



LECALE TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FAITH IN EVERY CHILD

NEW LASALLIAN CATHOLIC 11-19 CO-EDUCATIONAL
VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, DOWNPATRICK

PROGRESS UPDATE

JUNE 2024

Introduction

As our school community continues to work collaboratively towards the opening of Lecale Trinity Grammar School, I am delighted to provide you with an update on the main developments since the last report of April 2024.

As Principal Designate, it has been a privilege to work with the newly appointed Leadership Team of Vice-Principals, Senior Leaders, Pupil Progress and Support Leaders, Heads of Department and Co-ordinators, who have demonstrated creativity and professionalism in their commitment to ensure the best quality education for all pupils in our new school.

At all levels, pupils have been involved in the curricular and pastoral planning process, and we are excited as a school to share with you the many significant developments that have taken place.

[Click here for Pupil E-Booklet](#)



1. Mission Statement

We are delighted to share the agreed Mission Statement of Lecale Trinity Grammar School with you. The Mission Statement builds on our Lasallian Catholic ethos and is underpinned by extensive consultation on the ethos and values of the school and the unwavering commitment to 'Faith in Every Child'.



2. Ministerial Visit

The Principal Designate, representatives from the Interim Board of Governors, Trustees and pupils welcomed Mr Paul Givan, Minister of Education, to the Mercy Site on his visit on 24th April. The Minister was delighted to be given a tour of the Mercy Site, and to meet with pupils to hear directly about their hopes and aspirations for their new school.



Extracts from the pupils' presentations have been included at the end of this Progress Update. I hope that you will be as impressed with the 'voice' of our young people as the Minister was.



3. Accommodation Update

The Bursar Designate has been working closely with the Department of Education (DE) and the Education Authority (EA) to ensure we have the necessary accommodation and recreational space on all sites.

Meetings have taken place with Department of Education and the Education Authority. Funding has been approved for the following:

St Mary's High School (Mercy Site)

- Accessible outdoor pitches and outdoor space.
- Additional toilets.
- Disability Access Works.
- Refurbish/relocate some practical subject accommodation.
- New signage on the site.
- Accommodation for Specialist Provision (One Class - Year 8).

St Patrick's Grammar School/De La Salle High School (Lasallian Site)

- Additional toilets.
- Disability Access Works.
- Refurbish/relocate of some practical subject accommodation.
- New signage on the site.
- Accommodation for Specialist Provision (Two Classes - Year 10 and Key Stage 4).

Discussions with DE on a traffic management solution for all sites are also ongoing.

4. Appointments

The recruitment process for positions in the Leadership and Management Structure is well underway. In this update, we are delighted to introduce you to our Senior Leadership Team and Pupil Progress and Support Leaders (Heads of Year). We wish them every success and happiness in the years ahead as they work collaboratively and creatively with staff, pupils and other partners towards the opening of Lecale Trinity Grammar School.

All appointments for key leadership roles have been made.



Senior Leadership Team

Senior Leader roles will encompass both pastoral and academic areas, and support and encourage holistic leadership development. Each Senior Leader will oversee and support the work of a number of Heads of Department and Pupil and Progress Leaders and will take responsibility for leading a key area within the school.



Mr Davy Cherry



*Mr. Davy Cherry is Senior Leader for **Pupil, Parent and Community Engagement and Development**. Mr. Cherry is also the Senior Link Leader to Year 8 pupils.*

I joined the teaching staff of De La Salle High School in 2008. I was educated in a Lasallian school, and firmly believe in the core principles that underpin the excellence of our new school. I have extensive experience in leading various school events and productions and have successfully led a department and served as Head of Post 16 since 2016.

I am dedicated to the development of extra-curricular and enrichment activities and have a particular passion for Gaelic games. I believe that nurturing strong relationships is crucial for all students to achieve their potential. Committed to creating an inclusive environment, I welcome pupils, parents, and the community to contribute to a progressive educational experience for all.

