

## Our School





### WELCOME TO BREDA ACADEMY



### Welcome from the Principal

### **Moving Forward**

It is an exciting time at Breda Academy as we go from strength to strength! As the Principal I am honoured to be leading this vibrant and successful community school in South Belfast with over 700 students aged 11 to 19 and 90 staff. I am especially pleased that for the past five years our examination results have continued to increase. In the last two consecutive years our Year 12 students achieved just shy of 80% 5 or more A\* - C GCSE or equivalent grades and over 55% of our Year 14 students achieved 3 A\* - C A Level or equivalent grades, which is record breaking!

We continue to MOVE FORWARD as a community and in September we welcomed 112 Year 8 students who are now flourishing and enjoying school. We are very proud that the Academy offers all students a 7-year learning journey. Our 6th Form continues to thrive and we currently have over 170 Year 13 and 14 students studying A-Level and Level 3 qualifications. I am delighted that after their 7-year journey with us, our recent Year 14 leavers are MOVING FORWARD to take up their place at a prestigious university, starting an apprenticeship or beginning their working career.

We place our students at the heart of all we do and provide them with excellent pastoral care to promote their wellbeing. The Academy provides an inclusive and diverse curriculum and a wide range of qualifications. We strive to develop our students' education, skills, and resilience to be successful lifelong learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Please join us on our exciting journey!



Mr P Perry - PGDH, MA, BSc, PGCE Principal #proudtobebreda





## **OUR MISSION**

Breda Academy aims to be a safe caring community of life-long learners where positive relationships, based on courtesy, commitment and co-operation enable young people to develop their skills, resilience and confidence for success in life and society.

Breda Academy's mission statement has been developed and refined to draw on the views of staff, students, parents and governors.

This mission statement is the touchstone against which all members of the school community can test their decisions and their actions.



### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM



### MRS SCOTT (Vice Principal Pastoral – Access to Learning and Inclusion)

I am proud to work with an enthusiastic, dedicated, and hard-working Pastoral Team who encourage and support our students to ensure they achieve their very best while enjoying all Breda Academy has to offer.

I also have overall responsibility for our SEN and Newcomer students and work with a dedicated team of specialist teaching staff and teaching assistants to provide the additional learning support and pastoral care some of our students need to fulfill their potential.

As Designated Teacher for Child Protection, I am a member of the Safeguarding Team and co-ordinate our Counselling service and extensive team of external agencies who come into school to work with our more vulnerable students.

### MS MCMULLAN (Senior Teacher Data and Systems)

I oversee both Data and Systems and Student Attendance. Our focus is on ensuring that students' progress in learning and attendance at school are closely tracked so that any barriers to their success can be quickly identified and addressed.

I am also a member of our Safeguarding Team (Deputy Designated Teacher), which safeguards and promotes the welfare of all our students.

## MR CARRICK (Vice Principal Curriculum - Teaching, Learning and Progress)

At Breda Academy we take pride in getting to know each student as an individual so that we can make sure that they each have the best possible access to success and opportunity in the future. This child centred, learning focused approach, is underpinned by the positive ethos, culture and values of our school community.

I oversee Teaching and Learning and our curriculum learning pathways at Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 have been designed to ensure students develop the skills, resilience and confidence for success in life and society.

We work in partnership with families to support and encourage our students to make progress in their learning and achieve the qualifications they need for further education and work.

## MRS GLOVER (Senior Teacher Key Stage 5, CEIAG and Community Liasions)

I work closely with staff, students and the local community to enhance the school profile and provide further opportunities for all students. We are pleased to provide progression into Sixth Form where we offer a diverse range of academic and vocational courses to ensure all students receive the support required on their pathway to becoming independent, lifelong learners.

Our Careers programme aims to prepare all our students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of working life in the 21st Century.

## PREFECTS AT BREDA ACADEMY



At Breda Academy we pride ourselves on having a hard-working, committed and enthusiastic team of prefects.
Being a prefect is a worthwhile and important job, as these students are role models and mentors for our younger students. The prefects in return gain valuable experience of leadership and working as a team which will help them in the future.

Prefects are an integral and valued part of our school community. They apply for the role through a demanding application and interview process. They assist in a variety of ways including lunchtime duties, supporting evening events and being attached to year 8 tutor groups as buddies to help smooth the transition from primary school.



