



COLERAINE

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In Scientia Opportunitas

Year 8 Guide

2025/2026



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 pupils will benefit from our new Astroturf hockey pitch, new Music and Home Economics Departments, extended and updated facilities for Art, Technology and Drama, and the new fitness suite in the 1860 building.

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

- R** Responsibility
- E** Equality
- S** Self-discipline
- P** Perseverance
- E** Excellence
- C** Commitment
- T** Tolerance

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience



The School Day

The school day starts at 8.55am when the Form Tutor will take the register and share school notices before the class begins. Once 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. The Year 8 Pastoral Leader 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
Assembly:	9.55 - 10.10
Breaktime:	10.10 - 10.25
Period 2:	10.25 - 11.15
Period 3:	11.15 - 12.05
Lunchtime:	12.05 - 12.55
Period 4:	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 pupil planner and timetable which their form tutor will explain.
- 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 own break and packed lunch, or pupils will be able to use the Junior Canteen (cashless Parent Pay system)

Year 8 First Day in School	Tuesday 26th August 2025 – 8.55am to 12 noon
Years 8, 9, 10 and 11	Wednesday 27th August 2025 – 8.55am to 12 noon
Years 11, 12, 13 and 14	Thursday 28th August 2025 – 8.55am to 12.55pm
All Year Groups	Friday 29th August 2025 - 8.55am to 3.25pm
Half-term	Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2025 inclusive
Christmas	Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026 inclusive
Half-term	Monday 9th – Friday 13th February
St Patrick’s Day	Tuesday 17th March 2026
Easter	Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026 inclusive
May Public Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
2nd May Holiday	Monday 25th May 2026
End of term	Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 12 noon

Transportation to and from school:

By car - pupils may be dropped off and collected at the main school driveway using the one-way system. If a pupil needs to attend an appointment during the school day, they need to be collected and signed out at reception.

By bus - Most buses will collect and drop off pupils in the new

bus bays at the front of the school. Please check the exact location of your home bus stop and times with Translink in August. Translink will begin their school buses timetable on 1st September 2025. Bus passes will also be distributed during the first few days of school and must be kept safe throughout the year.

On foot - pupils may access the school buildings from 8.15am.

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 will be offered the opportunity to rent a locker. Using a locker helps 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

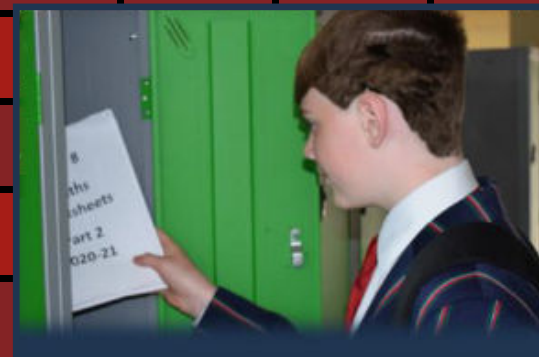
A

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reg	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45
1	Ch JR 16	Ma CS 53	En GG GC	Pe ACA Gym	NH CM NH1
2	Gg RS 10	Ch JR 15	Ph Gr 15	Art TS 42	NH CM NH1
3	En GG GC	LLW JG 1	Hi SEM 12	Sp Kly 37	Bi DS 19
4	Ph GR 15	Hi SEM 12	Fr GK 39	Ma CS 53	En GG GC
5	Mu MCY MU1	Ti LS TL2	Gg RS 10	En GG GC	Games ACA
6	Mu MCY MU1	Ti LS TL2	Ma CS 53	RE PTN 4	Games ACA

Week

B

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reg	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45	Rg MCO 45
1	Bi DS 19	Dr RDE DR1	Ma CS 53	Art TS 42	IT JMM 14
2	Sp KLY 37	Ma CS 53	Gg RS 10	Art TS 42	IT JMM 14
3	Hi SEM 12				
4	Ph GR 15				
5	LLW JG 1				
6	Ch JR 16				



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;
- Pastoral information;
- 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 Week A/Week B 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 2024/5 Pastoral Leader: Mr G Elliot

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.	HTN
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 in the class in the recent exam. She is a very conscientious pupil with a natural aptitude for the language.	GK
Geography	91	76		
History	93			
Home Economics	96			

Coleraine Grammar School
Term 1 Report 2024/5
Pupil Name: Joe Bloggs
Pastoral Leader: Mr G. Elliot
Tutor Group: 8MCO
Attendance: 100.0%

Subject	Pupil's %	Class Average	Effort Level	Teacher
Art	89	87	1	Mrs M. Hutchinson
Biology	96	95	1	Mr B. Overend
Chemistry	93	83	1	Mrs T. Reid
English	79	76	1	Mrs K. Taggart
French	94	89	2	Mrs K. Taggart
Geography	82	84	1	Mr K. Pielan
Home Economics	68	72	1	Mrs J. Currie
ICT	93	86	2	Mrs A. Cooper
Mathematics	89	85	1	Miss A. Kilen
Music	81	75	1	Mr K. Freshum
Physics	90	89	1	Ms S. Cameron
RE	99	80	1	Mrs D. Gregg
Spanish	81	85	1	Mr M. Dickie
History	97	86	1	Mrs A. McConaghy
Technology	72	76	1	Mr A. Gibson
Drama				Mr A. Gibson
PE				Mr T. Cairnill
			1	Miss R. McAuley
			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:

Mr G. Elliott



**Vice Principal in charge of Pastoral Care
and Designated Teacher for Safeguarding
and Child Protection:**

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 during lunchtime and are permitted to eat a packed lunch or buy a sandwich, wrap or hot meal in the Junior Canteen.

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

Recreation during lunchtimes is supervised by teaching and ancillary staff in the Junior Canteen and outside.



Library:

All pupils automatically become members of the library when they start the school. 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. Pupils come to the library with their English teacher for one period per fortnight.

The school library has a reading programme called **Reading Olympics** which is now a well established course for Years 8, 9 and 10. 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' slip that the pupil takes to reception, from where their parents / carers can be contacted.
- If your child is injured during the school day, they should report to their class teacher or report to school reception during break or lunch.
- 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, achievement and behaviour 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. 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, safeguarding, pastoral care, SEN, social networking etc may 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 the 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 28th June - 2nd 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 bouldering, 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
- Badminton
- Cookery Competitions
- Cricket
- Cross country
- Drama Club
- Golf
- Hockey
- Junior Choir
- Junior Orchestra
- Junior Scripture Union
- Lego Club
- Modern Foreign Languages Club
- Puzzle Club
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Surfing
- Tennis

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

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.)



How can I get involved in extra-curricular activities?

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



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Web: www.colerainegrammar.com