



St. Patrick's College Banbridge





Principal's Foreword

A very warm welcome to Saint Patrick's College!

I am delighted to present our new prospectus to you. It will

give you an insight into what the College provides for its pupils and a glimpse into the strong and vibrant school community which flourishes here.

St Patrick's is an all ability, all-inclusive school which was opened in 1958 to serve the boys and girls of the greater Banbridge area. We are a Catholic school where our pupils are encouraged to participate fully in the Religious Education programme and practice of the faith. We warmly welcome students from other faith groups and value the richness and breadth they bring to our school community.

At St Patrick's we strive for excellence. We have high expectations for all pupils, not only in terms of their school work and homework, but also in their personal appearance and conduct. We encourage them to achieve their best. Your support, as parents and carers, will help to ensure that they avail of a range of opportunities which will enable them to reach their potential and become positive contributors to society.

Our curriculum provision has grown rapidly and in collaboration with our partner schools in the area learning community, we are well equipped to ensure that our pupils access the full N.I. curriculum at Key Stage Three, Key Stage Four and Post-16. We offer a comprehensive careers programme

at Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Post-16 to ensure our pupils are well informed to make the most appropriate choices about career pathways.

We continually work with CCMS and the Department of Education on enhancing the physical learning environment of our school so that it is modern and well equipped to meet the needs of all learners. In 2021, we were delighted to open our £1.5 million 3G pitch with changing rooms and floodlights, funded by Peace 4, the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council and Sport NI. This has brought another exciting dimension to the extracurricular provision in the school and has enhanced the opportunities our pupils in KS3, KS4 and post-16 have access to.

We are so disappointed that the current pandemic has curtailed so many of the events we normally organise to enable potential pupils and parents to visit us to get a feel for our school. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will be delighted to welcome you through the doors of Saint Patrick's College so that you can meet our pupils and staff to get a taste of the 'Saint Patrick's College experience'!

Please take time to read through this prospectus as well as accessing the website and interactive 3D school tour. Should you require any further information or would like to make an appointment to visit the school, please contact us to make arrangements.

ROISIN WOODS
PRINCIPAL



Our Vision

Our work in Saint Patrick's College involves the efforts of teachers, parents, pupils and the whole school community in pursuit of excellence in everything we do.

Our main aims are:

- To create a happy, caring environment where childhood and youth are appreciated as special experiences.
- To provide a curriculum which will help each pupil achieve the highest possible academic and vocational success.
- To recognise and celebrate success while continuously striving for improvement.
- To enhance pupil self-esteem and encourage pupils to accept responsibility.
- To encourage independent lifelong learning.
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- To promote diversity and inclusion in both the school and wider community.







Pastoral Care

We are extremely proud of the supportive community here at St. Patrick's College.

We are committed to creating a happy environment where every single pupil can thrive and flourish. Indeed, we understand that above all, well-being is a

prerequisite of academic excellence. The emphasis we place on pastoral care is, therefore, integral to the ethos of our College community.

We have high expectations of our students to give and receive respect – respect for people, their beliefs, their differences, their talents and their backgrounds. We give support, help and guidance, through what can be challenging periods in a young person's life. We give encouragement and praise and operate a merit system to reward students, but we demand high standards of behaviour and commitment in return. Everyone works hard to ensure our school is a happy, successful and harmonious place to be.

Pastoral Care is supported by a carefully planned, quality Personal Development Programme, a counselling service, which is available to all students if required, and the effective pastoral structure of the school. We respond quickly to the needs of all of our pupils and when necessary intervene and seek support.

Each student has a Form Tutor providing day-to-day pastoral guidance and help. The tutor will support and listen, but will also demand high standards of behaviour, attendance, punctuality, appearance and work, and will monitor each student's progress. Tutors can call upon support from our

dedicated Heads of Year who also oversee the strategic direction of pastoral care in the College. Our Learning Support Coordinator, Mrs Fidelma McKeever works closely with those pupils with Special Educational Needs and disabilities and both the Vice-Principal and Principal are on hand building excellent relationships with students to ensure that every voice is heard.

We place a strong emphasis on listening to the voice of the pupils here at St. Patrick's. Our Student Council relay the views of all pupils to the Senior Leadership Team and we are thrilled to have a recently trained team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who ensure that our new Anti-Bullying Policy is owned by and shared among all members the student body. The students also have a say in how they learn best in every subject and play an integral part in the development of school policy and procedure.

We implement a 'Positive Behaviour Policy' which is reviewed constantly in response to the needs of our pupils. There is now a major focus on the celebration of success, academic achievement, good behaviour and valuable contributions to all areas of school life; 'success breeds success!'

Parents are also engaged. It is vital that school and home work closely together in order to get the very best outcome for each student. Our School motto 'Excellence through Partnership' reminds us of the necessity to establish and maintain close relationships with all of our parents and guardians. We will keep you informed of the progress of your child regularly and guide you in helping them to reach their true potential.

