

A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

BE A
STAR



YEAR 9

PARENT
INFORMATION

2024-25



WELCOME TO YEAR 9

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child into Year 9. As we enter Year 9 there will be new challenges, new adventures, new beginnings, and new opportunities. This is a time to renew decisions and look forward to a year of success. This success is your story, you write it. What will be your success story?

In Belfast Model School for Girls our slogan is "Attend today, Achieve tomorrow." A time when attendance and punctuality are essential as every lesson is valuable. Attendance affects your learning. Attendance will affect your results.

I would encourage your child to become fully involved in Belfast Model School for Girls and join a club or extra -curricular activity and embrace an opportunity to learn new things and be a part of our community. This may be the incentive which sparks their enthusiasm for that subject at GCSE.

As we enter this journey our slogan for Year 9 is "Be A Star". We encourage our students to be a star- in the classroom, on the football pitch, on the stage, talking to friends and completing homework. In the Girls' Model we encourage every student to believe that they have the potential to achieve. Every student can have big dreams and be the visionaries of this generation.

We have compiled this booklet to assist you and your child as they enter Year 9. Enclosed you will find information about Form Tutors, pastoral topics, key dates, uniform, focus for the year in school and attendance. If there is anything you are unsure about, please speak to your child's Form Tutor.

As always throughout the year you can speak to your child's Form Tutor or contact myself or the ALOL, Miss McKibbin.

I look forward to an exciting and adventurous journey and as always, we will achieve it together as one.

Warm regards,

Mrs A. Thomas

Mrs A Thomas (Leader of Learning)



PEOPLE YOU WILL GET TO KNOW

Some faces you can expect to see more of in 2024/25:

1. Mrs A Graham - *KS3 Leader of Learning*
agraham747@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
2. Mrs A Thomas - *Year 9 Leader of Learning*
athomas667@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
3. Miss J McKibbin - *Year 9 Assistant Leader of Learning*
jmckibbin565@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk

