



COLERAINE

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In Scientia Opportunitas

Year 8 Guide

2024/2025



Foreword

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

I hope and expect that this is the beginning of a successful seven year journey for each new Year 8 pupil, and that you are all able to fulfil your potential academically, in extra-curricular activities and in your personal development.

Over the next few months, our aim is to help pupils make the transition from primary school to grammar school as smoothly as possible. When school begins at the end of August, 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.

Equally, pupils will be able to continue many activities and clubs from primary school and also broaden their horizons and make 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 in the 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 when the class teacher will take the register and share school notices before the class begins. On two days a week the class will have extended registration with their Form Tutor from 8.55 to 9.15. This is a valuable time for the new pupils to ask any questions they have about the school. This Form Tutor should be the pupils' and parents' first point of contact for any concerns they might have.

www.colerainegrammar.com/about/the-school-day

Timetable	
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

School Calendar

First Day

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.
- 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 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.

Year 8 First Day in School	Tuesday 27th August 2024 8.55am to 12 noon
Staggered Pupil Return	From Wednesday 28th August 2024 8.55am to 12 noon
Half-term	28th October to 1st November 2024 inclusive
Staff-day	Wednesday 27th November 2024
Christmas	Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2025 inclusive
Staff Day	Thursday 30th January 2025
Half-term	10th - 14th February 2025 inclusive
Easter	Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2025 inclusive
May Public Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
Staff Day	Monday 26th May 2025
End of term	Friday 27th June 2025 at 12 noon

Transportation to and from school:

By car - pupils can be dropped off and collected at the entrance to the school on the Castlerock Road. If a pupil needs to attend an appointment during the school day, they need to sign out at reception.

By bus - Most buses will collect and drop off pupils on the Castlerock Road. Please check the exact location of bus stops and times with Translink in August. More information will be

given out on the first school day in August but there may not be buses available on that day. Bus passes will also be distributed during the first few days of school and must be kept safe throughout the year..

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.

Timetable

In Coleraine Grammar School we use a 2 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 pupils during registration on their first day in school. It is important that you know what lessons take place on each day so that you can order your books accordingly.

As you can 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.

Lockers

Each pupil in Year 8 is supplied with a locker. It is important to make good use of your locker as this will help pupils 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 lesson. 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.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A					
Reg	Rg PM GR1	Rg LAU HE1	Rg TS AR2	Rg AGI HE1	Rg TAH R01
1	Gg PM GR1	Ch MDR P1	Ar TS AR2	Pe AGI Gym B	Re TAH R01
2	Dr LT R10	Sp KLY R01	Ar TS AR2	Mu MCR MR1	Ch MDR P1
3	Hi MCD HR2	Ga RDB	En STW R11	Gg PM GR1	Bi DS B1
4	Bi DS B1	Ga RDB	Hi MCD HR2	En STW R13	Ma BAM R08
5	En STW R13	En STW R13	Sp KLY R01	TI RMG SD2	Ph MDR P1
6	Fr MCO R04	Ma BRE R08	Ma BRE R08	TI RMG SD2	Lw RS GR1
Week					
B					
Reg	Rg RMG SD2	Rg LAU HE1	Rg AK IT2	Rg KEN HE1	Rg PM R18
1	Ti RMG SD2	Ch MDR P1	It AK IT2	Mu MCR MR1	Gg PM R18
2	Ar TS AR1	Ma	IT	Mu	Gg
3	Re TAH R01				
4	Ph MDR P1				
5	Sp KLY R01				
6	En STW R13	MP R01	MP R01	MP R01	MP R01



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 parent—teacher pastoral meeting during Term 1 and then parent meetings with classroom teachers later in the year to discuss academic progress.

Use of the pupil planner and absence notes

Pupils should use the planner for recording homeworks. it also contains:

- A copy of school policies which are most pertinent to pupils;
- A list of school holidays;
- A section for parental comments and signatures at the end of each week
- Space for pupils to copy in their timetable

Parental Contribution

Parents will be given further documentation on how to make 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



Coleraine Grammar School

Term 3 Report 2023/24 Pastoral Leader: Mrs R Smith

Pupil Name: Joanne Bloggs Year 8 Percentage Attendance: 93.2%

Subject	Pupil's %	Class Avg	Observations	Teacher
Art	91	84	Joanne is a talented pupil who has made excellent progress this year. She has produced artwork of a very high standard and always gathers relevant research, plans and presents ideas creatively in her sketchbook.	GH N
Biology	90	83	Joanne has worked well throughout the year and this is reflected in an excellent examination result. She is a highly motivated pupil who participates fully in class. No doubt Joanne will continue to make excellent progress next year.	DS
Chemistry	93	72	Joanne is a delightful student who works extremely hard and gives of her best at all times. She is making excellent progress and should be encouraged to maintain her efforts. 1st in class Joanne, well done!	TR
English	86	76	This is an excellent result for Joanne who has worked consistently this year to produce a very high standard of written work on the texts studied. She demonstrates a mature attitude to working with others in group activities. Joanne is a well-motivated and reliable student who always gives of her best. Well done!	AP
French	98	85	Joanne has achieved excellent results in her assessments this year and has participated in the class in the recent exam. She is a highly motivated and reliable student with a natural aptitude for the language.	GK
Geography	91	76		
History	93			
Home Economics	96			