### **LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW**

### **EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS**









### **YMCA**

The YMCA are long-standing partners with Breda Academy and have built up significant relationships with both staff and Students.

Their overall aim is for young people to achieve an increased value of themselves and others. Some of the areas they explore are identity, stereotypes, sectarianism and discrimination.

The YMCA also support our new Year 8 Students who are finding the transition to High School challenging through their Year 8 Mentoring Programme. Weekly sessions provide our young people with the opportunity to assist their progress in school.

### **DREAMSCHEME**

Dreamscheme is a youth development organisation which is based in Newtownbreda and aims to transform the lives of hard-to-reach and at-risk young people. As well as providing diversionary and developmental youth programmes in local communities such as Milltown, Belvoir, Breda and Braniel, Dreamsheme also provides a mentoring programme of youth support within Breda Academy at Key Stage 3 and 4.

The programme aims to (a) affirm young people, encourage ambition, build potential and promote selfworth (b) connect young people with their community and encourage active youth citizenship, and (c) develop young people's life skills and leadership ability.

In addition, our new Community Support Partnership Programme is designed to provide community-based support for students who are experiencing barriers to learning and engagement.

Dreamscheme Youth Workers also facilitate whole-class sessions with Year 10 students, as part of their Personal Development Programme. Issues including self-esteem, mental health identity and teamwork skills are targeted.

The Youth Workers also visit school each Tuesday and Thursday to support Students over lunchtime during social time.

Furthermore, our Students can access support with their studies and homework after school every Monday and Thursday in the Dreamscheme Centre in Newtownbreda.

More information about Dreamscheme can be found at www.dreamschemeni.org.

### **LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Natalie Phillips, youth worker at Willowfield Parish Church, helps coordinate a number of local churches coming into Breda Academy through detached work on a Tuesday lunchtime and running the Scripture Union on a Thursday lunchtime. The Churches involved are Willowfield Church. Breda Church of Ireland. Newtownbreda Baptist and McCraken Memorial, with Scripture Union representatives supporting Breda staff at SU.

### **FAMILYWORKS**

FamilyWorks is the school counselling service which offers our Students additional support through weekly counselling sessions. Students can self-refer or be referred by their teacher or parent for help to deal with any emotional and behavioural difficulties to help make more informed choices or decisions.

### **EAST BELFAST ALTERNATIVES**

East Belfast Alternatives is a local restorative justice agency who offer a wide range of support in the local community. At Key Stage 3, Dean, our LINCS Project Worker, works with our junior school Students on the Good Relations Project to promote purposeful cross-community and good relations to foster inclusion with all communities in school and our local area.

EBA also supports Students in Key Stage 3, as part of our Personal Development Programme and LLW curriculum.



### **NIFL FOOTBALL ACADEMY**

The FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP at BREDA ACADEMY is a two year Full Time Education course for Post 16 Students (male & female) who have a desire to progress their playing, coaching and academic careers.

In partnership with the NORTHERN IRELAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NIFL) this course will provide the best young players within the NIFL Academy League and associated • Delivering a community project and making a real NIFL Leagues the opportunity to enrol on a full time course of study that will provide the players with the Academic Qualification (3 A-Levels in Sport Studies) along with a specialist daily training programme to compliment what they receive at their local Football

Players will be educated at the National Stadium, Windsor Park and use the fantastic playing and gym facilities at Olympia Leisure Centre or at the Hanwood Centre, Dundonald. They will also receive the full pastoral and academic support of BREDA ACADEMY teachers in many of the Career and Enrichment Subjects that are essential at Post 16 Study.

The aim of the NIFL Academy Player Scholarship is to re-create the learning and playing environment that a young professional footballer in England or Scotland would experience. To this extent we have chosen some of the best, most up to date and inspiring facilities to educate and give our young players the best opportunity to succeed.

