

INSPIRE ACHIEVE EXCEL





I would never have imagined when I joined Strangford
College in Year 8 that seven years later I would become Head
Girl. Since my first day here, I have gained confidence and skills that have contributed to my role as Head Girl. Strangford
College has encouraged me to believe in myself and has given me the skills I need for the future.

The staff and teachers of Strangford College are always so supportive, encouraging and considerate of the students in their care. I always say that we are not just a school, we are a family.

The integrated ethos of our College makes the whole community feel so welcomed. Our school is a safe place for all students and the staff are always here to help with any issues. I have made some truly amazing friendships at Strangford College, some have lasted over the seven years I have been here and new ones have been formed with new students joining Sixth Form.

I have gained many opportunities at this school from being a part of the Child's Rights Defending Team as well as representing the school at debating competitions. Strangford College provides a variety of opportunities to suit every child and young adult that attends.

A key experience for me at Strangford College was the Quick Start Programme. This was a Shared Education Project that included marketing, pitching and selling a product. I was able to work with two other school communities and gain great business experience and insight into what it is like to be a young entrepreneur.

Not only does Strangford College deliver academic achievement, it provides life skills too.





WELCOME

On behalf of the whole team of students, staff and governors, thank you for reading the Strangford College Prospectus 2021/2022. We hope it gives you an informative insight into our values, expectations and the way we work.

We are proud to be an integrated school and are committed to creating a school experience for our young people from diverse backgrounds that is exciting, memorable and highly successful. We are committed to working in partnership with our parents and are highly aware of the value of their support and the importance of their role in their child's education.

In June 2018, we were awarded the prestigious Rights Respecting Schools Accreditation which is testimony to the fact that we are committed to academic excellence and encourage our students to thrive in a caring, respectful and supportive environment. We are currently working towards our Gold Award, the highest level of the Accreditation

which recognises Strangford College as fully rights respecting.

We have a dynamic and forward thinking staff team, with a strong commitment to best practice teaching for learning, backed by high quality pastoral support for students. It is an exciting time to be part of Strangford College. We are a growing school with a new build project well underway which will provide enhanced facilities and opportunities for our young people.

We want to broaden your horizons, fulfil your career aspirations and potential and prepare you to take your place as global citizens of the Twenty-First Century.

Mrs Clare Foster, Principal

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS, LONDONDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNARDS HEAD BOY

For me, there is no other school which has a community like Strangford College.

The College community is extremely accommodating and caring towards all students and the support network within the school is exceptional. My time at Strangford College has allowed me to gain amazing experiences and with the aid of the College's immense teaching talent, it has enabled me to develop into the young man I am today.

Strangford College endeavours to fulfil each student's full potential and highlights that student pastoral care is always a top priority. At the beginning of Year 8, I was anxious about starting a new chapter in my life but after getting involved in the College's thriving community it allowed me to settle into school life quickly. I truly have loved every second of my time at Strangford College and I am honoured to have had the chance to be a part of such a loving, caring and supportive educational environment.

OUR STORY

The seeds of Strangford College were sown in February 1996, when parents attending a public meeting called by All Children Together (ACT) formed a Steering Committee, which dedicated itself to opening a post-primary integrated school in the North Down and Ards area.

With the active support and backing of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, the Integrated Education Fund and ACT, the College first opened its doors on 1st September 1997, with sixty-four students, six full-time members of staff and a school secretary.

After three years of campaigning, lobbying and fundraising, the Department of Education awarded the college maintained status in September 1999. This recognition was a significant milestone in the College's development.

Integrated education at Strangford College offers the opportunity for young people from differing religious and cultural backgrounds to be educated together, in an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, trust and understanding. The deliberate mix of young people and teachers from different backgrounds is unique to integrated schools. At Strangford College we believe that young people should grow up not only knowing about each other but also have the

opportunity to build friendships which will last. We are convinced that difference is not something to be afraid of but rather that it enriches and adds value to a young person's own religious or cultural identity.

At Strangford Integrated College we are committed to high academic standards for all students. We believe that all students have different talents and abilities and should be given the opportunity to succeed. At the College, we seek to ensure that each child fulfils his/her academic potential. We focus on the specific needs of each child, believing strongly in the self-esteem of the individual and that healthy self-respect encourages respect for others. The College continues to grow and thrive and has been consistently over-subscribed. From September 2015 the College has offered both grammar and all-ability pathways.

