



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

FOR 2022/23



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PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Parents, carers, pupils.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know our school. It is essential that time and consideration are given to finding the most appropriate school for your son or daughter. Every child has unique needs, characteristics and hopes for the future. The most important consideration should therefore be centred around your child feeling happy and safe at school. Under these conditions, he/she will thrive.


At City of Armagh High School, everything we do is underpinned by our motto “Excellence, Opportunity and Care”. All pupils are supported and encouraged to grasp every opportunity, both academic and extracurricular, and to surpass even the highest expectations. The ambition of the school is that every child achieves their potential and believes that success is for everyone. A great emphasis is placed upon pastoral care at the City of Armagh High School. Every child is unique and by working in close partnership with parents / carers, we seek to ensure that every pupil's school career lays a solid foundation to become active local and global citizens. Pupils are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour and at all times show respect for themselves, others and the world around them.

City of Armagh High School delivers the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3 as well as a broad and balanced range of subjects at Key Stage 4. We provide a pathway for every child who chooses to join us. For some, this will be a more academic route while others may be better suited to a more practical and vocational pathway. Our school is ideally located to enable pupils to benefit from a broad and diverse curriculum through working in partnership with the Southern Regional College where students at Key Stage 4 can avail of courses in occupational studies. Children who join us with a Statement of Special Educational Needs for Moderate Learning Difficulties or a diagnosis of ASD can benefit from a caring and nurturing experience in our learning support centre and autism specific classes. All pupils at City of Armagh High School benefit from innovative, challenging and varied teaching strategies in a safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment where pastoral and academic needs blend together, allowing our young people to thrive.

During the most recent visit by the Education and Training Inspectorate, the team commented very positively on the quality and effectiveness of leadership and management as well as the commitment, hard work and capacity of staff to provide for the educational needs of our pupils. It is pleasing to report that due to the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff, the City of Armagh High School continues to improve in terms of performance indicators.

This prospectus is designed to give you an insight into the highly ambitious, inclusive and supportive community of the City of Armagh High School. I encourage you to take some time to visit our website and explore what we have to offer.

Kind regards,



Karen Mulholland
Principal



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

City of Armagh High School is a nonselective, coeducational post-primary school catering for pupils of all abilities aged 11 - 18. The school is ideally placed to combine a rich culture and tradition within the ever-changing demands of a modern curriculum. In addition to fulfilling all the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, the school undertakes its wider responsibilities in seeking to support every child in their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual development to realise their highest potential as they take their place to play a full and active role in society.

A highly professional and committed staff aim to offer “Excellence, Opportunity and Care” in a wide range of academic, sporting, social and cultural experiences. The friendly atmosphere and character of both pupils and staff in the City of Armagh High School are genuine symbols of the mutual respect and good relationships which are fostered at all levels across the school. The school has a positive approach to discipline through its pastoral programme and each pupil is valued, supported and encouraged to attain his / her full potential. City of Armagh High School works closely with parents, developing positive relationships and engendering a collaborative partnership which aims to benefit the pupils. Parents are invited to attend parents’ meetings annually at which progress, both academic and personal, is discussed. These meetings and other opportunities to involve parents in their children’s education ensure that individual talents are nurtured and maximised

School vision - Excellence, Opportunity and Care

SCHOOL AIMS

- To provide a sense of community and belonging in a caring environment in which everyone is encouraged to contribute positively to the life of the school.
- To enable pupils irrespective of their abilities or social background, to develop their interests and aptitudes enabling them to take responsibility for themselves and their activities.
- To encourage pupils to work to their full potential within an appropriate curriculum that encompasses their academic and vocational needs.
- To encourage the growth of moral, spiritual and cultural awareness based on Christian values, so that pupils become responsible, tolerant citizens.
- To foster and maintain positive relationships with parents recognising the importance of high-quality communication between the school, the home and the community.



VALUES AND PURPOSE

Our core purpose is to provide high-quality learning opportunities in a happy and secure environment, in order to offer ambitious life opportunities for our pupils. Hence, learning is at the heart of everything we do. We recognise that everyone is different, with different learning styles, gifts and talents. We seek to recognise these in our planning of the curriculum, lessons and extra curricular activities. We want our pupils to leave City of Armagh High School with the best possible academic qualifications and a love of learning that will remain with them for life.

We are passionate about ensuring excellent outcomes for our pupils in order to improve their life opportunities. Our School Development Plan' has been drawn up in consultation with all of the immediate school community, including pupils, teachers, support staff and Governors. It contains details of the school's longer term vision and actions for the future.

Action Plans are used as working documents by teachers and Governors to ensure the education provided is of the highest level and offers the best opportunity for all children enrolled at City of Armagh High School.



ADMISSION CRITERIA

Initial Admission Criteria

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form/transfer form.