### **PRINCE'S TRUST**

The Achieve programme helps our Key Stage 4 students to boost their confidence, learn new skills and work with their friends on a group project. The programme is completely flexible and students will study the following

- difference in your local area
- Learning all sorts of new skills to help with meeting new people and building your confidence
- Taking on a business challenge to put your entrepreneurial skills to the test
- Improving your knowledge and ability to look after yourself and live a healthy life
- Top tips to help you write the perfect CV and get ahead in your career



# **EXCELLENCE IN OUR CURRICULUM**



At Breda Academy we aim to ensure each
Key Stage curriculum should be inclusive and provide
opportunities for every student to study courses
appropriate to their aspirations, needs,
and ability. Each curriculum is reviewed annually
by our curriculum development team to ensure learning
is broad, balanced and diverse, and
provides all students with an appropriate mix
of academic and vocational pathways of study
in each Key Stage. Students are provided with learning
opportunities to develop their subject knowledge and
understanding, technical ability,
and literacy and numeracy skills to achieve
well in the courses they study and perform
well in public examinations.

We believe that everyone is a learner and everyone has the potential to lead others, hence our school motto, 'Learners today Leaders tomorrow'. Accordingly, we strive to empower all

students with a confident and positive belief in themselves and for their potential to be the drivers of their own lives, aspiring to success within and beyond school. We also endeavour to develop all students GRIT (Growth mind-set, Resilience, Independence and Tenacity) in how they approach their learning.

Learning is a lifelong journey involving making decisions and making mistakes. It is the discovery of new ideas and new answers; it is in making errors that learners refine their abilities and discover new paths. At Breda Academy it is safe to make mistakes and to not yet know the right answer. We are committed to providing a caring and safe environment for all of our students so that they can learn in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance and respect for each other's views and approaches to life.

## YEARS 8, 9 & 10

In Key Stage Three students study a broad range of subjects. Drawing on nationally generated data and our own baseline tests we place students in classes which are most closely matched to their current level of performance. The curriculum is tailored and differentiated for each teaching group so that students get the optimum balance of support and challenge they need to secure excellent progress.





### **TEACHING** & LEARNING



Our aim is to meet the needs of all Students with the highest quality of teaching; in an environment which expects the highest standards in Behaviour for Learning and is underpinned by positive relationships, mutual respect, and trust.

At Breda Academy, we provide an outstanding learning environment for all students so that, whatever their starting points, they make excellent progress and contribute positively to the world around them. Our inspirational teachers engage students through a variety of activities and provide extensive enrichment opportunities which build the 'GRIT' (Growth Mindset, Resilience, Independence, Tenacity), skills and confidence needed for lifelong learning and work.

#### **General Routines and Consistency**

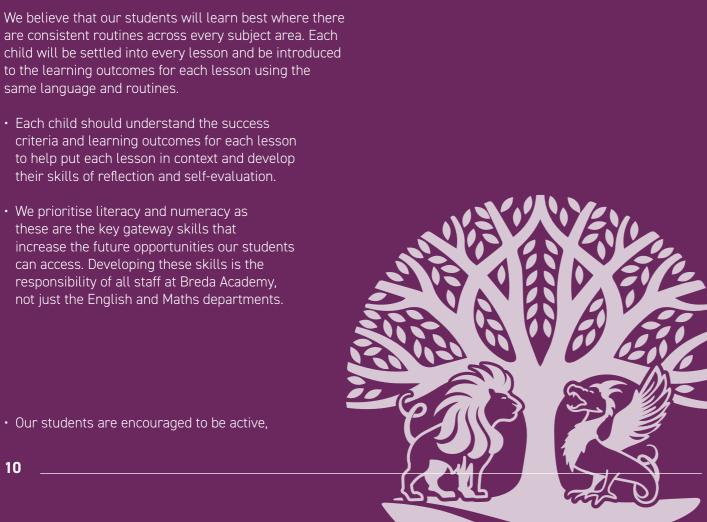
We believe that our students will learn best where there are consistent routines across every subject area. Each child will be settled into every lesson and be introduced to the learning outcomes for each lesson using the same language and routines.

- criteria and learning outcomes for each lesson to help put each lesson in context and develop
- these are the key gateway skills that can access. Developing these skills is the responsibility of all staff at Breda Academy,

independent and adventurous in their learning because we believe enjoyment enhances achievement. We recognise and reward success and we identify and intervene in underachievement at the earliest possible stage to ensure every student is successful.

- Teachers embrace and use many forms of technology, such as ipads, to enhance and facilitate students learning in all subject areas.
- All students are assessed regularly throughout the academic year to monitor and track their performance so they continue to make progress in their learning and leave Breda Academy with the necessary qualifications needed for further education, career training and/or work.







