

Board of  
Governors  
Annual  
Report

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2023—  
2024



ST PATRICK'S  
ACADEMY  
DUNGANNON

This Board remains in place under instruction from the Department of Education until the Minister is in a position to appoint new DE Representatives.

#### Department of Education Representatives

**Alison Moriarty**

*Law*

**John Mitchell**

*Finance*

#### Parent Representative

**Mrs Clodagh Higgins**

*Finance*

#### Trustee Representatives

**Mrs Fiona O'Hagan**

*Medical*

**Mr Christopher Morgan**

*Management*

**Mr Marcus Mulgrew**

*Law and Human Resources*

**Mrs Geraldine Sally**

*Social Work*

#### Teacher Representative

**Mr Patrick Ferran**

*Secretary*

**Mr Colin Holmes**

*Principal*

#### Co-opted Member

**Mrs Lisa Toner**

*Human Resource Management*

The new Board of Governors was ratified in January 2024.

The Board of Governors meet twice each term or more frequently as required. Sub-committees meet as required and report to the full Board.

Sub Committees: Admissions, Redundancies and Flexible working, Finance, Fundraising, Appointments, Staff Welfare and Development, Discipline.

The list and membership of sub-committees was reviewed in January 2024.

## CURRICULUM POLICY AND PROVISION

### Rationale

As educational needs evolve and statutory obligations change, it is the policy of the St Patrick's Academy to anticipate future educational developments and to continually strive to find innovative ways to meet the changing curricular needs of young people in the area whilst preserving the ethos of the school.

### Purpose

The school offers a curriculum, which is broad and balanced. It aims to satisfy and go beyond the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

It is tailored to reflect the Catholic ethos of the school, its Irish cultural heritage and the values of co-education, whilst maximising opportunities for the greatest number of pupils.

Subject options at KS4 are very flexible, allowing for open choice from a wide range of subjects around a core of compulsory subjects: English language and literature, Mathematics, Religious Education and PE. Subject options at Post-16 are designed (i) to ensure that the subject requirements of all third level courses are met (ii) to reflect pupil demand and (iii) to provide opportunities for each pupil to develop the skills and attributes needed to contribute fully to society in adult life.

## KEY STAGE 3

All pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 follow a common curriculum. There are no optional subjects.

### The subjects taught in 2023-2024 were:

Subject
Art & Design
Careers Education
Drama (Year 8)
English
French
Geography
Home Economics
History
ICT
Irish
LLW*
Mathematics
Music
Personal Development & Wellbeing
Physical Education
Religious Education
Science
Technology

**KEY STAGE 4**

In 2023-24, the school offered the following subjects for GCSE:

Subject
Art & Design
Business Studies
Business & Communication Systems
Careers Education
Child Development
Computer Science
Digital Technology (multimedia)
Engineering and Manufacturing
English Language
English Literature
Food & Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Irish
Learning for Life & Work (LLW)
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education GCSE
Physical Education General
Religious Education
Science: Double and Single Award (Triple Award offered)
Spanish
Technology and Design

The majority of our pupils took nine subjects to GCSE but there were opportunities for some pupils to take ten or more subjects.

Religious education and English were taught in Form class groups. Mathematics was taught in three sets; Further, Higher and foundation, timetabled at the same time so that pupils could transfer between groups in accordance with their progress.

Science classes were taught in

groups of 20, as far as possible. As a grammar school we continue to place a strong emphasis on academic rigour while preparing our pupils for quality university courses. Consequently, all pupils were required to continue to study English Literature, Mathematics, RE and PE. We encourage pupils to take a modern language and uptake of languages remains strong.

**POST 16**

For 2023-24, the school offered the following subjects to 'A' level:

Subject
Accounting
Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Careers Education (not examined)
Chemistry
Digital Technology
Drama & Theatre Studies
Engineering (BTEC)
English Literature
Environmental Technology
French
Geography
Government & Politics
Health & Social Care
History
Irish
Life & Health Sciences
Mathematics/Further Mathematics
Media Studies
Nutrition & Food Science
Music
Physical Education
Physics
Professional Business Services
Psychology
Religious Studies

**Subject**

Sociology
Software Systems Development
Spanish
Technology & Design

**Applied A Level and BTec Courses Offered:****Subject**

Environmental Engineering
Health & Life Science
ICT
Health & Social Care
Travel and tourism (Btec at SPC)
Engineering (Btec at SWC)
Agriculture (Btec at SWC)
Construction (Btec at SWC)

The majority of pupils took three subjects to AS level and three to A2 level but we encouraged those with the ability and application to take four subjects to A2 level.

Provision of General RE and Recreational PE at Sixth Form have been modernised over the past two years to allow for greater opportunity to facilitate more bespoke learning and personal development.

### LEARNING SUPPORT

We have an extensive support system in place to help support learners' needs across the curriculum in all key stages.

Our aim is to support each student so that they can achieve and exceed their potential and we have numerous support programmes in place for this purpose. Our school ethos emphasises the importance of inclusion and this includes removing any barriers to learning that may exist for our students. We adopt a whole school approach towards the early identification of, and provision for, those children who are facing such barriers.