In the event of over-subscription a sub-committee of the Board of Governors will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to identify those children to be admitted to the school. In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child not so resident.

ADMISSION TO YEAR 8

(either in September 2022 or during the course of the 2022/2023 school year)

1. Brothers and sisters in attendance during the 2021/2022 school year.
2. Brothers and sisters previously in attendance.
3. Children of former pupils.
4. Children for whom City of Armagh High School is the nearest controlled secondary school to the child's normal place of residence.
5. Other Children.

In the event of over-subscription within any of the above criteria the following sub-criteria will be applied to determine which children should be admitted.

(i) Children who have Special Circumstances which, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, merit priority being given to children's admission. (See note 1).

(ii) Those children who reside nearest to the school as determined by distance from home to school 'as the crow flies' (designated as such on appropriate Ordnance Survey Maps).

NOTE 1 : Details of special circumstances must be given on/attached to the Transfer Form. Evidence supporting the special circumstances must be provided by a statutory body.

Links with Primary Schools

The school has always been committed to building warm relationships with its prospective pupils. To help dispel many of the concerns which primary school pupils may have, the school organises an "Activity Day" for P6 pupils giving them the opportunity to visit the school and use the many facilities which are available. The excellent relations the school enjoys with the local primary schools are of valuable assistance in helping children to make the transition from primary to second level education.



LEARNING AND TEACHING

At City of Armagh High School, we strive to allow each individual to reach their full potential. We have high expectations for our students and approach learning in a caring and supportive manner. Students at City of Armagh High School are given the opportunity to reach excellence according to their level of ability. We believe that all children can experience success by understanding how to progress their learning.

We achieve the above by whole-school and home collaboration. Pupil voice plays a significant role in our programme and the Learning and Teaching Team works closely with our school council to ensure pupil opinion is heard and acted upon. It is important to us that the outcomes of this collaboration are visible to our pupils.

Teacher professional learning is a continual process and we work closely to implement teaching principles across the school, using reflection and evaluation to ensure high quality learning and teaching.



THE SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at 8:45am sharp with Form Class and school ends at 3:15pm.

Pupils attend whole school Assemblies on Tuesday and Thursday.

The school uses a 50 period timetable for pupils with each period consisting of 30 minutes.

Period No.	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
	Reg	Assembly	Reg	Assembly	Reg
1	Science	Maths	Geography	History	English
2	History	Maths	Geography	History	Technology
3	English	PE	IT	French	Technology
Break					
4	Art	PE	IT	French	Art
5	Art	Edycation Em.	French	Science	Maths
6	Maths	Education Em.	PE	English	Maths
7	Maths	Science	PE	English	English
Lunch					
8	Home Econ.	Science	Geography	Library	English
9	Home Edon.	Science	Technology	RE	Music
10	Home Econ.	Personal Dev.	Maths	RE	Music

School Year

The proposed dates for the academic year of 2022/23 are:

Term 1

31 August - 22 December (Half term 31 October to the 5 November)

Term 2

4 January - 31 March (Half term 13-15 February)

Term 3

12 April - 30 June



“I love City of Armagh High School and I’m very glad that I made the choice to come here. The teachers are very helpful and through Microsoft Teams, I am able to contact them outside of class when I’m not sure of something which is a great help. I’ve made lots of friends too and look forward to the years ahead at the school.”

THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

Year 11 and 12 pupils have the option of studying Occupational Studies one day per week at the Southern Regional College in Armagh. This is equivalent to two GCSE's and is an excellent way to get some hands on work-experience whilst progressing through your studies. Below are just some of the areas that you can study.

Design and Creativity

- Styling hair by blow drying
- Styling and dressing hair
- Creating up styles on long hair
- Application of make up
- Provide a nail art service
- Food preparation and cooking

Technology and Innovation

- Digital Imaging
- Building a website
- Carpentry and Joinery 1
- Carpentry and Joinery 2

Construction (Industry)

- Plumbing 1 and 2
- Wall Tiling
- Brickwork 1 and 2
- Carpentry 1 and 2

Business and Services

- Shampooing and conditioning hair
- Facial skin care
- Manicure

Environment and Society

- Estate Maintenance
- Growing Plants
- Propagation

Engineering Services

- Electrical wiring practices
- Manufacturing techniques (sheet metal work)
- Basic vehicle maintenance
- Plumbing 1 and 2
- Electric circuit construction



"I attend the Southern Regional College, here in Armagh as part of my GCSE course. We are lucky to have the SRC so close to City of Armagh High School because we can use the industry leading construction and engineering workshop and my friends can use the catering kitchens as well as the latest in hair and beauty salons."