I am looking forward to my new role as a Senior Leader at Lecale Trinity Grammar School, where I aim to deliver success for students, provide security for families, and enhance the community's identity.



Mr Damien Wylie



*Mr. Damien Wylie is Senior Leader for **Pupil Support, Safeguarding & Child Protection**. Mr. Wylie is also the Senior Link Leader to Year 9 pupils.*

I have been a teacher in St Mary's High School for 22 years and a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the Special Needs Co-ordinator for the last 15 years. As SENCo and member of SLT, I have worked to minimise barriers to students learning so that they can achieve the best results possible.

As the Timetabler for St Mary's High School, I have been fortunate to work with colleagues from De La Salle High School and St Patrick's Grammar School to ensure that the collaborative sharing of subjects at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 was successful.

I am excited to be taking on this new role and I will work hard to ensure that Lecale Trinity Grammar School is a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for all members of the school community.

Mr Patrick Wright



*Mr. Patrick Wright is Senior Leader for **Whole School Wellbeing, Transition, and Inclusion**. Mr. Wright is also the Senior Link Leader to Year 10 pupils, including the Junior Student Leadership Team.*

I joined the staff of De La Salle High School in September 2012 as Head of PE and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the school. Having taught in a number of schools prior to my appointment to De La Salle High School, I was struck by the warmth and collegiality of the staff body.

As part of the collaboration between the three schools, I have taught GCSE and A-Level PE, not just to pupils from De La Salle High School but also from St Mary's High School and St Patrick's Grammar School. It is very exciting to be part of the new school where all pupils will be taught under the same umbrella.

In September, a new chapter begins with the opening of Lecale Trinity Grammar. I feel extremely privileged to be part of this process and look forward to meeting and working with colleagues from all three schools as we strive to provide the highest quality education for the young people of Downpatrick.



Mr Gerard Tumelty



*Mr. Gerard Tumelty is Senior Leader for **Teacher Professional Learning**. Mr. Tumelty is also the Senior Link Leader to Year 11 pupils.*

I joined the teaching staff of St. Patrick's Grammar School in September 1999 as a Technology & Design teacher. In 2003, I was appointed as Head of Technology & Design and have led a very successful, high-performing department. I had the privilege of leading and steering the department through times of technological change and organising the transition to a brand-new, state-of-the-art Technology and Design suite in 2011. I also served two terms as a Teacher Governor, gaining valuable governance experience within the school.

I have a keen interest in outdoor activities, including small-scale farming and participating in local park runs. I am enthusiastic about this new role as a Senior Leader within Lecale Trinity Grammar School. I will oversee Teacher Professional Learning and am looking forward to supporting colleagues on this new journey of change.

Mrs Gemma Barr



*Mrs. Gemma Barr is Senior Leader for **Curriculum Innovation and Learner Pathways**. Mrs. Barr is also the Senior Link Leader to Year 12.*

I am embarking upon my twenty-second year of teaching Mathematics in Downpatrick. Throughout those years I have enjoyed being Head of Year, School Timetabler and SIMS Assessment and Reporting Manager.

Outside of school I enjoy being active outdoors. I enjoy training for and participating in Triathlons and running events, although my favourite outdoor activity is hiking in our stunning Mourne Mountains.

My Senior Leader role in Lecale Trinity Grammar School is in the area of Curriculum Innovation and Learner Pathways. Initially, over the next few months my role is to provide all students and teachers with a Timetable. Beyond that I then look forward to providing a broad and flexible curriculum that will meet the needs and career aspirations of all pupils. I look forward to channelling Learner Pathways that will equip all our students with the personal, social and employability skills to progress to the next stage of their education, training or employment.



