

INSPIRE ACHIEVE EXCEL



## COURTNEY WILLIAMS HEAD GIRL

**ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL** 

Strangford Integrated College is not just a school but a community and a family.

However big or small our goals, we help each other along the way. Regardless of your beliefs, backgrounds or ability there is a place for you here at Strangford College.

I have been provided with so many positive opportunities throughout my journey at Strangford Integrated College. I have been given the skills and qualifications to set me up for the next stage of my life, not just academically but coping strategies and life lessons. I am thankful to the staff and their ability to motivate and encourage me over the years. I am amazed at how many of the teachers go the extra mile to help students reach their potential both academically and personally.

Our school motto is #bettertogether which reflects our integrated status and how we work together as a team. Each student brings unique qualities to Strangford Integrated College making us who we are and defining us as a family.

We would love to welcome you as part of our family at Strangford Integrated College.





#### **WELCOME**

On behalf of the whole team of students, staff and governors, thank you for reading the Strangford Integrated College Prospectus. 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 Integrated College as fully rights respecting.

In December 2021 we were awarded the 'Excellence in Integration' Accreditation in recognition of our excellent practice and integrated ethos.

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 Integrated 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** 

# CAMERON BROWN HEAD BOY STRANDTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am delighted and proud to be the Head Boy of Strangford Integrated College.

Our College is truly a unique community where every student is made to feel valued. My time at Strangford Integrated College has helped me gain confidence and develop leadership skills which have all contributed to my role as Head Boy.

I have always been involved in extra-curricular sports in school, particularly football and rugby, and I have many happy memories from matches and sports fixtures. I have made friendships in my classes and through clubs that I know will last a lifetime.

Strangford Integrated College teachers are very supportive and encouraging in all aspects of school life, both academically and pastorally. The teachers go to every effort to ensure learning is both enjoyable and effective. One of my favourite roles as Head Boy is looking out for the younger students and having the opportunity to hear their feedback through school council activities. I believe that pastoral care is the heart of the College.



## **OUR STORY**

The seeds of Strangford Integrated 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 Integrated 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**

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT
INCLUSIVITY
INTEGRITY
KINDNESS
RESILIENCE
RESPECT
TRUST

### **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.



### **INTEGRATED ETHOS**

The College is fully inclusive and we strive to have a balance of religions through our admissions criteria. We currently have students from all faith backgrounds and none in our school.

We seek to promote a culture where Christian values are lived out day-byday. Our core values are respect, high achievement, inclusivity, integrity, kindness, resilience, respect and trust.

We have over the years developed excellent links with our local community. We have a Chaplain and Minister who visit the college to help celebrate prayer and we are grateful for their ongoing support. Our school Chaplains play an integral role in College life by assisting throughout the year at College events. Assemblies are held throughout the year to mark important events

and include Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holocaust, St Patrick's day, Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Throughout their time in the College, students have the opportunity to reflect on their own values and beliefs. Students are encouraged to lead services to improve social confidence and public speaking skills, in addition to developing spiritually. The students have set up a successful Faith Group to assist with the strengthening and nurturing of the faith of all students. Students also engage in many charitable events both inside and outside school. Many of our students and staff are able to add hours of voluntary and community work to their profiles.

We have recently been awarded the Excellence in Integration Award.





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 Integrated 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 Integrated 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 INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Since September 2015, 35% of places at Strangford Integrated 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 application.

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 Integrated 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 Integrated 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 Integrated 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 Integrated 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.

Our two Vice Principals have overall responsibility for Pastoral Care at Strangford Integrated 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 Integrated College 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 Integrated College will study: English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Religious Studies, 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 Integrated 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 or Head of Year, Head of Learning Support and Assistant Deputy Principal's are also available by appointment.

### THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

Strangford Integrated 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 Integrated College to contribute to a more peaceful and reconciled Northern Ireland.



## **JAMES EDWARDS, YEAR 11**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 Integrated 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 Integrated 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.

This year school gave me an iPad for my GCSE studies. It has been an enormous help to have a personal iPad for independent study and homework that we complete on Google Classroom.



#### THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM (YEARS 11 & 12)

#### SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT LEARNING

At Strangford Integrated 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.



equipping each individual to take

their place as a 21st Century

Global Citizen.





### STRANGFORD INTEGRATED 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 Integrated 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 Integrated 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. 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 a few years ago.

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 Integrated 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 Integrated 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 Integrated College. Timetabled meetings are attended by the Principal and Vice Principal.

Leadership at Strangford Integrated 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

RACHEL MAGILL, YEAR 13 MOVILLA HIGH SCHOOL

I moved from Movilla High School to Strangford Integrated College to start Sixth Form. I felt the range of subjects offered were more suitable for my choices for A Level Study. I am studying Media Studies, Religious Studies and Business Studies.

Moving schools is a very daunting experience and I wasn't sure how I would fit in. However, from the first day I felt welcomed and all my peers are very friendly. We went to Ganaway for a team building day where we tried the climbing wall, crate building, zip wire and archery! It was a jam-packed day full of activities and I really got to know other students and staff members in an informal environment.

Strangford Integrated College definitely has a community feel where the teachers look out for our well-being, both emotionally and educationally. I feel like I am a valued student here and have been offered many great opportunities. I am in the best place I can be to further my studies.











#### **NEW BUILD PROGRAMME**

The New Build Programme supported by Fresh Start funding and the Department of Education is back on track and the appointment of the contractor is imminent. 2022 will be an exciting year for the College with work commencing in August 2022 and we look forward to moving into state-of-the-art facilities.

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

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 Integrated College.



# **STRANGFORD INTEGRATED COLLEGE** A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Strangford Integrated College is working towards its Gold Rights Respecting School Award. This is the highest level of the award and recognises Strangford Integrated 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 Integrated College are proud to have achieved the Kindness UK School of the Year for 'Excellence in Kindness'. This is the sixth consecutive year we have been awarded this accreditation for promoting, sharing and uniting kindness.













#### THINKING SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - HABITS OF MIND

The College signed up to the Thinking Schools Programme a number of years ago. Teachers in Thinking Schools explicitly teach students thinking strategies. The aim is to enable the students not only to plan, monitor and evaluate their learning but also to then know which strategies to use to make progress.

We will continue to develop the use of Thinking Frames in class, but we will also have a new focus on the Habits of Mind.

The Habits of Mind are an identified set of 16 problem solving, life related skills, necessary to effectively operate in society and promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship. The understanding and application of these 16 Habits of Mind serve to provide students with the skills to work through real life situations in order to gain a positive outcome.

At Strangford Integrated
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.

