

# Excellence *through* Care



Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

INFORMATION BOOKLET  
2026



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## Points of View - Year 8

"I love going to OLSPCK. I like learning new subjects; my favourite subject is Drama. I have made loads of new friends and have found that everyone is keen to help me if I need it. The bus is busy, but I always get a seat. I go to netball on a Friday and enjoy playing sport and hanging out with my new friends. My Mentors are lovely and I am enjoying getting to know them." *Sienna Lewis, St Bride's PS*

"I have really enjoyed OLSPCK so far. My favourite subjects are Drama, PE and French because my teachers are really nice and I enjoy the subjects. I have made lots of new friends from different primary schools. The Dining Hall is a nice place with some good food and a huge variety of options. The buses are pretty good as you don't have to wait that long for them to arrive. I have joined after-school football on a Thursday with Mr Kelly, and it is great fun. The College is a great place to learn." *Josh Wilson, St Ita's PS, Belfast*

"I have really been enjoying Year 8. All of the teachers are really nice and History Club is one of my favourite things about school. My favourite subjects are probably History and Employability. I have made a lot of friends even though I didn't think I would and the canteen food is better than I expected so I am very glad I came!" *Helena Groberio, St Patrick's PS, Holywood*

"I have settled into OLSPCK very well. I have done my homework when it's due and have met lots of new friends. Every teacher is so kind and welcoming and they all care about us. My favourite subject is Science. I love experiments. I have joined badminton, choir and Art club and I'm thinking of joining netball. OLSPCK is an amazing school! I'm so happy I got in." *Etta Kelly, Gilnahirk PS*

"I've found Knock to be fun and enjoyable. One of my favourite subjects is PE, especially because my PE teacher, Miss Deery, is also my Tutor. She's honestly the best teacher I've ever had! I've also been attending Culture Club, which I find exciting because I love learning about different cultures. In addition, I enjoy going to Book Club. I'm almost finished reading my Harry Potter book and can't wait to write a review on it." *Akshara Raman Soma Sundaram, St Malachy's PS, Belfast*

"Knock has been such a welcoming place and I've made lots of new friends. My favourite subject is Home Economics - just last week we baked scones, and they turned out delicious! I also take part in after-school Hurling, which I find really enjoyable." *Jack Quigley, St Patrick's PS, Ballygalget*

"I really enjoy the variety of subjects at OLSPCK. It's great moving around the College and seeing some of my teachers along the way. I made friends quickly with the girls in my tutor group and I like starting each morning in tutor class and hearing the announcements. After-school girls' football is so much fun and has really helped me improve my skills. I also enjoy visiting the canteen; the grab-and-go section is a fantastic addition to the regular options. Overall, I'm so glad I chose OLSPCK; it's been an amazing experience so far!" *Charlotte Reynolds, St Joseph's PS, Ballyhackamore*

"When I first started at OLSPCK I felt really nervous because I was the only girl from my primary school coming here. Now, I've made so many new friends, and the teachers have all been incredibly welcoming. I love moving between different classrooms for each subject - it makes learning so much more interesting." *Emily Clarke, Stranmillis PS*

"Since starting at OLSPCK, I've made so many wonderful new friends. All the girls in my tutor group are incredibly kind. I've really enjoyed every one of my subjects. The teachers are welcoming and genuinely caring, which has made settling in so easy. One of my favourite things is the after-school netball sessions on Fridays. They're always so much fun, and the PE teachers make them even better! I feel happy and grateful to be part of this school." *Cate Hirst, St Comgall's PS, Bangor*

"OLSPCK has been an amazing experience so far! I've really enjoyed my subjects, especially Art, Home Economics, Science and Drama. I've also made some great friends along the way. The canteen is fantastic, offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. Transport is convenient too, with plenty of buses available if I ever miss one. There are so many extra-curricular activities, like the Art and Culture Club, and I loved taking part in events such as the Wellbeing Fair and the Sponsored Walk." *Maya Shyam, St. Joseph's PS, Carryduff*

# Dear Parents and Prospective Pupils

Dear Parents and Pupils

Welcome to Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock. This booklet gives you additional information about the College and I hope you find it both informative and useful.

I trust that you will discover today that our College Vision Statement of 'Excellence through Care' is much more than just three words for us. It reflects the aspirations we have for each individual child within our care; it reflects the pastoral care that we provide on a daily basis; and it reflects the core values of our Catholic ethos. Our students, too, are taught to 'CARE' each and every day, with a strong focus on Commitment, Attendance, Respect and Extra-curricular activities. Suffice to say that we are exceptionally proud of our 1,421 students and the many past pupils of our College since 1985.

I have always believed that Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock is unique; yes, we are academically strong, but there is so much more to a student of Knock than his or her academic profile. In the College every year, I see at first-hand a commitment to students' extra-curricular activities which promote the development of the 'whole person'. I also see our students using 'their talents for the service of others', quietly reflecting the College Mission Statement in their work with many charities and community groups. It is this combination which will ensure that our students are well prepared to make a positive contribution to society in the years ahead.

Should you choose to join our College, we look forward to welcoming you to #teamknock, where our motivated students, supportive parents and committed staff all work together for the benefit of our entire College community. You will find more information about the school on our website at [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk).

My very best wishes to you and your family as you make this important decision to choose a new school. I look forward to welcoming many of you to Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock in September 2026.

Yours faithfully

*Deborah McLaughlin*

Deborah McLaughlin

Principal



**Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock**

120 Gilnahirk Road,  
Belfast, BT5 7DL

Tel: (028) 9040 1184

Website: [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk)

Email: [info@knock.co.uk](mailto:info@knock.co.uk)



## Mission statement and aims

*“Our Lady and St Patrick’s College, Knock cares for young people in a way that encourages them to develop to their full potential within a supportive Christian community. We seek to prepare our students to play an active and responsible role in society and to use their talents for the service of others”.*

This Mission Statement guides us in the task of enabling our students to realise their full potential. It stresses the importance of relationships. Students are to be cared for and their talents developed in a harmonious manner. They are to be encouraged to use these talents for the benefit of others.

Our Lady and St Patrick’s College, Knock aims to:

- develop the ‘whole person’ as a follower of Christ;
- promote the philosophy and values of Catholic Education;
- develop positive attitudes in an atmosphere of co-operation, justice and mutual respect;
- prepare young people to be confident and creative contributors to society;
- enable students to realise their full academic potential and to develop all their gifts and talents;
- prepare students for adulthood by enabling them to acquire the relevant knowledge and skills;
- engage positively with the local and wider community.

Our aim, therefore, is to provide a school where each member of the school community enters fully into the life of the College and where all students are happily and enthusiastically involved in a wide variety of work within a well-structured but flexible framework.

Central to the life of the College is prayer. The whole school joins in the celebration of the Eucharist at the beginning of the academic year to celebrate the Birthday of Our Lady; in March, to honour our other patron, St Patrick; and also on other special occasions; for example, Holy Days, the Year 8 Mass of Welcome and our Leavers’ Masses for Year 12 and 14.

# Admissions Policy And Admissions Criteria for 2026

<b>OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KNOCK</b> <b>120 GILNAHIRK ROAD</b>	<b>VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR SCHOOL</b> <b>DENOMINATIONAL CO-EDUCATIONAL</b>
<b>BELFAST</b>	<b>AGE RANGE: 11-19</b>
<b>BT5 7DL</b>	<b>ADMISSIONS NO: 190</b>
	<b>ENROLMENT NO: 1330</b>
Telephone No: 028 9040 1184	
<b>College Principal: Miss Deborah McLaughlin</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:info@knock.co.uk">info@knock.co.uk</a>
<b>Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr Leo O'Reilly</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.knock.co.uk">www.knock.co.uk</a>

## OPEN DAY INFORMATION 2026

Parents/Guardians and P7 children are warmly invited to attend the College's Open Day on **Saturday, 17 January 2026 from 9.00am to 12.30pm**. There will be an address by the Principal at 9.00am and 11.00am followed by tours of the College with student guides.

**To Parents/Guardians naming Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock as a preference on their child's Transfer Application.**

**SEAG Entrance Assessment Results:** In assessing academic ability, Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock will use the Band and, as a sub-criterion, the Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS), awarded to pupils completing the SEAG Entrance Assessment (scheduled for Saturday, 15 November 2025 and Saturday, 22 November 2025) as specified by the College. Parents/Guardians must enter the applicant's Band and Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) from the SEAG Entrance Assessment and upload a copy of the applicant's statement of results with the Transfer Application. Results are available on 24 January 2026.

**Special Circumstances or Special Provisions:** If you are applying for Special Circumstances or Special Provisions, please see the relevant sections below.

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

There is no capital fee. We ask parents/guardians for a voluntary contribution of £150 per family per annum to assist with the provision of additional facilities and equipment.

### RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The Board of Governors, having agreed the Admissions Criteria, has delegated to the Admissions Committee, consisting of four members of the Board of Governors, the Principal, a Vice Principal and the Head of the Junior School, the authority to decide which particular applicants shall be admitted to the College in accordance with the Admissions Criteria and any appropriate statutory regulations issued by

the Department of Education. Any reference to the term 'Board of Governors' includes any Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out herein. The Board of Governors may require the support of the College's administrative staff in order to fulfil its duties and they are so authorised by the authority of the Board of Governors.

### ADMISSIONS POLICY

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock is a Catholic, co-educational, selective voluntary grammar school under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Down and Connor. The College accepts those who are academically suited for the type of education it offers whose parents/guardians are in agreement with the Catholic philosophy and aims of the College.

The Board of Governors has determined that the educational outcomes from the SEAG Entrance Assessment will be used to admit applicants [see criteria A to F and subsidiary criteria H1 to H7]. Information on the SEAG Entrance Assessment is available from the College or from [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk).

In accordance with the 1997 Education (Northern Ireland) Order (Section 16 (4)), pupils resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected for admission before any child not so resident may be selected.

Applicants claiming Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions (see below) will be considered first. In light of the documentary evidence submitted, the Admissions Committee of the Board of Governors will decide whether these applicants should be

considered under the Band and Total Standardised Age Score actually achieved in the SEAG Entrance Assessment or an allocated higher Band and/or Total Standardised Age Score. The College will use a Special Circumstances Protocol (available from the College on request) to decide if any increase in Total Standardised Age Score and/or Band is required. Once a decision has been made, the applicant will then be considered along with all applicants of the same Band/Total Standardised Age Score for the purpose of applying the Admissions Criteria.

The Board of Governors will NOT use as a criterion the position of preference given to the College on the Transfer Application, i.e., an applicant who has chosen Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock in any position on the Transfer Application will be considered equally with those who have put the College first.

#### **ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR YEAR 8 PUPILS TO OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KNOCK**

In order to determine which applicants will be accepted into Year 8, the following criteria will be applied in the order set down.

- A Applicants who have been awarded Band 1 in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and also those applicants to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply and who, on the documented evidence submitted, are in the opinion of the Board of Governors of a comparable ability to applicants awarded Band 1.
- B Applicants who have been awarded Band 2 in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and also those applicants to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply and who, on the documented evidence submitted, are in the opinion of the Board of Governors of a comparable ability to applicants awarded Band 2.
- C Applicants who have been awarded Band 3 in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and also those applicants to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply and who, on the documented evidence submitted, are in the opinion of the Board of Governors of a comparable ability to applicants awarded Band 3.
- D Applicants who have been awarded Band 4 in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and also those applicants to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply and who, on the documented evidence submitted, are in the opinion of the Board of Governors of a comparable ability to applicants awarded Band 4.

E Applicants who have been awarded Band 5 in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and also those applicants to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply and who, on the documented evidence submitted, are in the opinion of the Board of Governors of a comparable ability to applicants awarded Band 5.

F Applicants who have been awarded Band 6 in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and also those applicants to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply and who, on the documented evidence submitted, are in the opinion of the Board of Governors of a comparable ability to applicants awarded Band 6.

G Other applicants.

**Parents/Guardians must upload a copy of the applicant's statement of results from the SEAG Entrance Assessment with the Transfer Application.**

If there are more applicants in a category under consideration (i.e., Bands 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Other) than there are number of places available, such places will be allocated in accordance with the consecutive application of the following subsidiary criteria H1 to H7 in the order set down. In the event that there are more applicants complying with a subsidiary criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that subsidiary criterion will go forward to be considered under the next subsidiary criterion in order H1 to H7 and those not complying with that subsidiary criterion will be eliminated.

**H1 Applicants who, at the date of their application, have a child of the family currently/previously enrolled at the College or already accepted for admission in the coming year (2026/27).** Name and year group of present pupil and name/maiden name and dates of attendance of former pupil must be provided. ["Child of the family" will be defined in accordance with Department of Education guidance.]

#### **H2 Applicants:**

(i) who are the eldest\* or only child of the family; or

(ii) whose sibling\*\* is an eldest child who achieved a grade A in the PPTC GL Assessment (2009-2022) or a Band 1 in the SEAG Entrance Assessment (2023-2024) and applied to the College. The sibling's application was provided to the College by the Education Authority and



was considered by the Board of Governors but he/she was not selected; or

(iii) where every older sibling of the applicant did not achieve a top grade/band in the Entrance Assessment used by the College to determine Year 8 admissions (PPTC 2009-2022; SEAG 2023-2024).

\* Twins, triplets, etc. will be entitled to recognition as 'eldest' in family if twins, triplets, etc. are the first born to a family.

\*\* Include the name and date of birth of the sibling who is an eldest child and the year of his/her application.

The H2 Verification Certificate should be completed and uploaded with the Transfer Application. It must be signed by one of the following who knows the applicant and family for at least two years and is not a member of the applicant's family. There is no requirement that the verifier must be a resident in Northern Ireland/GB.

- a primary school Principal
- an elected public representative
- a medical practitioner
- a lawyer
- a member of the clergy

**H3 Applicants who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSME).** 'Entitled to Free School Meals' means applicants who are listed on the Education Authority's register as entitled to free school meals at the date on which their parent/guardian has submitted their post-primary Transfer Application or at any date up to and including 24 February 2026 (not later than 4pm).

**H4 Applicants for whom Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock is the nearest Catholic grammar school, based on distance, from their permanent place of residence.** Distances will be measured overland using grid references provided by nidirect - Distance Measurement Tool. Place of residence will be the applicant's address as it appears on the Transfer Application. The completed H4 Verification Certificate, uploaded with the Transfer Application, must be signed by one of the verifiers as stated in H2.

**H5 Applicants who have achieved the highest Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) in the**

**SEAG Entrance Assessment or allocated Band and TSAS due to Special Circumstances/Provisions.** The highest scoring candidate will be ranked first, the next highest candidate being ranked second, etc.