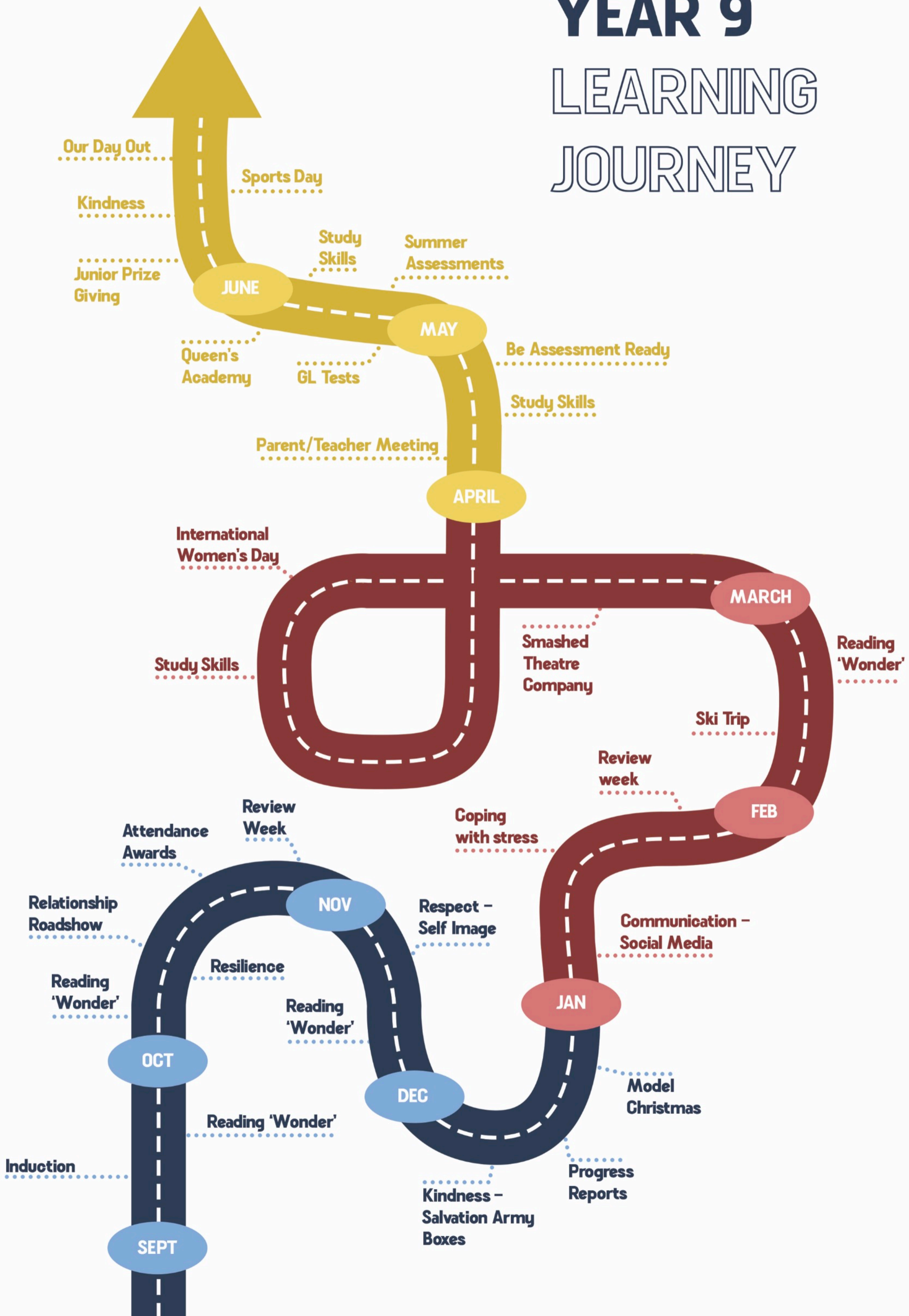


FORM TUTORS

- 9NM** - Mr N McIlhatton
nmcilhatton338@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
- 9JV** - Mrs J Milasinovich
jmilasinovich179@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
- 9COL** - Mrs A McCollam
amccollam229@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
- 9GB** - Mrs G Beattie
gbeattie629@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
- 9RF** - Mr R Fitzpatrick
rfitzpatrick402@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk

- 9RYR** - Miss C Ryder
cryder327@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
- 9SV** - Mr B Savage
bsavage799@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
- 9AB** - Mr A Black
ablack350@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk
- 9CM** - Miss C McKeown
- 9LL** - Miss LA Lavery
llavery423@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk

YEAR 9 LEARNING JOURNEY



SCHOOL

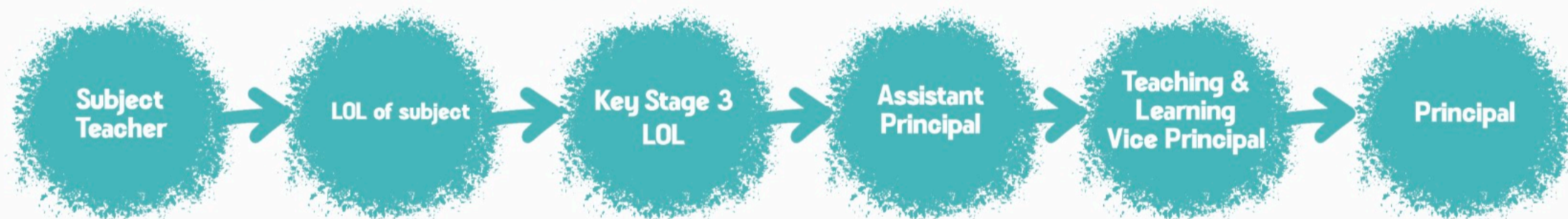
TIMETABLE

PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
REGISTRATION	8.50 - 9.00	8.50 - 9.00	8.50 - 9.00	8.50 - 9.00	8.50 - 9.00
1	9.00 - 9.40	9.00 - 9.40	9.00 - 9.40	9.00 - 9.40	9.00 - 9.40
2	9.40 - 10.20	9.40 - 10.20	9.40 - 10.20	9.40 - 10.20	9.40 - 10.20
BREAK	10.20 - 10.35	10.20 - 10.35	10.20 - 10.35	10.20 - 10.35	10.20 - 10.35
3	10.35 - 11.15	10.35 - 11.15	10.35 - 11.15	10.35 - 11.15	10.35 - 11.15
4	11.15 - 11.55	11.15 - 11.55	11.15 - 11.55	11.15 - 11.55	11.15 - 11.55
5 (Yr 8 lunch)	11.55 - 12.35	11.55 - 12.35	11.55 - 12.35	11.55 - 12.35	11.55 - 12.35
6A (Yr 10,12,13 lunch)	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10
6B (Yr 9,11,14 lunch)	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45
7	1.45 - 2.25	1.45 - 2.25	1.45 - 2.25	1.45 - 2.25	1.45 - 2.25
8	2.25 - 3.05	2.25 - 3.05	2.25 - 3.05	BUSES COLLECT AT 2.25PM	
9	3.05 - 3.35	3.05 - 3.35	BUSES COLLECT AT 3.05PM		
BUSES COLLECT AT 3.35PM					