Our College motto is very significant and appropriate: In Hoc Signo Vinces – Under the Sign we are Strong!





OUR VALUES

ACHIEVEMENT
CARING
FAIRNESS
INTEGRATION
AND INCLUSIVITY
RESPECT
TRUTH

OUR AIMS

- To provide excellence in education for all.
- To be a strong example of integration in practice.
- To embrace those of diverse religious beliefs and none, building on our strong Christian Ethos.
- To support every student in developing their academic, personal, spiritual and social potential.
- To encourage every student to treat others with respect, understanding and empathy.
- To create a safe, positive environment, where every student loves learning and every teacher loves teaching.
- To celebrate and reward success.
- To promote and welcome the partnership of parents in the education of our students.
- To prepare our students to be effective members of our ever-changing, fast-paced 21st century world.



HANNAH TREGASKIS, YEAR 11 ST COMGALL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Strangford College welcomed me with open arms on the first day of Year 8. I remember being very nervous and shy as I didn't know many people but my Form Teacher helped me to settle in quickly and meet some new friends.

I know the friends I have now will be friends for life. I feel very lucky to be part of the Strangford family and the teachers encourage us to look out for the younger students.

My favourite subjects are English, Music, Science and Drama. I played an orphan in the school musical "Annie" and it was a wonderful experience. We enjoyed performing the show so much and the rehearsals were hard work but really fun. I hope to be part of more drama productions in school.







Strangford Integrated College offers students of different abilities, religions and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to be educated together in a caring, trusting and inclusive community, which seeks to maximise their full potential and celebrate their achievements.



THE COLLEGE CREST

The College Crest is worn proudly on our blazers.

The long ship on the crest symbolises the Viking origins of the name Strangford. Scrabo Tower stands like a beacon across North Down and Ards, from which the majority of our students are drawn. The Lamp of Learning emphasises the importance of academic achievement within the College and our aim that every student is encouraged to achieve and excel.

The Crest displays the College Motto: In Hoc Signo Vinces (Under the Sign we are Strong). This reflects the integrated nature of the College and the unity of purpose shared by parents, students, staff and governors.

THE COLLEGE CREDO

The College Credo sums up our ultimate goals for the students in our care:

INSPIRE ACHIEVE EXCEL

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE COMMITTED TO ACHIEVEMENT

Strangford College is committed to developing effective and active learning through the use of the best in teaching for learning techniques. Extensive research and teacher training are being invested in to ensure the College will be a leading centre in this field.

Teaching staff have travelled throughout the UK and Ireland to develop their professional skills and knowledge and lessons at Strangford College are planned carefully to take account of students' preferred learning styles. Results suggest that these approaches lead to enhanced learning opportunities. All lessons are constructed around the College Learning Cycle, which provides continuity and consistency in lessons.

We believe that learning is a science that needs to be mastered and developed. As such, students in all year groups will have sessions on Learning to Learn.





GRAMMAR PATHWAY AT STRANGFORD COLLEGE

Since September 2015, 35% of places at Strangford College are available for students wishing to apply for the Grammar Pathway. Parents of students wishing to be considered for the Grammar Pathway must clearly indicate this on the Green Transfer Form.

Further information on the Grammar Pathway can be obtained from Mrs Foster or Mrs Ross at the College.

All students have different talents and abilities which are nurtured through the academic pathways and extra curricular enrichment activities on offer.

Close attention is paid to the needs of all students and suitable teaching support programmes are drawn up in line with these. This includes the development of a broad and balanced curriculum which is cohort specific.

LEARNING SUPPORT

As an all-ability school, we ensure that each student is valued and supported to reach his or her full potential. The Head of Learning Support liaises across all subjects, and links with Teaching and Learning Assistants, external support agencies and most importantly parents.

The College Pastoral Care Team brings together leading experts drawn from many Learning Support agencies. The Team ensure the best practice for those students requiring additional support.

A full copy of Strangford College's Learning Support Policy is available from the College website.





Parental responses expressed high levels of satisfaction with their child's experiences in the school.