**H6 If there are applicants who have the same SEAG Entrance Assessment Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) or allocated Band and TSAS due to Special Circumstances/Provisions tying for the final place(s),** applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of the initial letter(s) of surname (as entered on the birth certificate or court order) in the order set out below, as determined by a randomised selection:

**U J B C H O R K F Y V N Mac T S A  
G M D X P Z Mc L W I Q E**

If clarification is needed on the surname(s) and/or forename(s) on birth certificates, the College will use the H2 Verification Certificate signed by one of the verifiers or advice from the relevant consulate.

**H7** In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in the order set out above. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the forenames (as entered on the birth certificate or court order) will be used.

Should two or more applicants have the same surname and forename and thereby qualify for the last available place(s), those applicants will be placed in rank order of eldest child by date of birth as entered on the birth certificate or court order.

Where, after this process has been applied, any applicants continue to tie for a final place, places will be allocated by randomised computer selection.

It is emphasised that the onus is on the parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all of the above information is provided. When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will take into account information which is entered on or submitted with the Transfer Application, or has been provided on request. Parents/Guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's Admissions Criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or submitted with it. The final date/time for receipt of new applications/documentation in support of applications is

**Tuesday, 24 February 2026, not later than 4pm.**

### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Two documents are available on the College website at [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk) for the parents/guardians of children who have taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment 2025 and wish to claim Special Circumstances:

- Claiming Special Circumstances - A Guide for Parents & Guardians
- Claim for Special Circumstances (SC Form)

The College has academic performance as its first criterion. Special Circumstances refer to the claim that a child experienced a medical or other problem which may have affected his/her performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment. Special Circumstances must be outlined on **Claim for Special Circumstances (SC Form)** and supported by documentary evidence of a medical, educational or other appropriate nature. Documentary evidence must be submitted with the Transfer Application and SC Form on the Education Authority's online Portal - EA Post Primary Applications.

Consideration of a claim for Special Circumstances consists of three stages. Stage 1 requires consideration of whether there is, in the judgement of the Admissions Committee, sufficient contemporaneous medical, professional or other evidence to warrant acceptance that the case is valid for consideration under Special Circumstances. If an applicant is permitted to be considered as having Special Circumstances, Stage 2 requires an educational judgement to be made by the Admissions Committee on the verifiable educational evidence provided to assess if the Total Standardised Age Score/Band achieved by the child in the SEAG Entrance Assessment does not correspond to the academic ability of the child. If Stages 1 and 2 are met, at Stage 3 the Admissions Committee will award a mark up to the top of the confidence band in the Special Circumstances Protocol (available from the College on request), taking into account the nature of the Special Circumstances claimed by each individual.

If a claim for Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Access Arrangements were provided to an applicant sitting the SEAG Entrance Assessment on 15 and/or 22 November 2025, the Admissions Committee may take into account the fact that the applicant was provided with such Access Arrangements.

### **Note on COVID-19**

Special Circumstances will not be applied solely due to lost teaching and learning time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific COVID-19 impacts which are unique to the applicant may, however, still be applicable to Special Circumstances.

### **Details of Medical or Other Problems**

Where it is claimed that an applicant's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment has been affected by a medical or other problem, **independent** evidence of its existence must be provided to the College. Where the issue is of a medical nature of short-term duration, which affected the applicant only at the time of the SEAG Entrance Assessment, the College will require the production of evidence that the applicant was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the SEAG Entrance Assessment. Where the issue is of a non-medical nature, the parents/guardians must set out the precise details of the issue and append independent evidence, verified by an appropriate professional, with the Transfer Application to corroborate its existence.

### **Independent Evidence of Medical or Other Problems**

This evidence must be verified by one of the following who is not a member of the applicant's family:

- a primary school Principal
- a registered health or social care professional
- a medical practitioner
- a lawyer
- a member of the clergy

### **Details of Educational Evidence**

Educational evidence must be provided by the parents/guardians on the SC Form, verified by the primary school Principal, to enable the Admissions Committee of the Board of Governors to reach a decision. The Board of Governors will, when considering the weight to be given to submitted evidence, consider standardised test results as ranking in priority to other submitted evidence.

## General Note on Special Circumstances

It is emphasised that the onus is on the parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all of the above information is provided. Failure to provide such information may result in the College being unable to accept the application for Special Circumstances. Parents/Guardians have a statutory right to request and obtain information on their child. Further information on the rights to access pupil records is available from the Information Commissioner's Office or from the website: <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Please note that judgement of the importance of documentation forwarded in support of Special Circumstances will be at the discretion of the Admissions Committee of the Board of Governors.

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Two documents are available on the College website at [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk) for the parents/guardians of children who wish to claim Special Provisions:

- Claiming Special Provisions - A Guide for Parents & Guardians
- Application for Special Provisions (SP Form)

Special Provisions may be made by the Admissions Committee of the Board of Governors where the applicant:

1. has received more than half of their education\* outside Northern Ireland; or  
  
\*based on the time from the start of Primary 1 (2nd September 2019) to the 28th February 2026 i.e. more than 3 years and 3 months.
2. wishes to transfer to a post-primary school that uses the SEAG Entrance Assessment from a school outside Northern Ireland; or
3. due to a serious medical issue supported by appropriate documentary evidence or for a demonstrably valid reason also supported by appropriate documentary evidence, was either unable to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment OR has estimated Outcomes from SEAG because they sat only one of the two Entrance Assessment Papers.

For those pupils currently in P7 in primary schools in Northern Ireland, claims for Special Provisions should be made on the **SP Form** and uploaded with the Transfer Application by **Thursday, 19 February 2026 (12 noon)**. After this date, claims for Special Provisions should be made directly to Our Lady and

St Patrick's College, Knock, and parents should notify the Education Authority's School Admissions Team. The final date/time for receipt of new applications/documentation in support of applications is **Tuesday, 24 February 2026**, not later than 4pm.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to complete the SP Form, provide the documentary evidence and the required educational evidence, and to upload this evidence with the Transfer Application. The Board of Governors will assess each applicant's claim for Special Provisions and may contact the parent to arrange further assessment of the child by a suitably qualified person or body approved by the College. This will be known as the Special Provisions Assessment. The Admissions Committee will then determine, based on the information available, an appropriate Band and TSAS equivalent for the applicant. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a SEAG Entrance Assessment Band and TSAS and the Admissions Criteria will be applied.

Where Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock is not the applicant's first preference school and the applicant has sat a Special Provisions Assessment in another school, Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock will use the results of that Special Provisions Assessment in the Special Provisions Procedure.

## DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application. Parents/Guardians should note that they may be asked to produce original documents verifying information pertinent to the College's Admissions Criteria. Original documents are required; scanned copies or photocopies are not acceptable. If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline specified by the Board of Governors, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

## ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY OF PUPILS AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

In the event of a place becoming available in Year 8 after 1 September 2026, the above criteria will be applied to any unselected applicants. The College maintains a waiting list for those seeking a place in Year 8 which will be in place until 30 June 2027. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the College if you would like your child's name to be removed from the list.

A fresh application must be submitted for each subsequent year in accordance with the Admissions Criteria for the particular year group, i.e., Years 9-14. Further details on Admissions Criteria and the operation of the waiting list are available from the College or its website [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk).

If the application is made for a child who arrived in Northern Ireland after the transfer process has been concluded and the Admissions Committee determines that the child is suitable to be admitted, the College may seek Department of Education approval to admit the child as an additional place. If such approval is given, the child will be admitted.

## APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications i.e. All preferences	Total Admissions*
<b>2023/24</b>	190	323	201
<b>2024/25</b>	190	283	212
<b>2025/26</b>	190	265	194

*\* Total Admissions includes all Year 8 children admitted to the school, including those who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs, and those admitted on Appeal and by the Exceptional Circumstances Body.*

An additional 3 places were permitted under Temporary Variation in 2023/24, with an extra 11 places in 2024/25 and 1 place in 2025/26.

## ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR YEAR 9 ONWARDS

Admissions criteria are available on request from the College.

# Pastoral Care

## Tutor Groups

We place a great deal of emphasis on the pastoral care of our students. The basic pastoral unit is the tutor group, which consists of approximately 28 students. A Tutor is assigned to each group and remains with the group as they move from Junior to Senior to Upper School. Our tutor groups meet each morning before class for prayer, Registration and announcements. Morning Registration ensures that a student who may be worried about any aspect of College life has easy access to his/her Tutor. Each year group regularly attends Morning Assembly. There is also a Tutor period once a week, during which students follow a Personal Development Programme covering a wide range of relevant issues.

The Tutor, Head of Year and Head of School closely monitor each student's academic performance and personal development.

## Transition from Primary to Post-Primary School

We realise that it can be quite difficult for children to make the transition from primary to post-primary school and so care is taken to ensure that the changeover goes as smoothly as possible. Year 8 students follow a two-day Induction Programme before commencing their academic studies. During these days, they meet their Tutors, get to know the College and have the opportunity to make new friends.

In late September, a special evening Mass of Welcome is celebrated for Year 8 students and their parents. A Parent/Teacher Meeting is scheduled for each year.

## Special Educational Needs

The College provides a range of interventions to support students with particular learning needs. We follow the revised Code of Practice in identifying, assessing and supporting students with special educational needs. Through Personal Learning Plans (PLPs), we provide support tailored to each student's unique learning requirements. If your child has a special educational need which you would like to discuss in more detail, please contact the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC), Mrs Fox.

## Student Mentor Programme

Under the Student Mentor Programme, four Year 13 students are assigned to each Year 8 class. For the duration of the Programme, they meet with that class once a week to explore various themes such as smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, bullying, prejudice, friendship, school and the environment. The Student Mentor Programme enables Year 8 students to build a bond of trust with older students and provides another source of support while they are settling in to College life.

## Pastoral Support Team

The College has a team of experienced teachers who are available via Time To Talk for consultation with students on an individual basis. An external counselling service is also available in the College.

## Consequences and Rewards (CARE Scheme) - 'Excellence through Care'

A Student of Knock should be Ready, Respectful and Responsible. Our students are encouraged to develop their organisational skills, social skills and learning skills. As part of this approach, students earn Achievement Points which go towards them earning their Ready, Respectful and Responsible badges. Positive behaviour is also managed by awarding Behaviour Points.

## Child Protection

The College is committed to providing a safe, caring environment which promotes the protection and safeguarding of each individual child. **The full Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy is available at any time from the College or on the College website [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk).**



# Summary of Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock is committed to providing a safe, caring environment which promotes the protection and safeguarding of each individual child. In accordance with the aims of the College and in order to fulfil our statutory obligation under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, the College's Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy aims to ensure the protection and safeguarding of all our students.

The aim of this summary is to provide parents and students with a brief overview of the policy. **The full Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy is available at any time from the College or on the College website [www.knock.co.uk](http://www.knock.co.uk).**

The Roles and Responsibilities of the College Safeguarding Team and the Designated Teachers for Child Protection are defined.

## Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Ms G McCarthy

## Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection

Mrs M Davey

Mrs A Fox

Mrs F Sloan

The policy describes Types of Abuse and lists Potential Signs and Symptoms of Child Abuse.

The Processes for Referral are clearly outlined on Page 14 of the Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy.

The policy includes a Code of Conduct for All Staff and Volunteers and guidance on How a Parent Can Raise a Concern about Child Protection/Safeguarding and How to Report a Concern about School Staff or Volunteers.

The policy outlines the conditions under which volunteers and sports coaches may work in the College.

## HOW A PARENT CAN RAISE A CONCERN ABOUT CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING

If a parent has a concern about the safety of his/her own child or any other child, the parent should contact the Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Deputy Designated Teachers without delay.

The Designated Teacher(s) will inform the Principal and will clarify the facts of the allegation (Discreet Preliminary Clarification). The Designated Teacher(s) will refer the matter to Social Services if it is deemed necessary and will report back to the parent on the progress and outcome of the complaint as soon as possible.

If a parent is still concerned, he/she may contact the Principal directly. If the parent is dissatisfied with the outcome, he/she may refer the complaint to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in the first instance, then to the NI Public Services Ombudsman (Tel: 0800 343 424).

If any parent, student or member of staff wishes to report a child protection/safeguarding concern about school staff or volunteers, he/she should contact the Principal or the Designated Teacher for Child Protection without delay.

## Curriculum

At the heart of every outstanding school is a curriculum that offers challenges, instils a passion for learning and ignites intellectual curiosity while preparing students for the next step.

Our curriculum aims to meet the differing needs of students by making available a broad range of subject choices. It reflects the aims and objectives of the College and conforms to all statutory requirements.

### Our Curriculum

#### Junior School: Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10)

On joining the College, our Junior School students are introduced to academic discipline in the following Learning Areas: The Arts, English with Media Education, Environment and Society, Learning for Life and Work, Mathematics with Financial Capability, Modern Languages, Physical Education, Religious Education and Science and Technology.

Integral to our curriculum are the cross-curricular skills of Using Mathematics, Using ICT and Communication, which are developed through the different Learning Areas along with Thinking Skills

and Personal Capabilities.

Year 8 and 9 students study the following subjects:

Art and Design	Local and Global Citizenship
Drama	Mathematics
English	Music
Education for Employability	Physical Education
Geography	Religious Education
History	Science
Home Economics	Technology and Design
Information and Communication Technology	

Students also choose two Modern Languages from French, Irish and Spanish.

A Personal Development Programme is provided and all Junior School students follow our Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Programme.

In Year 10, students study all of the above subjects but Science is taught as the separate subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

#### **Senior School: Key Stage 4 (Years 11 and 12)**

Senior School students study a broad and balanced range of GCSEs. Depending on their chosen subjects, they can study between ten and twelve GCSE courses.

The curriculum consists of a compulsory core element and optional subjects.

Core GCSE Subjects:

English Language	Mathematics
English Literature	Religious Studies
Learning for Life and Work	

A number of students take the GCSE Mathematics examinations at the end of Year 11 and then study GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12.

The compulsory core also includes non-examination Physical Education, Careers and Personal Development classes.

Optional GCSE Subjects:

Students may study five subjects from the following:

Art and Design	Health and Social Care
Biology	History
Business Studies	Digital Technology
Chemistry	Irish
Computer Science	Music
Drama	Physical Education
Food and Nutrition	Physics
French	Science (Double Award)
German	Spanish
Geography	Technology and Design

Some students take GCSE Music at the end of Year 11, which allows them to choose a sixth optional GCSE subject.

#### **Upper School: Key Stage 5 (Years 13 and 14)**

The Upper School curriculum provides for the academic and personal development of our students.

All students entering Years 13 and 14 must study Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS Level) and Advanced Level (A2) subjects. Most students take four AS Level subjects in Year 13 and three or four A2 subjects in Year 14.

In addition, all students attend Careers Education, Personal Development and RSE classes. Students who do not study Religious Studies at AS or A2 are required to take a modular course in Religious Education.

