



CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SHEET OF CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



carrickfergusgrammar.com



twitter.com/@carrickgrammar



facebook.com/carrickfergusgrammar

ISSUE 5

Friday 27th October 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BOOK DRIVE** – If anyone has any books which you have read and no longer need which would be useful for our Year 8 to 10 class libraries, we would really appreciate it if you would send them into school. Any books suitable for ages 11 – 14 would be very much appreciated.
- **MUSIC** - The date for ABRSM exams is Wednesday 22 November. Individual timings will be posted in the music corridor. A few pupils have still not paid for their exams. This should be brought in asap.
- **Half Term Holidays – School is closed from Monday 30th October and reopens on Monday 6th November on a week 1 timetable.**

November Calendar

- 10th November** – Remembrance Assembly
11th November – AQE Test 1
15th November - Year 8 Parent/Class Tutor Interviews & Year 8 Information Evening
18th November – Senior Choir at 150th Anniversary of SU
22nd November – Year 9 Parent-Teacher Interviews
25th November – AQE Test 2
27th to 30th November – Assessments for Years 8 to 11



Pupil planners - Please remember to check the home/school communication pages at the back of the pupil planner regularly. Lunchtime detentions are also recorded there.
Please sign to acknowledge you have seen the messages

Clubs & Activities

ICT Club – meets after school each Wednesday afternoon in Rm 11

Photography Club – meets after school each Wednesday at 3.30pm in Rm 25

Creative Writing Club – Friday lunchtime on a Week 1 meet in Rm 38

Chess Club – meets Tuesday & Thursday lunchtimes in Rm 19

Bridge Club – meets Tuesday lunchtime in Rm 49

Cookery Club – meets Tuesday 3.30 to 4.30pm in Room 46.

Scripture Union – meets Wednesday lunchtime in Rm 6

Drama Club - meets after school each Thursday afternoon at 3.30 to 4.30pm in Rm 26

Science Club – meets after school each Thursday afternoon at 3.30 to 4.30pm in the Science Department

Quiz Night

Thank you to all who came to our recent quiz night. £370 was raised which is a brilliant start to the new school year.

Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th November at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for chat and a cuppa!

Sales of Pre-loved Uniform

Thank you for all the pre-loved uniform which has been donated to the **Parents' Association**. We will continue to collect items throughout the year so please leave any items you wish to donate at school reception.

Please contact us at cgspta@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to purchase any items.

The Poppy Appeal will be in school up until 10th November



MATHS DEPARTMENT

- Maths Clinic will run each Monday after school for an hour in room 18 for all year 11 – 14 pupils who would like some extra support with their Maths. Pupils can come with problems to get explained or just sit and work through their Maths homework or past papers booklets and questions.
- Numeracy Support will run for an hour each Wednesday afternoon (starting 4th Oct) in the Grainger Centre for year 8 – 12 pupils who would like some extra support with their Maths. Pupils can come with problems to get explained or just to sit and work through their Maths homework or the support materials on Fronter.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

- Anyone in years 8-12 who needs help with any aspect of English is welcome to come along to English Clinic after school on Tuesdays from 3.30 – 4.30pm in room 38 for support.
- Well done to all those who took part in the “Truth or Dare” poetry competition for National Poetry Day, many of the poems produced were of a high quality and pupils who participated made it very difficult to choose a winner! Congratulations particularly to our winners in each Year group: **Ella-Rose Curley (Year 8), Nicole Scott (Year 9) and Amy Alderdice (Year 10)**.

FRENCH DEPARTMENT

- The French Clinic runs every Thursday after school in room 3, from 3.30 to 4.15 for all pupils in Years 8 to 14 who would like some help and support with their French or who would just like to work on their French.

SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES

Please note the following changes to the school calendar which are due to the two days of Exceptional Closure caused by Storm Ophelia.

Event	Previous date & time	New date & time
Year 9 Parent-Teacher interviews	Wed 8 November 4.15 – 7.00 pm	Wed 22 November 12.45 – 3.30 pm
Year 8 Parent-Teacher interviews	Mon 13 November 9.00 am – 4.30 pm	Wed 15 November 9.00 am – 4.30 pm
Year 8 Information Evening	Mon 13 November 7.00 pm	Wed 15 November 7.00 pm

Pupils in Years 8, 10-14 will finish school at 12.40 pm on Wed 22 November because of Year 9 Parent-Teacher interviews. There will be no canteen facilities for lunchtime that day.