### ENRICHMENT POST 16

Throughout sixth form there will be opportunities to complete some enrichment courses such as: First Aid, Cookery Class, Study skills, Mentoring, Literacy training, Mental health awareness, coaching and referee courses. Pupils can set aside some time each week for physical exercise and for community work. The following activities were available:

Leisure Activity
1K Walk
Badminton
Basketball
Camogie
Chess
Couch to 5K
Cross Country
Draughts
Fitness Suite
Gaelic Football (boys)
Gaelic Football (girls)
Golf
Hurling
Soccer
Spinning
Squash
Swimming
Table Tennis
Tennis

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Activity
Astronomy
Basketball
Camogie
Ceoltóirí Phádraig
Chess Club
Choir
Coaching
Conservation Society
Coding Club
Cookery Club
Current Affairs Society
Creative Writing
Debating Society
Film Club
Gaelic Football
Golf
Headstrong Group
Hurling
Irish Dancing
Irish Public Speaking (Feis)
Irish Debating (Abair)
John Paul II Award
Literacy & Paired Reading
Liturgy Group
Mentoring
Minecraft Club
Mock Trial Group
Netball
Orchestra
Pioneer Group
Poetry Slam
President's/ Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Public Speaking
Nutrition Action Group
Sentinus
Soccer
Pupil Council
Young Enterprise

## COLLABORATION

The school has continued to develop curricular links with Royal School Dungannon, St Patrick's College and SouthWest College and St Joseph's Grammar, Donaghmore in order to improve the curricular offer for all pupils in the Area Learning Community.

A total of 18 pupils from **St Patrick's College** took courses at the Academy in 2023-24 as follows:

- Year 12 ICT - 3
- Year 12 Music - 1
- Year 13 - Environmental Technology - 3
- Year 13 - History - 2
- Year 13 - Drama - 1
- Year 14 - Chemistry - 1
- Year 14 - Software Development - 3
- Year 14 - Environmental Technology - 2
- Year 14 - History - 1
- Year 14 - RE - 1

13 pupils from **Royal School Dungannon** were studying at the Academy:

- Year 13 - Media Studies - 3
- Year 13 - Further Mathematics - 3
- Year 14 - Politics - 2
- Year 14 - Media Studies - 1
- Year 14 - Psychology - 4

Academy pupils studying at other schools:

### Royal School Dungannon:

- Year 14 Economics - 3

### South West College:

- Year 13 Engineering - 7
- Year 14 Engineering - 6

## LINKS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

St Vincent de Paul, Concern, Trocaire, Rotary Interact Club, Young Enterprise.

## LOCAL AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Local and global citizenship is integrated into the school's curriculum and pastoral programme, through discrete classes, enrichment activities and peer-support schemes.

## SHARING EDUCATION

Partnership with the Royal School has continued to flourish. The focus continues to be on high value activities that build meaningful and lasting relationships. While the Duke of Edinburgh programme is now well established in both schools, the joint Art and history programmes will also continue.

## TRAVEL

Every year there is a wide range of trips and educational adventures on offer that cut across all age groups and areas of interest.

In March 2024 the Junior and Senior Ski Trips visited Italy under the watchful eyes of Mr M Fahy, Mrs J McKendry and Mr S Boyle.

In October 2024, students from Years 10- 14 will travel to the USA, calling in at the cities of Boston, Washington DC and New York City in a frantic and fabulous tour of America's east coast.

## SPORTS

The Academy prides itself on a well-earned reputation in sport. Our sporting pedigree is something we value and celebrate as a school community and we have a number of experienced and dedicated teachers within our staff that coach and manage teams in a wide variety of sports. In addition, we have a full-time Gaelic coach who will assist and challenge players to achieve their full potential across all our traditional games. We are committed to providing the best sporting opportunities for all our pupils. We have been very successful in the modern era, winning numerous trophies and competing regularly in the latter stages of competitions both provincially and nationally. All our pupils are encouraged to develop their sporting interests and talents and can avail of a number of opportunities on a recreational and/or competitive basis. We encourage pupils to participate in whatever way they can, as it is a great source of enjoyment and an opportunity to build lasting friendships.

### BOYS GAELIC *(Ciaran Gourley)* Year 8 & 9

The Year 8 Boys Gaelic Football Team achieved an outstanding victory as they emerged winners of the Martin O'Farrell Shield beating St Patricks Armagh in the final. Their determination, and teamwork were commendable, showcasing the promising talent within the team. This triumph stands as a testament to their hard work and dedication to the sport.

The Year 9 boys had over 60 boys out training with the group this meant we were able to give 64 boys competitive competition entering 2 Ulster schools competition the D'alton Cup and Gerry Brown Cup. The year 9 boys ended up playing in the D'alton shield final were they lost out to a very strong Our Ladys Castleblaney. Our Year 9 development team had

a tough task as they were in Ulster Schools C competition up against some strong teams such as St Patricks Keady and the Dean McGuiric Carrickmore.

#### Year 10

The year 10 boys showed huge improvement as they ended up qualifying from their group and were eventually beaten in the Corn Na nOg semi final by St Colmans Newry. This was a big improvement as the year before the boys failed to qualify from their group. We also entered a development team in Year 10 and again the boys showed character to win 2 games. 57 boys got the opportunity to represent the school in Year 9.

#### Year 11 & 12

The year 11 team had a good campaign again reaching the semi final of the Oisín McGrath and unfortunately losing out to eventual winners Omagh CBS.

The boys in year 12 had a great year winning the Rannafast beating St Patricks Armagh in English. This meant that this group of boys had won every competition they had entered having previously won Corn Na nOg and Oisín McGrath cups.

#### Mac Rory Cup

The Mac Rory Cup team showcased exceptional skill, reaching the MacRory Cup final with commendable teamwork and determination. Despite a hardfought match, they were narrowly beaten by Omagh CBS leaving a lasting impression of sportsmanship and resilience on the school community.