Our Curriculum Enrichment Programme allows students to supplement their AS and A-Level courses. Mandarin language and cultural classes are offered to students. They may also take part in our Community Service Scheme and the Student Mentor Programme.

Any combination of AS and A2 Level subjects may be taken from the following:

Art and Design	Health and Social Care
Biology	History
Business Studies	Irish
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computer Science	Moving Image Arts
Digital Technology	Music
Drama and Theatre Studies	Nutrition and Food Science
Economics	Physical Education
English Literature	Physics
French	Religious Studies
Further Mathematics	Sociology
Geography	Spanish
Government and Politics	Technology and Design

Other courses may be available through our partnership arrangements with neighbouring schools e.g. German.

## Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

A team of experienced teachers and a Department for Economy (DE) Careers Adviser are involved in the provision of Careers and Employability. Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is at the heart of the curriculum. It is delivered through every subject area and in discrete Employability and Careers lessons on the timetable for Years 8 to 14. Initially, the emphasis is on helping students find out about their skills and qualities and the local and global economy. As they progress through the school, CEIAG prepares young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they will face throughout their adult working lives.

### Careers Information

Up-to-date Careers information is available through the College bespoke Careers programme and various online software packages. Careers teachers advise on all aspects of subject and career choice, and guidance is offered to both class groups and individuals. GCSE and A/AS Level Option Books are produced annually to help students make their subject choices. All students in Years 10, 12 and 14 are interviewed individually or in small groups before they choose their GCSEs, A-Levels and post-18 choices. Individual guidance on subject and careers choice is also offered to students and parents at Option Days in the second term or on request throughout the school year.

### Careers Advice and Guidance

Through effective careers advice and guidance, young people develop self-awareness and an understanding of the full range of opportunities in education, training and employment. They learn to develop the skills necessary to source and handle information, to be realistic, have aspirations and make informed decisions about future career pathways. Through our guidance programmes we aim to help students make informed but realistic choices about their futures through reviewing, learning, assessing, setting new goals and recording their achievements and experiences. Our guidance service is progressive, impartial and well informed, using the most up-to-date labour market information, provided by the NI Skills Barometer. Careers staff are available to students and parents after the publication of examination results and at Parent/Teacher Meetings. We strongly encourage parents to become constructively involved in the career planning of their children and welcome them to our Careers events that occur throughout the year.

Students in all year groups will experience the World of Work, through various events in collaboration

with organisations such as Young Enterprise. In June, all Year 13 students participate in our annual Work Experience Scheme. Further periods of work experience are also encouraged at appropriate times, especially for Sixth Form students. Additionally, students will be provided with the opportunity to meet with representatives from a diverse range of universities, at the annual UCAS Exhibition, University Roadshow and university presentations in school. In Year 12, all students will attend the Skills NI Careers Convention, providing students with an excellent opportunity to meet with a wide range of employers across NI. Students in Year 14 will attend QUB and UU Open Days and those who have University Admission Interviews will be provided with practice interviews on request. We pride ourselves on giving students as much exposure as possible to all career pathways available, including university and apprenticeships. Our ultimate goal is that all students will make a career choice that is compatible with their ability and future aspirations.

### Drama

Drama contributes to the creative, social and personal education of every student within the College. As such, it is integral to the curriculum at Key Stage 3, helping students to become informed and responsible individuals. It is a popular choice at GCSE and A-Level and enjoys excellent results in both examinations. After school, Junior students are encouraged to attend a weekly Drama Club mentored by Senior students, who share their skills and enthusiasm with younger, eager participants. On a more formal level, the College Production brings together all aspects of the Arts in celebration of the varied talents and abilities enjoyed by the College community. In recent years, students have performed musicals (Back to the 80s, Les Misérables, School of Rock, The Sound of Music, Evita).

### Music

All students study Music in Years 8, 9 and 10 where the emphasis is on practical music-making, composition, listening and theory. The College facilitates private music tuition in strings, woodwind, brass, piano, guitar, drums and singing. Students work with our peripatetic music tutors individually or in small groups. Music can be taken as a fast-track GCSE subject in Year 11 or as a two-year GCSE option and at AS and A-Level. Students have the opportunity to be involved in events inside and outside the College through membership of the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Folk Group (Liturgical), Traditional Group, Samba Group, Junior Orchestra and Senior Orchestra.

# Academic Achievements

## School attendance 2024-25

No. of possible attendance sessions	No. of sessions attended	% attendance
516828	498629	96.5%

## GCSE and A-Level Examination Results 2019/20 to 2024-25

Performance Indicator	2019/20 2020/21 Covid		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	100	Not available	100	Not available	99.5	97.6	100	96.6	100	
% achieving 7+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	100	Not available	100	Not available	98.4	94.4	99.5	91.4	98	
% achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-C	99.4	Not available	92.4	Not available	96.3	83.8	89.0	79.9	92.4	
% achieving 2+ A-levels at grades A*-E	100	Not available	100	Not available	100	99.6	100	99.6	100	

## Year 12 GCSE Results Summary 2024/25

% entered for:		% achieving grades A*-C in:		
7+ GCSEs	5+ GCSEs	7+ GCSEs	5+ GCSEs	0 GCSEs
1984	1984	98	100	0

Number of students in Year 12: **192**

Number of students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs: **3**

62 Year 12 Students (32.3%) attained A\*or A grades in 10 or more GCSE subjects.

## Year 12 GCSE Results by Subject 2024/25

Subject	Entries	Percentage						
		A*	A*- A	A*- B	A*- C*	A*- C	A*- D	A*- E
Art & Design	15	0	66.7	73.3	86.7	86.7	100	100
Biology	88	22.7	65.9	81.8	96.6	98.9	100	100
Business Studies	60	23.3	56.7	76.7	90	96.7	100	100
Chemistry	61	19.7	65.6	83.6	90.2	98.4	100	100
Design and Technology	40	7.5	47.5	77.5	87.5	95.0	100	100
Digital Technology	23	26.1	65.2	73.9	78.3	100	100	100
Drama	25	20	48	92	100	100	100	100
English Language	192	9.9	48.4	83.3	95.3	100	100	100
English Literature	191	15.7	56	83.8	93.7	96.9	99.5	100
Food and Nutrition	32	18.8	62.5	68.8	87.5	100	100	100
French	33	15.2	45.5	54.5	78.8	81.8	90.9	100
Geography	64	31.3	70.3	81.3	93.8	95.3	98.4	100
German	5	20	60	80	100	100	100	100
History	78	25.6	65.4	82.1	92.3	97.4	100	100
Irish	9	11.1	11.1	66.7	77.8	100	100	100
LLW	192	30.7	72.4	90.1	98.4	99.5	100	100
Mathematics	192	25	64.6	92.7	97.4	100	100	100
Mathematics Further	89	30.3	79.8	92.1	97.8	100	100	100
Music	23	13.0	39.1	69.6	87.0	100	100	100
Physics	68	22.1	61.8	91.2	97.1	97.1	100	100
Religious Studies	168	32.1	68.5	78.0	87.5	91.7	98.8	100
Spanish	80	20	72.5	90	95	100	100	100

Subject	Entries	Percentage									
		A*A*	A*A	AA	AB	BB	BC*	C*C*	C*C	CC	A*A* - CC
Science: Double Award	86	12.8	29.1	48.8	53.4	67.4	73.3	77.9	91.9	98.8	100

Subject	Entries	GCSE 9 to 1 Courses							
		9/A*	8/A	7/A	6/B	6/C*	4/C	3/D	2/E
Computer Science	27	18.5	66.7	85.2	92.6	96.3	100	100	100
Physical Education	60	5.0	58.3	91.7	98.3	100	100	100	100



## Year 14 A-Level Results Summary 2024/25

	Number of students in final year of course	% achieving 3+ grades A – C	% achieving 2+ grades A – E
A-level	172	92.4%	100

Number of students with a statement of Special Educational Needs: 1

73 Year 14 Students (42.4%) achieved A or A\* grades in 3 or more A-Level subjects.

## Year 14 A-Level Results by Subject 2024/25

Subject	Entries	Cumulative Percentage					
		A*	A*- A	A*- B	A*- C	A*- D	A*- E
Art and Design	9	66.7	66.7	100	100	100	100
Biology	64	21.9	62.5	84.4	98.4	98.4	100
Business Studies	57	15.8	57.9	89.5	98.2	100	100
Chemistry	39	35.9	74.4	92.3	100	100	100
Computer Science	7	14.3	57.1	85.7	100	100	100
Design and Technology	10	10	50	90	100	100	100
Digital Technology	16	6.3	43.8	75.0	93.8	100	100
Drama	6	16.7	83.3	83.3	100	100	100
Economics	7	28.6	57.1	71.4	100	100	100
English Literature	13	30.8	46.2	76.9	84.6	92.3	100
French	3	33.3	66.7	100	100	100	100
Geography	24	29.2	66.7	95.8	100	100	100
German	1	0	100	100	100	100	100
History	29	41.4	75.9	96.6	100	100	100
Mathematics Further	2	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mathematics	74	23	67.6	87.8	94.6	100	100
Moving Image Arts	3	0	0	66.7	100	100	100
Music	2	0	0	50	100	100	100
Nutrition & Food Science	6	16.7	50	83.3	100	100	100
Physical Education	27	14.8	66.7	96.3	100	100	100
Physics	28	21.4	53.6	71.4	92.9	96.4	100
Politics	29	41.4	65.5	89.7	100	100	100
Religious Studies	21	19	57.1	76.2	95.2	100	100
Sociology	39	17.9	61.5	87.2	97.4	97.4	100
Spanish	6	33.3	83.3	100	100	100	100

## Year 14 Destinations 2024/25

Higher Education	Further Education	Employment / Training	Higher Apprenticeship	Gap Year
159	6	1	2	4

# The College Day for Students

Tutor Group Registration/Assembly 9.20 am – 9.30 am	
Period 1	9.30 – 10.05am
Period 2	10.05 -10.35am
Period 3	10.35 – 11.05am
<b>Mid-Morning Break</b>	<b>11.05 – 11.20am</b>
Period 4	11.20 -11.50am
Period 5	11.50 - 12.20pm
Period 6	12.20 -12.50pm
<b>Period 7 Junior Lunch</b>	<b>12.50 – 1.25pm</b>
<b>Period 8 Senior Lunch</b>	<b>1.25 – 2.00pm</b>
Period 9	2.00 – 2.30
Period 10	2.30 – 3.00
Period 11	3.00 – 3.34

**3.45 pm – 5.00 pm: Extra-curricular activities and sports**

## Contributory Primary Schools 2025

Academy PS (Saintfield)	Orangefield PS (Belfast)	St Mary's PS (Kircubbin)
Ballymagee PS (Bangor)	Rosetta PS	St Mary's PS (Portaferry)
Cairnshill Integrated PS (Belfast)	St Anne's PS (Belfast)	St Michael's PS (Belfast)
Cedar Integrated PS (Crossgar)	St Bernards PS (Belfast)	St Patrick's PS (Ballygalget)
Dundonald PS	St Bernard's PS (Newtownabbey)	St Patrick's PS (Holywood)
Forge Integrated PS (Belfast)	St Bride's PS (Belfast)	Strandtown PS (Belfast)
Gilnahirk PS (Belfast)	St Caolan's PS (Saintfield)	Stranmillis PS (Belfast)
Grange Park PS (Bangor)	St Comgall's PS (Bangor)	
Holy Family PS (Downpatrick)	St Finian's PS (Newtownards)	
Kilmaine PS (Bangor)	St Ita's PS (Belfast)	
Lough View Integrated PS (Belfast)	St Joseph's PS (Carryduff)	
Methodist College Prep Dept (Belfast)	St Joseph's PS (Holland Dr)	
Millennium Integrated PS (Saintfield)	St Malachy's PS (Bangor)	
Moneyrea PS	St Malachy's PS (Belfast)	
Nettlefield PS (Belfast)	St Matthew's PS (Belfast)	

## COLLEGE POLICIES FOR STUDENTS

Administration of Medication in School	Honours Tie Policy
Addressing Bullying Policy	Intimate Care Policy
Attendance Policy for Students	Pastoral Care Policy
Charity Policy	Positive Behaviour Policy
Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy	Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy
Drugs Policy	Special Educational Needs Policy
Educational Visits Policy	Study Leave Policy
eSafety and Digital Technology Policy	

# College Uniform

## College Regulation Uniform - Compulsory Items

- Black blazer with College crest
- Traditional black school trousers (full length and regular fit) to be worn with plain black socks, or
- Regulation drop waist skirt, mid-grey, stitch down, all round pleat (65/35) with adjustable waist (1880 brand), worn on/ below the knee with grey knee-length socks or plain black opaque tights
- Plain white school shirt/blouse (top button fastened and tucked into trousers/skirt at all times)
- College tie
- Plain black low-heeled school shoes (maximum of 3 cm) (not trainers)

## College Regulation Uniform - Optional Items

- Grey or black V-neck knitted jumper with College colours
- College scarf or plain black scarf
- A plain black or grey woollen hat

## College Regulation PE Uniform (under review) (O'Neill's brand)

- College tracksuit (half-zip and bottoms or leggings)
- College shorts or skort
- College PE top
- College socks or white ankle socks
- Trainers (laced, non-marking soles)

## Rules for Uniform and Appearance

- Students must wear regulation uniform in the College, going to and from the College and at all College functions and representative events, unless otherwise permitted by the Principal. Students must adhere to the College regulations regarding their personal appearance as stated in the Rules for Uniform and Appearance.
- All items of uniform should be labelled with the student's name. Students who lose items of uniform should check Lost Property in the Dining Hall.
- All students must wear a blazer coming to and going from the College.
- Heels on shoes should be a maximum of 3 cm. Only black laces are permitted.
- Black denim-type jeans are not acceptable. If students wish to wear a belt, it must be plain black.
- Subtle make-up is permitted in Year 10-14. Nails should be natural in colour.
- Only school appropriate hairstyles are permitted. Any student who requires further direction about what is an appropriate hairstyle must consult his/her Head of School before any changes are made.
- For health and safety reasons, long hair must be safely tied back for work in a Science laboratory or Technology workshop. Students may wear one plain ring and/or a plain pair of studs/ sleepers (one in each ear lobe). Nose piercings and other piercings must be replaced with a clear stud during the school day. No other jewellery may be worn. Jewellery must be removed during PE classes. Students who wish to have new piercings should therefore do so at the beginning of the summer holidays.
- All Upper School students must wear the Sixth Form crest on their blazers.
- Any item of clothing or jewellery worn against College uniform regulations is liable to be confiscated, to be returned at the end of the school day.
- An explanatory note from a parent must be provided if a student cannot wear College Regulation Uniform.
- The College reserves the right to issue further guidance to students during the school year in the event of fashion trends impacting adversely on student appearance.