Year 9 pupils should therefore bring a packed lunch to school. Break will be as normal.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

There are lots of activities to get involved with in the Music Society and everyone is welcome. This is the schedule for a typical week:

Monday Lunchtime:	Senior Choir (Years 11 to 14)
Tuesday Breaktime:	Boys' Choir (all Year Groups)
Tuesday Lunchtime:	Traditional Music Club (all year groups and no experience necessary)
Tuesday After School (until 4.15pm):	Junior Girls' Choir (Years 8 to 11)
Wednesday After School (until 4.45pm):	Senior Choir (Years 11 to 14)
Thursday After School (until 4.30pm):	Concert Band (Anyone who plays a wind, brass or percussion instrument)
Thursday After School (until 4.30pm):	String Orchestra & Concert Band (All string instruments welcome)
Friday Lunchtime:	Senior Choir

Other groups meet now and again and if you are interested in starting a group, speak with Mr Craig or Mrs Withers. You do not have to receive instrumental tuition or be studying music at GCSE or A Level to be part of any of these groups. There is still a place available for private tuition on Violin, Harp, Brass and Singing. (Piano, Clarinet and Flute is full up but we can create a waiting list if you are interested)



Senior Choir will be participating in the 150th Anniversary of Scripture Union at the Waterfront Hall On Saturday 18th November.



ATTENDANCE REMINDER

When your child is absent from school you no longer need to contact us in the morning to alert us or send a note when they return to school. A text message will be sent automatically during the morning (between 11.15 and 12.00 am) asking you to reply with the reason for the absence. This reply text will serve as an absence note on the child's return to school. If you tell us in the reply that your child will be off for more than one day we can record this on the system and a text will not be sent the next day.

Please remember to reply to texts as soon as possible when your child is absent from school.

Please do not include any picture message or emoji in your reply as this stops the reply from coming back to the school.

By using the text message facility our school is able to reassure you that we are meeting the Government's recommendations in contacting you on the first day of your child's absence. It will also provide an early warning system should your child go missing from school. As always your child's safety is our main concern.

We also intend to use this system on occasion to contact you directly by text message to your mobile phone, to keep you updated with events in school and to notify you quickly should the occasion arise to do so. E-Mails may also be sent using this system. Messages will show as being from 'CGS'.

Good attendance in school is vital for success and I hope you agree that this is a useful service and one which helps to make the home-school link work effectively.

Mrs Kane (Head of Pastoral Care)

CONGRATULATIONS

Clare McIntosh (Year 13) has recently attained her Senior Black Belt in Ju Jitsu. Clare has been an active participant in this sport for six and a half years. The black belt achievement was the result of a full years training including a mock grading, theory exam and a two hour physical exam. Clare was under close inspection during the assessment process and has now been awarded the title of Sho Dan (1st Dan). She is the youngest senior blackbelt in her club and is now working towards the 2nd Dan black belt.

Well done Clare!



Saturday Sporting Fixtures

Due to Half Term Holidays there is no rugby or hockey on 28th October and 4th November

Netball News

Congratulations to Katherine Sheeran and Cara Hughes who have been selected for the Netball NI Future Internationals U15 Academy Squad. We wish the girls all the very best as they train and play with the squad throughout the season.



Past Pupil Success

At the annual Ulster University Business School's Student Awards, former pupil, Natalie Hall picked up two awards. Natalie won the KPMG Award for the Highest Performing Student in Year Two and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants Achievement of Excellence Award for being the Top student in Management Accounting.

Natalie studied A-Level Accounting achieving an A grade. In Year 14 she secured a BDO scholarship that provides her with financial and academic support at university, alongside paid work placements.



Natalie is the 3rd straight winner of this award from Carrickfergus Grammar School, following on from Thomas Livings and Lyndsey Reid.



CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Careers Events: November

Date	Event	Year Group	Time	Location	Contact Teacher/ Further Information
30 th October- 3 rd November	St.Mary's University College: Taster Days – BEd Degree in Primary and Post Primary Teacher Education & BA Degree in Liberal Arts	13 & 14		St. Mary's University College	Book in advance. Email: s.morgan@smucb.ac.uk OR Tel: 90268366 Please state your name, contact details and which subject you are interested in.
30 th October, 31 st October & 2 nd November	Ulster University: Nutrition Taster Day	13	Starts 9.15	Coleraine Campus	www.ulster.ac.uk/nutritiontasterdays
3 rd November	Ulster University: Optometry Taster Day	13	Starts 1pm	Coleraine Campus	
3 rd November	Ulster University: Biology & Biomedical Sciences Taster Day	13	Starts 9.30am	Coleraine Campus	www.ulster.ac.uk/biomedbioltasters
15 th November	Queens: Social Work Information Evening	13	6.30pm – 8pm	Queens	www.qub.ac.uk/SSESW
16 th November	Queens: Parents'/ Guardian' Evening: Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	13	7pm- 9.30pm	Queens, Whitla Hall	www.qub.ac.uk/study/AHSS/Parents_Evening_Nov2017/
16 th November	Digital Futures Event	9	2 sessions tbc	Assembly Hall	Mrs Buchanan
17 th November	Guest Speaker	14	Period 4	Lecture Theatre	Mrs Buchanan
29 th November	Queens: School of Pharmacy – Parent's Evening	12,13 & 14	6.30-9pm	Queens: Whitla Hall	Booking essential www.qub.ac.uk/Study/MHLS/PharmacyParentsEvening/

Careers Announcements

Careers Guidance Interviews (by appointment only) are every Thursday in Thornfield. Appointments can be made with Mrs Barry in the Grainger Centre.