CONTACTING US

If you have a question, query or concern about any aspect of school life, please contact:

A SUBJECT/CURRICULUM CONCERN



A PASTORAL/ SAFEGUARDING CONCERN



Where at all possible, parents should avoid coming to the school without an appointment. Instead we ask that you ring ahead to seek an appointment at a time when the member of staff who you need to speak to is free. This avoids any interruptions to teaching and learning, as we do not allow teachers to leave classes for meetings.

Please ring the school, leave a message with our reception team with a brief outline of the issue and the member of staff will call you back as soon as they can. It is reasonable that this call may come the next day (for example, some staff teach all day without a break and then may have a personal appointment/child-care arrangement after school - staff have 48 hours to return a call). Alternatively, you can leave a note in your daughter's planner requesting a call back.

PLEASE NOTE:

Where parents feel their complaint is of a very serious nature, or relates to the health, safety and/or wellbeing of a young person, they should make contact with the Principal's PA and it will be directed to Senior Staff.



THE

MODEL WAY



Ready

- Take pride in your uniform and be well equipped for school.
- Remain focused on learning in the classroom.



Respectful

- Be polite and respectful to everyone.
- Take responsibility for your own actions.



Safe

- Move around the school in a quiet, responsible way.
- Take pride in our school environment.

KS3



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

LEARNING AGREEMENT

1. I will wear full uniform/PE kit at all times as outlined in the school policy.
2. I will attend school every day and be punctual (8.45am - 3.35pm).
3. I will have a positive attitude to my work and always try my best.
4. I will focus in lessons, completing the work to the best of my ability.
5. I will behave in a positive manner when in school and on my way to and from school.
6. I will at all times show respect and good manners to all staff and students, using positive kind language to communicate to others. I will follow The Model Way.
7. I will complete all homework set to the best of my ability at all times.
8. I will not use a mobile phone in school at any time from 8.45am - 3.35pm.
9. I will use social media sites and ICT appropriately and in a positive manner to enhance the learning experience.
10. I will follow the school Healthy Eating Guidelines at break and lunchtime not consuming inappropriate fizzy drinks and unhealthy foods e.g. Boost/Lucozade/BPM/Coke etc.

Student's Signature:

September
2024

As parents / guardians, I / we will encourage my / our daughter to do her best to comply with the above contract, I / we will support the school to support my / our child.

Parent/Guardian
Signature:

September
2024

As a school we will encourage and support each student to do her best to comply with the above contract.

Staff Signature:

September
2024

ATTEND TODAY

ACHIEVE TOMORROW

A school year is very short. It has only 190 days for students. This leaves 175 days for holidays and activities at home. Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for students to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

Parents or carers of a child have a legal responsibility to ensure their child receives a suitable education. This is usually achieved through regular attendance at school.

Our data shows students with higher attainment at KS3, KS4 and KS5 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment. The strong correlation between good attendance and academic achievement is evidenced in the table below. The student column represents our highest achieving students from our 2022-23 Year 12 cohort.

Student	Days of learning missed 2022-23	Academic Outcomes
A	0 days	5A* 5A 1B
B	4 days	3A* 3A 2B 1C*
C	0 days	3A* 4A 2B
D	3 days	4A* 2A 3B

Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid requesting leaves of absence for holidays unless it is unavoidable. Daily attendance and excellent punctuality is our goal for all students, in line with our mission statement 'Achievement for All'. Students must be in school when they are expected to be.

To ensure that absence is kept to a minimum and that all non-urgent appointments are made outside of school hours. It is appreciated that this can be difficult, however pupils finish at 2.25pm on Thursday and Friday which does allow most of Thursday and Friday afternoons for non-urgent appointments. Students MUST be collected by a parent or guardian when leaving school before the end of the day.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a student in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 27 lessons in total.