## Uniform Suppliers - The recognised suppliers for College uniform are:

- Gowdys, 121-131 Woodstock Road, Belfast, BT6 8AB. Tel. 028 9045 9052
- Roberts School Wear, 24 Central Avenue, Bangor, BT20 3AF. Tel. 028 9127 0516
- Truly Fare, 397 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 3GR. Tel. 028 9069 1347
- Warnocks, 791-793 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GX. Tel. 028 9038 1828
- PE uniform: <https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/education/schools/olspck.html> or by visiting the O'Neill's shop at Unit 1C, CastleCourt, Royal Avenue; Belfast, BT1. Tel. 028 9031 2903

# Dining Hall Menus

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Club £120 (8am – 9am)	Cereal with Milk, Toast with Butter and Jam, Orange Juice or Small Yoghurt, Cereal Bar, Orange Juice				
Break	Scones, White/Wholemeal Bread Rolls, Pancakes, Cheese/Cheese & Ham Toasties, Bacon Butty, Waffles				
Hot Meal	Pasta/Spaghetti Bolognese with Garlic Bread	Crispy Chicken with Rice and Honey Chilli Sauce	Roast Beef, Veg, Potatoes and Gravy	Battered Cod, Peas and Wedges	Chips/Curry Chip
Vegetarian	Vegetarian Bolognese with Garlic Bread	Baked Potato with Beans and Cheese	Vegetarian Pie, Veg and Potatoes	Vegetarian Fingers, Peas and Potatoes	Chips/Curry Chip
Soup	Chicken Soup	Vegetable Soup	Vegetable Soup	Tomato Soup	Potato and Leek Soup
Grab and Go	Kebabs Hash Browns	Filled Panini/Wrap Hot Dog	Chicken Bites (with Dip) Jambons	Chicken Burger Veggie Burger (cheese optional) Sausage Roll	Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Battered Sausage

Daily Break and Lunch Food Options: Soup and Roll (lunch only), Filled Rolls/Wraps, Salad Pots, Breakfast Bars, Crackers and Cheese, Custard and Rice, Yoghurts, Jelly Pots, Fruit Pots, Apples

Daily Break and Lunch Drink Options: Bottled Water, Flavoured Water, Juice Box, Milk, Flavoured Milk, Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate

\*Gluten Free Option Available Daily

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Club £1.20 (8am – 9am)	Cereal with Milk, Toast with Butter and Jam, Orange Juice or Small Yoghurt, Cereal Bar, Orange Juice				
Break	Scones, White/Wholemeal Bread Rolls, Pancakes, Cheese/Cheese & Ham Toasties, Bacon Butty, Waffles				
Hot Meal	Sausages, Potatoes and Beans	Chicken Korma and Rice with Naan Bread	Roast Chicken, Veg, Potatoes and Gravy	Fish Goujons, Potatoes and Veg	Chips/Curry Chip
Vegetarian	Vegetarian Sausages, Potatoes and Beans	Macaroni and Cheese	Vegetarian Pie, Veg and Potatoes	Vegetarian Lasagne, Salad and Garlic Bread	Chips/Curry Chip
Soup	Chicken Soup	Vegetable Soup	Vegetable Soup	Tomato Soup	Potato and Leek Soup
Grab and Go	Chicken Bites (with Dip) Hash Browns	Filled Panini/Wrap Fish Bites (with Dip)	Buffalo Chicken Wings Jambons	Beef Burger (cheese optional) Sausage Roll	Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Pastie

Daily Break and Lunch Food Options: Soup and Roll (lunch only), Filled Rolls/Wraps, Salad Pots, Breakfast Bars, Crackers and Cheese, Custard and Rice, Yoghurts, Jelly Pots, Fruit Pots, Apples

Daily Break and Lunch Drink Options: Bottled Water, Flavoured Water, Juice Box, Milk, Flavoured Milk, Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate

\*Gluten Free Option Available Daily



Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Club £1.20 (8am - 9am)	Cereal with Milk, Toast with Butter and Jam, Orange Juice or Small Yoghurt, Cereal Bar, Orange Juice				
Break	Scones, White/Wholemeal Bread Rolls, Pancakes, Cheese/Cheese & Ham Toasties, Bacon Butty, Waffles				
Hot Meal	Chicken Arrabbiata Pasta	Chinese Chicken Curry and Rice	Roast Gammon, Veg, Potatoes and Gravy	Fish Fingers, Potatoes, Peas or Beans	Chips/Curry Chip
Vegetarian	Vegetarian Arrabbiata Pasta	Vegetarian Curry and Rice	Vegetarian Pie, Veg and Potatoes	Baked Potato with Beans and Cheese	Chips/Curry Chip
Soup	Chicken Soup	Vegetable Soup	Vegetable Soup	Tomato Soup	Potato and Leek Soup
Grab and Go	Hot Dog Hash Browns	Filled Panini/Wrap Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza	Chicken Bites (with Dip) Jambons	Chicken Burger Veggie Burger (cheese optional) Sausage Roll	Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Battered Sausage

Daily Break and Lunch Food Options: Soup and Roll (lunch only), Filled Rolls/Wraps, Salad Pots, Breakfast Bars, Crackers and Cheese, Custard and Rice, Yoghurts, Jelly Pots, Fruit Pots, Apples

Daily Break and Lunch Drink Options: Bottled Water, Flavoured Water, Juice Box, Milk, Flavoured Milk, Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate

\*Gluten Free Option Available Daily



# Bus Arrangements 2025 - 2026

## Bangor and Holywood

### Morning

Bus Number	Departure Time	Departure Point	Route
1B	08.30	Ballymacormick Road at Groomsport Roundabout	08.31 Ring Road; 08.32 Ballymaconnell Road South; 08.34 Ballycrochan Road (Ballycrochan Baptist Church, between Perry Road and Albany Road); 08.35 Albany Road; 08.36 Ashbury Avenue; 08.37 Robinson Road; 08.40 Gransha Road (beside Shell, just after Little Stars); 08.45 Balloo Road; 08.48 Rathgael Road; 08.49 Lord Wardens; 09.10 Ballymenoch Park, Holywood. 09.20 Arrival at College.
3	08.42	Bangor Bus Centre	08.43 Brunswick Road (St Comgall's Church, Mace); 08.50 beside Rathmore Road; 08.52 Crawfordsburn; 09.05 Ballymenoch Park, Holywood; 09.20 Arrival at College.
4	08.45	Bangor Bus Centre	08.47 Belfast Road (flyover); 08.54 Crawfordsburn; 09.20 Arrival at College.
11	08.40	Redburn Square, Holywood	08.40 Redburn Square; 08.41 Northern Bank; 08.46 Redburn Estate / Firmount Crescent; 08.50 Old Holywood Road.

### Afternoon

Bus Number	Departure Time	Last Stop	Route
1B	15.40	Bangor Bus Centre	16.10 Lord Wardens; 16.15 Rathgael Road; 16.17 Balloo Road; 16.18 Gransha Road (2 stops); 16.20 Robinson Road; 16.21 Ashbury Avenue; 16.22 Albany Road; 16.23 Ballycrochan Road (2 stops); 16.24 Ballymaconnell Road South; 16.25 Ring Road; 16.30 Ballymacormick Road at Groomsport Roundabout.
3	15.40	Bangor Bus Centre	15.45 Ballymenoch Park, Holywood; 16.00 Helen's Bay; 16.05 Crawfordsburn; 16.30 Bangor Bus Centre.
4	15.40	Bangor Bus Centre	16.02 Crawfordsburn; 16.17 Brunswick Road; 16.20 Belfast Road (flyover); 16.25 Bangor Bus Centre.
11	15.40	Redburn Square, Holywood	15.44 Hawthornden Way; 15.48 Old Holywood Road; 15.50 Firmount Crescent; 15.52 Demesne Road; 16.00 Church Road.

## Belfast (Lisburn Road, Malone Road, Stranmillis Road, Rosetta)

### Morning

Bus Number	Departure Time	Departure Point	Route
7	08.28	Bradbury Place	08.30 Lisburn Road (City Hospital); 08.38 Balmoral Avenue; 08.39 Harberton Park/Strangford Avenue opposite Gate E; 08.40 Harberton Park opposite Glenveagh School; 08.42 Upper Malone Road (House of Sport) via Shaw's Bridge; 08.57 Upper Knockbreda Road (St Bernadette's); 09.07 King's Road; 09.11 Arrival at College.
8	08.51	Ravenhill Road (Cherryvale Park)	Ravenhill Road; 08.52 St John's Church, Ormeau Road; 08.53 Hampton Park; 08.57 Upper Knockbreda Road (St Bernadette's); 09.07 King's Road; 09.11 Arrival at College.
9	08.37	Stranmillis Road (Ridgeway Street)	08.40 Stranmillis Road (Broomhill Park); 08.41 Malone Road (Broomhill Close, between Bladon Drive and Deramore Drive, Deramore Park, after Newforge Lane, before House of Sport); 08.59 Upper Knockbreda Road (St Bernadette's); 09.09 King's Road; 09.13 Arrival at College.
16	08.57	Upper Knockbreda Road (St Bernadette's)	09.07 King's Road; 09.11 Arrival at College.

### Afternoon

Bus Number	Departure Time	Last Stop	Route
7	15.45	Bradbury Place	King's Road; Knock Road; Upper Knockbreda Road; Belvoir Road; Shaw's Bridge; Malone Road (all Metro stops); Balmoral Avenue (all Metro stops); Lisburn Road (all Metro stops); 16.20 Bradbury Place.
8	15.45	My Lady's Road, Ravenhill Road	King's Road; Knock Road; Upper Knockbreda Road; Forestside; Ormeau Road; 16.10 St John's Church, Ormeau Road; 16.12 Ravenhill Road; 16.14 My Lady's Road.
9	15.45	Stranmillis Road	King's Road; Knock Road; Upper Knockbreda Road; Belvoir Road; Shaw's Bridge; Malone Road (all Metro stops); 16.15 Stranmillis Road (all Metro stops).
12	15.50	City Hall	King's Road; Knock Road; Upper Newtownards Road (Ballyhackamore); Albertbridge Road; Mountpottinger Road; Short Strand; Queen's Bridge; Oxford Street; May Street; 16.20 City Hall (Howard Street).

# Cairnshill, Carryduff and Knockbreda

## Morning

Bus Number	Departure Time	Departure Point	Route
10	08.15	Europa Bus Station	08.27 Ormeau Road; 08.32 Belvoir Road; 08.34 bottom of Purdysburn Road; 08.35 Royal Lodge; 08.36 Cairnshill Road; 08.38 Via Manse Road, Ballygowan Road, Glen Road and Lower Braniel Road; 09.10 Arrival at College.
13	08.30	Purdysburn Hospital Layby	08.36 Brackenvale Service Station; 08.37 Ivanhoe Inn; 08.40 Church Road, Carryduff; 08.42 Ballynahinch Road; 08.44 Saintfield Road; 08.46 Cairnshill Road; 08.48 Four Winds Turning Circle; 08.50 Manse Road; 08.52 Ballygowan Road; 08.54 Lower Braniel Road; 09.07 Arrival at College.
17	08.40	Jamisons Garage, Carryduff	08.41 Carryduff Roundabout; 08.42 Reservoir, Saintfield Road; 08.44 Cairnshill Road; 09.15 Arrival at College.
20	08.40	Laurelgrove Turning Circle	08.42 Four Winds Turning Circle; 08.55 Via Manse Road, Ballygowan Road, Glen Road and Lower Braniel Road; 08.58 Arrival at College.
21	08.40	The Inns	08.42 Cairnshill Road; 08.44 Four Winds Turning Circle; 08.46 Manse Road; 08.48 Ballygowan Road; 08.50 Glen Road; 08.52 Lower Braniel Road; 09.10 Arrival at College.
23	08.30	Church Road, Carryduff	08.32 Ballynahinch Road; 08.34 Reservoir, Saintfield Road; 09.00 Arrival at College.
188(E)	08.40	Jamisons Garage, Carryduff	08.41 Carryduff Roundabout; 08.42 Reservoir, Saintfield Road; 08.44 Cairnshill Road; 08.45 Four Winds Turning Circle; 08.46 Manse Road; 08.48 Ballygowan Road; 08.50 Glen Road; 08.52 Lower Braniel Road; 09.15 Arrival at College.
188(S)	08.35	Beechill Road (Opposite Beechwood Crescent)	08.36 After Beechill Park Avenue; 08.39 bottom of Cairnshill Road; 08.40 Cairnshill Crescent; 08.43 Via Manse Road, Ballygowan Road, Glen Road and Lower Braniel Road; 09.03 Arrival at College.

## Afternoon

Bus Number	Departure Time	Last Stop	Route
13	15.50	Saintfield Road	Via Lower Braniel Road, Glen Road, Ballygowan Road and Manse Road (Garland Hill); Cairnshill Road (three stops); 16.10 Saintfield Road.
15	15.40	Europa Bus Centre	Via Lower Braniel Road, Glen Road, Ballygowan Road and Manse Road; Cairnshill Road (three stops); Saintfield Road; Carryduff Roundabout; Saintfield Road; Ormeau Road; Cromac Street; 16.40 Europa Bus Centre.
16	15.40	St John's Church, Ormeau Road	King's Road; Upper Knockbreda Road; Forestside; Saintfield Road (Forster Green, opposite The Inns, before Tesco, after Tesco, Pat's); Cairnshill Road, Newtown Park; Saintfield Road; Ormeau Road; 16.10 St John's Church.
17	15.38	Church Road, Carryduff	Express to Jamisons Garage, Carryduff; Ballynahinch Road; 16.10 Church Road, Carryduff.
18	15.45	Greer Park Avenue	King's Road; Knock Road; Ballygowan Road; Manse Road; Cairnshill Road; Saintfield Road (Mount Oriel); Belvoir Road; 16.10 Greer Park Avenue.
19	15.40	Ballynahinch Road, Carryduff	Express to Jamisons Garage, Carryduff; Church Road, Carryduff; 16.10 Ballynahinch Road.
20	15.45	St John's Church, Ormeau Road (via Laurelgrove)	King's Road; Knock Road; Ballygowan Road; Manse Road (Garland Hill); Four Winds Turning Circle; 16.10 Laurelgrove (Ballymaconaghy Road); Newton Park (Colby Park); Saintfield Road (Mount Oriel); Forestside (Knockbreda Cemetery); 16.12 St John's Church.



