

COLERAINE GRAMMAR SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

2024

In Scientia Opportunitas

“ Coleraine Grammar School is a
great school as it pushes me to
be the best that I can be. ”

Willow, 8S2

Welcome

Coleraine Grammar School has now been operational for over eight years, building on the education provided previously by Coleraine Inst and Coleraine High School. We are developing a new vision for academically excellent coeducation in Coleraine in the 21st century, and we expect to have the whole school located on the Castlerock Road campus by September 2024.

Our core purpose is to provide a broad, varied and appropriate curriculum, supported by high quality teaching and learning and pastoral care. This is enhanced further by a wide range of extra-curricular activities in music, sports, arts, drama and many other areas. You will read about our provision in this prospectus and please also take some time to view the facilities on the Castlerock Road, including the recently updated Games Hall, War Memorial Pavilion and Rowing Pavilion. Major development work is on-going to ensure the school is on one site for September, and we are also planning to add an Astroturf pitch to our already updated sports provision.



We have an experienced pastoral team in CGS and a structure designed to ensure that we are a child-centred school which is able to address the needs of individual pupils. Effective leadership is a priority at all levels in school and we are continuing to strengthen the many existing links our school has with the community.

As you visit the school, please listen to the pupils' experiences, both in and out of the classroom, and how these experiences have helped the pupils to develop holistically.

We are building an academically excellent school, with appropriate pastoral support available to all pupils, and excellent extra-curricular provision in many activities. I hope you enjoy our Open Evening, and that you choose Coleraine Grammar School as your first preference school for your son or daughter.

Dr David Carruthers

Headmaster

Our Vision for Coleraine Grammar School

Our vision is a caring, respectful and supportive environment where all pupils and staff aspire to excellence in every area of school life.

In our school we believe that strong, mutually respectful relationships and a cohesive community are the foundations on which good learning and teaching can flourish. We aim to develop independent and self-motivated pupils who have high aspirations to achieve their potential and make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

We undertake to create an inclusive school identity and respectful relationships underpin our efforts to apply effective, restorative, positive behaviour management.

Leadership at all levels listens to and communicates ideas clearly to all stakeholders.

*"Choosing CGS is one of the best decisions I have ever made."
Isabella, 8S2*



R

Responsibility

E

Equality

S

Self-discipline

P

Perseverance

E

Excellence

C

Commitment

T

Tolerance



"The teachers at CGS are so encouraging and helpful. When you start school they just make you feel at home." Annabeth, 9G1

Coleraine Grammar School

Past, Present and Future:

Coleraine Grammar School is proud to trace its collective history, of some 300 years, from two renowned founding schools: Coleraine Academical Institution and Coleraine High School.

Coleraine Grammar School has been operating for a limited time on two campuses, the Lodge Road and the Castlerock Road. However, the school plans to be located in expanded and enhanced facilities on a single campus on the Castlerock Road in September 2024.

Coleraine High School, founded in 1874 by the Misses Long, was at the forefront of the movement to provide girls with a good education in the 19th Century. With its motto 'Virtute et Labore' ('by strength of character and diligence') setting the ethos, the school went on to enjoy a proud and successful history of over 140 years. In 1953, the school moved to a site at Spring Gardens on the Lodge Road and over the next two decades an extensive building programme followed. The school had a Boarding Department, which added an international dimension to the school, until 1997.

Each of the nine headmistresses brought their own style of leadership to the school and ensured its reputation grew in the local community and beyond. Academic excellence was at the core of the High School together with a wide-ranging extra-curricular programme complementing the work in the classroom. The girls succeeded in a wide range of sports activities, public speaking competitions and impressed in the traditional music events such as the Carol Service, the Spring Concert and school musicals.

Coleraine Inst opened its doors in 1860, with two masters and fourteen boys. The school motto was three Greek words: 'Heos Hemera Estin' in English letters and translated, 'Work while it is day', which encouraged the boys in the school to seize the many opportunities available to them and to strive for success in all areas of their school life.