KEY REASONS TO ATTEND:



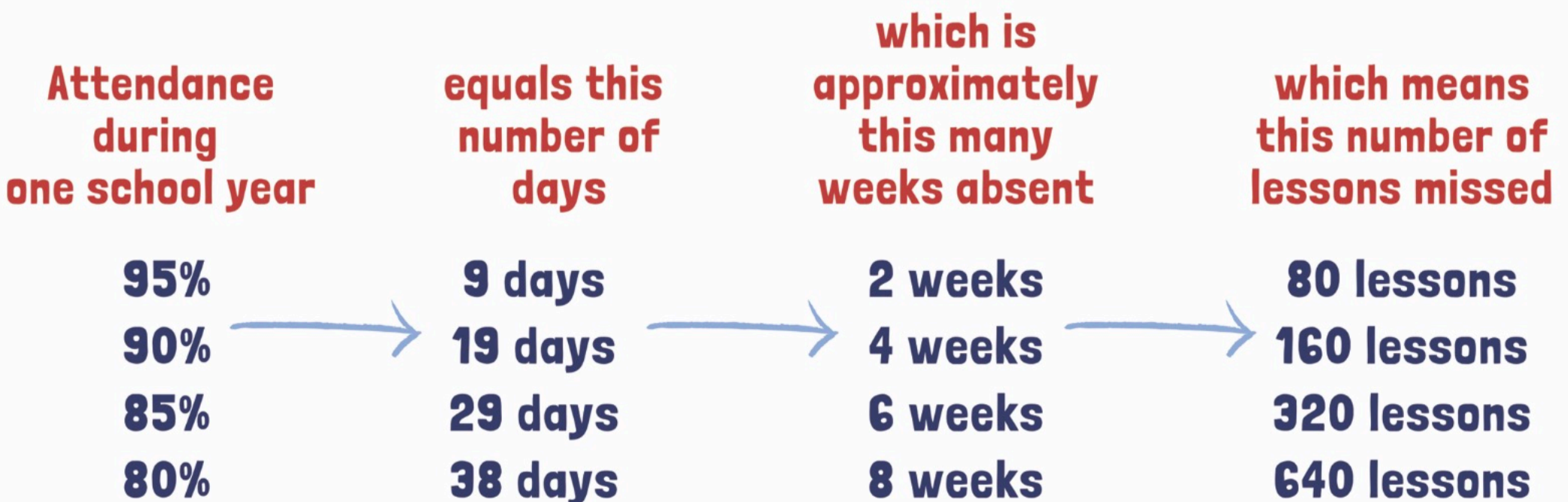
ATTENDANCE TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Every month the students are made aware of their attendance percentage and number of days missed. The students discuss this with their Form Tutor and decide whether it is on target or in need of improvement using the idea of traffic lights. They note their attendance information in their Student Planner. What surprises some students and also parents is that 90% attendance is not good; as it would be in a test or assessment!

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow.



HELP IN SCHOOL

If you have a concern about your own safety or the safety of another student the people to speak to in school are:



Mrs J Clarke

*Designated Teacher
for Child Protection*



www.childline.org.uk

Our full Safeguarding Policy is available on our website at:

www.belfastgms.org/site/parents/school-policies/

WELLBEING

HUB

Students can use the Wellbeing Hub to get help and support in relation to health and emotional needs, for example, paracetamol, plasters, hygiene items, uniform, access to counselling services and supports.

Medical Protocol



If a student needs to take medication in school:

1

Parent to bring medication into the school office



2

Parent to complete form AN8 (copies in office)



3

Student medication will be kept in The Wellbeing Hub.

Student will be issued with a 'Wellbeing Hub card' giving permission to leave class to go and take their medication when required.

Louise Finlay will be based in the Wellbeing Hub at these times to administer medication.

It is essential data capture forms are returned to let staff know if there is a short or long term medical issue.

To access The Wellbeing Hub students should:

1

Speak to their class teacher

2

Class teacher to email Louise Finlay who will go to the student.
Student must **NOT** be allowed to go to the office

IN AN EMERGENCY CONTACT THE ON CALL FIRST AIDER FOR YOUR ZONE

***PLEASE NOTE FOR THE ADMINISTERING OF BUCCAL MIDAZOLAM**

- Louise Finlay and Janice Clarke **MUST** be contacted immediately.