## ASSESSMENT AT BREDA ACADEMY



At Breda Academy we recognize that each Student is different and their path through school will vary. In order to provide them with as much support as possible, each Student is assessed in every subject from year 8 to year 14; through homework, continuous monitoring, class tests and end of term examinations.

### **Tracking**

Each Student in Key Stages 4 and 5 will have their progress charted using our tailored tracking system. At 4 times throughout the year, Students will be set an assessment task which is then recorded, analysed and interventions tailored for those students who are identified as working below their agreed target. These may include:

- Target Setting
- · In-Class support
- Target Homework
- Student Mentor scheme
- · Revision sessions
- Parent Consultation
- · Quality Feedback
- Assessment to support learning



### **Baseline Testing**

At Key Stage 3, each Student will undertake baseline testing to provide an insight into each Student's ability to reason across four distinct areas: verbal, non-verbal, mathematical and spatial, as compared to the national average. This will enable teaching staff to meet each Student's needs and ensure feedback is appropriate and targets are achievable.

For those Students entering Key Stage 4, further predictive testing is completed to help inform Students and staff on the potential performance at GCSE.

### Reporting

Teachers will report Student progress twice in the school year, once in the Winter term, and then at the end of the Summer term. Reports are sent electronically to parents via the SIMS App.



# ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS

At Breda Academy, we encourage all of our students to participate in enrichment opportunities, with a range of activities being offered after school hours or during lunchtime.

We regularly run after school sporting activities, with representative teams picked to represent Breda Academy in sports such as: basketball, football, hockey, netball, handball, golf, cross-country and athletics.

Breda Academy also provides a wide range of music clubs and societies to help stretch the interests and aspirations of our students. There is something for everyone, including private lessons in voice, piano, strings, drum kit and guitar.

### Clubs and organisations on offer include:

African Drumming Club
Breda Board Games Club
Breda Business Club
Choir
Colour Your Mind - Mindfulness
Cookery Club
Debating Society

Duke of Edinburgh Award EAL Club ECO Group Fitness Club Football Guitar Club Judo Club Kindness @ Breda Team Netball Rugby School Council School Production Science Club Scripture Union Table Tennis Club Wellness Room Young Enterprise Company

Each year, we also offer a trip abroad, previous trips included skiing in Bulgaria and a sport and language trip to Spain.



## BREDA ACADEMY CAREERS EDUCATION



In Breda Academy, Careers Education,
Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)
is an important element of our provision.
We are committed to ensuring that all
students receive high quality careers education
and guidance as part of their learning experiences.
This will enable them to make informed, considered
and realistic decisions about their education, training
and employment options. Careers education and
guidance prepares young people for the opportunities,
responsibilities and experiences they will face
throughout their adult life

Students evolve their own Personal Career Plans in the context of each transition they must make – whether to GCSE, Advanced Level, Higher Education or employment. As students move into the senior school, support is provided through the process of the application and selection process, and life beyond school is considered: finding accommodation, financial issues and settling in at university or a new job.

Careers Education is delivered through various means which include careers lessons, CEIAG events, subject-based careers activities and Learning for Life and Work (LLW).

#### We aim to:

- Make students aware of their individual skills, qualities and interests, helping them to shape their Personal Career Plan from Year 8 and build their confidence;
- Provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum- through lessons in Learning for Life and Work and Careers lessons.
- Engage students in more work-related opportunitiesincluding: mock interviews, industry visits and local guest speakers;
- Equip parents and students with relevant and appropriate Careers information, to ensure successful transitions as students move through Key Stage 3, 4 and 5.





## PASTORAL CARE AT BREDA ACADEMY



The pastoral care of each individual in the school community is of the highest importance. Breda Academy students benefit from a highly developed pastoral system to ensure that every student's progress towards becoming a well-rounded individual is closely monitored.

#### **Form Tutor**

Students are assigned to a tutor group when they join Breda Academy, overseen by a Form Tutor who sees students every day for registration. The Form Tutor provides a first point of contact for the students and their parents about any issues that arise in school.