Coleraine Inst enjoyed continuity of leadership throughout its history as Dr David Carruthers was only the ninth Headmaster in the 150 years of the school's existence. In 1973 Dr George Humphreys was invited into membership of the Headmasters' Conference, and Coleraine Grammar School now continues to enjoy the distinction of being a HMC school.

“ *The best thing about CGS is having fun and getting to know new people.* ”
Carter, 8S1



After the boarding department closed in 1999, CAI facilities continued to thrive and expand, and during the past two decades the entire suite of science labs has been refurbished, a Technology Centre and a Home Economics Centre opened, the School Library totally reconstructed and three new computer suites installed. In addition to the full range of general and specialist classrooms, there is a Sixth Form Centre with a dedicated study area.

In September 2015, “the second oldest girls’ school in Northern Ireland” came together with Coleraine Academical Institution to form Coleraine Grammar School and the values, vision and ethos of both founding schools form the core of the new school.



Coleraine Grammar School is a very welcoming school. Ava, 8S1





"My favourite subject is History because I love reading facts about what happened previously. It's great." Caleb, 8S3

"English is my favourite subject because my teacher is funny and I love writing stories." Lydia, 9S3

"Physics is my favourite subject because I like to learn about things like gravity." Harry, 8S3



Where do our pupils come from?

In Coleraine Grammar School, our pupils come from a wide catchment area.

All Saint's Primary School	Dunserverick PS	Macosquin PS
Ballymoney Independent PS	Eden PS	Mill Strand Integrated PS
Ballymoney Model PS	Garryduff PS	Millburn PS
Ballykelly PS	Garvagh PS	Mullaville PS
Balnamore PS	Good Shepherd PS	Portrush PS
Ballysally PS	Harpur's Hill PS	Portstewart PS
Ballytober PS	Hezlett PS	St John's PS
Bushmills PS	Irish Society PS	St MacNissi's PS
Bushvalley PS	Killowen PS	St Malachy's PS
Carhill Integrated PS	Kilmoyle PS	St Pat's and St Joseph's PS
Carnalridge PS	Kilrea PS	St Patrick and St Brigid's PS
Carrowreah PS	Kirkinriola PS	St Patrick's PS
Castleroe Controlled PS	Knockahollet PS	Straidbilly PS
Christie Memorial PS	Landhead PS	The Diamond PS
Cloughmills PS	Leaney PS	The Irish Society's PS
Culcrow PS	Limavady Central PS	William Pinkerton Memorial PS
Damhead PS	Lislagan PS	

"My favourite subject is Maths because I like problem solving." Emilie, 8S3.

"I like Art and Music because I get to experiment with things and be creative. They allow me to let my brain run free." Annabeth, 9G1




"I enjoy Spanish because it is fun to learn a new language." Ollie, 9G1


"My favourite subject is Home Economics because it is fun and you can make lots of lovely food." Archie, 9G1

Year 8 Transition


We aim to ensure that each pupil makes a smooth transition from primary school to Coleraine Grammar School and we are committed to supporting pupils throughout the process.




P6 Taster Days in June when pupils can take part in sample lessons from different subject areas;




New pupils and parents will receive Year 8 Guidebooks which are tailored to specifically address any questions the new pupils might have about day to day school life in CGS;




New pupils and parents are invited to an evening in June when Senior Management and members of the school pastoral team will address pupils and parents;



In July pupils are invited to Summer Camp and in August, new pupils start school a day sooner than the rest of the pupils in other year groups;



In November there are pastoral parent/teacher interviews where the parents have the opportunity to speak to their child's form tutors. This will be followed by a meeting for parents with their child's subject teachers in the second term;



Throughout the school year, parents will receive information on their child's progress through three reports that are sent home.

For more information about Year 8 transition and an electronic version of our Y8 Parent Guide, please see our school website: www.colerainegrammar.com/admissions/year-8-admissions

What is it like to be a pupil in Coleraine Grammar School?