TERM DATES

& HOLIDAYS

2024/25



A L L D A T E S A R E I N C L U S I V E

 AUTUMN TERM	Tuesday 3rd September 2024 - Friday 20th December 2024	
	Mid Term Break <i>(Halloween)</i>	START Monday 28th October 2024
		FINISH Friday 1st November 2024
	INSET - Friday 27th September 2024 INSET - Friday 25th October 2024 P7 TASTER DAY - Monday 2nd December 2024	
Christmas Holiday	START Monday 23rd December 2024	
	FINISH Thursday 2nd January 2025	
 SPRING TERM	Monday 6th January 2025 - Wednesday 16th April 2025	
	Mid Term Break	START Monday 10th February 2025
		FINISH Friday 14th February 2025
	PTC - Friday 3rd January 2025 (Year 11 & 12) PTC - Friday 24th January 2025 (Year 10) SDD - Friday 7th March 2025 St Patrick's Day - Monday 17th March 2025 PTC - Tuesday 18th March 2025 (Year 13 & 14)	
Easter Holiday	START Thursday 17th April 2025	
	FINISH Friday 25th April 2025	
PTC - Monday 14th April 2025 (Year 8 & 9) SDD - Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th April 2025		
 SUMMER TERM	Wednesday 28th April 2025 - Monday 30th June 2025	
	BH - Monday 5th May 2025 BH - Monday 26th May 2025	SDD - Tuesday 27th May 2025

PLEASE NOTE:

Student Inductions will take place from Tuesday 27th August 2024

***Year 8 commence** - Friday 30th August 2024

KEY:

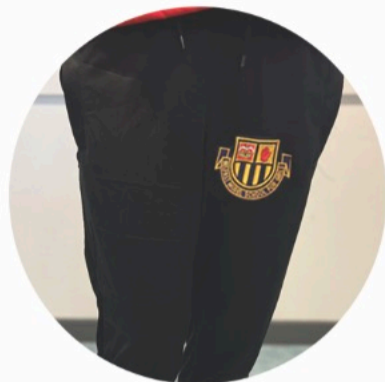
PTC - Parent Teacher Consultation (students in (brackets) only expected to attend)

***SDD** - School Development Day ***BH** - Bank Holiday ***INSET** - In-service Training ***P7 TASTER**

* = students not required to attend

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Black School Tracksuit bottoms with school crest



