

COLERAINE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS

2025

In Scientia Opportunitas

“ The teachers at CGS are very supportive and are always happy to help. ”

Freya, 9S2

Welcome

Coleraine Grammar School is now in its tenth year, building on the education provided previously by Coleraine Academical Institution and Coleraine High School. We have a fresh vision for academically excellent coeducation in Coleraine in the 21st century, and the standard of education in our school was recently rigorously affirmed and praised by the Inspection Report in May 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, where the school is now fully located following major investment and new school buildings. The new building provides state of the art facilities for music, Home Economics and Media Studies, and an outstanding Sixth Form Centre.

In recent years we have also updated the Games Hall, War Memorial Pavilion and Rowing Pavilion. Our Astroturf pitch, primarily for girls' hockey, is under construction and is scheduled for completion in Spring this year.

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.

You may already be aware that the academic profile of pupils entering the school has increased in terms of transfer test scores, which I believe is a reflection of the progress the school has made in what we offer pupils in learning, pastoral care, results, extra-curricular activities and facilities.

It has been a time of transformational change in CGS as we build an academically excellent school, with appropriate pastoral support available to all pupils, and excellent extra-curricular provision in many activities, and we enter our second decade in 2025 with great confidence.

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 that I have ever made.”
Isabella, 9S2



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



“ The teachers are caring, understanding and good at their job. ”
Laine, 8RS

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.

Having opened in 2015 the school located fully to expanded and enhanced facilities on a single campus on the Castlerock Road in November 2024.

Coleraine High School, founded in 1874 had the motto 'Virtute et Labore' ('by strength of character and diligence') setting the ethos and had a proud and successful history of over 140 years. In 1953, the school moved locations to a site at Spring Gardens on the Lodge Road.

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.

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.

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.

“ I like school because I have made lots of new friends and there are lots of after school clubs. Bella, 8ARN ”



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.

Since then a new Sixth Form centre has been added along with rooms for Music and HE, new Technology rooms, an additional fitness suite and a new Astroturf hockey pitch.



“I am enjoying CGS a lot and the brand new building is so nice.” Rachel, 8GH



“ *My favourite subject is History as I love learning about the past.* ”
Flynn, 8GH

“ *I loved drawing monsters in Art!* ”
Daniel-Lee, 8RS

“ *I enjoy Art the most because it is a very creative subject and our teacher is good fun.* ”
Joseph, 8GG



Where do our pupils come from?

In Coleraine Grammar School, our pupils come from a wide catchment area which encompasses the following feeder primary schools:

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	Mullavilley 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	

“ I love all the opportunities that you get including the orchestra because I play the flute. Erin, 9S3 ”

“ I enjoy Maths because I enjoy solving problems. Rhys, 9S2. ”



“My favourite subject is Chemistry because we carry out lots of fun experiments.”
Amelia, 9S1

“I like I.C.T. as we get to do lots of fun things on the computers.”
Kaley, 8RS

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

“ My favourite part of Year 8 was singing at the Spring Concert. ”
Saskia, 9S3





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

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



“I really enjoyed the 5-a-side football tournament.” Cade, 8RS

“I enjoyed the different charity fairs.” Evan, 9S1

“My favourite club is harriers because I like to take part in the running competitions.” Andrew, 8RS



“ *“I love the fun activities that we do in C.U.”* Ava, 9S1 ”

“ *“My favourite club is the Lego club as I like to be creative.”* ”
Thomas, 8GG

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 Gateway 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.
- COBRA - Coleraine Alumni Rowing Association
- Coleraine Grammar Hockey Society
- Coleraine Grammar Rugby Association



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. They may pass on information to those who need to know in order to keep your child safe. The counsellor will visit our school twice 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.

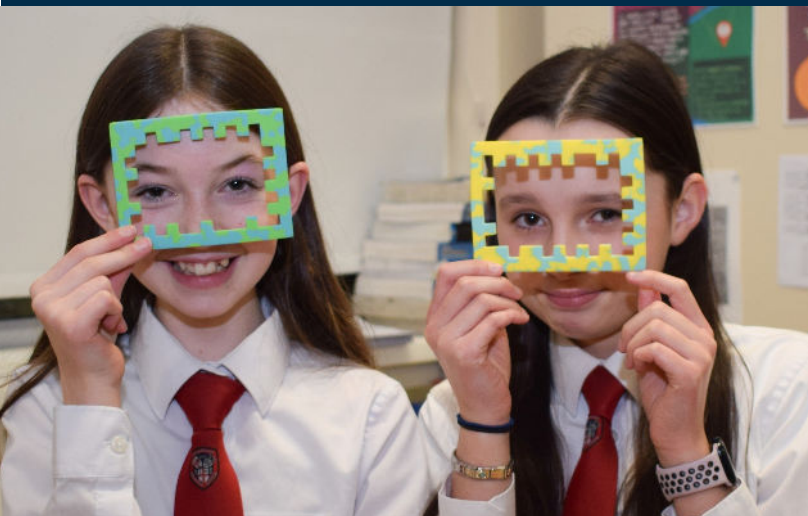
In CGS our pupils are also taught cross-curricular skills in Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT, Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities and these areas are integrated across the whole curriculum.

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	



“ *Drama is my favourite subject because I want to be an actor when I am older.* ”
Amelia 8GG



“ *Design and Technology because we get to be creative and we make fun projects.* ”

Bodhi, 8GG

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.

Our 6th Form pupils enjoy access to our new state of the art provision for study and social interaction,

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, a number of other subjects are offered at GCSE including Business Studies, Digital Programming and Media Studies
- 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.

“ *I enjoy Biology because we learn all about the human body and cells.* ”
Alexandria, 8GG

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 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. 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.



“ My favourite part of last year was playing in the cricket final. Noel, 9S3 ”



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
- Trad Group
- Volleyball

Please check our website www.colerainegrammar.com and school Facebook pages www.facebook.com/colerainegs and www.facebook.com/cgssport to learn more about the activities happening in the school.



“ The best thing about our school is all of the sports and clubs that you have an opportunity to partake in. ”
Lotte, 9S3





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 2023/4 the following trips took place:

- Geography trip to Iceland;
- STEM trip to Munich;
- Ski trip to Italy;
- History trips to Berlin and Dublin;
- Bar Mock Trial trip to UK Finals in London
- Various rugby trips to the Aviva Stadium.

Other recent trips have included

- Modern Foreign Languages trips to Paris and Barcelona;
- There are also competitive tours that our sports teams have embarked upon.

Upcoming trips include a rugby tour to South Africa and a World Challenge trip to Borneo





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





“

CGS is a great school!
Charlotte, 8ARN

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