The School Day

Registration:	8.55	—	9.05
Period 1:	9.05	—	9.55
Period 2:	9.55	—	10.45
Assembly:	10.45	—	11.00
Breaktime:	11.00	—	11.15
Period 3:	11.15	—	12.05
Period 4:	12.05	—	12.55
Lunchtime:	12.55	—	13.45
Period 5:	13.45	—	14.35
Period 6:	14.35	—	15.25

*"I love going to
the choir as I
love to sing."
Buthaynah,
8S2*





Pupil-centred pastoral care

The welfare of every pupil in Coleraine Grammar School is of paramount importance to us. We aspire to the provision of a high quality education where pupils are encouraged to develop a personal ethos of self-improvement in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Therefore, pastoral care permeates all aspects of our school. We aim to provide a caring environment where individuals are valued for their unique talents and abilities, both inside and outside the classroom. We strive to ensure that all our pupils achieve their potential in all areas of their school life.





In Coleraine Grammar School our pupils are:

- Our priority and as such are valued and respected;
- Treated equally and fairly;
- Encouraged and enabled to reach their full potential;
- Recognised as individuals and rewarded for their efforts and achievements;
- Prepared for life after school.

Every teacher in Coleraine Grammar School takes their pastoral duty of care very seriously. In a large grammar school where teachers change throughout the day, it is important that each pupil has someone they feel they know well and can be a first point of contact in school. The most fundamental link with our pupils is therefore, their Form Tutor.

Their role is:

- To meet with their form group on a daily basis;
- To support, mentor and encourage pupils;
- To monitor attendance and behaviour of pupils;
- To review the academic performance of pupils;
- To ensure the well-being of pupils.

The Form Tutor is supported by the Pastoral Leader for Year 8, the SENCo, the Pastoral Vice Principal and the school counsellor.

Solving conflict in CGS

Should any challenging behaviour arise in Coleraine Grammar School we aim to use a restorative approach, where building strong relationships means that learning is more effective. We aim to consider the harm caused by conflict and to encourage each individual to take responsibility for their part. It is hoped that in this way, the needs of those affected can be addressed and steps taken to put things right.

Supporting learners in Coleraine Grammar School

In Coleraine Grammar School we aim to provide additional support for those pupils who require it, to ensure they fulfil their potential.

We have a Special Educational Needs team and dedicated Learning Support teachers who provide one-on-one and small group support for identified pupils across all year groups. Using these highly skilled and dedicated teachers we strive to meet the needs of all our pupils in the following ways:

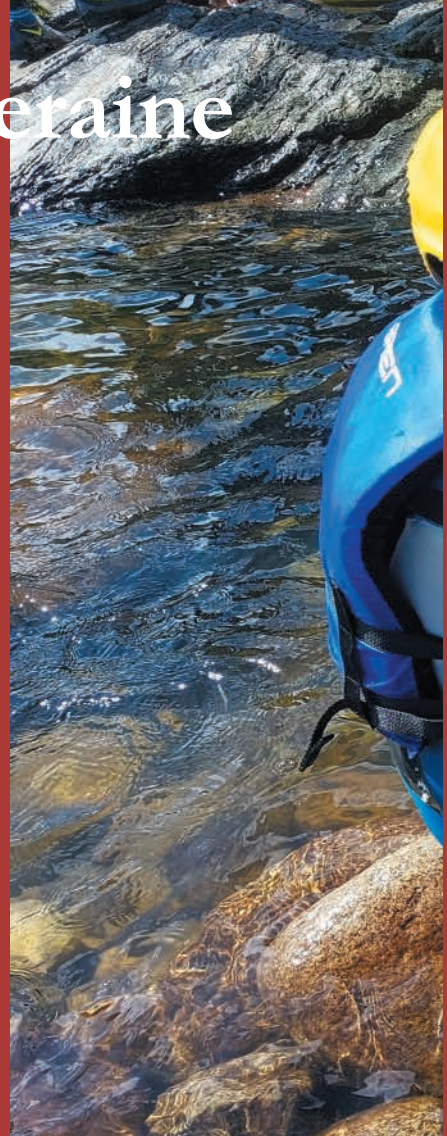
- Engaging with parents and staff from the pupil's previous school;
- Securing, where needed, support from external agencies;
- Developing and reviewing Individual Education Plans with input from parents, pupils and staff.
- Learning support room and nurture room
- Well-being Champions

If you wish to read any of our school policies relating to supporting learners, please see: www.colerainegrammar.com/about/policies

"The best thing about CGS is the library as there is such a selection of books" Shannon, 8S1

"I really like the girls' dance and fitness as I love to dance and it is really fun." Maisie, 9G1

"My favourite sport is badminton because I have made lots of friends there." Amelia, 9G1





"I love having piano lessons in school." Freddie, 8S1

"My favourite after school club is the Lego club because I can show my imagination." Drew, 8S3

Listening to parents

Coleraine Grammar School welcomes and values the views of members of the school community, particularly those of parents/carers and pupils.