Ms Siobhan O'Toole



*Ms Siobhan O'Toole is Senior Leader for **Special Educational and Additional Needs (SENCO)**. Mrs O'Toole is also the Senior Link Leader to Year 13 pupils.*

I joined St. Patrick's Grammar School in 2004 and as well as being Head of Drama, have been in charge of Special Educational Needs provision for the last eight years. Before going into teaching, I worked with adults and young people with learning disabilities which inspired in me a passion for promoting the rights of people with disabilities and additional needs.

In Lecale Trinity Grammar School, I will be continuing in the role of SENCo and will also be managing the Learning Support Centres. I love getting to know young people and am dedicated to finding ways to meet the needs of every student in our school. I am excited to work with the incoming Year 8 students (Lecale Trinity Grammar's first ever intake!) as well as managing the transition for students currently attending St. Mary's High School, De La Salle High School and St. Patrick's Grammar School so that all our students are happy and reaching their full potential.

Ms Teresa Rice



*Ms Teresa Rice is Senior Leader for **Pupil Performance and Progress for Successful Learning**. Ms Rice is also the Senior Link Leader to Year 14 pupils.*

I graduated from UJJ in Maths, Statistics and Computing in 1996 and in 1997 completed my PGCE in Mathematics in University of Nottingham under the guidance of Malcom Swann; a leader of the international movement to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics who played a leading role in the School of Education's Shell Centre for Mathematical Education. I have been teaching Maths for 27 years, joining St Patrick's Grammar School as Head of Mathematics in 2007. For the past three years, I have been a Senior Teacher and Learning & Teaching Co-ordinator.

From the beginning of my teaching career, I have always been passionate about establishing a shared purpose and commitment to holistic development and fair results for all learners as the foundation for setting improvement goals and priorities. I am looking forward to helping facilitate rich learning experiences and mindset development to set students up for success. I have a particular interest in the principles in Assessment for Learning and research-based evidence such as metacognition that help pupils to exceed their own expectations and goals. I am especially looking forward to collaborating with the busy teachers of all three schools to lead and guide best practice in pupil progress in Lecale Trinity Grammar School through our shared values under the guidance of Dr. Moore.



Pastoral Team

We are pleased to introduce you to our new Pastoral Team of Pupil Progress and Support Leaders (Heads of Year). Each pupil within the community of Lecale Trinity Grammar School is in the care of a Form Teacher who is guided by their Pupil Progress and Support Leader. A Senior Leader is also assigned to each Year group of pupils to ensure quality of provision, intervention and support.

The Pastoral Team are currently working on Transition Programmes for their Year Group, the Pastoral Care Programme and associated policies. We are delighted to share with you, these 'welcome' messages from each Pupil, Progress and Support Leader to their assigned year group.



Key Stage 3 Pupil Progress and Support Leaders:
Ms J Beedim (Yr10), Miss A McMullan (Yr 9) and Mrs D Wylie (Yr 8)

Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 8: Mrs Denise Wylie

I am so delighted to have been given the opportunity to support Year 8 in their transition from Primary school to Post Primary. Together we will begin an exciting new stage of our life's journey in Lecale Trinity Grammar school. I look forward to working with all students and parents/guardians to ensure that every child achieves truly great things in this school.

I have no doubt that your son or daughter is probably feeling a mixture of emotions from excitement to nervousness. Leaving Primary school is a big change in their life, you will have many questions and I am here to answer them.



Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 9: Miss Áine McMullan

My name is Áine McMullan and I am absolutely delighted to be the Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 9.

I joined St. Patrick's Grammar School seven years ago, the last two years of which I have been a Year Head. As we embark on this new journey in Lecale Trinity Grammar School together, my main goals for the year ahead are to help our students make as smooth a transition as possible, nurture their academic ability, and support their mental health and wellbeing. I have no doubt our young people, and their families, are experiencing a mixture of emotions at present – nerves and excitement to name a few – but there will be many opportunities for us to learn, grow and succeed in Lecale Trinity Grammar School. We have a very busy and exciting year ahead of us, one filled with many challenges and new firsts, but I will do my very best to support and champion our young people at every step.

Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 10: Ms Jacqueline Beedim

I joined St. Mary's High School in 1994 as a science teacher and have been Head of Year for the past 23 years. I am delighted to be appointed Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 10 in Lecale Trinity Grammar School. Year 10 marks the onset of an exciting stage in our student's academic journey as they will make decisions about which subjects, they would like to continue for GCSE. It is an opportunity for students to take control of their education and move forward as empowered, independent learners. I am looking forward to supporting them, so that they feel safe, happy and are able to reach their full potential.

Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 11: Mr Philip Fitzsimmons

I am delighted to be taking up the role of Pupil Progress and Support Leader for the very first Year 11 group in Lecale Trinity Grammar. Our incoming Year 11 students are at an important stage in their academic journey, and I am committed to supporting their growth, well-being, and success.

Our goal in the new school is to create an inclusive and nurturing environment where every student feels valued, heard and empowered. I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated staff, parents and the wider school community to ensure that our Year 11's reach their full potential.



Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 12: Mr Damian Brennan

I have been a PE teacher in St Patrick's Grammar School for twenty-five years, thirteen of which as Year Head in the Senior School.

I am now privileged to have been appointed Pastoral Progress and Support Leader for Year 12 in Lecale Trinity Grammar School. This is a crucial year for any fifteen-year-old, which sees them complete their GCSE journey and prepare for their next stage on their career ladder.

It is my hope that we can make the transition to the new school environment as seamless as possible to make life easier for everyone involved. This year will present all students with an exciting opportunity to make new friends, or to possibly rekindle old friendships previously shared before moving to secondary level education; but ultimately, to achieve the best possible outcome from their exam choices. Hard work and dedication is the order of the day, and I will do my utmost to ensure that this is a successful year for all.

I look forward to working with the Year 12 pupils, as well the parents to make this a successful start to the history of Lecale Trinity Grammar School.

Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 13: Mrs Lisa Longley

Welcome to Lecale Trinity Grammar school. I am delighted that you have chosen to join us for the next stage in your educational journey and I look forward to working with you and your families. Having taught in Dublin and Belfast for many years I joined St Patrick's Grammar School in 2020 as a Science teacher and became a Year Head two years later.

You are about to continue your studies and will be working towards achieving A-levels and equivalent qualifications. This requires consistent hard work over the next two years and your teachers and I are here to support you. I will endeavour to foster a growth mindset, to develop resilience and empathy as you work towards achieving your goals and ambitions. There will be many challenges along the way but there will be exciting times too and together, I am certain we will succeed. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

Pupil Progress and Support Leader for Year 14: Mrs Laura McShane

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to Year 14 of Lecale Trinity Grammar School and I am delighted that I will be your Pupil Progress and Support Leader for the coming year. I joined St. Patrick's Grammar School in 2016 as a Maths teacher and have recently been appointed Head of Year.

This is a new adventure and together we will face the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Embrace them all as each experience will contribute to your growth and development. My aim is to foster an environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Together we can achieve great things and create lasting memories.



5. Student Leadership Team

We are excited that the application process to the first ever Student Leadership Team of Lecale Trinity Grammar School is now live.

The Student Leadership Team structure includes a Year 10 Junior Student Leadership Team and a Year 14 Senior Leadership Team. Student Leaders, guided by members of staff, will lead groups of pupils across the school in action planning for improvement. Collectively, the Student Leadership Team will work together to ensure the student voice continues to be vibrant in the development of Lecale Trinity Grammar School.

Student **LEADERSHIP TEAM**



6. Admissions:

Primary School Transition Days

We are looking forward to meeting the inaugural Year 8 pupils of Lecale Trinity Grammar School.

Transition days, to allow our new pupils to experience a flavour of the educational curriculum of Lecale Trinity Grammar School, and for us to begin the very important process of getting to know each child, have been organised on the Mercy Site for 5th and 6th June. The Key Stage 3 Pastoral Team will also visit Partner Primary Schools in the incoming weeks to exchange and share information.