UNIFORM

At City of Armagh High School we understand the importance that a pupil wearing a school uniform well is an indicator of their readiness to learn and respect for themselves and the school. It is expected that any pupil who chooses to attend City of Armagh High school will follow the dress code in its entirety. There can be no exception to this.



Girl's Uniform Regulations

- High School Blazer
- Plain black leather shoes: no heels (non-mark soles)
- High School grey skirt
- High School Tie
- White blouse (cotton/polyester)
- White knee length socks/ black or navy tights
- School V-neck jumper
- Plain navy or black coat, no motifs or slogans

Boy's Uniform Regulations

- High School Blazer
- Plain black leather shoes: (non-mark soles)
- Black trousers
- High School Tie
- White shirt (cotton/polyester)
- Black or dark socks
- School V-neck jumper
- Plain navy or black coat, no motifs or slogans

Girl's P.E. Uniform

- Maroon & black sports top with crest
- Black skirt with crest
- Black sports leggings (optional)
- Black thermal long sleeved top (optional)
- School Hoodie
- Black sports socks
- Trainers
- Towel

Boy's P.E. Uniform

- Maroon & black sports top with crest
- Black shorts with crest
- Black thermal long sleeved top (optional)
- School hoodie
- Black sports socks
- Trainers and football boots
- Towel



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is at the centre of our school's ethos as we seek to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment in which all pupils are afforded the opportunity to attain their personal and academic potential. City of Armagh High School adopts a positive approach to discipline, expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people.

To this end, the house points reward system has been devised. The school believes that each individual deserves to be rewarded for their positive attitude and behaviour whilst in school. This standard is expected from all pupils at all times, both inside the school as well as on their way to and from the school.

The cooperation of parents is sought in relation to maintaining high standards of behaviour.

Form Teacher

Each pupil has a form teacher who takes a close interest in their pupils and responds promptly to all queries raised by pupils or parents. Form classes meet with their form tutor each morning for registration. This provides an opportunity to celebrate achievements and to progress any concerns.

Head of Year

Each year group has a Head of Year who is responsible for the general welfare, guidance, discipline and pastoral support of each pupil in their year. The Head of Year will make time to meet with pupils and parents. We believe that regular, positive communication between pupil, parents and staff is key to successful learning and pupil outcomes.

Safeguarding

Child Protection and safeguarding forms an integral part of our pastoral care system. The Child Protection Policy outlines practices to ensure that all pupils and staff feel safe and secure. Our Child Protection Policy is revised annually and can be found on our school website.

Support and Guidance

We offer a wide range of support for our pupils. Pupils will take part in the Personal development programme which will help them develop important lifelong skills. The pupils Student council is an excellent forum in which pupils can voice their opinions, raise concerns and play an important role in the work and practices of the school. The pastoral guidance given by Form Tutors, Heads of Year and the Pastoral Team is supported by the School Counsellor. The Counsellor works in the school one day a week. Our school is committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality, inclusion and diversity in all of its practices and activities.



HEALTHY AND ACTIVE

All pupils are timetabled for Physical Education. In addition, seasonal weekly practices are held in soccer, hockey, netball, athletics, cross country and badminton.

Pupils have the opportunity to put themselves forward for selection to a number of school teams. The school competes in hockey leagues, netball leagues, soccer leagues and in a number of friendly rugby fixtures.



The School offers a wide range of sporting activities, both as part of the curriculum and in the extra-curricular activities' programme. We recognise the valuable contribution which sport can play in helping to develop children physically, intellectually and socially.

These aspirations are embodied in our sporting aims:

1. To assist in the Physical, Social, and Emotional development of the pupils, thereby enabling them to become valuable and contributory members of society.
2. To enable children to value the need for physical activity, fitness and hygiene as an aid to healthy living. The importance of physical fitness for general health and well-being will be stressed throughout the PE programme. The methods used in pursuit of this aim will vary according to the age and level of fitness of the pupils.
3. To give all pupils an opportunity to have a working knowledge of as wide a variety of activities as possible.
4. To teach the appropriate skills and strategies associated with these so that pupils can develop and appreciate their capabilities to the full.
5. To allow them to continue to develop their skills and interests through after school activities, namely team games, athletic events, outdoor pursuits and trips.
6. To introduce them to activities which may be of value when they leave school. e.g. Badminton, Golf, Dance.
7. To help to maintain their interest and enjoyment in physical and recreational activity.



CAREERS EDUCATION

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is a fundamental part of ensuring that our provision is appropriate to each pupils' individual needs. Careers Education starts as soon as pupils enter school and is a prominent feature throughout. Pupils are encouraged to aspire and to have ambition for their future. Careers and senior staff work closely with pupils and their parents at key transition points to ensure subject choices are realistic and meet their needs.

The Careers Officer from the Department of the Economy visits the school on a regular basis to discuss Post 16 courses and career opportunities with individual pupils in Year 12.