Fionnuala Hartigan
Vice Principal





Our School Curriculum

Key Stage Three

The curriculum for Years 8, 9 and 10 reflects the N.I. Curriculum. Students will learn about a broad range of subjects to prepare them for future choices in life.

An extensive careers programme complements the Key Stage 3 Curriculum in Year 10.

- Art and Design
- English with Media and Drama
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Irish
- Learning for Life and Work i.e. Employability
- Local and Global Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology and Design
- Spanish





Key Stage Four

The core subjects are compulsory in Key Stage Four.

- Religious Education
- English
- Science
- Maths
- Physical Education

The following optional subjects are offered to pupils in Key Stage Four.

- Art and Design
- Business and Communication Systems
- Child Development
- Construction
- Countryside and Environment
- Double Award Science
- Single Award Science
- Vocational Science
- Drama
- Early Years
- Engineering
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Health and Social Care
- Home Economics Food and Nutrition
- Digital Technology
- I.C.T.
- Irish

- Learning for Life and Work
- Media
- Music
- Occupational Studies
- Performing Arts
- OCN NI Level 2 Personal Success and Well-being
- GSCE Religious Studies
- Public Services
- Polish
- Spanish
- Sport
- Technology and Design

All pupils attend classes in Careers.

The above qualifications are offered at GCSE or BTEC First Certificate Level.

All are GCSE equivalencies.





POST-16

In collaboration with schools in the Banbridge Area Learning Community, we offer an appropriate combination of Vocational and Academic POST-16 courses for our pupils.

- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Information Technology (equivalent to 2 A Levels)
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology (equivalent to 1 A Level)
- Professional Business Studies
- Cambridge Technical Certificate in Business
- Applied Health and Social Care
- BTEC Level 3 Engineering
- Geography
- BTEC Level 3 Childcare
- BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts
- Art
- Biology
- Technology and Design
- BTEC Level 3 Public Services
- English Literature
- BTEC Level 3 Media
- Psychology
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Software Systems and Development
- Chemistry
- BTEC Sport
- Agriculture
- History
- Journalism
- Physics
- Government and Politics



We will always endeavour to respond to labour market information on employment trends in Northern Ireland and we will always work in collaboration with all stakeholders to develop those essential hard and soft skills to secure employment in the future.

Our curriculum will always evolve to ensure we meet the needs of our young people.



Our Learning Support Centre (L.S.C.)

We are privileged to offer specialist teaching to pupils who benefit best from being taught in small numbers. A range of general subjects are taught by a specialist teacher. Practical subjects are taught by specialist teachers.

At Key Stage Three, the pupils follow adapted schemes of work in line with the pupils in their year group.

Preparation for transfer begins at Primary School where well established links have been developed with our L.S.C.

At Key Stage Four, the pupils follow a range of courses which lead to external accreditation and which prepare the pupils for the world of work, the world of living and the world of leisure.

Pupils have the option of participating in CCEA Occupational Studies and undertake at least one week's Work Experience.

Learning Support

St Patrick's College has a qualified SENCO who leads all staff in responding appropriately to pupils who have Special Educational Needs. We aim to create an environment that is sympathetic to pupils who exhibit learning and behavioural difficulties so that their learning is optimised. Additional individualised help is provided for these pupils through in-class support and specialist tuition.

Regular in-service training is provided for all staff and Individual Education Plans are used appropriately to enhance learning.





A Personalised Learning Journey

Every Year 8 pupil is offered a **personalised learning journey** as he/she proceeds through Key Stage Three at St Patrick's College.

- Each year FIVE formal assessments are undertaken by every pupil in each subject.
- These are marked by the subject teacher and moderated within each area of study.
- The results are placed against each pupil's personalised target.
- These targets are gained from online testing.
- This enables every pupil to be challenged to reach his/her potential target.
- Class averages will be available so that parents can chart their son/daughter against the class.
- Twice a year, parents will receive a summary copy of the results of the Formal Assessments.
- Each summer, parents will receive a full subject teacher report.
- This provides a 'partnership of learning' to optimise the achievements of every boy and girl.







Extra Curricular Life

We promote an extensive range of extra-curricular activities to enhance our provision and to ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to embark on activities outside the academic curriculum. The opening of our new 3G GAA football pitch with floodlights and changing rooms has enhanced our extracurricular provision we are delighted that every evening, after school, our football pitch and sports halls are 'hives' of activity.

Sport

Netball

Netball training takes place three times a week for pupils in all Years 8-12. We compete in the Banbridge Area League.

Gaelic Football

Gaelic football is offered to pupils from Years 8 to 14. Training is three times a week and teams play in the Ulster Schools Championship competitions.

Soccer

Boys in all age groups are offered the opportunity to play soccer. The school enters the South Down League, Cup and Blitz Competitions.

Camogie

Camogie is offered to pupils in Years 8-12 one afternoon a week.

Dance-Aerobics

There is an internal dance competition offered to all pupils in Years 9 to 10 each year. From the pupils who usually enter this, 20 are picked to represent the school in the NICMAC dance competition.

Athletics

All students are offered the opportunity to compete in a range of athletics activities and to compete in the District Championships.