## Ards Peninsula and Newtownards

### Morning

Bus Number	Departure Time	Departure Point	Route
10	07.55	Portaferry Square	08.05 Deerpark Road; 08.15 Kircubbin (Finnegans); 08.20 Greyabbey; 08.35 Regent St, Newtownards (opposite bus station); 09.00 Arrival at College.
Strangford College Bus	07.50	Portaferry Square	07.55 Tullymally Road; 08.00 Ballygalget Road; 08.03 Cloughie Road; 08.07 Nuns Bridge; 08.08 Loughdoo Road; 08.11 Ballygelagh Road; 08.15 Quarter Road; 08.20 Transfer at Rubane below.
Glastry Rubane	08.05	Glastry Corner	08.20 Rubane; 08.40 Regent St, Newtownards; Transfer to 10A below (opposite bus station).
10A	08.40	Regent St, Newtownards (opposite bus station)	09.10 Arrival at College.

### Afternoon

Bus Number	Departure Time	Last Stop	Route
10	15.40	Portaferry	16.00 Newtownards Bus Station; 16.15 Greyabbey; 16.20 Kircubbin (Ulster Bank); 16.30 Loughdoo Road/Deerpark Road; 16.35 Deerpark Road; 16.40 Portaferry (Crossroads, Portaferry Square).
10A	15.40	Kircubbin	16.00 Newtownards Bus Station; 16.15 Greyabbey; 16.20 Kircubbin (The Green).
Ballygalget	16.30	Deerpark Road	Transfer from 10 or 10A at Kircubbin; 16.30 Kircubbin (Ulster Bank); 16.32 Parsonage Road; 16.37 Manse Road; 16.45 McKenna Road; 16.48 Rubane Road; 16.55 Ballyeasborough Road; 17.00 Ballygelagh Road; 17.07 Loughdoo Road; 17.13 Deerpark Road.

## Dundonald - Metro and Glider Services

**Metro 4C Service – 0.5 mile walk to College**

\* AM departures serve Millmount Village / PM departures do not serve Millmount Village)

AM Departs - Millmount Road	Arrives - Kings Square (Kings Road)
08.13	08.22
08.54	09.03
PM Departs - Kings Square (Kings Road)	Arrives - Millmount Road
15.46	15.55
16.16	16.25

Glider Services – 0.9 mile walk to College. Departs Dundonald Park & Ride. Glider service every 8-10 minutes from 5.18am.  
Local Stops – Cabin Hill (near General Merchants and Knock Road Glider Stop)

## Ballygowan, Comber and Darragh Cross

Note: Please contact the Education Authority (Dundonald) as soon as possible to apply for a seat on this bus.

This route is put out to tender by the Education Authority each academic year. The current provider is Belfast Bus Company.

### Morning

Bus Number	Departure Time	Departure Point	Route
A	08.30	Darragh Cross Square	08.35 Manse Road; 08.38 Raffrey Road; 08.40 Carrickmannon Road; 08.50 Ballygowan; 09.00 Comber Square; 09.15 Arrival at College.

### Afternoon

Bus Number	Departure Time	Last Stop	Route
A	15.40	Darragh Cross Square	16.00 Comber Square; Ballygowan; Carrickmannon Road; Raffrey Road; Manse Road; 16.25 Darragh Cross Square.



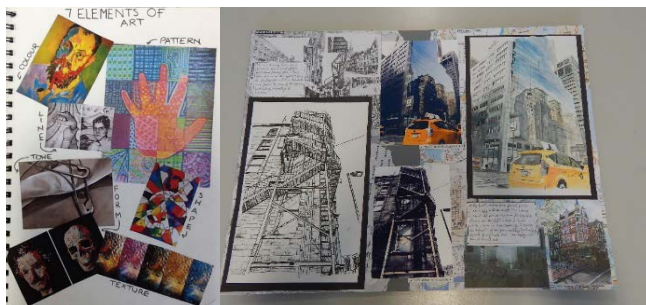


# Subject Information

## THE ART AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT

### THE ART AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT

#### Open Day Displays in Rooms 3Ar1 and Display Area



Art and Design is a subject where visual skills come first. To appreciate and understand the world around them, students in Year 8 begin by looking carefully and recording what they see in a variety of ways.

They will be introduced to the meaning behind the language of art: line; tone; colour; and become familiar with the use of a range of media, e.g. pencils, paint and pastels.

Understanding what artists, designers and craft workers do, and have done, is also of great importance. So that students begin to think and work independently, they are encouraged to use ICT to provide personal research.

In Years 9 and 10, students continue to expand their range of practical skills through a progressive experience of media, techniques and processes.

Art and Design qualifications challenge students to develop their observational skills and aesthetic appreciation. Investigation, experimentation and self-expression are prized at all levels, and these skills help students as they learn how to express their inner-most feelings and perceptions visually. A qualification in Art and Design also develops students as individuals and contributors to our society and the economy.

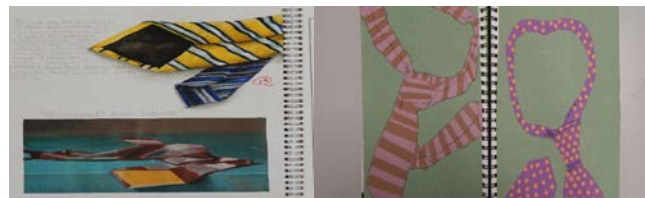


#### GCSE

Building upon the skills gained in Key Stage 3 (Years 8 - 10), students can progress to study GCSE Art and Design in Years 11 and 12. Students study the CCEA GCSE syllabus.

#### AS/A2

Students can continue to develop their skills and knowledge gained in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 by studying A-Level Art and Design. Students study



the CCEA AS/A2 syllabus. These courses allow them to achieve their optimum and so follow on to third level education.

## THE BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Display in Room 3Bs3

#### What is Business Studies?

Business Studies is taken by students at GCSE and A-Level, commencing in Year 11. It is a topical, interactive subject where students can see their classroom learning reflected in the real world. To highlight this, we draw extensively from current events within Northern Ireland to illustrate and expand students' learning. Entrants are, therefore, expected to have a genuine interest in business affairs, though no previous experience is required for entry into either the GCSE or AS/A2 courses. The teachers within the department have a wealth of experience, both in the classroom and in industry. We are an enthusiastic team who embrace a range of teaching strategies.



#### Why Study Business Studies?

A qualification in Business Studies provides the opportunity to explore and develop an understanding of the business world. It equips students with a sound vocational knowledge base and encourages the development of critical judgement, sound reasoning and an analytical approach to problems.

Business is also a word that covers a tremendous range of commercial and management careers. Within business, employees can move into many different areas such as personnel work, production, research, sales, marketing, purchasing, public relations, advertising, banking, finance, insurance and accountancy.

### Extra-Curricular Activities:

We have a Junior Apprentice competition for Junior School students in terms 1 and 2, where they participate in group tasks, with the losing team having to face our judges in the Boardroom, similar to the television programme.

Our Year 13 students participate in the Young Enterprise Company programme. This experience provides a real-life learning opportunity that introduces young people to the realities of the world of work.

## THE CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY DEPARTMENT

Open Day Display in Room 3Ca



### What is Employability?

Employability is having the skills, qualities and capabilities required to meet the changing needs of employers, so that you can achieve your goals when you eventually go into the workplace. All Year 8 students follow a course in Employability.



### The Aims of Employability

The aim of Education for Employability is to ensure that you develop qualities, skills, knowledge, understanding and attitudes which will give you a strong foundation for lifelong learning and work in a changing workplace.

## THE KEY AREAS IN THE PROGRAMME

### Skills and Qualities for Work

In this section we help you to get to know what kind of person you are and what you can do.

### Career Management

Here we help you work out steps for planning anything in your life. If you can plan a party, plan something in school, then you can plan even bigger things later in your career!

### Work in the Local and Global Economy

We help you to find out about your local area and what kind of jobs there are in it. We introduce you to the countries of Europe and what you could do there.

### Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

In this section we encourage you to be creative and think of how to solve problems. Maybe you will be tomorrow's entrepreneur and we'll see you on Dragon's Den with your idea!





## COMPUTING

### Open Day Display in Room 3IT2

The Computing Department has 4 dedicated C2k PC suites. All 4 suites are equipped with a CleverTouch Board. Teachers of other subjects can also make regular use of a class set of laptops.



At Key Stage 3, ICT is delivered as a discrete subject. All Year 8 – 10 students are timetabled for a double period per week. Topics include eSafety, programming in Scratch and Python, web development and networks. The programme of study is refreshed annually.

The department offers:

GCSE Computer Science;  
GCSE Digital Technology;  
A-Level Computer Science;  
A-Level Digital Technology.

All GCSE and A-Level courses are taught by subject specialists. Programming languages used include Python, HTML and CSS. An after-school Coding Club runs throughout the year led by Sixth Form Coding Ambassadors.

## THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Displays in Rooms 2Dr1

The Drama department aims to develop confidence, self-respect and leadership in all of our students. We do this through providing students with a rich and rewarding experience of drama and theatre forms. We focus on creating and devising dramatic work, developing performance skills, exploring social issues and the experiences of others. In the Junior School, we hold annual Drama Festivals to showcase the performance of curriculum work. We teach in specialist Drama studios with professional lighting and sound equipment.

## Specialist Courses

GCSE Drama is offered at Key Stage 4 and A-Level Drama at AS and A2. These courses give a firm foundation for performing arts related courses but, perhaps more importantly, prepare all students for professional work that involves working with others, leading teams, or public speaking and presentation skills.

## Co-Curricular

We aim to provide a broad range of opportunities for students outside of their normal lesson times. In specialist courses, students will perform to the public, giving an opportunity for parents to come and support their work. We hold an annual Junior School Drama Festival, where students compete for the Junior Drama Cup. We provide a range of extra-curricular activities, led by staff and Senior students. The highlight of our programme is the biennial school production, where we celebrate the talents and achievements of our students with the whole school community – a culmination of months of rehearsal. As well as performing, there are opportunities for students to be involved in all aspects of the performance – lighting, sound and stage management, as well as front of house, marketing and production.



## THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Display in Room 3Bs1



#### WHO ARE WE?

We teach Economics at AS and A-Level to Years 13 and 14 students.

#### GCE A-Level

Students study Economics at both AS and A-Level, where it is a popular choice. The course covers many issues of contemporary relevance including: What caused the

credit crunch? What will be the impact of Brexit? How big a problem is inequality? How can world poverty be reduced? What are the economic consequences of global warming? A range of teaching methods are used with an emphasis on relating theory to current problems.

#### Why Study Economics?

Economics gives students an excellent insight into how the economy works as well as developing skills of analysis, evaluation and problem-solving. Students have gone to Higher Education to pursue courses in Economics, Accountancy, Finance, Law and Management.

#### Extra-Curricular:

Students have attended talks organised by Economics and Finance at QUB. Visits are also organised to the dealing room in the Department of Finance at Queen's.

## THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### Main Open Day Display in Room 2En1

We aim to establish a friendly, lively and purposeful atmosphere in the classroom where students are given opportunities to gain confidence as communicators and to develop their skills as readers and writers.



English groupings are determined by the student's tutor group. Junior classes are allocated five periods a week.

English work in Year 8 and the Junior School is based on literature and language texts chosen to stimulate and challenge our students. We help them enjoy and explore material which allows them to understand and practise reading, writing and speaking for different purposes and audiences. In the typical English lesson the emphasis is on active learning; this might involve small group or paired work, participating in debate, role-play, presentations to the class, drama based activities and evaluating film and other media texts. The use of ICT is well integrated into English lessons to enhance teaching and learning. Teachers encourage students to develop the habit of reading independently by bringing classes to the school's very well stocked Junior Library. Naturally, as an English Department, the focus is on promoting high standards of literacy as evidenced by the quality and range of pieces showcased in the goodwork books of Junior School students.

There are nine specialist teachers in the English Department. The majority of teachers teach the full range, from Year 8 to Year 14.

## THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Display in Room 1Lg7



Bienvenue à toutes et à tous!

In the French Department, we use the digital textbook 'Accès Studio' in Year 8 along with the online learning platform Language Nut for revision and consolidation. At Open Day, you will have the opportunity to meet our Language Ambassadors and experience our digital resources. You will discover how engaging, interactive and fun learning French can be!

We also have a French-themed photo booth complete with a range of props and the iconic Eiffel Tower background should you wish to pose for a photo and capture a snapshot of your visit. You and your parents can also sample some French cuisine as there will be bread and a range of cheeses on offer. We also provide filtered coffee for the parents!

Here in Knock, we love to promote extra-curricular activities. We celebrate the European Day of Languages annually with a variety of experiences for students in Key Stage 3, including the Year 9 French

breakfast. We also encourage participation in external competitions where possible. Any student who does A-Level French will have the opportunity to spend a week with a French family through our long-standing French exchange with Lycée Notre-Dame du Roc, in la Roche-sur-Yon. This is a wonderful way to experience linguistic and cultural immersion.



Studying French can open so many doors for you! You will enhance your cultural awareness, refine your problem-solving skills and enrich your travel experiences in French-speaking countries, not to mention the possibility of study and work abroad.

We look forward to seeing you on Open Day!

### **THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT** **Open Day Display in Room 3Gg1**

The Geography Department aims to provide a broad and balanced geographical education and to encourage interest within and beyond the classroom. Geography is becoming an ever more relevant and important area of study in today's rapidly and constantly changing physical and human environment.

There are four specialist teachers in the Department, each teaching the full range of students. The subject is taught to all students in the first three years and then students choose their GCSE subjects.

Geography concerns itself with both human and physical aspects of our world. The endangered earth, climatic change, world famine, nuclear power, pollutions and the spreading desert are some of the key issues that interest us. Recent floods, earthquakes and volcanic tsunamis are part of Geography. Why did it happen? Will it happen again? Why do people live there? What is pollution? These are some of the issues we look at in Junior School classes.



At last, all the main political parties have adopted the environment as one of their major policy themes. We intend to give our students a thorough understanding of their physical and human surroundings, as well as a wide range of intellectual and social skills. In this way, they will be equipped to meet the environmental challenges that will confront them in the next few years.

The Department is fully equipped with visual teaching aids. We use the College computer network and every classroom has an interactive whiteboard. There is a good collection of maps of NI and parts of England, along with fine rock and fossil specimens. We have a Departmental Library which is renewed and updated regularly.

There is much emphasis on the collection, presentation and analysis of personal fieldwork, using locations in Northern Ireland, as this is a compulsory element of GCSE and A-Level examinations.

Geography is very relevant to our understanding of the widespread problems facing our planet. We hope that all of us will begin to appreciate that we have shared responsibility in understanding and taking care of the workings of 'our home'.

### **THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS DEPARTMENT** **Open Day Display in Room 3Po**

Politics is a literary and discursive A-Level subject. It is lively, interesting and topical, and involves a detailed knowledge of current affairs and keeping up to date with contemporary political developments worldwide. Students of A-Level Politics are well informed about how important decisions which affect their lives are made, and about what is going on in the world around them.

