



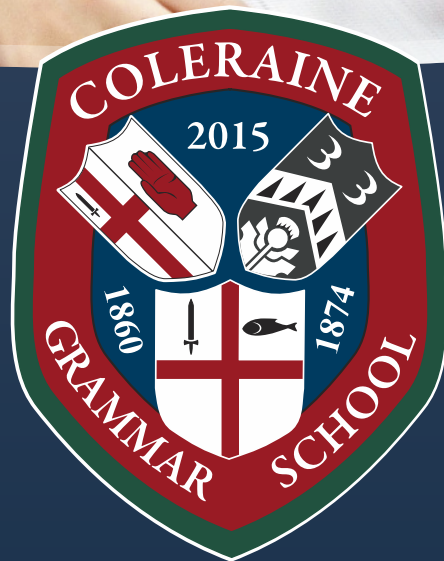
COLERAINE

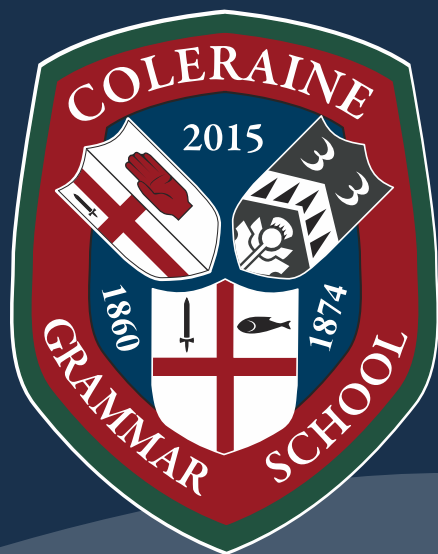
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In Scientia Opportunitas

Year 8 Parents' Guide

2020/21





COLERAINE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
In Scientia Opportunitas

# Foreword

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to Coleraine Grammar School.

I hope and expect that this the beginning of a successful seven year journey for each pupil, and that you are all able to fulfil your potential academically, in extra-curricular activities and in your personal development.

This booklet reflects what a 'normal' school year looks like, and I want to reassure you that we are currently planning for the safe reopening of school in August/September within government guidelines, and there is more information about this in the accompanying welcoming vlog.

Over the next few months, our aim is to help pupils make the transition from primary school to grammar school safely and smoothly within the current Covid-19 context. When school begins at the end of August, initially in a blended learning environment, pupils will study many familiar subjects and quite a few new ones too. This helps with the transition because pupils are able to build on existing strengths and also find new subjects to enjoy.

When we return to a more familiar environment, and when it is judged to be safe, pupils will be able to continue many activities and clubs from primary school and also broaden their horizons and make more new friends by engaging in new experiences.

The teaching and support staff of school are here to help our pupils make the transition to grammar school and enjoy a happy and successful school career. In return, we ask our pupils to show commitment to their school, work hard and always treat every member of the school community with respect.

I look forward to seeing you all on-line and in person next school year.



**Dr David Carruthers**  
Headmaster



Our school motto:

*In Scientia Opportunitas*

“With Knowledge comes Opportunity”



# Coleraine Grammar School Values

*Respect*

*Responsibility*

*Resilience*

R

Responsibility

E

Equality

S

Self-Discipline

P

Perseverance

E

Excellence

C

Commitment

T

Tolerance



# The School Day

The school day starts at 8.55am with registration. Each registration class will see their form tutor every morning when they will take the register, collect any absence notes and sign homework diaries. This is also valuable time for the new pupils to ask any questions they have about the school; their form tutor should be their first point of contact for any concerns they might have.

[www.colerainegrammar.com/about/the-school-day](http://www.colerainegrammar.com/about/the-school-day)

The School Day	
<b>Registration:</b>	8.55 – 9.05
<b>Period 1:</b>	9.05 – 9.55
<b>Period 2:</b>	9.55 – 10.45
<b>Assembly:</b>	10.45 – 11.00
<b>Breaktime:</b>	11.00 – 11.15
<b>Period 3:</b>	11.15 – 12.05
<b>Period 4:</b>	12.05 – 12.55
<b>Lunchtime:</b>	12.55 – 13.45
<b>Period 5:</b>	13.45 – 14.35
<b>Period 6:</b>	14.35 – 15.25

In CGS we use a two week timetable which alternates between week A and week B.

This is a sample Year 8 timetable →

The subject appears first in the box, then the teacher's initials followed by the room number.

A list of these abbreviations will be given to new pupils during registration on their first day in school. Please encourage your son/daughter to know what lessons take place each day.

As you see from the sample timetable, this will alter weekly. Pupils will all be given a printed version of their timetable when they arrive in August.