#### LADIES GAELIC

We have 5 teams registered this year with 190 players involved from Year 8-14 at

U.20, U.16 and U.14 level.

Weekly attendance shows 165 of these players were committed participants in their pre and competitive season.

#### U.20 Team

The U.20A team completed all fixtures but failed to progress into the Quarter-final stage of Ulster. J McKendry coached this squad every Thursday 3.30-5.00pm, Sept. – Dec.

Six girls were nominated for All Star trials, only one was recalled for the second day, Nicole Donaghy and was unfortunate to miss out on selection.

#### U.16 Team

The U.16A team [Year11-12] won their section, qualifying for the knockout stage of the Ulster Championship but were unfortunate to be beaten by Assumption Grammar in the S.F. stage. O McVey & J McKendry coached this squad every Thursday 3.30-5.00pm, September – December.

#### U.14 Team

The U.14 A team [Year 10] completed all their fixtures but failed to progress into the Quarter-final stage of Ulster. C Bell coached this squad every Thursday 3.30-5.00pm during their competitive season. [December – March]

The U.14 D team, made up of Year 9 students won their section qualifying for the Quarter-final of the Ulster Championship but were beaten by St. Connor's in the QF. We are pleased with their performance as this is very much a development squad to retain players. J McKendry coached this squad from December to May every Wednesday 3.30-5.00pm.

#### Year 8 Team

The Year 8 team had an initial training block September-Halloween and then recommenced training March-June. This attracted large numbers and we entered 3 teams in the Ulster Blitz with our top team winning the title. J McKendry, C Bell and K Coney trained this squad. A number of players have won honours playing at County level with Tyrone or Armagh.

#### NETBALL

Netball continues to thrive within our school with significant participation, competitive progress and new initiatives being introduced for long term development of the students

Year 8 – Over 50 girls are regularly attending training sessions. While this age did not participate in a formal competitive league, they have actively taken part in cross community blitz tournaments gaining valuable experience and exposure to the sport

Minor and Junior leagues – over 40 girls attending training - these teams competed in both the NI league and Cup. They were also involved in both the cross community tournaments where they have been competing well across both levels

The Minor league took part in their cross community blitz tournament and came runners up – an excellent achievement

In the NI competition, the Minor team progressed beyond the group stages, demonstrating strong performances - although they were narrowly defeated in the following round

The Junior team faced very strong competition in their group stages, coming up against several established Netball schools. Despite playing with determination and great effort they unfortunately did not progress past the group stages

Development initiatives – recognising the high standard of Netball across Northern Ireland, we have been proactive in fostering development opportunities for our students

Alongside a colleague in Fermanagh, I have helped establish a new Tyrone and Fermanagh

Netball league specifically for development schools. This league was introduced at the beginning of the 2024 school year and is well underway – providing valuable match experience and promoting growth in the sport across girls from Yr 8 – yr 12

We are proud to report that 22 schools have signed up to participate in the new league which will provide a structured and competitive environment to help grow and develop the sport.

### CAMOGIE

The Academy fielded teams at all age groups and participated in competitive matches affiliated to the Ulster Colleges Post Primary Association.

### Year 8

The most notable success for the Academy in camogie this year was the Sciath na nÓg won by our year 8 camógs against St Patricks Keady in term 3. The players topped their section with convincing wins against their opponents. They then had to play out quarter and semi final matches to reach the final so they had gained a valuable team spirit over the duration of many matches. As the ladies footballers also had success both teams were treated to a walk to McDonalds and lunch towards one of the last days of the summer term.

### U14 Team

The u14 team played at B grade this year and had many competitive games against Armagh schools St Catherines and Keady and also Newry schools Our Ladies and Sacred Heart. They failed to progress to the final stages of this competition.

### Junior team

The junior team were formidable opponents throughout the divisional play offs against St Catherines Armagh, OLSPK

Belfast and Loretto, Coleraine and topped their table. They progressed through quarter and semi final stages of the Ulster contest to reach the final only to be pipped at the post by a very strong St Marys Magherafelt team.

### Senior team

The senior team were promoted to the top grade this year following from the success of the seniors winning the Fr Davies cup last year. This meant they were drawn against the top schools in Ulster ie St Patricks Maghera, St Cillians Garrontower, Cross and Passion Ballycastle and St Louis Ballymena. While the Academy failed to register a win the girls had the experience of pitting their skills against top players and realised the high standards required for success.

### All Star awards

QUB future stars competition was attended by 4 Academy players and although Claire McAleer got a recall back to second trial she was unsuccessful. Earlier in the year, Eva Cullen picked up an Ulster Colleges Senior All star award. Ms Cara Lagan, Mrs McKendry and Mrs Brid Devlin attended the presentation ceremony in the Elk in term 3 and agreed that to have the Academy present on such a night when elites from the world of camogie are present, is a great achievement for the school.

### Change in personnel

Mrs Brid Devlin relinquished her teaching allowance for camogie after over 30 years promoting our national sport and Cara Lagan has been appointed in her place in September 2024.

### BASKETBALL (Laura Barker)

During the 2023-2024 academic year, our school's basketball program witnessed enthusiastic participation across various age groups and leagues.

Notably, 20 talented individuals competed in the under-19 boys North B Boys League, showcasing skill and determination throughout the season.

In addition, 20 determined players represented the school in the under-16 boys North B Boys League, displaying admirable sportsmanship and teamwork, to win the league in December 2023.

In the girls' division, 10 dedicated players proudly represented our school in the under-19 girls North B League, demonstrating both skill and passion for the sport.