We firmly believe that pupils benefit when home and school work closely together and support each other. As such, we have several avenues through which the views of these groups can be aired and listened to:

Promoting links with parents:

As a school, we value the parents of our pupils as key partners in supporting pupils' learning and the life and work of the school. We aim to engage parents through:

- Annual parent/teacher meetings for each year group;
- Regular communication on matters relating to pupils' academic progress through three reports each academic year;

Communicating with parents:

The following modes of communication are used to promote home-school links:

- Pupil planner;
- Pastoral meetings for parents (meetings might be virtual or in person) ;
- Careers advice and guidance meetings for parents;
- School website and social media;
- Headmaster's weekly email ;
- School texting system to parents;
- Emails to parents;
- School newsletter;
- SIMS Parent App.

Involving parents in school life:

In Coleraine Grammar School we want parents/carers to feel welcome, therefore we encourage parental involvement in the life and work of the school through:

- Attendance at school events;
- Participation in the CGS Friends' Association;
- Parental surveys.

If you wish to learn more about how parents can get involved in the life of our school, please see:
www.colerainegrammar.com/about/connecting-as-a-community



Listening to pupils

The School Council

Our School Council, with elected representatives from each form class, provides a forum for pupils from each year group to voice their opinions on a range of issues.

Our School Council:

- Provides pupils with an opportunity to become more involved in school life;
- Enables pupils to become active participants in the decision making process of our school;
- Gives the pupils a sense of ownership over some of the decisions made that directly affect their school experience.

The School's Independent Counselling Service

This service offers pupils the opportunity to talk to a qualified independent counsellor in confidence. She/he may pass on information to those who need to know in order to keep your child safe. The counsellor will visit our school once a week and will listen to your child and support them.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The learning journey in Coleraine Grammar School begins at Key Stage 3, with the aim of providing an innovative, varied and challenging curriculum designed to prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Coleraine Grammar School aspires to a tradition of academic excellence that both of its founding schools also upheld. It is recognised that the achievement of these aims is not exclusively the responsibility of the school. Coleraine Grammar School emphasises the need for close co-operation between teachers, Board of Governors, parents and other relevant bodies.

In CGS our pupils are also taught cross-curricular skills in Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT, Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities and these areas are integrated across the whole curriculum.

At Key Stage 3, our pupils:

- Enjoy a wide range of learning experiences;
- Are encouraged to develop as individuals;
- Have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

The following courses are offered to pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10:

Art and Design	Biology
Chemistry	Drama
English	Geography
History	Home Economics
ICT	Learning for Life and Work
Mathematics	Modern Languages
Music	Physical Education and Games
Physics	Religious Education
Technology and Design	



"I really enjoy Drama as we do lots of fun activities." Cara, 9G1



"My favourite subject is Technology and Design because I love making creative projects." Anna, 8S2

Key Stage 4 & Post-16 Curriculum

As the learning journey continues for our pupils, we aim to develop their learning further through a broad and exciting Key Stage 4 curriculum, whilst still maintaining the goal of academic excellence. The Entitlement Framework complements our curriculum by providing access to a wide range of relevant, high-quality examination courses for all pupils at Key Stage 4, with the addition of non-examination PE, Learning for Life and Work and Careers Education.

At Key Stage 4, pupils are given the opportunity to choose from a wide range of subjects and are prepared to take their place in society as responsible, caring and capable young adults.