Week A	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Reg</b>	Rg GR P3	Rg KP P3	Rg GR P3	Rg GR P3	Rg GR P3
<b>1</b>	Lw RDB R03	Tl LS SD2	Dr JMC R10	En GW R11	Ma PQ R09
<b>2</b>	Ar TS AR2	Tl LS SD2	En GW R11	Ch ORY C3	Hi TAH HR3
<b>3</b>	Ph RMS P1	Gg CL GR1	Ga JM	Gg CL GR1	He LAU HE3
<b>4</b>	Ph RMS P1	Hi TAH HR3	Ga JM	Fr KP R03	He LAU HE3
<b>5</b>	En GW R11	Fr KP R03	Ma PQ R09	Mu MCY MR2	Bi DS B1
<b>6</b>	Fr KP R03	Bi DS B1	Re MD R18	Ma PQ R09	Ch ORY C3

Week B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Reg</b>	Rg GR P3	Rg GR P3	Rg GR P3	Rg GR P3	Rg KP P3
<b>1</b>	Bi DS B1	It LO IT1	Ar TS AR2	En GW R11	Pe JM HLL
<b>2</b>	Ma PQ R09	It LO IT1	En GW R11	Gg CL GR1	Ma PQ R09
<b>3</b>	Ar TS AR2	Gg CL GR1	Ga JM	Fr KP R03	Mu MCY MR2
<b>4</b>	Ph RMS P1	Hi TAH HR3	Ga JM	Ma PQ R09	Mu MCY MR2
<b>5</b>	En GW R11	Fr KP R03	Tl LS SD2	Lw RDB R03	Ch ORY C3
<b>6</b>	Fr KP R03	Ma PQ R09	Re MD R18	En GW R11	Hi TAH R09

### Lockers

Each pupil in Year 8 is supplied with a locker. Please encourage your son/daughter to make good use of his/her locker as this will help them to carry the minimum weight in their schoolbag during the school day.

Pupils may leave their books in their lockers during the day, carrying only what they need for each session. They may visit their lockers before school, at breaktime, lunchtime and at the end of the school day.

Pupils should NOT visit their lockers between classes.



# Calendar of School Holidays 2020/21

**Timetabled lessons will begin on:  
Friday 28th August, 8.55am – 12.55pm  
for all pupils.**

Year 8 only – first day	Thursday 27th August 2020 from 8.55am to 12.55pm
All Pupils Return to School	Friday 28th August 2020 from 8.55am to 12.55pm
Bank Holiday	Monday 31st August 2020
Half-Term	October 26-30 inclusive
Christmas	Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January inclusive
Half-Term	17th, 18th & 19th February 2021
Easter	Monday 29th March – Friday 9th April inclusive
May Day	Monday 3rd May 2021
End of Term	Wednesday 30th June 2021

(These dates are provisional due to Covid-19 restrictions.)

Any amendments to this will be added to the online version, which can be found at:

**[www.colerainegrammar.com/school-holidays](http://www.colerainegrammar.com/school-holidays)**

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## Transportation to and from school:

- By car – you should leave your son/daughter on the Lodge Road and not drive into the school grounds as there is not enough room for a large volume of traffic. Similarly in the afternoons, please collect pupils from the Lodge Road. If you need to collect your son/daughter from school to attend an appointment during the school day, then you may park in the visitors' carpark and collect your son/daughter at reception.
- By bus – Some buses will collect and drop off pupils at the school gates on Lodge Road, others will leave from the station on Railway Road. Please check this information with Translink in August. Bus passes will be distributed during pupils' first week in school.

## August Induction days and First Day of School for Year 8:

- Pupils will spend the morning with their form teacher and their form class.
- Pupils will have individual and class photos taken during the morning by a professional photographer.
- Pupils will receive their homework diary and timetable, both of which their form tutor will hand out and explain how to use properly.
- On their first full day of school pupils should bring a school bag with a pencil case, their break and either a packed lunch or lunch money;
- Pupils will be given a "Pupil Guidebook" to fill in with their form tutor, which will answer all their most common questions regarding their first few days in school

- On foot – pupils can access the school buildings from 8.30am.

We hope that all our pupils can arrive and leave school in a safe and secure manner. Your help in achieving this is greatly appreciated.

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At the beginning of the term, the Year 8 pupils will take part in an "Amazing Brains" workshop, to introduce the new pupils to study skills. They will work in groups and have an opportunity to talk about the differences in studying at a grammar school compared to a primary school.