Meanwhile, the under-16 girls excelled in the competitive North B League, exhibiting impressive athleticism and commitment. Our year 10 boys' team, consisting of 15 players, exhibited exceptional talent and teamwork, competing in the North 'B' league.

Additionally, our year 9 boys' team, also comprising 15 players, showed great promise in the North B Boys League.

For the girls' teams, 15 determined athletes competed in the year 10 North B League, embodying the values of sportsmanship and dedication. Similarly, the year 9 girls' team competed fiercely in the North B League, with 15 players showcasing their skills and teamwork.

Furthermore, our year 8 students demonstrated their enthusiasm for basketball, with 25 boys and 25 girls participating in the Vince Halloran year 8 tournament, reflecting a bright future for our basketball program.

We commend all participants for their hard work and passion for basketball, and we look forward to another successful season ahead.

## HURLING

### U14.5 Hurling

Our U14.5 Hurling team took part in the Brother Mallon Cup. They came out of their group which included Dean MacGuiric, Castleblaney College and St MacCartans Monaghan. This meant the boys progressed to the quarter final where they played St Paul Bessbrook, the boys showed excellent hurling skills and character to come out on top in a very entertaining match. Unfortunately the semi final was a step too far where the boys were beaten by a very strong De La Salle Belfast team. There was on average 17-26 boys at training and all 26 got the opportunity to represent the school in competitive fixtures.

### U16.5 Hurling

Our U16.5 Hurling team took part in the Maguire Cup. The team were in a very tough group which included Dean MacGuiric, Colaiste Feirste and St Michaels Enniskillen. The team unfortunately didn't qualify from their group for the cup competition so they entered the shield competition. The team played an amalgamation of 3 Letterkenny schools in the QF of the shield the team played their best game of hurling coming out comprehensive winners on the day. This set up a semi final game with St Patricks Dungiven who beat our boys in a very competitive game. There was on average 14-20 boys at training and all pupils who trained after school got game time for the Maguire cup team.

### U19 Hurling

Our U19 Hurling team took part in the Casement Shield. The team were in a group which included Aquinas, Colaiste Feirste and St Paul Bessbrook. The team

qualified 2nd in their group behind Aquinas this meant they would play a team that topped their group. The boys ran into a very strong St Colms Draperstown in the QF of the Casement Shield and exited the competition it was still a positive year with 18 of the 26 man panel 6th year or younger meaning they would be back to compete in the competition next year.

## GOLF

Our school continues to participate in a range of competitions for various age groups. In the first term, our team competed in the Irish Schools' Matchplay Championship, finishing 8th from a field of over forty schools. Later in the term, our junior team competed in the Ulster Schools' Junior Championship where they finished 6th out of 30 teams. In the Spring term, we competed in the inaugural Killymoon Schools' Cup in Cookstown. While the team prize proved too much, several students won individual prizes in a competition where the standard was very high. Charlie Foster, one of our Year 12 pupils, has been appointed junior captain of Dungannon Golf Club and we now have over 70 students playing competitively in local clubs. We have some very talented players in the school and we look forward to continued success.

## ATHLETICS

### District Cross country 2023:

Mini Girls = silver medal (team qualifier and 3 individual qualifiers)

Mini boys = 5th place.  
(1 individual qualifier)

Junior boys = bronze medal (team qualifier and 2 individual qualifiers)

Intermediate girls = gold medal (team qualifier, individual silver medal and 3 individual qualifiers)

Senior girls = gold medal (team qualifier and all 5

individual qualifiers)

Senior boys = bronze medal (team qualifier and all 4 individual qualifiers)

### Ulster cross country 2023:

Senior girls + bronze medal (all-Ireland qualifier)

### District Track and Field 2023:

Conor Hayes = silver medal in Intermediate boys 800m

Aoibheann Dempsey = gold medal in senior girls 400m

Conor Anderson = 4th in Intermediate boys 400m.

### Ulster Track and Field 2023:

Aoibheann Dempsey = silver medal in senior girls' 400m hurdles

Alana-Rose Farley = silver in senior girls' steeplechase

## MUSIC

*Una Robinson, Alana McCabe/ Helena Hendron (Covering Miss McCabe's maternity leave) and Katherine Mullin*

### Orchestra

There are 26 members in the Orchestra and meet weekly after school.

### Choirs

The Junior and Senior choirs have 52 members and meet weekly at lunch times.

### Key Achievements in 2023-2024

Guitar tutor joined our department-September 2023

Cross Border Folk Orchestra Concert- November 2023

Carol Service- December 2023

Piano man Masterclass- March 2024

Fainne Presentations – March 2024

Spring Concert- March 2024

Music teachers and students provided music for various Masses and Prize giving ceremonies

throughout the academic year.

### Musical

The musical production of 'The Greatest Show' took place in Term 2 with rehearsals for 'The Crucible' starting in Term 3.

### DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

A minority of students participate in the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition (open to Year 12/13 girls) – approximately 6 students each year.

A minority of students participate in the Literific Debating Competition (has not been held since January 2020 when 6 Year 13/14 students were involved).

All students participate in the KS3 Public Speaking Competition: in the first round, all KS3 students write and deliver a speech (on a given topic) in class; the top boy and top girl from each class then progress to the second round (the Year Finals); five students from each of the year finals are then selected to deliver their speech at the Grand Final.

A minority of Year 13/14 students participate in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition – 17 maximum

All students will have developed skills in confidence, team-work, public speaking, debating; all students involved in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition will have an understanding of how the justice system works.