Education and Training
Inspectorate

A SCHOOL FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Parents should feel confident that Strangford College is a school for students of all abilities, and that whatever their child's ability, they will have a seven-year curricular pathway suited to their needs. In addition, families who have one child who thrives in a highly academic environment, may be provided for through the Grammar Pathway, and another child, who is better suited to a more vocational route may be provided for through the All-Ability Pathway. Importantly, families can all attend the same integrated school and have their needs fully met.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The College is proud of our Christian Ethos. We are pleased to have the services of our Chaplains who represent the two main Christian traditions and support the College in the celebration of the key events in the Christian Calendar.

PASTORAL CARE

Strangford College is child-centred with a whole school approach to the pastoral care of our students. By building up the students' self-awareness and sense of responsibility, through a team approach, we ensure that all students benefit from their experience in the school environment. All teachers in the College assist in the pastoral dimension, providing a caring atmosphere for our students and by being sensitive to the needs of each individual child. At Strangford College we know our students well, ensuring that they feel highly valued and secure at all stages of their school lives. Each year group is led by a Head of Year. Every class has a Form Tutor who is responsible for the welfare, progress and development of the students in his or her care.

The Form Tutor is an important link between home and College and they liaise closely with parents on matters of mutual concern related to the child's well-being and happiness. This ensures that even the smallest problem does not develop into a crisis.

Similarly, the Form Tutor liaises closely with subject teachers and the Year Head in relation to students' academic and personal development. A Personal and Social Education structure operates where each class has daily sessions with its Form Tutor and students have the opportunity to reflect on issues which are important to them as learners and young people.

The Deputy Principal has overall responsibility for Pastoral Care at Strangford College. A copy of all our key pastoral policies are available from the College office or website.

SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE

The College employs the services of a Student Counsellor, provided by Family Works. Family Works maintains a strict code of confidentiality and its services are available to all students, including through self-referral.



THE KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM (YEARS 8-10)

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum at Strangford is exciting, challenging and motivating. Students experience a supportive and creative learning environment which provides them with numerous and varied opportunities to express themselves and develop as independent learners, to work collaboratively and to develop an enquiry-based approach to learning. Many of these skills provide the foundations for success at GCSE and A Level.

In Year 8, students at Strangford College will study: English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Religious Education, Modern Languages, IT, Geography, History, Art & Design, Music, Home Economics, Technology & Design, Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum is fully catered for at Key Stage 3.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Strangford College has a Parents' Council which is open to all parents with students at the College. All new parents are strongly encouraged to play an active role in the Parents' Council, which both mobilises and organises parental support and participation. The College promotes and encourages parental involvement at all levels of College life.

Parents are encouraged to contact the College at any time to discuss matters relating to their children. The first point of contact is usually the student's Form Tutor and the Deputy Principal, Head of Learning Support and Heads of Year are also available by appointment.

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

Strangford College has an active and effective School Council.
Representatives are elected and in addition to voicing the opinions and ideas of students, the Council allows opportunities for students to play a key role in the democratic processes in the College. Student Voice is a high priority at the College.

All students participate in an Integrated Ethos programme where they consider what it means to be part of an integrated school community.

The College works with young people to make them aware of the divisions in society and how they can bring the experiences and the values they have learned during their time at Strangford College to contribute to a more peaceful and reconciled Northern Ireland.





JAMES EDWARDS, YEAR 10 DONAGHADEE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I knew a couple of boys from my Primary School so it was good to see friendly faces when I started at Strangford College but within a week I had made a lot of new friends.

The best thing about school is sports. I play football for the school team and we often play matches. I also do cross country which is really challenging but fun.

The teachers talk about Strangford College being a big family and often the Sixth Form students keep a look out for the younger students. Being part of an integrated school feels like being part of a community and I feel this has made it easier to meet new friends.

In class, I am supported in my subjects. The teachers are here to help and if I was to say anything to a new student it would be not to worry; the teachers are all very approachable.

I like PE, Art and Home Economics especially when you are cooking.



THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM (YEARS 11 & 12)

SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT LEARNING

At Strangford College, students are encouraged to identify and use their preferred learning styles in order to best utilise their abilities. The College provides additional support through tracking, target setting, transition and mentoring programmes.

Throughout Years 11 and 12 thorough programmes of revision are provided. Intensive revision classes are held throughout the exam season, however students are also encouraged to show independence in their learning, their organisation and their motivation.

