

COLERAINE

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In Scientia Opportunitas

2023

“ CGS is an amazing school that makes everything fun but also helps us to be a better version of ourselves. I have amazing friends and teachers here. ”  
Isla, 8S3.

# Welcome

**Coleraine Grammar School has now been operational for seven 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 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. In particular, please listen to the pupils' experiences of our school, both in and out of the classroom, and how these experiences have helped the pupils develop holistically.

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.

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.

“Coleraine Grammar School is a brilliant school and the staff are great. Carys, 8G2.”





*"It's a great school and there is something for everyone." Ameera, 8G2.*





# 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 is operating for a limited time on two campuses, the Lodge Road and the Castlerock Road. Subsequently, the school plans to be located in expanded and enhanced facilities on a single campus on the Castlerock Road.

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.



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.

“ *All the teachers are friendly.*  
*Olivia, 8S1.* ”



“ The best thing about Coleraine Grammar School is how much the teachers care for you. I think you would love it here as it is a great school. Ella, 8G2. ”



# 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	Dunseverick PS	Macosquin PS
Ballmoney Independent PS	Eden PS	Mill Strand Integrated PS
Ballymoney Model PS	Garryduff PS	Millburn PS
Ballykelly PS	Garvagh PS	Mullavilly 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 & St Joseph's PS
Carnalridge PS	Kilrea PS	St Patrick's & St Brigid's PS
Carrowreagh PS	Kirkinriola PS	St Patrick's PS
Castleroe Controlled PS	Knockahollet PS	Straidbilly PS
Christie Memorial PS	Landhead PS	The Irish Society's PS
Cloughmills PS	Leaney PS	William Pinkerton Memorial PS
Culcrow PS	Limavady Central Primary School	
Damhead PS	Lislagan PS	

“My favourite subject is Drama because I really love acting as it's just really fun. Natalia, 8G3.”

“I really enjoy the charity donut sales! Harry, 8S2.”

“At lunchtime I love to chill outside on the bench! Josh, 8G3.”



“ I really enjoy the orchestra. I like to play the violin and get to play it with my best friend. Ruby, 8S2.

” “ My favourite subject is History as you get to learn about mysterious things that happened long ago. Lexi, 8G2. ”

# 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 at Lodge Road 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 Year 8 Parent Guide, please see our school website:  
[www.colerainegrammar.com/about/information-for-new-y8-pupils/](http://www.colerainegrammar.com/about/information-for-new-y8-pupils/)

“ *I loved making raspberry smoothies in H.E. Ethan, 8G3.* ”



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

## 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

“ I like learning the drums because I enjoy playing musical instruments. ”  
Adam, 8G3.

“ My favourite subject is Chemistry is great because I like doing practicals. ”  
Zuzanna, 8G3.







“ My favourite moment was when Mr Hamilton put the England football match on in the gym at lunchtime. ”  
Harry, 8G3.



# 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, supported by the Pastoral Leader for Year 8.

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 on both campuses

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

“ I love hockey as it is a super fun sport and I've made lots of new friends. ”  
Maya, 8G3.









# 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;
- The use of a range of school to home communication methods, including the school text message system and e-mail.



## **Communicating with parents:**

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

- Pupil planner;
- Pastoral meetings for parents (*meetings may be virtual or in person*);
- Careers advice and guidance meetings for parents;
- School website and social media;
- School newsletter;
- School texting system to parents;
- Emails to parents;
- 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](http://www.colerainegrammar.com/about/connecting-as-a-community)



“ My favourite subject is Maths because my teacher is caring and funny. ”  
Max, 8G2.

# 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 Technology because I really like going into the workshop and making things.*”  
Alex, 8S2.





“ My favourite subject is Biology because it’s interesting and I would love to be a vet. ”  
Katie, 8S2.

“ Spanish is really enjoyable as I like the language and would like to learn it. ”  
Leyton, 8S2.

“ My favourite subject is Art because it’s fun and creative and I love drawing. ”  
Sienna, 8G2.

“ My favourite thing was doing well in the Maths competition. ”  
Rowan, 8G3.



# 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.

## **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





“ I love rugby because it really fills  
you with adrenaline. ”  
Jason, 8G2.

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 from other schools.**





# Coleraine Grammar School's Extra-Curricular Programme

In Coleraine Grammar School we offer an unrivalled variety of extra-curricular activities to our pupils across two campuses and 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.







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

- Angling Club
- 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
- Film Club
- Football
- Golf
- Harriers (running club)
- Hockey
- Lego club
- Mandarin Lessons
- 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
- Young Enterprise

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



Currently across the school's two sites, we have access to 8 rugby pitches, a 25 metre swimming pool, two 300 metre running tracks, a boathouse adjacent to the River Bann, 2 asphalt pitches, a large sports hall, 3 gyms, a