Black School Skort (optional) with school crest



Black School Shorts (optional) with school crest



Red School Hooded sweatshirt with school crest



Red School Polo shirt with school crest



Black 1/2 Zip with school crest



Black School t-shirt with school crest



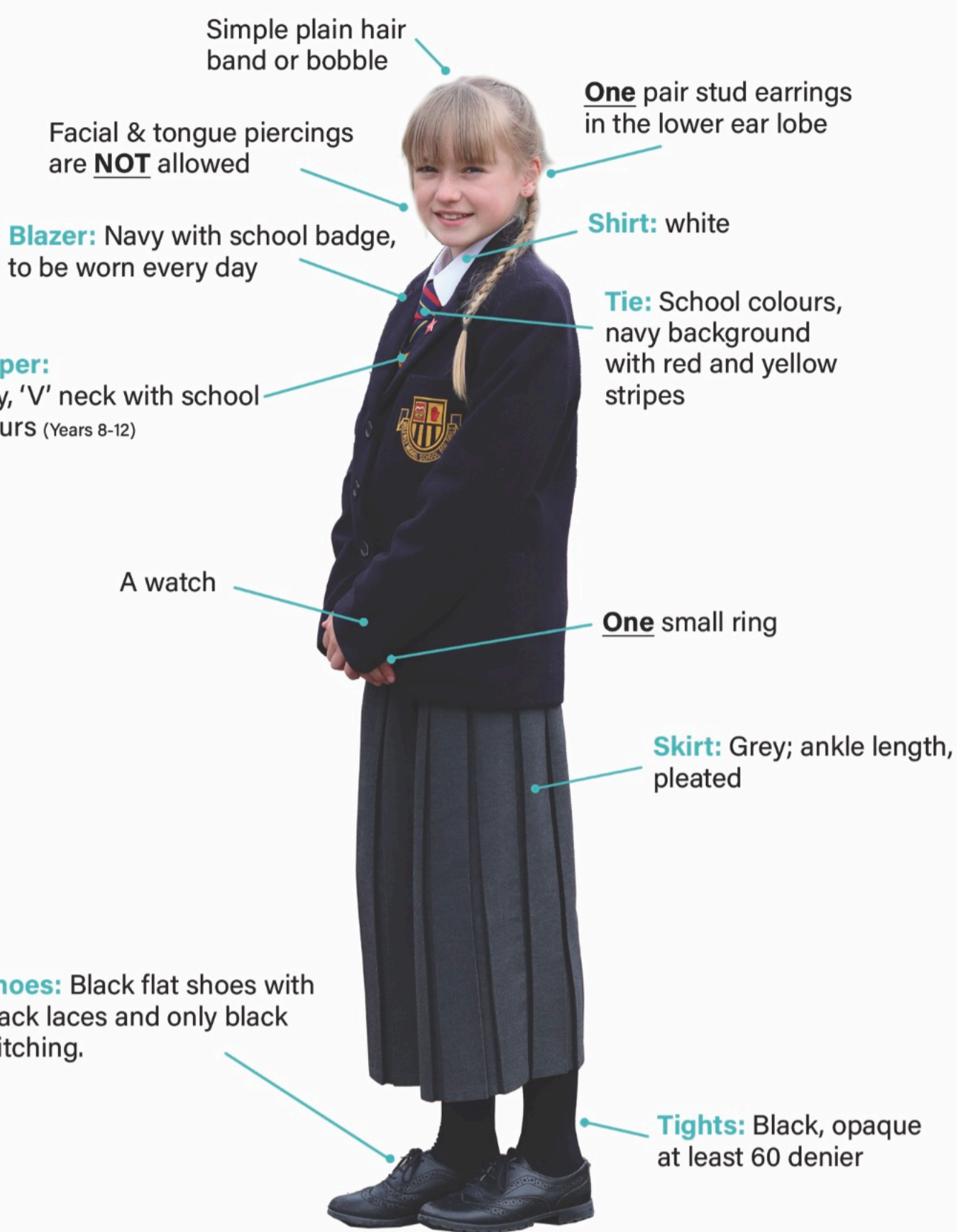
Red School Hooded sweatshirt with school crest

Gilet (optional) with school letters B.M.S.G

Socks: White trainer/ankle socks

Black School Leggings with school crest

Trainers: Vans/Converse etc are **NOT** permitted



You can purchase tracksuit bottoms OR leggings*.

You can purchase hoodie OR 1/2 zip*.

*Purchasing both is optional but not required.

GL PARENT GUIDE

In BMSG we use GL assessments to help give us a baseline for our students. This information provides us with the students' academic potential, their knowledge in specific subject areas and their reading age. We use this data to help set bespoke targets for each of our students to strive to achieve within each subject. These assessments are completed in cycles throughout Key Stage 3.

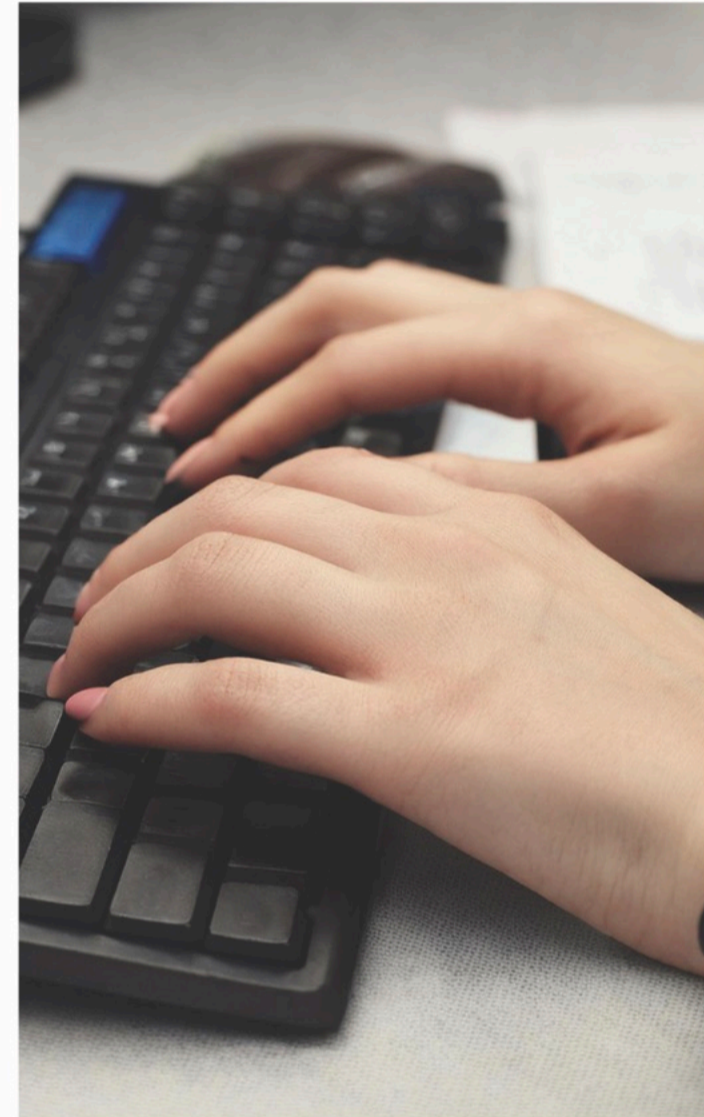
What is GL Assessment?