At Key Stage 4, we strive to ensure that students can choose subjects tailored to their own particular interests, strengths and career aspirations. Distinct GCSE Pathways are created to reflect the all-ability nature of the College. The College Tracker is used to ensure that students embark on the most suitable pathway to guarantee individual success.

Some students choose to follow a more traditionally academic route, whilst others opt for a blended pathway that includes traditional subjects alongside the more vocational ones. All GCSE pathways have a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Religious Education,

Physical Education, Personal
Development and Careers. All
Pathways offer a full range of GCSE
courses, both academic and vocational
and aim to prepare students for A
Level Study.

Students are given a school managed iPad at the beginning of their two year programme of GCSE study to support learning and teaching. This encourages students to be more independent in their studies and to access a wide range of subject specific research materials.

The following subjects are available for GCSE students and the final selection is decided after close consultation with students, their parents and careers advisor. This curriculum offer is reviewed annually:

Art and Design, Biology, Business and Communication, Business Studies, Chemistry, Child Development, Core Science, Digital Technology, Drama, Double Award Science, Engineering, English Language, English Literature, Food and Nutrition, French, Further Maths, Geography, History, Hospitality, IT, Leisure and Tourism, Maths, Media Studies, Motor Vehicle Studies, Moving Image Arts, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Education, Technology and Design.





SIXTH FORM

The College is fortunate to have a thriving and growing Sixth Form. Our curriculum is continually expanding and under review to meet demand and expectation. Students entering Sixth Form have a choice from a range of subjects at A Level. This curriculum choice is reviewed annually.

Private supervised study is facilitated in a recently refurbished Sixth Form study area. The effective use of private study is a key factor in determining a student's performance in the Sixth Form.

All Sixth Form students are given a school managed iPad to use for the duration of their A level studies. Subject specific apps and general apps to assist learning and teaching are available for students on request.

The College operates an innovative prefect system, under the leadership of the Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies. Our Head Boy and Head Girl are more than mere figure heads; they lead our students and represent the College at public occasions.

As well as our Deputy Head Boy and Girl we have house prefects and senior prefects who are role models for the younger students.

Sixth Form students also have the use of a Sixth Form Centre where peer relationships can be developed and extended in a caring and social environment.

In Year 13, there is a residential at Lorne House and in Year 14, a residential at Corrymeela. Both of these experiences give students the opportunity to reflect on their time in Strangford College and how the values of an integrated college can transfer to society.

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The pupils speak with pride and loyalty about their school; they emphasised the inclusive ethos, strong school community, good relationships with their teachers and one another, and the support they receive to progress their learning.

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Education and Training Inspectorate.



STRANGFORD COLLEGE FOR OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE

We place great value on the regular testing and monitoring of student performance because this increases awareness of student strengths and areas for improvement. It also ensures that we are closely and accurately tracking student performance. As a result we are able to use early intervention strategies to ensure that students are meeting and exceeding academic targets.

Targets are set for students, using robust predictive data and performance is tracked monthly. This process includes tracking attitudes to learning as well as attainment. Core assessments in all subjects support the tracking process.

We are finding that the College Tracker helps to motivate students and serves to identify areas that need attention so that they are better able to fulfil their potential in coursework or in their examinations.

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Our four houses, Mahee, Ogilby, Sketrick and Taggart, named after islands in Strangford Lough, are led by House Captains and this system brings students together in a wide range of house competitions. All students and staff belong to a house and this develops our Strangford College family atmosphere. Competitions range from sport, music and drama to pumpkin carving, creative writing and busking, to name but a few!













STRANGFORD PLUS

Beyond the Classroom

Strangford College offers opportunities for students to develop beyond the classroom. Enhancement activities are offered in Sports, the Arts and Music. From IT to Science and Performing Arts, there are clubs and activities to suit all interests. In sports, Rugby, Football, Volleyball, Hockey and Gaelic sports form the core activities for boys. Hockey, Netball and Gaelic Sports form the core activities for girls. Gymnastics is popular with both boys and girls, as is our Sailing Club. Our staff constantly develop extracurricular activities to meet the interests of our students. One of our most popular extracurricular activities is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The Eco Committee, Folk and Jazz Band, as well as our highly successful choir, are very popular additions to Strangford Plus.

School trips take our students to a variety of popular destinations, including France, Italy and Spain.
The Modern Languages Department coordinated an Erasmus exchange programme to France in the last academic year for Year 10.