During their allocated Transition Day, pupils will be involved in a selection of fun and engaging activities from various subject areas. We will also carry out CAT assessments to aid the important process of placement of pupils in classes.

Transferring pupils and their parents/carers will also be invited to attend an information event before the end of term. The purpose of these events are to share key pastoral information, to discuss the curriculum, the arrangements for learning and teaching, and to introduce key personnel, including the SENCO and the Senior Leadership Team.

We would like to thank all our Partner Primary Schools for their help and assistance in the organisation of these days.

We look forward to letting you know how our Primary 7 pupils enjoyed their Induction Programme in our next Progress Update.

Post-16 Admissions

Upon receipt of GCSE results on Thursday 22nd August, students currently in Year 12 at St. Patrick's Grammar School, St. Mary's High School and De La Salle High School will be invited to make an appointment to discuss and finalise Post-16 options with a member of staff.

Year 12 students currently in other schools hoping to transfer to Lecale Trinity Grammar School for Post-16 study can contact Mrs C McCartan (PA) at cmccartan231@c2kni.net to request an 'Expression of Interest' application form.



7. Transition

Highly successful events with a focus on transition, team building and resilience for all year groups have now taken place. These were facilitated by Learn Spark, and representative staff from all three schools, coming together to work with pupils.



We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for all pupils. Therefore, the process of meeting with the Pastoral Teams in all three schools to ensure appropriate placement of current pupils has continued. This has involved meeting with focus groups of pupils and review of pastoral information and academic performance. The commitment given to pupils in Years 11 and 13 to progress into the new academic year with current teachers where possible, has continued to be a major factor in the timetabling design.



Information sessions for parents/carers will take place on the following dates:

Current Year 8 Pupils: 21st June (Mercy Site)

Current Year 9 Pupils: 13th June (Lasallian Site)

During these sessions, the Senior Leadership Team will share important information with parents/carers and current Year 8 and Year 9 pupils. Parents of each year group will receive further correspondence in relation to these events. Individual 'Transition' meetings will be scheduled if required following the above sessions to share and exchange information.

Current Year 10 Pupils: The Senior Leadership Team will be in contact with parents/carers to finalise their son's/daughter's Year 11 curriculum from the week beginning Monday 17th June.

Current Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13: Pupil Information sessions for these pupils will take place in August, before the start of the school year.

I would also like to thank the Principals of all three school, Ms McLaughlin, Mr McCann and Mr Maguire for their help and support in the organisation of these events.

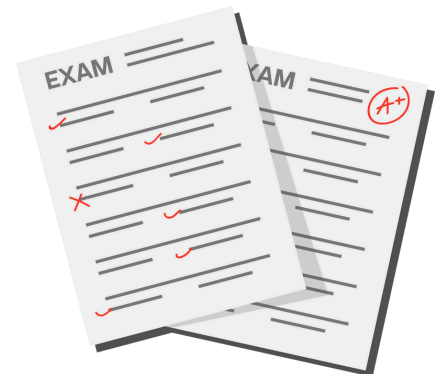
Parents/carers who wish to make an appointment to discuss their son's/daughter's transition with a member of SLT should contact the Principal's PA, Mrs McCartan at cmccartan231@c2kni.net

Examinations

On behalf of the Interim Board of Governors and staff of all three schools, we wish pupils every success as they embark on formal examinations of Year 11 module examinations, GCSEs, AS and A-Level examinations.

Information on the collection of results will be made available prior to the release of results.

Year 12 students continuing to Year 13 in Lecale Trinity Grammar School will have the opportunity to book an appointment to finalise their subject choices with a member of SLT from Lecale Trinity Grammar School after receipt of results.