If you are good at reading, arguing, writing essays, weighing up evidence, analysing documents and enjoy watching the news, then Politics would make an excellent A-Level choice. Studying Politics will help you to improve your aptitude in these areas. It complements other subjects such as History, English Literature, Sociology, Geography, Economics and RE, and is particularly useful for those considering careers in law, journalism, teaching, local or central government, research, the media or the civil service.



### Course Content and Examination Arrangements:

In this school we follow the NI CCEA Specification for Government and Politics. At the end of Year 13 students sit external examinations for their two AS modules. They are as follows:

1. The Government and Politics of N. Ireland
2. The British Political Process



Students proceeding to A2 Level sit examinations in two further modules at the end of Year 14:

1. Comparative Government – The United Kingdom and the USA
2. Political Power



For further information, contact Mr Jenkins.

### THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

#### Open Day Displays in Room 3Hi4.

Tyranny, Treachery and Travels! The Terrible Tudors and the Early Modern World!

If you like a bit of controversy, then you will love Year 8 History in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock.



The study and teaching of History has radically changed in the last decade. The History Department has enthusiastically embraced the challenge of these changes and combines a thorough approach to academic work with a friendly, relaxed and fun atmosphere. The History curriculum reflects the aims and objectives of the College to promote mutual understanding, awareness, sensitivity and respect for all. It also reflects the aims of the NI curriculum to span local, national, European and global contexts and to develop students as individuals and as contributors to society, the economy and the environment. We run regular trips to historic sites with our most recent to Poland in October 2024.

We want to create enthusiastic, engaged students and nurture a passion for History that they will remember throughout their lives. We challenge our students to ask why are we learning History? What relevancy does it have for me today? History in OLSPCK is, therefore, enquiry based. Students are challenged to be 'History Detectives', sifting through evidence and clues to fully understand the past. They use a wide range of sources to help them step back in time and to investigate how people lived in the past. Students are encouraged to ask questions and identify sources for investigation. They collect and record information and present it in a range of forms. Great emphasis is placed on the development of thinking skills and personal capabilities and all teachers use a range of learning and teaching strategies to promote life-long learning. Lessons are enhanced by the use of digital media resources and, above all, a 'hands on' approach that the students will never forget!

In Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock we believe in promoting History as an active and alive subject. Over the last three years we have revamped

our programmes based on student interests. In Year 8 we study the Tudors and the Early Modern World; Year 9 - Revolutions, including the Indian Revolution introduced in 2021; Year 10 - Black Civil Rights in the USA and the Path to Partition; Year 11 - Life under Nazi Dictatorship 1933-45 and Northern Ireland and its Neighbours 1965-98 and Modern Ireland; Year 12 - International Relations 1945-2004; Year 13 - Britain 1830-1880 and Ireland 1830-1867 and finally in Year 14 - American Presidents 1900-2000 and Partition of Ireland 1900-25.

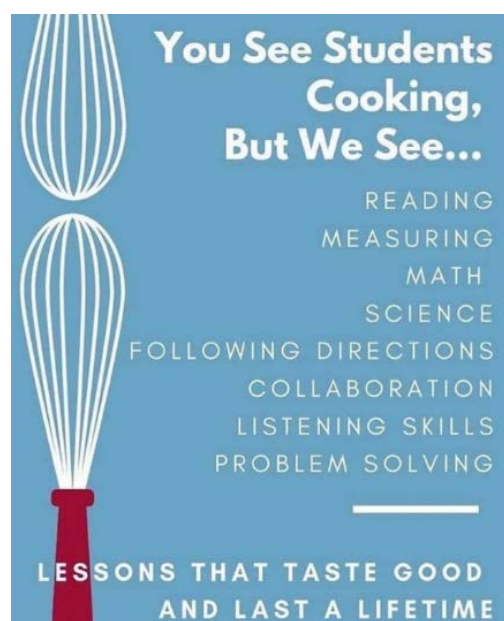
To see examples of Year 8 and A-Level work, come and visit us on the third floor. You will see examples of Chronologies of our life; PowerPoints on Henry VIII and his wives and our books packed full of work completed in Term 1. You will also meet members of our After-School History Club.

We look forward to seeing you on Open Day on level 3 in Hi4 and welcome further queries regarding History in the College. Make sure to say hi to our Medieval knights, ladies and peasants as you meet them around the College! Most of all, enjoy your morning in the College, we are delighted to welcome you to our school!

## THE HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Display in Room 1He1

- H Healthy Lifestyle.
- O Organisation: during practical classes you will develop organisation skills.
- M Management: you will learn how to make the best use of resources – Time, Energy, Money.
- E Energy Efficiency: You will consider the different types of energy and how they can be used efficiently.
- E Our aim in the Home Economics Department is to learn through enjoyment.
- C You will prepare and cook many delicious recipes. Your new skills will impress everyone at home.
- O Opinions: we will discuss relevant topics and you will be given the opportunity to develop and express your own opinions whilst simultaneously respecting the viewpoints of others.
- N Nutrition: you will identify the different nutrients found in food and learn how they help us grow and stay healthy.
- O Opportunity: to learn about ourselves, our families and our communities.
- M Money: you will become a wise consumer knowing how to pay for goods and services using various methods of payment.
- I Independence: Home Economics is an important subject that will allow you to be more independent as you grow and develop.
- C Culture: You will have the opportunity to research different types of cultures living in our world today.
- S Safety: you will learn about safety in the home and how to keep our environment safe and hazard free.





Students in Year 8 and 10 study Home Economics for 2 periods each week and for 3 periods in Year 9. At GCSE the subject is called Food and Nutrition and at A-Level Nutrition and Food Science.



Home Economics is a life relevant subject. It enables the development of knowledge and key skills which students will use in their daily lives. Communication, application of number, information technology, intrapersonal skills, self-evaluation, decision making and problem solving are a few of the skills that are developed in a typical lesson.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Year 8 Cookery Club during Term 2, the OLSPCK Bake Off Competition in Year 10, and the Springboard Chef Competition in Year 11.

Past students who have studied Home Economics have gone on to pursue a wide range of degree courses including Dietetics, Environmental Health, Medicine, Accountancy, Business Studies, Physiotherapy, Marketing, Social Work, Law, Nursing, Consumer Studies and Teaching.

## THE IRISH DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Display in Room 1Lg5



Irish is offered from Year 8 onwards and is studied to AS/A2 Level. Many of our students achieve a high level of fluency in our language. We stress the importance of spoken Irish but all aspects of language learning are also catered for: listening, reading, writing and appreciating literature, for example.

We endeavour in Roinn na Gaeilge to allow Irish to become a real means of communication for our students and also to infuse in them a love for the culture of the language which is all around us. We give children access to Irish songs and poetry at Christmas and during the St Patrick's Day

celebrations. We have hosted Feis Bhéal Feirste in recent years.

In the Irish Department we believe that Irish is more than simply a school subject: we believe that Irish is an invaluable resource. Irish is not simply for school, Irish is for life! Many of our students take the language outside the walls of the school, attending cultural events and Gaeltacht courses in their free time. We live in the real world like every other subject; however, we know that students need to know that Irish will be of use to them in the world of work.

Irish stands alongside all other GCSE, AS and A2 subjects as a matriculation subject for third-level education. It has exactly the same weighting as every other subject demanded as an entrance requirement. A summary glance at any local job section will reveal how frequently Irish is used by government departments here and the Irish-medium education sector is constantly on the lookout for staff for their 79 schools. In terms of qualifications of use in the job market today, Irish has never been more desirable anywhere on the island.

The myth that Irish is the preserve of the few should be consigned to history. It is a vibrant, accessible and useful tool for life for our young people. At Coláiste Mhuire agus Phádraig we do our utmost to enable them to rediscover this key element of our identity.

## Local and Global Citizenship KEY STAGE 3 LEARNING for Life and Work GCSE Open Day Display in Room 1Lg2

Local and Global Citizenship has been taught in the College as part of the Education Authority pilot since September 2003. It is a vocational subject which aims to help students deal with the challenges of everyday life in Northern Ireland. The Curriculum reflects the aims and objectives of the College to promote mutual understanding, awareness, sensitivity and respect for all.

In Year 8 students explore Diversity and Inclusion. This involves exploring identity – of the individual; of others in the class; in NI, nationally and globally. Students also investigate stereotyping, sectarianism and racism and look at strategies to overcome these issues. In Year 9 students examine Human Rights and Social Responsibility as well as Equality and Social Justice and in Year 10, Democracy and Participation.

GCSE Learning for Life and Work is a compulsory

GCSE in the College. It combines the strands of Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development and highlights the importance of playing an active part in society on a local, national and global scale. We seek to enhance our students' learning experiences through educational visits and workshops from the NI Assembly Education Service, local politicians, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Police Ombudsman. Our GCSE results consistently exceed NI averages and we pride ourselves on the high performance of our students.



We look forward to seeing you on Open Day and welcome further queries regarding Citizenship in the College.

## THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Events on Open Day in the Mathematics Department			
Open Day Display (1Ma2)	Numeracy Ninjas Competition (1Ma1) (parents vs P7/P6 students – no calculator allowed!)		
9.30am – 12.30pm	9.45am	10.15am	10.45am
	11.15am	11.45am	12.15pm

The Mathematics Department at OLSPCK seeks to achieve high standards in the teaching and learning of Mathematics to bring out the best in all students, irrespective of their ability. The Mathematics Department encourages all students to:

- enjoy Mathematics and achieve their highest potential
- apply Mathematics in everyday situations
- use Mathematics as a language of communication
- develop knowledge and understanding of personal finance
- develop the ability to reason logically

At Key Stage 3, students study topics across three main areas of Maths: Number & Algebra, Handling Data and Geometry & Measures. These topics are taught using a range of teaching strategies allowing the department to ensure our students are suitably challenged and motivated to continue the study of Mathematics at a higher level.

- In Year 8, students study fractions, decimals, solving equations, averages and measuring angles amongst other topics
- In Year 9, this knowledge is extended to more complex problems along with new concepts such as circles and inequalities
- In Year 10, students will meet Pythagoras' Theorem, cumulative frequency curves and quadratic equations to prepare them for the transition to GCSE

At GCSE, we offer 2 routes depending on the ability of each student:

- Students with a greater flair for the subject complete GCSE Mathematics at the end of Year 11 and GCSE Further Mathematics at the end of Year 12
- Other students complete GCSE Mathematics over a two-year period of study with one assessment unit examined at the end of Year 11 and a second examined at the end of Year 12

The Mathematics Department offers 2 A-Levels - Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Further Mathematics aims to stretch the most able mathematicians and is suitable for students with a particular aptitude in the subject.

## MOVING IMAGE ARTS

In today's digital age, where visual storytelling has become an integral part of our lives, developing moving image literacy and studying the art of filmmaking has gained immense popularity. In NI, the film and TV industry are both booming with a need for local professional talent. Recognising the need to nurture young talent and provide them with the necessary skills, our school is thrilled to introduce the latest addition to our A-level subjects - Moving Image Arts. This captivating course allows students

to delve into the history of film, exploring topics such as The Golden Age of Hollywood, Alfred Hitchcock and German Expressionism. Students also have an exciting opportunity to bring their creative visions to life through creating their very own films that they write, plan, direct, shoot and edit themselves.

### Facilities

We are very lucky to have secured funding for a state-of-the-art Mac suite, equipped with 15 iMac computers. We also have 8 Canon DSLRs, a three-point lighting system, gimbals, tripods and more. This cutting-edge technology allows students to explore their creativity and visual storytelling.

### Extra-curricular

We believe in enriching the learning experience beyond the classroom. In Year 13, our students take part in an editing workshop, hosted by the Nerve Centre, to allow them to develop their skills in the use of Final Cut Pro editing software, and gain valuable insights from an industry expert.

In November, our students attended the CCEA MIA Showcase. It is an inspirational annual event which has run in partnership with the Foyle Film Festival and Northern Ireland Screen for over 20 years. It's a unique opportunity to celebrate the best films created by GCSE, AS and A2 Moving Image Arts students each year. At this year's event, we were all delighted to be there to celebrate the success of current A2 MIA Student, Cuan O Meachair, as he was awarded 1st place in the AS Animation category.

Additionally, film enthusiasts in Year 8 can participate in Junior Film Club, where members can develop their understanding of the filmmaking process whilst making friends with like-minded students who share a love of film.



We encourage our students to avail of the free educational opportunities, workshops, and work experience made available by NI Screen Academies, Cinemagic and the Screenworks programmes in collaboration with Into Film. Several of our students have attended these courses and found them incredibly beneficial.

## THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Displays in Rooms 3Mu2, 3Mu3 and Band Room



Our Lady and St Patrick's College introduces students to an exciting world of music through three core areas: Listening, Composing and Performing. Students will listen to and perform a plethora of musical genres and it is hoped that students will share their own musical tastes with their peers and teachers.

Regardless of whether you have played an instrument or not, you will have the opportunity to play a variety of instruments, including keyboard and various other classroom instruments, giving performances throughout the year.

Year 8, 9 and 10 students have a double period each week (1 hour) in which they work through a booklet guiding them through the core areas using various tasks and approaches to enhance learning. In Year 10, students will focus on contemporary music, music for special occasions and improvisation.

### GCSE

The College offers GCSE Music as a regular two-year and fast-track option. The fast-track course is taken during senior lunchtime and completed in one year. This option is only available to the most capable students and eligibility for admission will be assessed by the Head of Department and/or audition. The regular two-year option for GCSE Music is also available to all students.

### AS/A2

We follow the CCEA syllabus to prepare our students for Higher Education. Many of the A-Level students are amongst the top level performers in Northern Ireland.

### Instrumental Lessons

Individual and small group tuition is available in the College. We endeavour to cater for all students and have some of the most outstanding peripatetic tutors available. Lessons are available in most orchestral instruments (strings, woodwind, brass and percussion) alongside voice, guitar, piano and traditional instruments.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

The Department offers an array of after-school and lunchtime activities for students. We encourage students to get involved as we believe that these activities develop a range of skills including inter and intrapersonal skills, working as a team, social



skills, developing their musical gift in solo and group contexts, and of course they allow students to mix with other students both within and outside of their year group.

These activities include:

**Mixed String Ensemble** – Offers Junior players a peer mentor to enhance performance and group skills. Conducted by: Mrs C McCanny

**Junior Choir** – The Junior Choir is a seventy strong choir for students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Conducted by: Miss S McErlane

**Junior Orchestra** – The orchestra meet weekly and prepare a selection of music for the two main school concerts. Conducted by: Mrs M Magee

**Traditional Group** – The Traditional Group meets once a week during lunchtime. Led by: Mr N McClean

**Senior Orchestra** – This orchestra meets once a week after school. Students rehearse more complex works in preparation for school events and concerts. Conducted by: Mrs McCanny

**Senior Choir** – Students enjoy learning a variety of songs including sacred, contemporary pop, jazz, etc. Conducted by: Mrs McCanny

**Girls' Choir** – The girls' choir is a small chamber choir for girls in the Senior and Upper School who are taking voice lessons. Conducted by: Miss S McErlane

**Band Mentor** – Junior bands are coached by more experienced Tutors and staff to perform in the Trócaire Concert in early spring.