### Poetry Slam

A new initiative to promote pupil's creative writing resulted in 25 pupils from all backgrounds and across all year groups working together with poet, Cat Brogan, to produce and perform their work to an audience. This was a highly successful event, the first of its kind in the Academy. The programme was developed and led by Mrs Michelle Dennehy.

We look forward to 2023.

### CHARITY OVERVIEW

Charity continues to play an important role in promoting the school's ethos and in developing community involvement.

### YOUNG ENTERPRISE

**Young Enterprise continues to be highly successful in enriching pupils' links to industry. Highlights from 2022-2023 include:**

**Year 13 Company Programme:** Students set up and ran a business called 'Strive', selling beanie hats at school and the Rushmere Shopping Centre. **Business Mentorship:** John McKenna from JMK Consultancy provided business advice and marketing strategies. **Awards:** Students won four awards at Rushmere Shopping Centre: Best Customer Service, Best Marketing Winner, Best Company Runner-Up, and Highest Sales Winner. Year 13 pupil Rionach Murphy received an award for being one of the top three students in the YE/UU Assessment, meeting US politician Joe Kennedy and networking with EY representatives in Belfast City Hall. **Ulster University Assessment:** All students achieved a 100% pass rate, with results ranging from Pass with Merit to Pass with Distinction. **KS3 Workshops:** Year 8, 9, and 10 pupils participated in entrepreneur workshops in the Assembly Hall, which involved business volunteers from the local area.

**Young Enterprise continues to foster students' connections to industry. Key achievements from 2023-2024 include:**

**KS3 Workshops:** Year 8, 9, and 10 pupils participated in entrepreneur workshops in the Assembly Hall, which involved business volunteers from the local area. **New Workshop 'Personal Economics':** Delivered to Year 13 pupils in June 2024, this workshop was a success and will be offered again in 2025.

**Centre of Excellence Recognition:** St Patrick's Academy has been recognised as a 'Centre of Excellence' – Gold Level status for our continued commitment to financial and enterprise education. This recognition ceremony took place at Stormont in June 2024.

### SCHOOL POLICIES

Copies of the school's Anti-Bullying, Child Protection and Discipline Policy statements are available from the school office and the school website. Parents wishing to obtain a copy are asked to give the school office one week's notice. All pupils have a copy of the school Code of Conduct in their pupil planner and parents receive a copy in the Information for Parents' Handbook, which they receive in June.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health & Safety Policy was updated in June 2024 to reflect all areas of Health & Safety around the campus. Mr Grew attended some Health & Safety training which was passed on to school staff.

### DISABILITY ACCESS

The school building is fully compliant with all access requirements and it goes further in that there is safe and easy access for wheelchair users and those using crutches, to every facility in the building.

### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

(Mrs Maeve Conway)

In June 2024 there were 43 pupils on the SEN register:

Stage 3 – 16 pupils

Stage 2 – 3 pupils

Stage 1 – 24 pupils

The school is refining its provision for SEN pupils by more extensive use of baseline assessment such as PIE, PIM and CAT. The SENCo has been trained to conduct diagnostic testing. The school continued to liaise closely with support agencies

so as to provide the most normal educational experience possible for each SEN pupils while meeting their particular needs. IEPs have been implemented for all pupils with the annual reviews having taken place in February. All parents and pupils expressed satisfaction with provision at their annual review.

#### Implementation of the SEN policy continued as with previous practice:

Mrs M Conway returned to the role SENCo through a phased return in February 2024, returning full time in April 2024. For continuity, Mrs A Mitchell also remained in post until June 2024.

#### Admissions Arrangements

The admissions arrangements with respect to the majority of pupils with SENs are consistent with the schools general arrangements for all other pupils. The school will put in place procedures to help ease the transition as soon as they become aware of the needs, e.g. familiarisation tour, smaller form class, allocation of specific rooms, transition booklet, meetings with parents, assistants, teachers, other relevant personnel. Pupils transferring with a Statement of Educational Needs are invited with their parents to meet their teachers/relevant staff before beginning the new school term.

#### Special Facilities/Resources are arranged as appropriate:

Wheelchair access

Disabled toilet and shower

Lift

Lockers

#### Identification, Assessment and Review

All teachers are responsible for early identification of pupils with SEN through professional judgment, testing, information gleaned from parents, previous teachers, external agencies etc.

#### Internal Common Testing

- To assist in identifying

underachievement and learning needs at all levels, allowing more effective interventions at all levels of ability the following measures have been developed:

- Baseline testing has been introduced from Year 8 in English, Mathematics and cognitive abilities (PIE, PIM and CAT).
- New programmes for learning support have been introduced
- Assisted Study Clubs for Years 8-10
- Collaborative learning groups (Sixth Form)
- Peer mentoring groups
- Reading partnerships
- Writing partnerships
- Increased collaboration between SEN and learning support functions.

#### Literacy

Every Year 8 pupil was issued with a literacy target sheet identifying the specific areas of weakness. These are made available to all staff. Literacy support strategies are in place in all departments.

#### Numeracy

All Year 8 pupils sit a standard KS3 exam (term 1) to assess levels and learning issues are identified from this. Progress In Maths tests and CAT data are used to provide a standardized measure of mathematical achievement against measured ability to assist in more accurate diagnosis of need and of intervention strategies.

#### Training and Development

- Diagnostic assessments to enable earlier and more appropriate interventions.
- Pupil and parental interviews have been conducted for all pupils on the register Support strategies monitored closely and regularly reviewed and evaluated.