At Key Stage 4 our pupils:

- Have access to an innovative, broad and balanced curriculum that can be tailored to their individual learning needs and interests;
- In addition to the subjects taken at Key Stage 3, there are various other subjects on offer for GCSE;
- Receive high quality care, guidance and support to enable them to make informed choices based on personal interests, talents, abilities and aptitudes;
- Can participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

“The Senior Prefect Team are very good role models for us.” Jack, 8S1

Sixth Form

In Coleraine Grammar School, we provide students with an innovative and flexible curriculum. Students can tailor their learning pathway to their individual needs and interests by choosing subjects from the array of courses we offer, thus achieving their academic potential. We are able to make full use of a wide range of courses on offer through our involvement in the Coleraine Area Learning Partnership. Through collaboration with this group, Coleraine Grammar



School can access further courses for senior pupils in co-operation with neighbouring schools.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is also an important and integral part of the curricular provision in Sixth Form and our pupils follow a structured programme of study. This is immensely useful to them when considering a life beyond school in their chosen career path.

Entry into Sixth Form is determined by overall GCSE performance together with high achievement in chosen AS

options.

Each year we welcome many students into sixth from other schools.

"I love Chemistry and Biology because we get to do practicals a lot of the time." Scott, 8G1

Coleraine Grammar School's Extra-Curricular Programme

In Coleraine Grammar School we offer an unrivalled variety of extra-curricular activities to our pupils using facilities in the local area. This rich and varied extra-curricular programme is offered in order to give our pupils as many opportunities as possible for them to develop their gifts and talents to the full.

We believe that involvement and enjoyment of school life outside the classroom is vitally important for the following reasons:

- Pupils can be encouraged to develop self-discipline and self-worth;
- Participation allows pupils the opportunity to develop strong friendships within and across year groups;
- Pupils can develop numerous personal and interpersonal skills;
- It is a valuable way to integrate into the wider life of the school;
- Involvement in these activities can also be helpful later on in their school life when pupils are completing application forms for Higher Education, Further Education or employment.

Whether pupils' interests are focused on sport or music, drama or outdoor pursuits, problem solving or performing, there is something for everyone.



"I had great fun at the Halloween Disco." Jordan, 8G1



The wide range of activities available throughout a pupil's experience in Coleraine Grammar School includes:

- Art Club
- Athletics
- Badminton Club
- Bar Mock Trial
- Biology Club
- Book Club
- Charity events
- Chamber Choir
- Choirs (Junior and Senior)
- Christian Union (Year 11 – 14)
- Computer Club
- Computer Gaming
- Cookery club
- Cricket Club
- Debating Society
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Engineering Education Scheme
- Football
- Golf
- Harriers (running club)
- Hockey
- Lego club
- Modern Foreign Languages Club
- Nature club
- Orchestra (Junior and Senior)
- Public Speaking Group
- Puzzle Club
- Rowing
- Rugby
- School production
- Scripture Union (Years 8 – 10)
- Surf Club
- Swimming
- Technology Club
- Tennis club
- Volleyball

Please check our website www.colerainegrammar.com and school Facebook page www.facebook.com/colerainegs to see lots more of our pupils involved in extra-curricular activities.



"My favourite club is Harriers because we have cross country races against other schools." Joel, 8S2





"I loved the Christmas Fair and played table tennis against the Head Boy who was dressed as an Elf." Rachel, 9G1



Coleraine Grammar School goes global

Our pupils are encouraged and challenged to understand the importance of looking outwards to the wider world. In an effort to do this effectively, our pupils enjoy many school visits abroad.

In 2023 the following trips took place

- A Geography trip to Iceland;
- A STEM trip to Munich;
- A ski trip to Italy;
- Swimming trips to London;
- A History trip to Dublin;
- Various rugby trips to the Aviva Stadium.

Other recent trips have included

- History trips to Northern France, Berlin and Krakow;
- Modern Foreign Languages trips to Paris and Barcelona;
- Ski trips to France and Italy;
- There are also competitive tours that our sports teams have embarked upon.





"I loved going on a swimming trip to London and swimming in the Olympic Swimming Pool." Robyn, 9G1





“ You should definitely come here as it is a great school and lots of fun. ”

Poppy, 8S2

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