**Guitar Ensemble** – All students receiving guitar lessons enjoy a group performance session.

**Samba Group** – All students receiving drum kit lessons (and some who don't) practise weekly and perform at many events throughout the year. Led: by Mr J Gillen

Other activities offered within the school include Wind Quintet, String Quartet, Barbershop Quartets and Flute Ensemble. The College music staff are very keen to accommodate other ensembles, as and when deemed appropriate.



## THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Open Day Display in the Sports Hall

### What is the purpose of Physical Education?

Physical Education helps young people learn through movement. It develops and refines physical skills, builds confidence and supports a healthy, active lifestyle. Through enjoyable and challenging activities students develop:

- positive attitudes to physical activity and a lifelong enjoyment of sport
- an understanding of how exercise benefits physical and mental health
- teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play and respect for differing abilities

We encourage every student to take part, improve and enjoy being active.

### Where does PE fit into the Northern Ireland Curriculum?

Physical Education is a compulsory subject at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 (Years 8 to 12). PE supports the wider aims of the curriculum by helping students develop as individuals and as contributors to society, the economy and the environment through knowledge, understanding and practical skills.

### What activities do we do in Year 8?

Year 8 students experience a wide range of activities including:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Camogie
- Cricket
- Dance
- Football
- Gaelic football
- Gymnastics
- Handball
- Hockey
- Hurling
- Netball
- Rounders



- Rugby
- Softball
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Tennis



- Gaelic Football
- Rugby
- Basketball
- Golf
- Swimming

### How many times do students have PE each week?

- Years 8, 9 and 10: one 90-minute (triple) PE lesson per week
- Years 11 and 12: one 60-minute (double) PE lesson per week

### How many PE teachers are there?

We have six specialist PE teachers and several PE placement students who support lessons and extra-curricular sport.

### What facilities do we have for PE?

#### Indoor facilities

- a fully equipped gymnasium
- a multi-purpose sports hall which can be divided or opened into one large space
- a fitness suite with cardio machines, fixed resistance machines and free weights



#### Outdoor facilities

- a full-size grass Gaelic games pitch
- four 2G synthetic tennis courts that also serve as a hockey surface
- an enclosed outdoor basketball court
- a flood-lit 3G synthetic football pitch
- two outdoor table tennis tables



### What sports does the College participate in?

From Year 8 onwards we take part in a wide programme of inter-school sport. Students can represent the College in:

- Association Football
- Camogie
- Hurling
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Netball
- Badminton

This broad sporting programme is made possible by the commitment of staff from many departments who volunteer their time to coach and develop our teams.

If you are looking for more information and updates on sport within Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock, please visit our "X" page:



### THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

#### Open Day Display in Room 3Re1

The Religious Education Key Stage 3 programme at Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock is designed to introduce you to many new and exciting learning experiences. You will begin to follow our bespoke Programme of Study based around the diocesan 'Fully Alive' curriculum.



Year 8 commences with you exploring the concept of community, leading into the life of the Parish. You will experience the life stories of many interesting characters in the Bible. You will gain an opportunity to become experts on stories from either the Old or New Testament, in record time! You go on to explore the world of Jesus, looking in particular at the Jewish background followed by work on the parables, the disciples of Jesus and much more.

In Year 8, the emphasis is very much on active learning and reflection. Discussion, analysis and critical thinking form an important part of your classroom activity. A significant part of your work will be your Journal (RE notebook) which is used to record your work as well as giving you the opportunity to reflect on your experiences and progress. The Journal is also used as a spiritual diary to record your own thoughts and prayers. Each chapter of your Journal is decorated by you as a reflection of the theme of the work being studied.



There is also ample opportunity for budding actors and actresses to develop their talents with the performance of role-plays based on Biblical characters and their stories. For all students, the development of key skills such as communication, working with others, evaluation and empathy is of paramount importance.

One of the highlights of Religious Education in the Junior School is the opportunity to take part in an annual retreat in the College Oratory. Not only are we blessed with fantastic facilities, but we also have the great fortune of having Sister Marie Doyle to lead

in-house retreats. This gives you an opportunity to 'get away from it all' and to get to know one another better. The Student Mentor Programme also works closely with the Religious Education programme, when once a week you will meet with Year 13 students who will further add to your learning experience in an active and engaging manner.

As well as learning about the Christian faith, you will also explore many other world faiths including Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. You will ask big questions about life's purpose and meaning and explore ethics and morals in modern society.

We very much look forward to welcoming you at our Open Day.

## THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### Open Day Displays in Rooms 2S2, 2S5 and 2S10

Primary 7, you are very welcome to the Science Department!

The Science Department has eleven laboratories and two theory classrooms. There are fifteen Science teachers and three technicians. You will get a chance to meet many of them today.

You will find interactive displays for all three Science subjects: Chemistry in 2S2; Physics in 2S5; and Biology in 2S10. Take time to look at the experiments, talk to our students and even have a go yourself! Samples of Year 8 work will also be available for you to have a look at.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Science Department where all our staff will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

### Year 8 Science

In Year 8, you will have five periods of Science per week. We guarantee you will enjoy Science - that's what our Year 8 students this year tell us! From the start of the



course you will participate in a wide range of practical activities with a 'hands on' or interactive approach. By the end of the first term, you will know how to use a Bunsen burner safely and complete a number of chemical reactions. You will even have carried out a complete scientific investigation. You will then cover a range of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics and, at the end of every unit, you will have a chance to evaluate how you got on and tell us what you think!

### Practical Work

When you are doing experiments you will work in groups of 2-4 students. You will be encouraged to work together cooperatively and to apply your thinking skills to the problem. You will learn how to record your results accurately and manage all kinds of information. You will practise presenting your findings in a variety of ways, including oral work, poster work, using ICT, as well as the traditional written presentation.



### Success in Science

Your progress will be monitored throughout the year and feedback will be given to you and your parents regularly. You will be assessed via homework, question and answer sessions, practical tests, oral presentations and written tests. You will get the opportunity to participate in Science competitions and take part in Science themed events during STEAM week each March.

### Years 9 and 10

In Year 9, you will have four periods of Science per week. In Year 10, you will have six periods per week, a double period for each Science subject. The Year 10 Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses will give you chance to consider your options for GCSE and help you decide which Science subjects to study in Year 11 and maybe even A-Level.





Enjoy your visit, and remember, if you have any further questions about Science in the College, please ask one of the staff in the laboratories who will be more than happy to help.

**THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**  
**Open Day Display in Room 3So**



Sociology is the study of human social relationships and the structures and institutions that support them. The course is also designed to assist in developing a range of essential skills that will prove invaluable in today's working environment. For instance, you will be taught to interpret, apply, and evaluate various sociological perspectives and make informed and responsible judgements based on this knowledge and understanding. Part of the appeal of studying Sociology is that it is a contemporary subject. Sociologists study a wide range of topics as outlined in the table below.

The WJEC (Welsh Joint Education Committee) specification is studied, and it is a modular course. Assessment will involve external examinations and will include structured essay questions. The Specification consists of Four Units:

<p><b>AS Unit 1: Acquiring Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% of A-Level qualification (37.5% of AS qualification)</li> <li>• Written Examination: 1 Hour 15 Minutes</li> <li>• 60 Marks</li> </ul> <p>Topics studied include the socialisation of culture, family forms and diversity, demographic change, and its influence on the structure of families in England and Wales, relationships within the family and theoretical perspectives on the family and households.</p> 	<p><b>AS Unit 2: Understanding Society and Methods of Sociological Enquiry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% of A-Level qualification 62.5% of AS qualification</li> <li>• Written Examination: 2 Hours</li> <li>• 90 Marks</li> </ul> <p>Topics studied include methodological approaches to social research, examples of contemporary social research, the role and function of education, patterns, and trends of educational attainment with reference to social groups, contemporary social policy regarding education, the influence of external and internal factors on attainment and theoretical perspectives on the role of education.</p> 
<p><b>A2 Unit 3: Power and Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% of A-Level qualification</li> <li>• Written Examination: 2 Hours</li> <li>• 70 Marks</li> </ul> <p>Topics studied include patterns of crime and deviance with reference to social groups, how crime rates are measured, crime and deviance as social constructs, the role of the media, the relationship between social policy and crime and theories and explanations of crime and deviance.</p> 	<p><b>AS Unit 4: Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry and Social Inequality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35% of A-Level qualification</li> <li>• Written Examination: 2 Hours 15 Minutes</li> <li>• 100 Marks</li> </ul> <p>Topics studied include research methods and their practical implications, social inequality and theoretical explanations of inequality.</p> 

## THE SPANISH DEPARTMENT

Open Day Display in Room 1Lg3  
Welcome to the Spanish Department!



¡Bienvenidos a todos!

In the Spanish Department, learning Spanish is never just about textbooks and grammar drills; it's about engagement and interaction. During Open Day, you will be able to chat to our students about their experiences of learning Spanish, use our Digital resources and complete a quiz to win a prize. You may even test out your Spanish skills on our Spanish teachers!



To add a cultural flair to the day, we've prepared a delicious tapas display for you to enjoy, featuring traditional Spanish snacks like tortilla española, chorizo and queso manchego. Don't miss our Spanish-themed photobooth, complete with props like sombreros, flamenco fans and castanets—it's the perfect way to capture a memory of your visit! Our student language ambassadors are on hand to share their experiences of studying Spanish. They'll tell you about the joy of mastering a new language, their favourite lessons, and how Spanish has opened up new opportunities for the from exploring Hispanic literature to preparing for future travels and careers.

Studying Spanish in the Spanish Department is more than just a subject; it's a gateway to global citizenship. We encourage our students to think beyond the classroom, and we offer exciting opportunities such as pen-pal exchanges, cultural immersion trips to Spain, and a chance to participate in our school's European Day of Languages activities.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Spanish Department during Open Day. Stop by to explore the language, enjoy some tapas and strike a pose at the photobooth. ¡Nos vemos pronto!

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

## THE TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT

Open Day Displays in Rooms 2Sy1, 2Mf3, 2Pl3 and Foyer



Technology and Design is part of the minimum requirement for every student at Key Stage 3. It is based upon the laws and principles of science and utilises these to solve real-life problems. Our course addresses the Northern Ireland Curriculum and provides relevant active learning opportunities to acquire and develop the Cross-curricular Skills and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

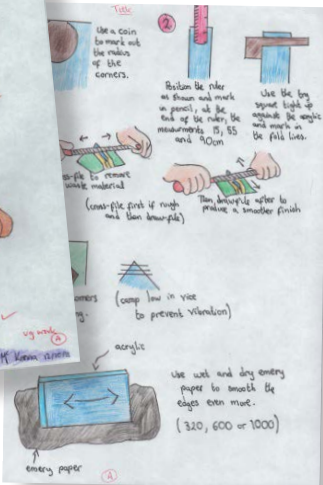
In Year 8 Technology, you will have a double and a single class on your timetable each week. Much of your knowledge and learning is gained through practical based activities in a manufacturing room during the double class and backed up with theory in the single class.



Following guidance on safety, you are quickly introduced to a range of manufacturing techniques and have the opportunity to become familiar with and use various processes and equipment. These include the use of hand tools, pedestal drill, band facer, polisher and plastics oven.

This product is a key ring designed to hold your locker key and to give you training and experience on all the machines in Technology.





In total, we have 3 manufacturing rooms, 3 planning rooms, 2 systems rooms, associated storage areas and an exhibition area, all equipped to a high standard. Today in Technology you can visit and observe a number of rooms to get a taste of what takes place in our department.

At all times you will be encouraged to strive for excellence and adopt safe working practices in the manufacturing environment. The attached planning rooms provide clean space for work during manufacturing processes.

By the end of Key Stage 3, you will also have experienced other manufacturing equipment, including PCB manufacturing facilities, vacuum former, blow moulding, manual milling machine, lathe, CNC mill/router with lathe attachment, laser cutter and 3D printer.

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## Clubs, Societies and Extra-Curricular Activities

September 2024	October 2024	November 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>06-08/09/24: Year 13 students in the European Youth Parliament team represented NI at the national round of the EYPUK in Liverpool.</li> <li>19/09/24: Year 13-14 Art students attended a talk and workshop with representatives from the Courtauld Gallery, London.</li> <li>19/09/24: Young Enterprise event for all Year 8 students.</li> <li>21/09/24: 5 members from the 'Female Voices' project delivered a presentation at the WomenEd NI's 5th Anniversary Unconference which was held in the College.</li> <li>25/09/24: Year 13 Business Studies students attended an accountancy workshop by Deloitte.</li> <li>27/09/24: Year 13-14 Moving Image Arts students participated in a film workshop hosted by The Nerve Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01/10/24: Year 13-14 students completed the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge.</li> <li>01/10/24 and 04/10/24: Year 13 Biology fieldwork to Tollymore.</li> <li>02/10/24: Year 10 Junior School Awards Ceremony for Year 10 2023-2024.</li> <li>03/10/24: Training for Literacy and Numeracy Mentors.</li> <li>04/10/24: Year 10 European-themed Quiz to celebrate European Day of Languages.</li> <li>04/10/24: Junior School Sponsored Walk for St Bernadette's Children Centre in Peru with students raising £7,638.</li> <li>07/10/24: Focus of the Week is Black History Month.</li> <li>09/10/24: Year 13 Addressing Bullying Mentor training.</li> <li>10/10/24: Year 8 Mass of Welcome for Year 8 students and their parents/guardians. Mass was celebrated by Fr Thomas McGlynn and refreshments were provided by the College PTA.</li> <li>14/10/24: Maths Week Ireland with the 'Daily Maths Puzzle', 'Ireland Rocks' for Year 8 and 'The Great Big Maths Quiz' for Year 9.</li> <li>15-16/10/24: Translink Year 8 Bus Safety.</li> <li>16/10/24: Year 8/9 Awards Ceremony for Year 8-9 2023-2024.</li> <li>18-20/10/24: 70 Year 9-10 students on a Geography trip to Delphi Valley Adventure Centre, Galway.</li> <li>22/10/24: Year 9 Young Enterprise event.</li> <li>22/10/24: Year 13 students completed Geography Fieldwork.</li> <li>23/10/24: Annual 'Love for Life' presentations for Year 11 and Year 14 students as part of the RSE programme.</li> <li>24/10/24-28/10/24: 51 x Year 12-14 students travelled to Rome.</li> <li>27/10/24-30/10/24: 50 x Year 11-12 students travelled to Auschwitz – Birkenau.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>07/11/24: Year 12-14 students attended a Languages and Careers Fair in QUB.</li> <li>11/11/24: Memorial Prayer Service for the Month of November.</li> <li>11/11/24: Anti-Bullying Week with a Focus of the Week on the theme 'Choose Respect' and nominations for 'Kindness Awards'. Year 8 students, Year 8 Mentors / Addressing Bullying Mentors also participated in 'Odd Socks Day'.</li> <li>12/11/24: Senior School Awards Ceremony for 2023-2024.</li> <li>12/11/24: Congratulations to Isabella McAuley (Year 11), winner of the local heat of Springboard Chef competition at SERC.</li> <li>13/11/24: Anti-Bullying Workshops for all Year 10 students, delivered by Cara Friend.</li> <li>13/11/24: Congratulations to Emma Gibson, Max McCourt and Ciara Scott (Year 12), winners of the Worldwide Quiz.</li> <li>14/11/24: Year 13 students attended a SHAHRP presentation on 'Staying Safe on a Night Out'.</li> <li>14/11/24: Year 13-14 Art students went on an Art trip to the Ulster Museum.</li> <li>18/11/24: Focus of the Week on Period Dignity.</li> <li>20/11/24: 40 x Year 13 students attended a Medicine Workshop run by the BHSCT.</li> <li>20/11/24: Following auditions, 46 students secured a place in the National Youth Choir, Girls' Choir, Junior Choir or Senior Choir.</li> <li>Nov 2024: Year 10 'Talking about Consent' NEXUS workshops.</li> </ul>