“ I enjoy all of the subjects but my favourite is History as it has been really interesting learning more about early battles, kings and the black death in the UK. ”

**(Matthew, 8S2)**

“ For year 8 pupils coming in September: don't worry about having no one from your primary school in your class, you will always make new friends. ”

**(Lily-Anne, 8G1)**

“ My favourite subject is Technology and Design! In it we make lots of cool things. First, we made little key fobs out of acrylic and at the moment we are doing an electronic logo of our choice!!! ”

**(Andrew, 8S1)**

“ I really like English and am enjoying reading an interesting novel called Stargirl. ”

**(Owen, 8G3)**





“ ICT is my favourite club; the computers are great and you have the chance to be creative. ”  
(Matthew, 8S2)

“ I love playing sports. I play loads of rugby at CGS and we have matches every week which are always fun because I get to meet people who I played against for Coleraine. ”  
(Lewis, 8G1)

“ I love CGS because of all the extracurricular activities and amazing facilities we are so lucky to have. ”  
(Daniel, 8G1)

“ My favourite club this year has been choir. One of my favourite parts is at the concert getting to hear all the other year groups sing. ”  
(Evie, 8G1)

“ What I enjoy most about CGS is how friendly the staff and pupils are, they can always help out! ”  
(Zoey, 8G1)

### **School reports:**

There are three reporting periods during the school year. One of these reports will have both data and teacher comments. The other two reports will be data only. There will also be a pastoral meeting offered to you during Term 1 with your child's form tutor and then meetings with your child's classroom teachers later in the year to discuss their academic progress.

### **Use of the pupil planner and absence notes:**

Your son/daughter's pupil planner is not only for recording homeworks, it also contains:

- A copy of school policies which are most pertinent to pupils;
- A list of school holidays;
- Pro-formas for absence notes;
- A section for parental comment and signature at the end of each week;
- Space for the pupil to copy in their timetable.

### **Parental Contribution**

You will be given further documentation on how to make these parental contributions. This will outline your various payment options and gift aid information.

### **What should my child do with their mobile phone whilst in school?**

Mobile phones must be turned off during the school day and stored carefully. You may contact your son/daughter via the school office if necessary.

The mobile phone policy is available on the school website:  
[www.colerainegrammar.com/about/policies](http://www.colerainegrammar.com/about/policies)





**Pastoral Leader of Year 8:**  
Mrs R. Smith

## Key staff Year 8 pupils need to know

**Year 8 form tutors:**

Pupils will be informed who their form tutor is on their August induction days.

**SENCO:**

Mrs S Taggart

**School librarian:**

Mrs A. Ledwith

**School counsellor:**

Jean Cooper



## Some key information:

### **What to do if your child is unwell, injured or has a medical condition:**

- If your child is feeling unwell during the school day they should tell their class teacher, who will issue them with a “Pupil feeling ill” card that the pupil takes to reception, from where their parents/carers can be contacted.
- If your child is injured during the school day, there is a qualified first aider on the Lodge Road site: Mrs C. Barry, who can be located in the school reception.
- If your child has a medical condition that may require medication during the school day, please follow the school protocol for leaving the necessary materials in the school reception. You will be required to complete a medical form in this instance and the medication will be labelled and stored safely there for use when your child requires it.



# Key areas in school

## **Canteen:**

- Pupils should remain on the school grounds and are permitted to eat a packed lunch in the “packed lunch hall” during lunchtime or buy a hot meal in the Canteen.
- There are some areas outside which are deemed “out of bounds” in order to ensure the safety of our pupils at all times. These areas will be shown to pupils during their August induction days by their form tutor.
- Recreation during lunchtime is supervised by teaching and ancillary staff in the canteen, lunchrooms and outside.

## **Library:**

All pupils automatically become members of the library and receive a library card. Junior classes are allowed to borrow 2 fiction books and 2 non-fiction books for a period of 2 weeks. Pupils will be able to access the library system on all school computers which will make it much easier to do searches. The library accepts requests for new books and will reserve books, should you wish to do so.



**Mrs A. Ledwith**  
Librarian

The school library has a reading programme called Reading Olympics which is now a well established course for Years 8, 9 and 10. Pupils come to the library with their English teacher for one period per fortnight until Easter. There are 3 levels to the Reading Olympics Scheme: Bronze Award, Silver Award and Gold Award. All pupils tend to really enjoy this challenging scheme.

The library is a fun place to go and Mrs Ledwith holds various competitions throughout the year as well as celebrating important dates in the literary calendar.

Currently the library holds over 11,000 books. The library is open from 8.30am until 4.00pm most days and two days a week until 4.30pm. The library is open to everyone before school/lunch time and after school.