In 2019 Sixth Form students and a teacher travelled to India as part of the Saphara Programme which is run in collaboration with a number of other local post-primary schools and colleges.

There is something for everyone at Strangford College.

A CULTURE OF LEADERSHIP

Our society needs more people with exceptional leadership skills. We need individuals who can analyse what is required, take balanced decisions and who are driven by a deep sense of what is right.

Leadership development is a core activity at Strangford College. Our Head Boy and Head Girl are more than just figure heads. They lead our students and represent us at public occasions. Our four houses are led by house captains and this system brings students together in mixed age events. The opportunity to become a prefect is open to all Sixth Form students. In Year 13, students can become house prefects and progress to full College prefects in Year 14. High standards are required of all prospective prefects but our approach is always inclusive.

Our School Council allows students of all ages to take leadership roles and contribute to the democratic processes at Strangford College.
Timetabled meetings are attended by the Principal and Deputy Principal.

Leadership at Strangford College shows in lessons, assemblies, on the Sports' Field, in our charity work and in the deeply rooted way that our older students take responsibility to serve as role models and supporters of our younger students.

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS MOVING TO STRANGFORD COLLEGE

JONAH LOWE REGENT HOUSE SCHOOL

I moved from Regent House School to Strangford College to start Sixth Form. I was nervous but from the first day I was made to feel very welcome by the students and teachers and I was accepted quickly into the community. The range of subjects available attracted me to the College. Now I am studying BTEC Business, BTEC Public Services and in collaboration with the South Eastern Regional College, I study BTEC Sport. We went on a residential trip to Lorne House to get to know each other better and develop our team working skills. It was a really good experience and I would do it again in a heartbeat. I would strongly recommend this school to anyone thinking of moving from their current school because you will not regret it.

BRYONY MOORE GLASTRY COLLEGE

Moving schools was a daunting experience. I wasn't sure how well I would fit in being one of the 'new kids'! I can never thank Strangford College enough for welcoming me with open arms on the first day and I now feel very much at home amongst the lovely students and teachers. Not only have I made a number of new friends but I've got to know my teachers well. They do everything they can to help us thrive educationally and also encourage us to be the best people we can be. It was the range of A Level options that drew me in and I feel being part of the Strangford College community helps me grow every day. If anyone is thinking of joining Strangford College Sixth Form, it could be one of the best decisions you'll ever make.

briefs process









NEW BUILD PROGRAMME

Strangford College has been working with the Department of Education to progress the new build which was approved in April 2016. 2021 will be an exciting year for the College with the appointment of our contractor and work commencing in the academic year starting September 2021.

The new school build will enable us to provide enhanced facilities and opportunities for our young people on the existing site.

We are consistently over-subscribed for places in Year 8. We are thankful for the funding and the commitment from the Department of Education to grow and develop Integrated Education in North Down, Ards and the Peninsula.

This purpose built school will have state-of-the-art sporting facilities as well as excellent facilities for all subjects, including STEAM subjects, Drama and Modern Languages. We have shared the proposed plans for the new school build with the community and the plans are currently on display in the reception of Strangford College.



STRANGFORD A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Strangford College is working towards its Gold Rights
Respecting School Award. This is the highest level of the award
and recognises Strangford College as fully rights respecting.
Each month we focus on a different Right for our students.

We are delighted to have achieved our Silver UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award. We have achieved this award through our Shared Education Project with St Columba's College. This demonstrated that as a school community students and staff are aware and respect each other's rights.

These rights were chosen by the students.

Article 2:

You have the right to protection against discrimination.

Article 12:

You have the right to have a say in things that affect you.

Article 16:

You should be able to keep things private unless the law says there is a reason you can't.

Article 24:

You should get the best health care possible.

Article 28:

You have the right to an education.

Article 31:

You have the right to relax, play music, play sports and drama.

As a Rights Respecting College and Community, we listen and value the voice and experiences of all.

Strangford College are proud to have achieved the Kindness UK School of the Year for 'Excellence in Kindness'. This is the fourth consecutive year we have been awarded this accreditation for promoting, sharing and uniting kindness.











At Strangford College, we are committed to encouraging the holistic development of our young people. We want to build on their intellectual, spiritual, social, moral and physical skills. We hope that our prospectus gives a flavour of how we aim to achieve that ambition.