#### Year Head

Each year group has a Year Head who will have particular experience of each key stage and is able to provide specialist support with the particular issues that arise at each stage in post-primary education. For example, Mr Galbraith is Head of Year 8 and works with our feeder Primary schools to establish links that support students in the transition from P7 to Year 8. Our Year Heads play an important role in our Pastoral Intervention Programme and ensure our students can access the most appropriate support available in school to assist their learning across the curriculum.

### **Head of Key Stage**

The work of the Year Heads is overseen and supported by Heads of Key Stage. Mrs. Parry is Head of Key Stage Three (Years 8-10), Mr. McCann Head of Key Stage Four (Years 11-12) and Mr. Henry (Head of Sixth Year) and are all key in supporting Student wellbeing at Breda Academy

### In addition to this structure

- Mrs. Scott is our Vice Principal Access to Learning and Inclusion and Mr. Carrick is our Vice Principal – Learning and Progress. They work together to ensure all students are supported and nurtured during their years at Breda Academy
- Mrs. Scott is also the Designated Child Protection officer and leads the Safeguarding Team with Ms. McMullan, Mrs. McWilliams and Mrs. Glover (Key Stage 5) supporting.
- The well-being of students is the responsibility of all staff. Effective communication and partnership with parents and carers is an essential element of good pastoral care. Breda Academy maintains clear and concise structures and procedures to address pastoral issues swiftly and appropriately.
- Breda Academy boasts an effective confidential counselling provision for students who need someone to talk to about their issues or concerns.
   We are fortunate to offer weekly appointments from a Family Works counsellor, with an extensive team of external support agencies also on hand to provide targeted pastoral assistance.



#### **Positive Behaviour Policy**

At Breda Academy we are committed to the development of a culture which empowers everyone to achieve. We actively promote a positive teaching and learning environment where everyone is expected to work hard and behave in a responsible manner by displaying respect, tolerance, responsibility, and kindness for others at all times

From experience, we have found this positive approach benefits from the active support and full co-operation of all parents/carers in maintaining high standards, with particular reference to attendance and punctuality, the supervision and submission of homework/coursework and adhering to School Uniform Regulations.

We have three overarching expectations of students:



18 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 19

# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & INCLUSION

We are determined that all students, whether they are exceptionally gifted, have learning difficulties or other disabilities, should be full members of the school and benefit from the whole curriculum. Breda Academy warmly welcomes newcomer students from all cultures and countries and we proudly celebrate our multicultural status. Additional support and attention is provided by the SEN and EAL Inclusion Team, in conjunction with classroom teachers throughout the curriculum.

The support given is tailored according to the individual needs of each student and is delivered in a variety of ways. Student progress is monitored carefully throughout their time here and we communicate with parents on a regular basis.

Breda Academy boasts a range of learning support rooms and dedicated SEN and Inclusion staff who specialize in providing support in literacy and numeracy and English as a second language.









# SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students of Breda Academy are expected to dress smartly and in compliance with the school uniform requirements. A school is both a community and a working environment. Smart uniform is one way in which we express our readiness and our determination to promote a positive image for ourselves and our fellow students within and beyond the school.

Wearing a uniform ensures all students feel welcome. It promotes inclusion and relations between different groups of students.

#### Girls

Black Blazer
(Year 8—12)
Burgundy Blazer
(Year 13—14)
White shirt
School tie
Grey school jumper
Grey knee length kick
pleat skirt
Grey school socks or plain
black tights
Plain black shoes

#### **Boys**

Black Blazer
(Year 8—12)
Burgundy Blazer
(Year 13—14)
White shirt
School tie
Grey school jumper
Black trousers
Plain dark socks
Plain black shoes

### PE Kit

The compulsory elements of the PE kit are the branded kukri kit in the school colours with a blue main colour and purple accent colour:



### Girls

Skort and/or black leggings Top Socks



### **Boys**

Shorts Top Socks

Footwear for PE should be trainers with light or non - marking soles and laces must be tied.

