

BLOOMFIELD COLLEGIATE SCHOOL NEWS



October 2023



**OUR ETHOS:
EXCELLENCE IN A CARING
COMMUNITY**

**OUR VISION:
BEING EXCEPTIONAL IN ALL
THAT WE DO**



Friday 27th October:
Prize Day
School ends at 12.15pm

Monday 30 October to
Friday 3 November (inc.)
Autumn half-term holiday

Friday 1 December
Staff training day
School closed to pupils

Thursday 14 December
Carol Service
St. Columba's Church

Friday 15 December
Ski Trip

Thursday 21 December
End of Term
School ends at 12 noon

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through October; nights are drawing in, Strictly is on TV and the far-too-eager BCS dinner ladies are already celebrating Halloween.

It has been a really exciting start to the year, with a range of clubs and societies restarting in school and many of our pupils starring beyond Bloomfield. I will try to capture as much of that activity as I can in these monthly newsletters, which, you will notice, have a different format in response to your requests that they feature more about the most important people in the school - our pupils.

Given the age of many of our buildings, we will, over half-term and beyond, have contractors on site to replace a number of drainage and sewerage pipes. This will impact initially only on the Gray building. Portable toilet blocks will be installed during works to ensure that we have enough provision for all pupils.

This term, our focus so far in the classroom has been on establishing good routines to begin lessons, with "Do Nows" becoming a feature of lessons. In the coming weeks, we will be shifting the focus to oracy and questioning. More information, and feedback from our student survey, will appear in next month's newsletter.

I hope that you enjoy our new BCS News.

Principal

A CARING COMMUNITY

Well done to all who were involved in either the ReadOn event after the Summer exams or the Colour Run event on the last day. Almost £2000 was raised for Cancer Fund for Children, and our front cover shows a cheque being presented by Ms Furphy and pupils to Rebecca from the charity after a Junior Assembly last month.

Well done also to members of staff who recently raised over £200 for Macmillan with a coffee morning.

Our Summer Term Young Philanthropist Initiative winners, Lola Elliot, Ela Kayak and Emma Ingham, pictured here with Vice-Principal, Mrs Thomson, won £200 to give to Children's Heartbeat Trust.



BCS PE KIT

NO!

YES!



PUPILS SHOULD COME TO SCHOOL WEARING PE KIT ONLY ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

YEAR 8 – FRIDAY

YEAR 9 – MONDAY

YEAR 10 – THURSDAY

YEARS 11 & 12 – WEDNESDAY

This poster is aimed at pupils to provide a visual for what is deemed acceptable and unacceptable PE kit for wearing in, to and from school.

We use this as part of our whole-school approach to ensuring high standards of appearance and safety.



NOT FOR WEAR TO SCHOOL:

- NON-SCHOOL HOODIES
- SCHOOL TRIP/CLUB HOODIES
- WHITE TEAM POLO TOP (CLUBS/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ONLY)
- MESH/RIPPED/RUCHED/PATTERN LEGGINGS
- HIGH-TOP SHOES – **NO SUPPORT** (CONVERSE)
- FLAT SOLED SHOES – **NO SUPPORT** (NIKE AIR FORCE/DUNKS/VANS)

WE ARE AWARE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PARENTS HAVE PURCHASED **NIKE AIR FORCE** OR SIMILAR FLAT-SOLED FASHION TRAINERS. WE ALSO KNOW THAT IT IS A DIFFICULT FINANCIAL CLIMATE FOR MANY PARENTS. ALTHOUGH NOT SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL SPORT, PUPILS MAY CONTINUE TO WEAR THESE TRAINERS, WITH PARENTAL PERMISSION, UNTIL REPLACED BY MORE APPROPRIATE SPORTS SHOES.

CONVERSE AND SIMILAR CANVAS/HIGH-TOP SHOES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR SAFETY REASONS.

BCS PUPIL NEWS



Harriett Leahy (Year 8) took part in football trials throughout the summer to compete with girls from different football clubs around Belfast for a chance to be chosen to be part of the SBYL Select squad the 2011 age-group.

Harriett was successful and has made the select squad, which is a massive achievement. This gives her great opportunities to travel to England and Scotland to compete with the squad. Also, she will be travelling to Spain next summer to play in the Costa Blanca cup.

This is the first year the SBYL league have opened the select team for girls. Well done, Harriett!



Anabell De Gouveia and **Gracie Regan** (Year 10) were recently nominated for the Ulster Hockey Talent Development Program.

They attended the assessment on Sunday 8th October, and we are delighted to share that they were successful.

We are proud of them both and wish them well this season and beyond.



Darcey Newell (Year 9) competed in the Weightlifting Ireland National Age-Grade Championship in September.

She picked up a gold medal on the day, ranking her the top Under 15 female weightlifter in Ireland!!!!



Darcy Feeney (Year 13) came to us this year to study in our 6th form. We are delighted to share in her accomplishments and celebrate her sporting excellence.