Subject	Pupil's %	Class Average	Effort Level	Teacher
Art	86	87		
Biology	86	96	1	Mrs M. Hutchinson
Chemistry	96	96	1	Mr B. Owend
English	93	83	1	Mrs T. Reid
French	79	78	1	Mrs K. Taggart
Geography	94	89	2	Mr K. Paulen
Home Economics	82	84	1	Mrs J. Currie
ICT	69	72	1	Mrs A. Cooper
Mathematics	93	86	2	Miss A. Kilien
Music	89	85	1	Mr K. Freeburn
Physics	81	75	1	Mr S. Cameron
RE	90	89	1	Mrs D. Grigg
Spanish	59	80	1	Mr M. Dickie
History	81	86	1	Mrs A. McConaghy
Technology	97	86	1	Mr A. Gaston
Drama	72	76	1	Mr T. Castrol
PE			1	Mrs R. McHulley
			2	Mr A. Gibson

Key to grades:
Pupil's %: This is an indication of your child's current level of attainment in this subject.
Effort level evaluation:
1 Very Good: Joe is making a very good effort to achieve the standard of work expected of him.
2 Satisfactory: Joe is making a satisfactory effort to achieve the standard of work expected of him.
3 Unsatisfactory: Joe is making an unsatisfactory effort to achieve the standard of work expected of him.

Key People Year 8 pupils need to know



Pastoral Leader of Year 8: Vice Principal in charge of Pastoral Care and Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection:

Mrs R. Smith



Mr T.A. Hamilton



Assistant Pastoral Leader of Year 8:

Mrs J. McCreery



**School
Counsellor:**

Jean Anderson



**Senior Teacher in charge of
Special Educational Needs:**

Mrs S. Taggart



Librarian:

Mrs A. Ledwith



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. Pupils will be shown the Year 8 playground area during their August induction days by their form tutor.

Recreation during lunchtimes 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. The library accepts requests for new books and will reserve books, should you wish to do so.

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.

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, Mrs C. Barry, on site, 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 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. AM1/AM2/AM3 medical forms may be found in the 'Policies' section of the school website.
- Coleraine Grammar School uses School Comms and a free smartphone app for parents called 'School Gateway' for Apple and Android devices. The benefit of School Comms and the School Gateway app is that it brings all school communications together in one place: attendance, behaviour and achievement notifications, reporting, messaging and e-mailing.



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. This means that shirts are neatly tucked in and their top buttons fastened at all times. 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).

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

Learning support

Mrs Taggart will endeavour to meet with every new Year 8 pupil who has any SEN and their parent / carer before starting CGS in order to plan how the pupil can be supported. We value parental communication so please do contact Mrs Taggart at any stage during your academic year if you feel your child needs any SEN support.



Summer Camp

Pupils entering Coleraine Grammar School are invited to attend the annual scripture union Summer Camp at Castlewellan Castle from the 1st - 5th July. The camp is located in the foothills of the Mourne Mountains and gives a great opportunity for new Year 8 students to meet, have fun and get involved in lots of exciting activities before their transition into school in August. At this camp the students will be doing everything from canoeing, hiking, mini golf and team challenges to trips into town, maze running, movies and much, much more.



Please sign up early to secure your place.





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:

- Athletics
- Cross country
- Golf
- Junior Orchestra
- Modern Foreign Languages Club
- Swimming
- Badminton
- Drama Club
- Hockey
- Junior Scripture Union
- Puzzle Club
- Surfing
- Cricket
- Film Club
- Junior Choir
- Lego Club
- Rugby
- Tennis

(For more information about sports see our Coleraine Grammar Sport page on Facebook.)

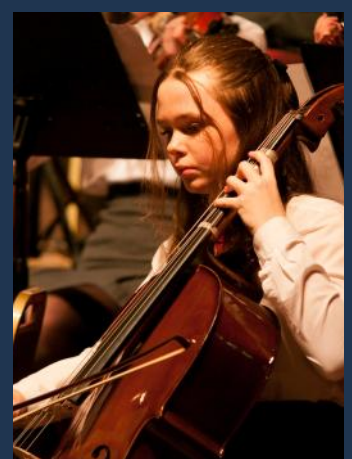
Pupils will also be able to continue their instrumental tuition on strings, woodwind or brass or take up a new instrument with the Education Authority Music Service in CGS. Specialist private music tuition on piano, voice and drum kit is also available for pupils. (Details about registration and cost will follow in August.)



(Sports photographs courtesy of David McDonald)

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 and go to in order to join the activity.



Address: 33 Castlerock Road, Coleraine, BT51 3LA

Phone: 028 7034 4331

Fax: 028 7035 2632

Email: info@colerainegrammar.com

Web: www.colerainegrammar.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/colerainegs