GL Assessment is the leading provider of formative assessments to schools across the UK and Ireland. Their extensive sets of data and reports can:

- Highlight strengths and gaps in reading and core subjects
- Reveal barriers to learning
- Identify and support students with additional educational needs
- Provide evidence of progress
- Deliver evidence of whole school improvement
- Directly inform teaching strategies

These skills based assessments do not require revision or study but rather provide an overview of key strengths alongside areas requiring greater focus. Each assessment is standardised against national NI benchmarks and provides teachers with qualitative and quantitative information to support each student's progress by:

- Highlighting where each student is at now and identifying any required support
- Identifying barriers or gaps in key curriculum areas
- Setting individualised subject targets based on current ability levels
- Indicating potential performance in future assessments
- Supporting planning for learning, teaching and assessment



CAT4 (Cognitive Ability Test)

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is an assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning. CAT4 data gives us a much broader, more rounded view of each student, their potential and how they learn. This allows teachers to control the pace of learning for each student and assess whether additional support or challenge is needed.

Progress Through Maths (PTM), Progress Through English (PTE), Progress Through Science (PTS) Tests

A series of subject specific assessments which assess each student's knowledge, understanding and application in our three core subject areas. These are used to track progress and when combined with CAT4, individualised subject targets are assigned in order to monitor attainment and progress.

New Group Reading Test (NGRT)

This is a standardised and adaptive assessment which is used to measure reading skills against the national average and to provide an assessment of each student's reading age. These reading ages and insights identify where reading intervention may be needed and assist in measuring reading progress over time.

Pupil Attitudes to Self and School Survey (PASS)

In this 50-question survey, pupils respond to a series of statements about school and learning. These correspond to nine factors proven to be linked to educational goals: feelings about school, perceived learning capability, self-regard, attitudes to teachers, general work ethic, attitudes to attendance, preparedness for learning, response to curriculum demands, and confidence in learning. GL provides a ready-made collection of follow-up activities to help us put pastoral support in place, allowing us to build upon our positive teacher/pupil relationships.

GL Assessment Scoring

Description	Very low	Below Average		Average			Above Average		Very high
Standard Age Score	<74	74-81	82-88	89-96	97-103	104-111	112-118	119-126	>126
Stanine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
National Ave.	4%	7%	12%	17%	20%	17%	12%	7%	4%

KEY

SAS (Standard Age Score provided for each assessment)

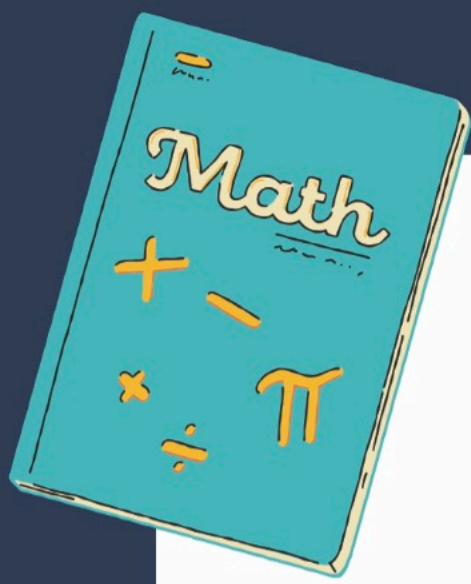
This is a standardised score which considers your daughter's age in years and months and gives an indication of how she is performing relative to a national sample of pupils of the same age. The average score is 100 (more detail can be found below).