#### CEIAG

Head of Careers has background information on all pupils on the school SEN Register

- A CEIAG target is included in EPs where appropriate
- Pupils are interviewed early in Year 12 to discuss possible career pathways
- A careers advisor from the NI Careers Service attended Annual Review/Transition meetings of all pupils from Yr10 – Yr14 (EA Transition Team) attended all Transition meetings.

#### School Complaints Procedures

EA advice and Information Service (all parents are given this information when their child is placed on the code of practice)

- DARS

#### ADMISSIONS

The school's admission number for September 2023 has been increased to 210 following a successful request for a temporary variation to Year 8 admissions while the LTE has continued to be set by DE at 1,320 but the actual enrolment remains at 1,446, as of 30th June 2024

There were 220 pupils admitted to Year 8 in September 2023, including 6 successful appeals.

There were no admissions to Years 9-12 in 2023-24  
There were 7 pupils admitted into Year 13.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023-24

Income received from DENI: <b>£8,546,107</b>
Voluntary contributions: <b>£25,373</b>
Other income: <b>£149,302</b>
Staff costs: <b>£7,303,482</b>
Other expenditure: <b>£1,011,984</b>
Net position for year: <b>£379,944</b>

With continuous growth of pupil enrolment, the school can once again report a surplus for the financial year, contributing to a healthy reserves balance at 31 March 2024. While some uncertainty remains around future funding, the school can start to plan for investment in staffing, digital technology and development of the curriculum in the 2025/26 year.

### TRADE UNION ACTION

Action Short of Strike Action continued into 2023/24. This impacted on reporting.

### APPOINTMENTS FOR 2023-24

#### Internal Promotions

- Mrs R Donnelly was appointed as Head of Year 9.
- Miss E Hurson was appointed as Head of Biology including KS3 for 1 Year Group.
- Mrs J Maguire was re-appointed as Head of Home Economics.
- Mrs C Bell was appointed as Head of Year 10.

#### New Teaching Staff:

- Teacher of Chemistry to A Level and Double Award Science to GCSE Level. Full time, Permanent – Miss Cara Lagan

- Teacher of Boys' PE to A Level with the ability to teach another subject. Full time, Permanent – Mr Ryan Pickering
- Teacher of Art and Design to A Level with the ability to teach another subject. Full time, Permanent. – Mrs Claire Corr
- Teacher of English Literature to A Level with the ability to teach another subject. Full time, Permanent – Miss Dearbhla Nugent Full time, Temporary for 1 Year – Mrs Natalie Hall
- Teacher of History and Government & Politics to A Level with the ability to teach another subject. Full time, Permanent – Mr Brian McGahan Full time, Permanent – Miss Ursula Donaghy

- **Teacher of Science to A Level and Double Award Science to GCSE Level with the ability to teach A Level**

Life and Health Sciences. (Full Time, temporary for 1 year)  
Mr Anthony Deehan  
Mr John Cumiskey

- **Teacher of Religious Studies to A Level with English to KS3.** (Full time, temporary for 1 year) Mr Kevin Conroy.

- **Teacher of History to GCSE Level with General Subjects.** (Full time, temporary for 1 year to cover a career break)  
Mr Michael Robertson

- **Teacher of Mathematics to GCSE Level.** (Part time - 4 days per week, temporary to cover a maternity leave until December 2023) Dr Caroline Steen

- **Teacher of French and Irish to GCSE Level with General Subjects.** (Part time - 3 days per week, temporary for 1 year) Mrs Francesca Billington Teacher of Music (Maternity Leave)  
Miss H Hendron

- **Retirements:**

- Mr K Maynes (Teacher of French & Media Studies)
- Mr A Carragher - (Teacher of Biology)

- Mrs J Barker - (Teacher of Mathematics)

### COMMUNITY USE

The school has made internal facilities available for community use. There is a booking system facilitated by the School Business Manager and is working well. External facilities are not available for hire. Governors and Trustees continue to work towards this goal.

## EXAMINATIONS 2024

### GCSE LEVEL RESULTS

14/15 15/16 16/17 17/18 18/19 19/20 20/21 21/22 22/23 23/24

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	GCSE									
% of students achieving <b>5+ GCSEs</b> at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	100	99.01	97.91	98.98	97.31	99.48	100	99.5	99.5	98.54
% of students achieving <b>7+ GCSEs</b> at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	98.39	97.54	94.76	96.94	96.24	98.96	99.51	98.99	96.48	95.61

