arrive back to your exam classroom throughout the day at **10.20 am and 12.35 am SHARP.**
- Bring books and notes for each exam subject as you may be given time at the start of an exam slot to revise, depending on the length of your exam. Do not rely on this time for important revision, this will simply be for reading through revision notes again, so come to your exam prepared in advance!
- Bags should be left **under** your seat.
- Mobile phones are not allowed.
- You will only be allowed a small pencil case on your desk.
- No food to be eaten in exam room. You may bring 1 bottle of water only.
- **Talking or cheating during exams will result in 0 marks.**

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Composer and Performer put us through our paces

A Level Music students, Daniel Sharpe and Yasin Difallah, have been working remotely with composer Elaine Agnew on a project as part of Belfast Music Society's Centenary celebrations. Along with students in Methodist College, the boys have been commissioned to compose a song for Baritone and Piano which will be performed in the new year. Last week they were able to meet with Elaine in person which helped us realise just how much we have taken live music-making for granted. Elaine was joined by Ben McAteer, a professional singer, who sang through the 'works in progress' and challenged the boys' musical decisions and questioning them intensely for almost an hour each. It was such a worthwhile experience to hear their music begin to take on a life of its own as we are all very much looking forward to the final performances of these in January which will be recorded and streamed online.



Congratulations to Joshua Boyd, Year 13, on achieving a Merit in his Grade 5 Clarinet Examination last month.



A Virtual Singing Experience

Over the October Half-Term I had the amazing opportunity to participate in the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland course alongside Julia Officer and Holly McConnell who both took part in the Junior Choir course.

These courses usually run for a week at the end of July in Campbell College, with a residential available for members of the older choirs. However, they were unable to take place in their usual format this year due to the current pandemic and were instead rescheduled as Zoom meetings. When I first found out that the choir would be taking place over a screen and not face to face I didn't know what to expect and I was nervous as to what it would include. After taking part, however, I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed the week and would recommend anyone who loves to sing to participate: it was such an amazing experience.

We received sheet music and a timetable to print off in advance and were given a meeting ID and password every morning. We had to log on at 8:45am ready for classes to begin at 9am sharp and from there we were separated into breakout rooms according to our choir sections for our warm up. We were then organised into groups via breakout rooms throughout the day for our classes such as warm up, full choir rehearsals, break, musicianship and sectionals. Classes finished at 1:15pm but the training choir were giving the great opportunity to attend an afternoon class. These classes included vocal health, performance psychology and even a Question and Answer session with the American composer Elaine Hagenburg to discuss her composition 'The Music of Stillness'. This is one of the reasons why the zoom classes were very beneficial because we were able to talk to musicians from Scotland, England and America, which is something that wouldn't usually be possible.

In order for the zoom classes to work, all pupils had to have their microphones on mute while singing so the sound wouldn't echo but the coach kept their microphone on in order to sing phrases of the music that we would then sing back to ourselves. The coaches then shared their screens with us so we could hear backing tracks and we were able to sing along with Youtube videos and previously recorded backing tracks to ensure we had learnt the parts correctly. Finally, at the very end of the week we were emailed backing tracks with just our choir part singing and were asked to record ourselves singing along to these tracks which we listened to through headphones. After we had recorded all of our parts, we then attached our videos to Dropbox links and uploaded them so all of our videos could be synced together to make one big virtual recording.

I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to take part in this very different experience and can't wait to participate in the course again next year. I feel that I have not only enhanced my musical ability but have developed my technological skills too, and who doesn't need to finely tune the latter of these under the current restrictions to life!

Anna Officer, Year 12