Stanine (Bands provided for each assessment)

The stanine places your daughter's score on a scale of 1 (very low) to 9 (very high) and offers a broad overview of performance.

At the end of each academic year we award students at our Junior Prizegiving for progress in their data. Awards for:

- Most GL progress
- GL achievement winner
- GL achievement runner up



YEAR 9

MATHEMATICS

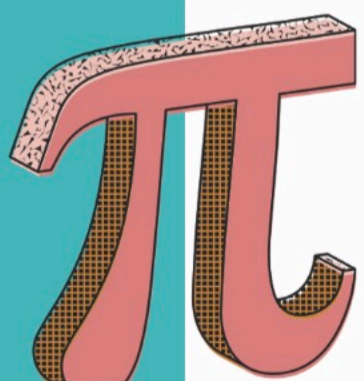
In Year 9 students are expected to develop a range of skills and mathematical techniques, consolidating work from Year 8 and preparing for the demands of Year 10. Topics covered include aspects of the Key areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry, Shape, Space and Measure, and Statistics.

In order to experience success students should continue to reinforce basic concepts such as times tables as these are the foundation for many topics.

Parents can help to promote a sense of fun and competition in learning these by listening to songs from YouTube, joining in games such as 'Hit the Button' and regular quizzing on these. Even those students who are familiar would benefit from increasing their recall speed.

As a department, we will endeavour to provide useful and relevant materials such as videos, games and additional practice for students via Google Classroom and other digital platforms, this is available to all students.

We also run a KS3 drop in after school on Thursday for those who may want to ask further questions, undertake additional practice or simply enjoy mathematical activities outside the normal classroom environment.





YEAR 9

ENGLISH

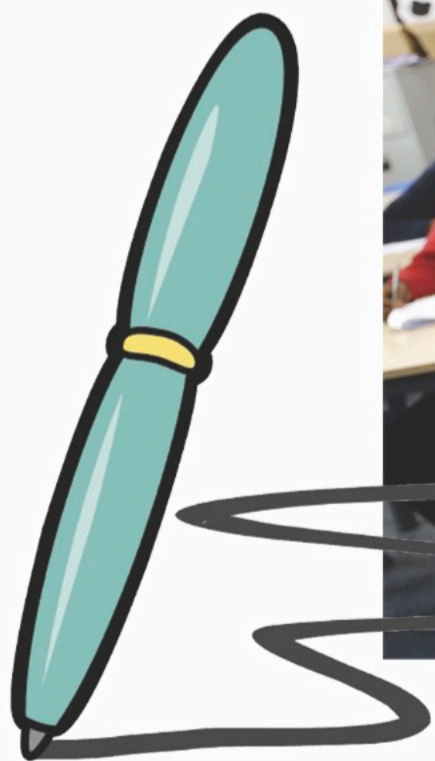
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YEAR 9 KEY DATES

- 29th August** – Induction and Curriculum meeting
- 23rd September** – Attendance Ceremony
- 28th October – 1st November** - Half Term
- 17th December** - Carol Service
- 23rd December - 3rd January** – Christmas Holidays
- 10th February - 14th February** – Half Term
- 17th March** – St Patrick’s Day
- 10th April** – Spring Concert
- 14th April** – Parent Consultation
- 6th May – 16th May** – GL Tests
- 5th June – 13th June** – KS3 Assessments
- 18th June** – Sports Day
- 20th June** – Junior Prize Giving
- 25th June** – Our Day Out



STUDENT PLANNERS

Every student is given a student planner at the beginning of the new academic year. This planner is a great source of information with term dates, uniform, monthly attendance. Your child will use this planner to update their monthly attendance, write down homeworks and record their reading books. There is a section at the back of the planner for you as the parent/guardian to send notes into school. Please make it regular routine to check your child’s planner and sign it.

APPOINTMENTS

As you are aware missing classes means your child will be missing work and therefore have work to catch up on. As a school we would encourage you, where possible to make appointments outside of school hours. On a Thursday and Friday our school day finishes at 2.25pm allowing time to get appointments after the school day.





Belfast Model School for Girls

35 Dunowen Gardens

Belfast

BT14 6NQ

t: 028 90 718111

e: info@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Principal:

Ms P Stuart - B.Ed, PGCE PQH NI, M. Ed

www.belfastgms.org



Scan for more info