### GCSE Level Results - 2024 - Grades A\* - G % of pupils achieving grades

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
Art & Design	31	9.7	45.2	38.7	6.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	54.8	93.5	100	100
Business Studies	75	6.7	32	22.7	13.3	10.7	9.3	4	0	1.3	0	38.7	61.3	85.3	98.7
Digital Technology - Multimedia	18	11.1	50	11.1	11.1	16.7	0	0	0	0	0	61.1	72.2	100	100
Engineering	17	5.9	35.3	17.6	17.6	23.5	0	0	0	0	0	41.2	58.8	100	100
English Language	205	10.7	47.8	30.2	8.8	2	0.5	0	0	0	0	58.5	88.8	99.5	100
English Literature	205	11.7	35.6	31.2	12.7	7.3	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0	47.3	78.5	98.5	99.5
Food & Nutrition	38	7.9	44.7	26.3	15.8	2.6	2.6	0	0	0	0	52.6	78.9	97.4	100
French	76	9.2	27.6	22.4	17.1	11.8	9.2	2.6	0	0	0	36.8	59.2	88.2	100
Further Mathematics	90	15.6	45.6	15.6	12.2	6.7	4.4	0	0	0	0	61.1	76.7	95.6	100
Geography	76	7.9	28.9	31.6	15.8	6.6	6.6	2.6	0	0	0	36.8	68.4	90.8	100
History	70	5.7	47.1	25.7	14.3	5.7	1.4	0	0	0	0	52.9	78.6	98.6	100
Irish	45	20	42.2	22.2	13.3	2.2	0	0	0	0	0	62.22	84.44	100	100
Learning for Life & Work	9	22.2	66.7	0	0	11.1	0	0	0	0	0	88.9	88.9	100	100
Mathematics	205	12.2	52.68	20.98	12.2	9.75	1.95	0	0	0	0	64.88	85.86	98.06	100
Music	10	20	60	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	90	100	100
Religious Studies	201	9.5	43.3	16.9	13.4	9.5	4	2	1	0	0.5	52.7	69.7	92.5	98.5
Science - Single Award	10	0	20	20	40	20	0	0	0	0	0	20	40	100	100
Spanish	12	16.7	50	8.3	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	66.7	75	100	100
Technology & Design	30	6.7	26.7	30	6.7	10	6.7	13.3	0	0	0	33.3	63.3	80	100

### GCSE Level Results - 2024 - Grades 9 -1 % of pupils achieving grades

Subject	Entries	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	A*-A (9-7)	A*-B (9-6)	A*-C (9-4)	A*-E (9-1)
Computer Science	41	14.6	17.1	14.6	34.1	7.3	7.3	2.4	2.4	0	0	46.3	80.5	95.1	100
Media Studies	24	16.7	16.7	12.5	33.33	12.5	8.3	0	0	0	0	45.8	79.2	100	100
PE	57	17.5	21.1	15.8	29.8	14	1.8	0	0	0	0	54.4	84.2	100	100
Russian	2	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	100
Polish	2	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	100

### GCSE Level Results - 2024 - Double Award Science % of pupils achieving grades

Subject	Entries	A*A*	A*A	AA	AB	BB	BC* (B1)	C*C* (C1)	C*C (C2)	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE	EF	FF	FG	GG	U	A*A-AA	A*A-BB	A*A-CC	A*A-EE
Double Award Science - CCEA	193	12.44	14.51	23.83	8.29	11.4	9.84	5.7	6.74	2.07	2.59	1.55	1.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.78	70.47	94.82	100

**A LEVEL RESULTS**

14/15 15/16 16/17 17/18 18/19 19/20 20/21 21/22 22/23 23/24

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	A LEVEL									
% of students achieving <b>3+ A-levels</b> at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	84.15	80.9	73.91	82.2	75.95	95.95	92.66	79.21	86.63	74.61
% of students achieving <b>2+ A-levels</b> at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	100	100	99.38	99.44	96.55	99.42	100	91.57	86.63	89.12

**A Level Results - 2024** % of pupils achieving grades

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
Accounting	15	0	6.7	20	26.7	40	6.7	0	6.7	26.7	53.3	100
Art & Design	5	20	60	20	0	0	0	0	80	100	100	100
Biology	48	10.4	35.4	29.2	20.8	4.2	0	0	45.8	75	95.8	100
Business Studies	51	3.9	23.5	31.4	23.5	11.8	5.9	0	27.5	58.8	82.4	100
Chemistry	45	11.1	44.4	20	8.9	13.3	0	2.2	55.6	75.6	84.4	97.8
Digital Technology	16	0	12.5	12.5	31.3	12.5	18.8	12.5	12.5	25	56.3	87.5
Economics	3	33.3	66.7	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	100
English Literature	33	18.2	18.2	24.2	24.2	12.1	3	0	36.4	60.6	84.8	100
Environmental Technology	17	11.8	23.5	23.5	17.6	17.6	5.9	0	35.3	58.8	76.5	100
French	2	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	50	50	100	100
Further Mathematics	6	66.7	16.7	0	16.7	0	0	0	83.3	83.3	100	100
Geography	37	5.4	18.9	35.1	29.7	10.8	0	0	24.3	59.5	89.2	100
Government & Politics	8	0	50	37.5	12.5	0	0	0	50	87.5	100	100
Health & Social Care	41	0	41.5	39	19.5	0	0	0	41.5	80.5	100	100
History	27	7.4	29.6	40.7	11.1	7.4	3.7	0	37	77.8	88.9	100
Irish	11	0	63.6	36.4	0	0	0	0	63.6	100	100	100
Life & Health Sciences	10	0	0	20	60	20	0	0	0	20	80	100
Mathematics	51	13.7	39.2	17.6	27.5	2.0	0	0	52.9	70.6	98	100
Media Studies	33	6.1	21.2	39.4	15.2	15.2	0	3.0	27.3	66.7	81.8	97
Music	3	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Nutrition & Food Science	18	5.6	16.7	33.3	16.7	22.2	5.6	0	22.2	55.6	72.2	100
Physical Education	25	8	48	24	12	8	0	0	56	80	92	100
Physics	20	15	15	30	20	10	10	0	30	60	80	100
Psychology	17	17.6	23.5	29.4	11.8	5.9	11.8	0	41.2	70.6	82.4	100
Religious Studies	6	0	0	16.7	50	33.3	0	0	0	16.7	66.7	100
Sociology	10	20	10	50	0	20	0	0	30	80	80	100
Software Systems Development	15	0	13.3	46.7	40	0	0	0	13.3	60	100	100
Technology & Design	5	0	20	40	40	0	0	0	20	60	100	100