8. Curriculum Planning

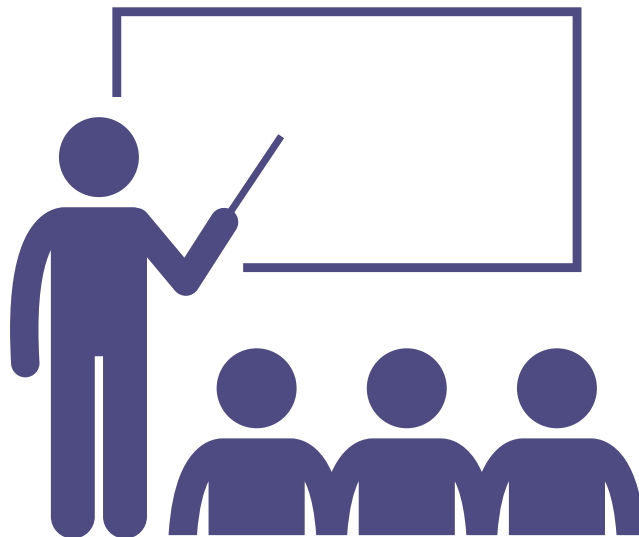
Heads of Departments are working closely with their departmental members in planning the curriculum journey for all pupils. In all subject areas, departments are exchanging and reviewing information on curricular content, and carefully devising 'Transition Modules' to facilitate both revision and enhancement of topics covered.

To help inform pupils and parents of the content within each subject area, departments are also completing pupil-friendly models in the form of visual 'curriculum maps' for Key Stage 3 pupils, and subject specification overviews for Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils. These will outline the content, links to key skills and assessment for subject areas, and will be shared with pupils and parents.

Departments are also in the process of identifying link subject partners to form collaboration hubs.

9. Learning and Teaching Policy

In preparation for the school's Learning and Teaching Strategy, the Learning and Teaching Team continue to meet with Student Strategic Curriculum Focus Groups in De La Salle High School, St Mary's High School and St. Patrick's Grammar School.



10. Physical Education Uniform

Physical Education staff and pupil focus groups from the three schools have been working together on the design for the Lecale Trinity Grammar School Physical Education uniform. The design has been selected as the official design for all students. Please click on the link for the Students Online Progress Update for pictures of the uniform and information on purchasing.

Click here for Pupil E-Booklet

While we would encourage all pupils to wear the new Physical Education uniform, it will be phased in as follows:

For September 2024:

The PE uniform is compulsory for:

- Year 8 Pupils
- Year 11 GCSE PE Students
- Year 13 BTEC Sport and A Level PE Students
- New Pupils

For the academic year 2024/25 only, pupils who have not purchased the Lecale Trinity Grammar School Physical Education uniform, must wear the existing uniform of their current school for Physical Education classes.

From September 2025:

The Physical Education uniform will be compulsory for all pupils.



Conclusion

To conclude this Progress Update, I think that it is apt that the final words are from our pupils.

I would therefore like to share with you the hopes and aspirations of two students directly from their presentation to the Minister of Education, Mr Paul Givan, during his visit. These encapsulate fully, the purpose and living ethos of Lecale Trinity Grammar School.



I am excited about being a Lecale Trinity Grammar school pupil next year and to being taught here on the Mercy Site.

I am looking forward to many things in the new school such as meeting and getting to know new staff and to extending my friendship group and hopefully I will be part of a school show in the future.

I love Home Economics and Technology and I am looking forward to studying these all year round and not just for part of the year.

One of my aims is to be a member of the student council and to work with older students to address any concerns or issues that may arise.



I'm looking forward to joining Lecale Trinity Grammar School in September. It will mean that I can go into the same school as the friends that I travel with on the bus. Even if we are not in the same class, we will still be able to meet at break time and lunch time.

I am excited about the new friends I will make as well and can't wait for all the opportunities that Lecale Trinity Grammar School will bring.



Thank you for your continued support.

F. Moore

Principal Designate