### **TRANSPORT**



Both Translink and Metro provide exceptional transport links for Breda Academy. A number of buses will service the areas below:

- Ballybeen (Square)
- Ballybeen (Culross Drive)
- Ballybeen (Rank Road)
- Comber Road (Graham's Bridge)
- East Link Road 0722
- Dundonald Ice Bowl
- King's Road (Sperrin Park)
- Gilnahirk Road (Kingsway Park)
- · Braniel (Farmhurst Green)
- Whincroft Road 0738

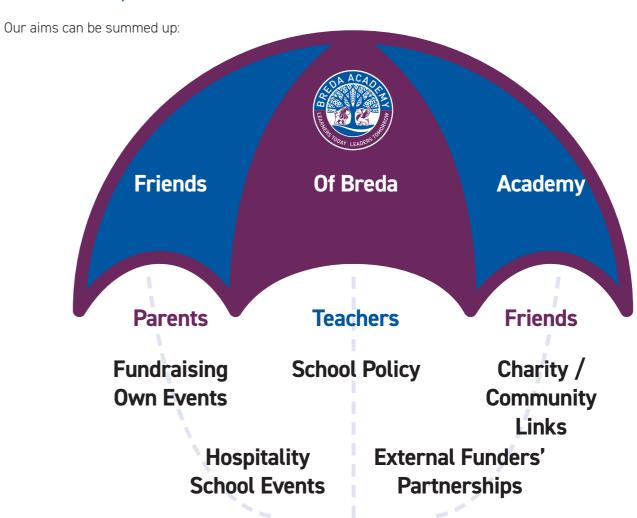
- · Castlereagh Road
- Woodstock Link
- Woodstock Road (Redcar Street)
- Cregagh Road (Bell's Bridge)
- Cregagh Park
- Ladas Drive (Castlereagh Road)
- Mount Merrion Avenue (Bell's Bridge)
- Rosetta (St.John's Church)

A dedicated return link for Finaghy, Taughmonagh and Malone Road is also available each day.



### FRIENDS OF BREDA ACADEMY

**Our Parents, Teachers and Friends Association** 



### **Students**

Academic research tells us that 50% of achievement is influenced by home and not by teachers or the school environment. If we are to give every student the best school experience and outcome then we believe that all the people in their lives need to work together.

It is with this in mind that

"Friends of Breda Academy" was formed.

We recognise that a successful school is built on parents, teachers and friends working together to support the students, the school and the wider community.

We have provided a social focus for parents and raised funds to support internal and external projects. We hope you can join us to continue this work.



## TRANSFER PROCEDURE



#### **CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO YEAR 8**

If the school is oversubscribed the following admissions criteria will be applied:

- 1. Students with older brothers or sisters who are enrolled at Breda Academy in 2020-2021;
- 2. The eldest child or the only child in the family eligible to enter a non-selective school;
- 3. Students transferring from the following feeder Primary Schools to Breda Academy.

Belvoir Park	Donegall Road	Gilnahirk	Orangefield
Botanic	Dundonald	Harding Memorial	Rosetta
Braniel	Elmgrove	Knockbreda	Seymour Hill
Brooklands	Euston Street	Leadhill	Strandtown
Cairnshill	Fane Street	Lisnasharragh	Stranmillis
Carryduff	Finaghy	Loughview	Taughmonagh
Cregagh	Forge Integrated	Nettlefield	

### 4. Other applicants

In the application of the above criteria and where more students meet a single criterion than there are places then preference will be given to those living nearest the school. In the event of applicants living equidistant from the school preference will be given to the oldest applicant.

Only information declared on the Transfer Form will be used when applying the afore-mentioned criteria.

## Waiting List Policy and arrangements in relation to applications for admission to Y8 after the 2021/2022 academic year commences:

The above criteria will be applied, in the first instance, to those applicants who have previously been refused a place in our school during the Transfer procedure up to the first day of the autumn term 2021. New applications for Year 8 will be added to the end of the waiting list of those children not selected during the admissions process. Should a place become available during the school year all applicants will be considered using the above criteria providing his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) have informed the school, in writing, on or after 1st September 2021 that he/she wishes his/her child be placed on a waiting list.

The same criteria will also be applied when considering requests for admission to years 9 to 12.

Principal and Secretary to the Board of Governors: Mr P Perry

Chairperson of Board of Governors: Mr I Gibson

Education Authority Area: Education Authority (South Eastern Region)

School Type: Controlled Secondary Co-Educational 11-18

Breda Academy Newtownbreda Road Belfast BT8 6PY

T: 028 9064 5374 F: 028 9069 2854

www.breda.academy



LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW.