**BTEC & AQA Extended Certificate Results** – % of pupils achieving grades

Subject	Entries	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Fail
Engineering	6	33.3%	50%	16.67	0	0

## AS LEVEL RESULTS – % of pupils achieving grades

Subject	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-B	A-C	A-E
Art & Design	7	57.1	0	42.9	0	0	0	57.1	100	100
Biology	43	27.9	32.6	18.6	9.3	7	4.7	60.5	79.1	95.3
Business Studies	66	16.7	42.4	27.3	9.1	4.5	0	59.1	86.4	100
Chemistry	44	34.1	20.5	18.2	15.9	9.1	2.3	54.5	72.7	97.7
Digital Technology	20	10	40	25	25	0	0	50	75	100
Drama & Theatre	5	40	40	20	0	0	0	80	100	100
English Literature	34	41.2	32.4	17.6	5.9	2.9	0	73.5	91.2	100
Environmental Technology	17	41.2	17.6	23.5	17.6	0	0	58.8	82.4	100
French	7	28.6	42.9	14.3	14.3	0	0	71.4	85.7	100
Further Mathematics	5	0	80	20	0	0	0	80	100	100
Geography	34	24.2	36.4	15.2	15.2	9.1	0	60.6	75.8	100
Health & Social Care	49	40.8	44.9	12.2	2	0	0	85.7	98	100
History	22	31.8	36.4	27.3	0	0	4.5	68.2	95.5	95.5
Irish	6	50	50	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
Life & Health Sciences	19	10.5	31.6	36.8	21.1	0	0	42.1	78.9	100
Mathematics	63	33.3	27	15.9	12.7	9.5	1.6	60.3	76.2	98.4
Media Studies	27	37	40.7	18.5	3.7	0	0	77.8	96.3	100
Nutrition & Food Science	17	35.3	29.4	11.8	23.5	0	0	64.7	76.5	100
Physical Education	21	57.1	23.8	19	0	0	0	81	100	100
Physics	22	27.3	13.6	22.7	31.8	4.5	0	40.9	63.6	100
Psychology	11	36.4	18.2	36.4	0	9.1	0	54.5	90.9	100
Religious Studies	19	42.1	31.6	10.5	15.8	0	0	73.7	84.2	100
Sociology	9	44.5	22.2	22.2	11.1	0	0	66.7	88.9	100
Software Systems Development	15	20	20	33.3	26.7	0	0	40	73.3	100
Technology & Design	13	23.1	61.5	15.4	0	0	0	84.6	100	100

## EXTERNAL QUALIFICATIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Courses of study are provided for the following external qualifications:

GCSE			
Art & Design	CCEA	Geography	CCEA
Business Studies	CCEA	History	CCEA
Business & Communication Systems	CCEA	Irish	CCEA
Child Development	CCEA	LLW	CCEA
Computer Science	OCR	Mathematics	CCEA
Digital Technology	CCEA & OCR	Media Studies	WJEC
Drama	CCEA	Music	CCEA
Engineering and Manufacturing	CCEA	Physical Education	WJEC
English Language	CCEA	Religious Studies	CCEA
English Literature	CCEA	Science (Single Award)	CCEA
Food & Nutrition	CCEA	Science (Double Award)	CCEA
French	CCEA	Spanish	CCEA
Further Mathematics	CCEA	Technology & Design	CCEA

AS & A LEVEL			
Accounting	AQA	Life and Health Science	CCEA
Art & Design	CCEA	Mathematics	CCEA
Applied Health & Social Care	CCEA	Media Studies	WJEC
Biology	CCEA	Nutrition & Food Science	CCEA
Business Studies	CCEA	Drama and Theatre	WJEC
Chemistry	CCEA	Physical Education	WJEC
Digital Technology	CCEA	Physics	CCEA
English Literature	CCEA	Professional Business Studies	CCEA
Environmental Technology	CCEA	Psychology	WJEC
French	CCEA	Religious Studies	CCEA
Further Mathematics	CCEA	Sociology	WJEC
Geography	CCEA	Software Systems Development	CCEA
Government and Politics	CCEA	Technology & Design	CCEA
History	CCEA	Engineering (BTEC)	Pearson
Irish	CCEA		

**SCHOOL LEAVERS DESTINATIONS – 2023-2024**

Number of Pupils enrolled 2023-24		
	Total Number	Students with special educational needs
Year 12	205	1
Year 13	180	1
Year 14	193	1

	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14
<b>Number of leavers</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>193</b>
Higher Education NI Degree course			116
Higher Education NI Teacher Training course			5
Higher Education UK Teacher Training course			1
Higher Education GB Degree course			24
Higher Education Non UK Degree course			4
Further Education NI Foundation Degree			6
Further Education NI Non Degree	18	4	4
Further Education NI Degree			3
Further Study (A Level)			2
Higher Level Apprenticeship HE			6
Higher Level Apprenticeship FE			3
Jobskills/Training/Apprentice			2
Employment			9
Unknown			8
Another School	3		

**DESTINATIONS OF A LEVEL STUDENTS - 2023**

Queen's University Belfast  
 Ulster University  
 St. Mary's University College  
 Trinity College Dublin  
 NUI Galway  
 University of Glasgow  
 The University of Edinburgh  
 Liverpool John Moores University  
 University of Liverpool  
 Liverpool Hope University  
 University of Manchester  
 University of Cambridge  
 Newcastle University  
 University of South Wales  
 University of Dundee  
 Coventry University  
 University of Kent  
 Loughborough University  
 Hague University Holland  
 Drexel University, Philadelphia  
 Apprenticeship degree programs





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