Rugby

Students are given the opportunity to avail of rugby coaching in conjunction with other schools in our Area Learning Community. It is delivered by Ulster Rugby coaches. Players amalgamate with players from Banbridge High School to take part in the Schools Cup and Ulster Schools Competitions.





Music

Choir

The Choir meet weekly and more intensively in the run up to school events. They engage in activities such as carol singing at Christmas and provide entertainment at different functions. They actively participate in school liturgies throughout the year.

Vocal Coaching

All students are given the opportunity to enrol in singing lessons with our vocal coaches and attend the class once weekly.

Guitar Tuition

Guitar lessons are also available to pupils on a weekly basis.

Band

We are delighted to offer students the opportunity to play a range of brass and woodwind instruments in our School Band which rehearse once a week.

Minecraft Club

Students are able to use the IT facilities to mine, build and take on the stories in the computer game world of Minecraft.

Book Club

Book Club takes place every week in our Library. Students meet to read, discuss what they are reading, listen to guest speakers, and enjoy treats and hot chocolate!

Spanish Club

Spanish Club takes place weekly. Students work on themes, play games and engage in conversation which enhance their curriculum provision at KS3.

Educational Visits

Students are given the opportunity to go on our School Ski trip as well as the Donegal Gaeltacht, Geography Fieldwork Trips, Science trips and a variety of local educational visits which enhance our curriculum.

Cookery Club

Students are provided with the opportunity to explore the creation of culinary delights with our Home Economics Department in a more relaxed, afterschool environment, enabling them to develop those essential independent life skills.

Film Club

St Patrick's College runs a weekly History Film Club which offers students an opportunity to improve their general knowledge about the events the films are based on and the periods, cultures and historical facts involved. Film is a useful teaching and learning tool in the study of History; the club aims to complement, deepen and widen students' experience of the KS3 Northern Ireland History Curriculum at St Patrick's. It is important that students feel that the Film Club is a welcoming, informal and fun element to their school day. Students will often choose the films with the teacher's guidance and informal discussions regularly take place relating to the historical content featured. Students are welcome to eat their lunch during Film Club and have the opportunity to enjoy the company of friends from other form groups.



Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

St Patrick's College CIEAG programme is a key element in the curriculum provision across all Key Stages. It is designed to equip our pupils with the skills and experience to make sound career choices and to progress to third level education or to the world of work.

At Key Stage Three, the programme is initially delivered through Learning for Life and Work. In addition, a discrete time is allocated at the key transition point of Year 10, when subject choices are made. Relevant up to date and impartial careers information and guidance is provided by our Careers and Guidance teacher with the support of the Careers Advisory Service.

At Key Stage Four, our Careers and Guidance programme aims to provide our pupils with sound up to date information towards Career pathways. A range of work related activities complements the work carried out within the College.

Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance are further enhanced by the involvement of employers and the business community. St Patrick's College has strong links with local businesses and we are fortunate that many are willing to take year 12 pupils on Work Experience. Industrial visits and initiatives organised through Science, Technology, Education and Maths (STEM) have enabled our pupils to be supported in a wide range of learning.

As a member of the Banbridge Area Learning Community, St Patrick's is able to avail of collaborative learning within the school community and also the Southern Regional College. This has enabled firm foundations to be built for pathways into post-16 study so our pupils can avail of opportunities in the Banbridge and Newry area.





Uniform

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students. Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school.

BOYS

- Navy blazer
- Black school trousers
- School tie
- Sky blue shirt
- Navy V-neck jumper (optional)
- Black shoes

PE KIT

Available from Donaghy's Shoe Fair, Banbridge



GIRLS

- Navy blazer
- Navy skirt
- Navy tights
- School tie
- Sky blue shirt
- Navy V-neck jumper (optional)
- Flat black shoes





Spiritual life in St Patrick's College



We are proud of our tradition as a Catholic school with a Christian ethos, serving primarily the Catholic pupils in the greater Banbridge area.

We welcome pupils of all denominations and other faiths.

All pupils study Religious Education at both Key Stage Three and Four.

We are fortunate to have an Oratory in which pupils and their Religious Education teachers spend time in prayer and meditative worship.

Our School Chaplain serves the whole school community offering opportunity for prayerful reflection and worship.

The Celebration of Mass takes place at the beginning of each school year.

Special Liturgies are held for parents, pupils and teachers to welcome our Year 8 pupils and to acknowledge leavers at the end of their time in St Patrick's.

Sacraments are celebrated on many occasions and opportunities for reconciliation are provided in Advent and Lent.

A special remembrance service takes place during the month of November.

Counselling will be provided for pupils who suffer bereavement or other major trauma through a Contact Youth Counsellor who works on a weekly basis in the school.



St Patrick's Breast Plate

Christ be with me, Christ be within me,
Christ be before me, Christ be behind me.
Christ be beneath me, Christ above,
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left.
Christ with me waking, walking and sleeping.
Christ in every heart thinking of me,
Christ in every tongue speaking to me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen.



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