November 2024	December 2024	January 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nov 2024: Retreats for all Year 14 tutor groups.</li> <li>• 25/11/24: Culture Week was celebrated with a Focus of the Week; the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Mentors also ran a workshop with all Year 9 students.</li> <li>• 26/11/24: Careers event on Oxford University for Year 12-14 students.</li> <li>• 27/11/24-03/12/24: Year 12/13 mock exams.</li> <li>• 28/11/24: Following nominations, 39 students received 'Kindness Awards'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 02-06/12/24: Year 8 Health Appraisals by BHSCT.</li> <li>• 03/12/24: Christmas Bake-Off for Year 10 students, judged by Mrs Acheson, former Head of HE.</li> <li>• 05/12/24: The College hosted the Marie Curie 'Lights to Remember' event in the College Hall at 7.00pm.</li> <li>• 10/12/24: The College welcomed over 250 pupils from 10 feeder primary schools to the College for the 'Primary 7 Activity Day for Girls'.</li> <li>• 11/12/24: Year 13 students attended the Young Enterprise Company Programme showcase at St George's Market and then hosted a Christmas Fair on 13/12/24.</li> <li>• 11/12/24: Year 13 Moving Image Arts students took part in a workshop hosted by The Nerve Centre.</li> <li>• 10-11/12/24: 1,004 Christmas dinners were provided by staff in the Dining Hall.</li> <li>• 17/12/24: Year 14 Moving Image Arts students took part in a workshop hosted by The Nerve Centre.</li> <li>• 18/12/24: Senior and Upper School Prayer/Carol Service and Concert.</li> <li>• 18/12/24: Upper School Christmas Jumper Competition and Quiz, raising funds for the St Vincent de Paul.</li> <li>• 19/12/24: Junior School Prayer/Carol Service and Concert.</li> <li>• 20/12/24: Upper School Award Ceremony to acknowledge the achievements of the Class of 2024, with Dr Brendan Browne (Guest Speaker).</li> <li>• Hampers and cash donations (£1,800) were collected from all tutor groups and the much-needed contributions for our charity partners were distributed pre-Christmas.</li> <li>• Staff donations to a 'Giving Tree' were organised by Mrs Claire McCaffrey and Mrs Fiona Murray.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 07-15/01/25: Year 11 and Year 14 mock examinations took place.</li> <li>• 13/01/25: Focus of the Week by Senior Prefects on Cancel Culture.</li> <li>• 20/01/25: Christian Unity Week was marked with assemblies by visitors from local churches.</li> <li>• 21/01/25: Jashvita Katta (Year 13) won the NI Cadet of the Year with St John's Ambulance and will represent NI in the UK finals.</li> <li>• 27/01/25: Catholic Schools' Week was celebrated in the College with the theme 'Alive in Christ!'.</li> <li>• 27/01/25: Year 12 students attended a PTA-funded workshop by Ben Best entitled 'Laugh in the Face of Exams'.</li> <li>• 27/01/25: An evening workshop was also provided for Year 12 and 14 parents.</li> <li>• 28/01/25: Year 14 students participated in a PTA-funded workshop delivered by Ben Best entitled 'Reach for the Power Inside'.</li> <li>• 29/01/25: Ulster 'A' Champions. Congratulations to our U16 girls on winning the College's first ever Ulster 'A' title in gaelic versus Loreto College, Cavan (5:5 v 2:10).</li> <li>• 29/01/25: 17 x Year 13-14 students were placed second in the virtual Bar Mock Competition.</li> <li>• 29/01/25: 30 Year 12 students completed the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.</li> </ul>

February 2025	March 2025	March 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>03/02/25: Focus of the Week to mark Safer Internet Day.</li> <li>04-11/02/25: 40 Year 12-14 students went on a Geography trip to China.</li> <li>04/02/25: Year 13 students attended a presentation by Ulster University.</li> <li>05/02/25: Year 13 students attended a talk by Scottish Universities.</li> <li>06/02/25: 28 x Year 8 students for The British Heart Foundation's launch of Classroom RevivR.</li> <li>08-15/02/25: 40 Year 9-10 students went on the ski trip to Folgaria, Italy.</li> <li>18/02/25: Year 13 students attended a presentation by 'We Are Donors'.</li> <li>18/02/25: Year 13 students attended a presentation by Queen's University Belfast.</li> <li>18/02/25: Year 13 English Literature students visited the Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy.</li> <li>20/02/25: New Driver presentation for all Year 13 students.</li> <li>21/02/25: The College production for February 2026 will be 'My Fair Lady'.</li> <li>21/02/25: Year 13 students attended a presentation by Galway University.</li> <li>23/01/25: 4 x Year 10-12 students competed in the Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition at Queen's University Belfast.</li> <li>28/02/25: Year 13 'Mood Matters' talks from AWARE NI.</li> <li>28/02/25: Inaugural EBALC Maths Blitz for 9 primary schools with Year 13 Numeracy Mentors.</li> <li>27/02/25: All students of French in Year 10-14 French students attended a careers presentation with Prof. Maeve McCusker from QUB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>03/03/25: Anna McConville (Year 13) was accepted for the "Women in Maths" residential at Cambridge University.</li> <li>04/03/25: Jashvita Katta (Year 13), NI Cadet of the Year with St John's Ambulance, was also awarded Commander's Cadet of the Year 2025 following a weekend of competition in England.</li> <li>04/03/25: Congratulations to our 8 x Year 13 students in the European Youth Parliament team who attended the EYPUK Regional Forum in City Hall and qualified for the national round in Liverpool in September 2025.</li> <li>04/03/25: World Book Day was celebrated with a Year 8 Quiz.</li> <li>05/03/25: Distribution of Ashes for all students and staff.</li> <li>05/03/25: Members from the 'Female Voices' project met with members of the Education Committee.</li> <li>05-06/03/25: Year 13 RE trips to Newgrange.</li> <li>06/03/25: All Year 11 students attended a drug education play entitled 'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die'.</li> <li>10/03/25: A-Level History trip to Dublin.</li> <li>11/03/25: As part of the celebrations of Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week), the College hosted Feis Bhéal Feirste.</li> <li>13/03/25: Year 8 Mentor Concert for students and parents.</li> <li>14/03/25: All students attended Mass celebrated by Fr Thomas McGlynn/ Fr Conor McGrath in the College in honour of St Patrick.</li> <li>17-21/03/25: A-Level Spanish trip to Benalmadena, Málaga.</li> <li>19/03/25: UCAS Exhibition for all Year 13 students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20/03/25: College Annual Spring Concert.</li> <li>21/03/25: German students attended a virtual German Music Workshop run by The Goethe Institute.</li> <li>24/03/25: Eavan McAreavey (Year 13) received a Highly Commended prize (2nd or 3rd in a geographical region) in the Oireachtas Essay</li> <li>28/03/25: Congratulations to our U14 boys and Mr Dave Collins (Coach) on winning the prestigious Northern Ireland Cup (soccer) in the Blanchflower Stadium versus Ashfield Boys' School (3-1).</li> </ul>

April 2025	May 2025	June 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2025: Congratulations to Riley Greaves (Year 10) who was appointed captain of the U14 Irish Ice Hockey Team from its tour of Canada.</li> <li>• 07/04/25: Congratulations to Timi Olade (Year 8) on winning the Games Development Category in the Coolest Projects Ireland 2025 competition.</li> <li>• 09/04/25: Liam Blaney (Year 14 - Gaelic) was awarded an Ulster Schools' All-Star 2025.</li> <li>• 09/04/25: Miss McErlane (Head of Year 8) arranged a LearnSpark Study Skills Course for all Year 8 students.</li> <li>• 11/04/25: Dillon Cousins (Year 12) was selected for the 2025 National Mathematics Summer School in Bradford following an excellent performance in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge.</li> <li>• 15/04/25: Year 9 Drama Festival.</li> <li>• 15/04/25: Visit from Three Leaf Basketball, Philadelphia, USA.</li> <li>• 16/04/25: Congratulations to all Junior School tutor groups who used their entrepreneurial skills to raise £9,660 in the Careers Trócaire competitions.</li> <li>• 26/04/25: The College was nominated for 'Sporting School of the Year' at the Local Women's annual awards in the Europa Hotel.</li> <li>• 30/04/25: Leaver events for the Class of 2025 took place with assembly, breakfast and sports events in the morning and the Year 14 Leavers' Mass for students, parents and staff at 7pm, celebrated by Fr Conor McGrath.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 01/05/25: The UKMT Junior Maths Competition took place, involving Year 8 and 9 students.</li> <li>• 02/05/25: A Mass for Year 12 students and parents was celebrated by Fr Brian Watters before students left to begin their GCSE examinations.</li> <li>• 05/05/25: Timothy Corrigan (Year 14) won a Gold Medal in the Irish Chemistry Olympiad and has been selected to represent Ireland at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Dubai in July.</li> <li>• 13/05/25: Avya Goel and Vriteikaa Daas (Year 10) were one of only seven teams shortlisted in the post-primary category for the Trócaire Game Changer Challenge Competition in Dublin with 'Battlesplash', a game to tackle the injustices of climate change in the world with the theme 'Life Below Water'.</li> <li>• 14-16/05/25: The U14 boys' football team travelled to Newcastle, England to represent NI in the U14 British Isles Cup. Rory Prenter (Year 10) was awarded Player of the Tournament.</li> <li>• 17/05/25: Achievements at Ulster Athletics: Isa McCarron (1st in Senior 400m); Katie Keown (2nd in Inter 800m); Beibhinn Bourke (2nd in Mini 800m); Katie Keown, Isa McCarron, Cara McDermott, Louisa Young (3rd in Senior Relay 4 x 300m).</li> <li>• 21/05/25: Internal summer examinations for Year 8-10 commenced for five days.</li> <li>• 23/05/25: Past Pupil Golf Tournament in Belvoir Golf Club.</li> <li>• 21/05/25: Five days of summer exams started for Year 8-10 in Term 3 with annual reports issued via the App at the end of term.</li> <li>• 26-27/05/25: 'Flight School' for the P5 pupils from St Joseph's PS, Carryduff and St Patrick's PS, Ballygalget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June: Years 8-11 Sports Days and Tournaments were organised by the PE department.</li> <li>• 06/06/25: members from the 'Female Voices' project met with Ms Naomi Long (Minister of Justice) in the College.</li> <li>• Year 13 Work Shadowing took place 09-13/06/25 and/or 16-20/06/25 after students had completed their AS examinations.</li> <li>• 09/06/25: Art exhibition in the College showcasing the work of our Year 13 and Year 14 Art students.</li> <li>• 04-11/06/25: Period Dignity workshops for Year 8 girls.</li> <li>• 09/06/25: Focus of the Week on Celebrating Diversity and Pride.</li> <li>• 10/06/25: Inter-class Golf Tournament for all aspiring golfers in Year 8-11.</li> <li>• 12/06/25: All Year 10 students participated in the Young Enterprise 'Learn to Earn' workshop.</li> <li>• 13/06/25: Year 10 girls x 10 attended an Electronic Skills Day at QUB.</li> <li>• 16/06/25: Congratulations to our Year 8 girls on becoming Ulster Camogie Champions.</li> <li>• 16-20/06/25: Auditions for My Fair Lady.</li> <li>• 18/06/25: OLSPELL, the annual spelling contest, took place for Year 8.</li> <li>• 22/06/25: Year 8-9 students departed for a one-week stay in the Irish College.</li> <li>• 20-24/06/25: Year 11 Geography Controlled Assessment fieldwork in Colin Glen.</li> <li>• 24/06/25: UCAS and Interview Skills workshop with Mr Kevin O'Reilly.</li> <li>• 25/06/25: Year 13 Interview Skills with 50 parent volunteers.</li> <li>• 26/06/25: Year 8 Drama Festival in the College Hall.</li> <li>• 19/06/25-27/06/25: Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the College Oratory.</li> </ul>

# Sporting Achievements

College Sporting Achievements Competitions 2024 – 2025		
Athletics		
Girls	Inter Girls	Ulster Cross Country Champions
Association Football		
Junior Girls	Northern Ireland Cup	Quarter Finalists
Senior Girls	Northern Ireland Cup	Semi Finalists
Year 9 Boys	Northern Ireland Invitational Cup	Winners
Year 10 Boys	Northern Ireland Cup	Winners
Year 14 Boys	Northern Ireland Cup	Semi Finalists
Basketball		
Under 19 Boys	North Regional	Winners
Under 16 Boys	North Regional	Finalists
Under 16 Girls	North Regional	Finalists
Under 19 Girls	North Regional	Winners
Camogie		
Year 8	Ulster Shield	Winners
Under 14	Ulster	Semi Finalists
Junior	Ulster	Semi Finalists
Gaelic Football		
Under 16 Girls	Ulster A	Winners
Under 20 Girls	Ulster A	Semi Finalists
Under 19 Boys	MacLarnon Cup	Quarter Finalists
Hurling		
Year 14	Mageean Cup	Quarter Finalists
Year 10	Gallagher Cup	Semi Finalists
Netball		
Minor	Northern Ireland Cup	Finalists
Senior	Northern Ireland Cup	Quarter Finalists







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