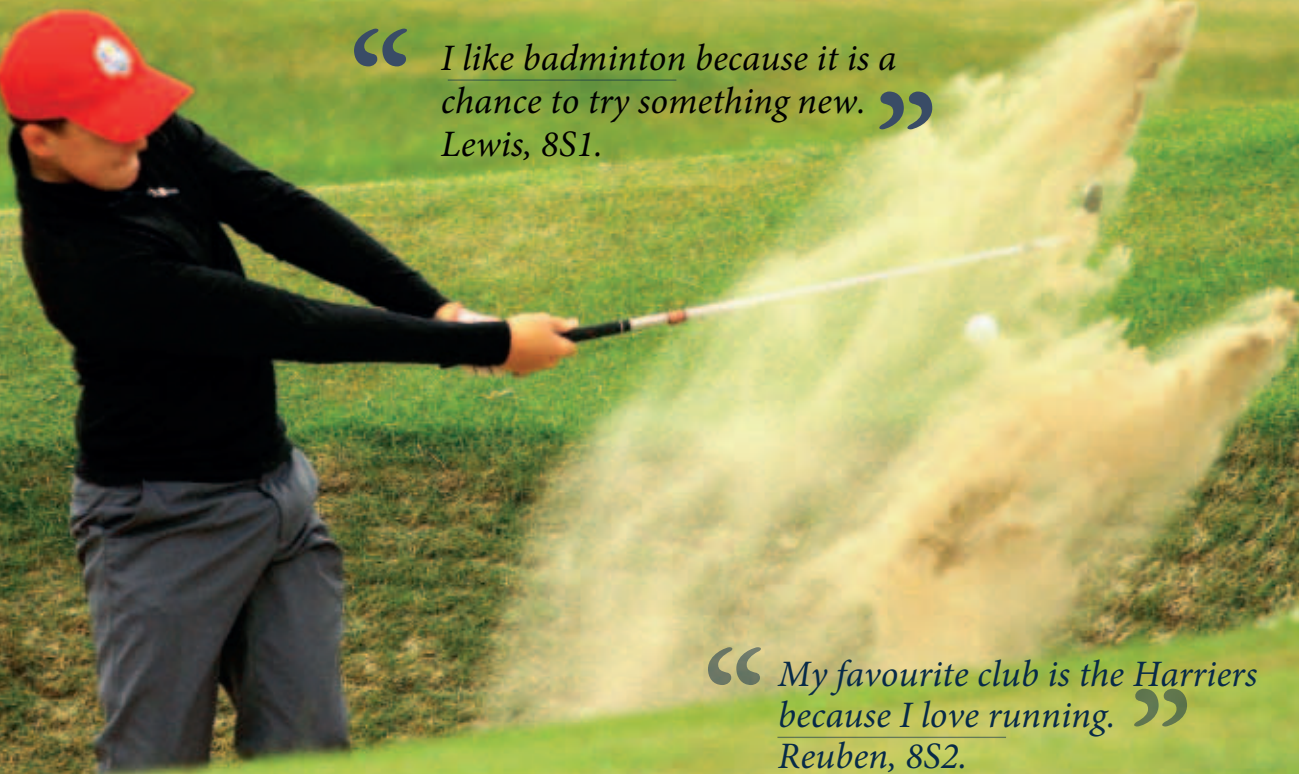
fitness suite, 6 tennis courts, 3 cricket wickets and 4 football pitches. In addition to these, pupils also use 2 astro turf hockey and football pitches at Rugby Avenue and state of the art fitness facilities at Coleraine Leisure Centre.





“ I like badminton because it is a chance to try something new. ”  
Lewis, 8S1.

“ My favourite club is the Harriers because I love running. ”  
Reuben, 8S2.





# 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.

Some previous trips have included:

- A Geography trip to Iceland;
- History trips to Northern France, Berlin and Krakow;
- Modern Foreign Languages trips to Paris and Barcelona;
- Ski trips to France and Italy;
- STEM trips to New York, Switzerland and Munich
- RE trips to Italy and London;
- Rotary Ireland trip to Euroscola, Strasbourg;
- Politics trip to London.

There are also competitive tours that our sports teams have embarked upon.

Some recent examples are:

- Hockey tours to Scotland and Australia;
- Rugby tours to Dublin, Edinburgh and South Africa.

“ I loved going to the Aviva to watch the Ireland v Fiji match. ”  
Matthew, 8G2.







We also encourage pupils to broaden their educational experience by embarking upon trips to local areas in order to enrich their understanding of their subject area. Some examples are:

- History trips to Carrickfergus Castle, the Somme Centre, Crumlin Road Gaol and Dublin;
- Biology trips to Magilligan;
- English and Drama trips to the theatre and cinema;
- Geography trips to Giant's Causeway, Portrush, Curly Burn River in Limavady and Umbra Sand Dunes;
- Careers trips to University Open Days, careers' conventions, STEM days and armed forces events
- Journalism trips to broadcasting workshops at UTV and BBC, with Cinemagic and participation in BBC School Report
- Various fishing trips.

“*I love the puzzle club at lunchtimes as I like solving mysteries.*”  
Jacob, 8G3.



“ *My favourite moment was when I represented the school in the Ulster swimming gala and I got into the Dublin finals.* ”  
Robyn, 8G1.

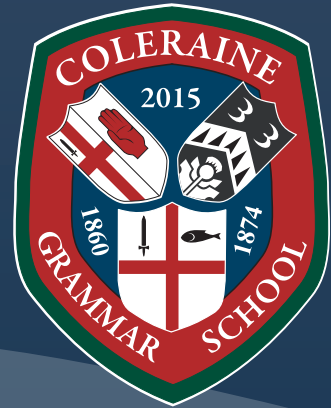
“ *Coleraine Grammar School is incredible!* ”  
Oliver, 8S3.

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All the information in this book is accurate at the time of printing, some details may be subject to change.  
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information, or check our school website:  
[www.colerainegrammar.com](http://www.colerainegrammar.com)

Sports photographs in this publication were kindly provided by David McDonald.





# COLERAINE

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## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In Scientia Opportunitas

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