“ You will love CGS!  
Just be positive and work  
hard and it will all work  
out well! ”

(Matthew, 8S2)



“ Music is my favourite subject because the teacher is really nice and it’s quite fun. ”  
(Luke, 8S1)





# Uniform and Games Kit

## Expectations about neat and tidy appearance:

Coleraine Grammar School pupils are expected to wear their school uniform with pride and as such should be neatly turned out. That means top buttons of shirts should be fastened at all times, ties are an adequate length and shirts are neatly tucked in. Girls' skirts should be knee length and all pupils' footwear should be fit for purpose. No training shoes or high heels are permitted. Blazers should be worn at all times in school (except in a warm classroom). Please refer to the full school uniform policy on our website for more information.

CGS sports kit is a bespoke design by Under Armour and can be purchased from local stockists, S&T Moore and Heart and Home. The photo on page 15 showcases some of this sports kit.

All school policies pertaining to uniform, pastoral care, SEN, social networking etc can be found in full on our school website via the following link: [www.colerainegrammar.com/about/policies](http://www.colerainegrammar.com/about/policies)



“When I first started Year 8 at Coleraine Grammar school, I thought that I wouldn't make friends and that I would get lost around the school, but ever since I have joined I have got used to all the classrooms and subjects. I have also made a lot of friends. If I had to say something to reassure the P7 pupils I would say, yes perhaps you think coming to a new school is going to be difficult but really it's so much fun and you get lots more opportunities than in primary school. I absolutely love the Choir and Orchestra as well as Netball club. I can't wait to see you at CGS next year!”  
(Jessica, 8G3)

“My favourite activity in school is badminton. It's a great sport and I only started this year.”  
(Clara, 8S1)



“ I really like CGS and I would recommend this school to P7 pupils because there are so many sports, after-school clubs and the teachers are all really helpful and friendly. ”  
(Gracie, 8S3)



# Extra-curricular programme

At CGS we offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, sports and societies which are very active and give our pupils the opportunity to engage in a variety of pursuits. Whether pupils' interests are focused on sport or music, drama or outdoor pursuits, problem solving or performing, there is something for everyone.

Some examples of extra-curricular clubs available for Year 8s are:

- Junior Choir
- Junior Orchestra
- Junior Scripture Union
- Modern Foreign Languages Club
- Puzzle Club

Some examples of sports available for Year 8s are:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Surfing
- Tennis

Please refer to our school website for the full list and more detailed information on all extra-curricular activities and the times during the school term that they are active.

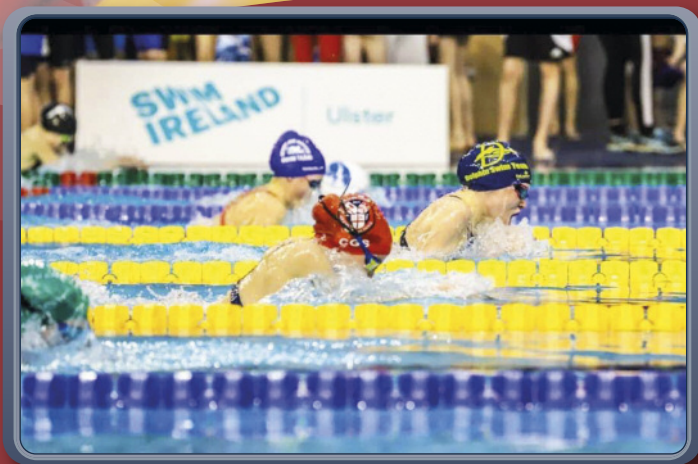
## How can my son/daughter get involved in extra-curricular activities?

Pupils should listen out for announcements in assembly, watch out for flyers and posters in school or ask their form tutor. These methods of communication will give pupils the time and place to go to in order to join the activity.

“ My favourite subject this year was HE because we get to cook a lot of fun food and we get to know about hygiene and a lot of other interesting things. ”  
(Emma, 8S1)







“ CGS is a great school and you make lovely new friends. ”  
(Phoebe, 8S1)



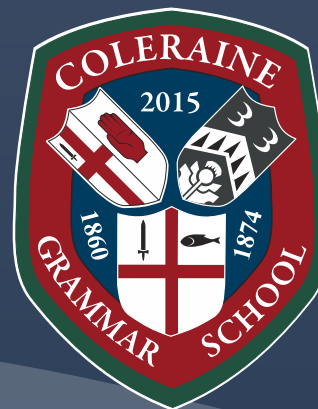


“ My favourite club is hockey because the coaches teach you lots of new things and help you improve your hockey skills. ”  
(Sophie, 8S2)





*(Sports photographs courtesy of David McDonald)*



# COLERAINE

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## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In Scientia Opportunitas

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