She also exhibits the key defining feature of a Bloomfield girl: care for others. Read more here:

[Netball star Darcy latest member of the Feeney family to make an impact on sporting stage](#)

Golf continues to go from strength to strength in the school.

Twin sisters, **Megan** and **Helen Boyd** (Year 13), have represented their club, Donaghadee, at the highest level this season while the school team, comprising of Helen, Annie Armstrong and Erin Poots, has qualified for the Irish Schools' Championships later this year.

Congratulations and good luck to all.



Our Art Department continues to produce amazing talent. **Loren Allen**, who left us after A level in the summer, received the People's Choice Award in the inaugural Terry Bradley Art Competition this summer, during which voting period her work was exhibited in Titanic Belfast alongside Terry Bradley's Exodus exhibition.

Loren's oil painting, M23, was submitted from her A level coursework, and displays a superb control in the medium. Her work will now be travelling to Brussels for display in the Northern Ireland Executive Office.

Parents and friends can keep in touch with all that is going on at Bloomfield via our Official Facebook and Twitter/X accounts.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE



Welcome to Safer Schools NI, the home of online safeguarding for school communities in Northern Ireland. Safer Schools NI is a partnership between the Department of Education and Ineqe Safeguarding Group.

The digital world is 24/7; it's outside and inside of the school gates, so you need a service that does the same. Safer Schools NI is a digital library of age-appropriate safeguarding resources that you can check out anytime, from your phone to your computer to your classroom.

For details on how to download and use the app, see the attached document.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Bloomfield Collegiate School sustains a safeguarding ethos; it is recognised that, not only does the School have statutory responsibilities in relation to pupils' learning, it also carries pastoral responsibility towards all pupils in its care.

The School believes that individual pupils should be supported in achieving positive academic outcomes through the provision of pro-active, engaged, responsive and enabling pastoral care. The School accepts that all pupils in its charge have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and will seek to do whatever is reasonable to safeguard and promote the physical and emotional well-being of its pupils.

A copy of our Safeguarding Policy can be found on the school website within the Policy Section.

Bloomfield Collegiate School prides itself on its tradition of caring for individual pupils, educating the whole person and emphasising the importance of positive human relationships. The Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy reflects the School aims of fostering individual pupil growth by promoting responsibility and self-respect, as well as encouraging sensitivity, respect and tolerance of the moral and religious views of others.

The School will strive to deliver RSE sensitively within a caring, moral and spiritual framework, through a balanced and comprehensive programme appropriate to the maturity of the pupils.

A copy of our RSE Policy can be found on the school website within the Policy Section.

THE BACK PAGE

BREAKFAST @ BCS

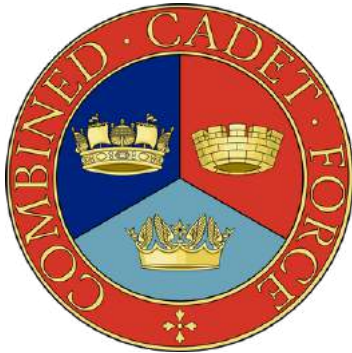
**OUR CANTEEN IS OPEN
FROM 8.15AM FOR PUPILS
TO PURCHASE CEREAL,
TOAST AND JUICE.**

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR
CHILD ALWAYS HAS CREDIT
ON THEIR ACCOUNT TO
PAY FOR MEALS.**



Older pupils (Years 13 and 14 born before 1st December 2006) can now register to vote.

Registering to vote is easy online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and takes less than 5 minutes. Being on the electoral register entitles the young person to vote and is also used by banks, mobile phone companies etc... to verify identity. It is thus doubly important for all young persons to register.



A range of excellent and fulfilling volunteering opportunities currently exist within the school's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) for our teachers, staff and parents. Although sometimes uniformed, you will need no military background as this organisation just uses the Tri-Service model to facilitate the many opportunities that are on offer, including mountaineering, canoeing, leadership and living in the field, Cat D1 and C Driving licences, Duke of Edinburgh's Award instructor and assessor awards and First Aid at Work qualifications.

Additionally, you will be remunerated for a substantial amount of your commitment within the CCF. The CCF meet on a Wednesday evening and a number of weekends throughout the year. If you feel you might be interested please contact Ms Ann Marie Andersen to arrange a chat.

Letter from Education Authority

The Education Authority (EA) has warned of expected disruption to some school services as a result of industrial action notified by UNISON. This action will consist of action short of strike from 16 October 2023 to 20 November 2023 as well as a full day of strike action on 16 November 2023.

The EA is working with schools, youth services and partners to minimise any disruption to children and young people caused by the industrial action. However, despite this, there will be disruption to some services; at this stage the EA anticipate that the impact is likely to be most significant across some classroom assistant, catering and cleaning services.

We encourage parents/carers to check the EA website for regular updates and details of any planned disruption here: www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates Information is also available across EA social media channels.