In year 12 pupils have the opportunity to go on a week's work experience placement. All year 12 pupils also participate in an Interview Skills Day. This event gives pupils the opportunity to prepare for and attend a mock interview which is conducted by individuals from local business and the educational community.



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Our SEN department liaise closely with feeder primary schools to make provision for pupils with SEN who are transferring from Key Stage 2.

Those pupils identified as have a Special Educational Need will benefit from Individual Education Plans drawn up according to their statement of need. Staff use a variety of teaching methods and strategies which encourage active, creative and independent learning.



LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

The Learning Support Centre/ Autism Specific Centre meets the needs of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs for Moderate Learning Difficulties or a diagnosis of ASD with access to the Northern Ireland Curriculum at a level suited to each pupil's age, ability and aptitude.

The Centres are currently staffed by 5 teachers and twelve classroom assistants.

A warm, supportive, hard-working atmosphere has been established in the Centres, facilitating increased pupil confidence. Pupils are provided with suitable opportunities to integrate with the mainstream school in classes appropriate to their ability levels. All pupils have access to classroom assistants.

In Years 11, 12 and 13 all pupils have the opportunity to undertake accredited external exams, including link courses in the Armagh Campus of Southern Regional College.

We work in partnership with parents to enable pupils to achieve their full potential. We are proud of our reputation in the greater Armagh area and enjoy the continued support of parents who know they can approach staff with any matters of concern.

LSC/ASC Qualifications

All KS4 pupils are entered for externally accredited courses and qualifications and are provided with advice and guidance concerning career pathways.

Exam Board	Examinations at KS4 and Year 13
Ascentis and OCN	Mathematic Skills
Ascentis and OCN	English Skills
CCEA	Entry Level Science
Prince's Trust	Personal Development & Employability
CCEA	Occupational Studies that take place in school as well as at the local Southern Regional College
OCN	Applied Science



EXTRA CURRICULAR

At City of Armagh High School we believe in the development of the whole child and we provide for this in the extra-curricular provisions that we offer. We encourage all pupils to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity. Such involvement helps them to make new friends and build good relationships between staff and pupils.

Extra curricular activities include:

- Athletics
- Cookery Club
- Cross-Country
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Football
- Hockey
- International Club
- Junk Kouture
- Lego (coding) Club
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Rugby
- School Council
- School Choir
- Scripture Union



LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE

The library is a whole-school resource centre which supports the curriculum demands and leisure needs of the school community.

The library is an extension of the classroom. It is the natural place for pupils to go when set a task which requires independent learning strategies and for staff to visit when they need resources to enhance their class teaching. The purpose of a School Library is to support the educational work of the school.

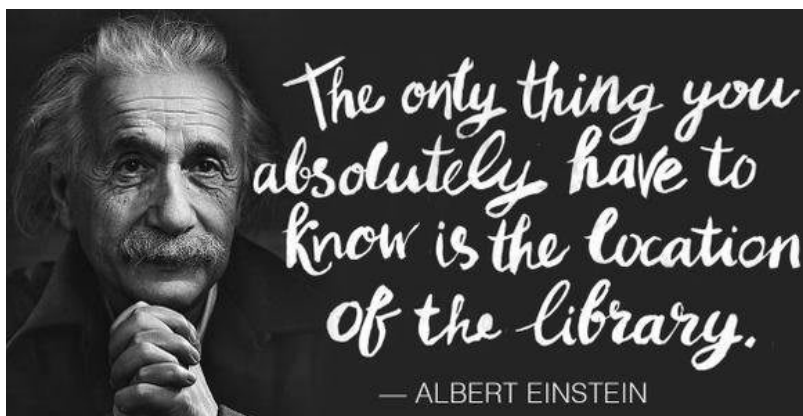
We achieve this in two ways: by providing pupils with the means of finding whatever information they need; and by encouraging them in the habit of reading for pleasure.

A warm, friendly welcome awaits everyone wishing to avail of the many facilities available.

These include:

- A fully automated Library Catalogue of more than 10,000 resources
- Books and information to support learning across the curriculum, including an ever increasing number of subject specific study/revision guides
- A large fiction collection to suit all levels and interests

As well as weekly timetabled classes the library is open everyday during lunch times providing a quiet space in which pupils may read, study or do research.



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Each pupil belongs to a house for competitions within the school. The house names come from local history and are explained as follows:

BLUE	MACHA	Queen who gave Armagh its name.
GREEN	CONOR	King of Ulster associated with the Knights of the Red Branch at Navan.
YELLOW	DAIRE	The Local Ruler who gave Patrick the land for his first Church (in Scotch Street) and later allowed him to build on the top of the hill at Market Street, where the Cathedral is now situated.
RED	NIALL	A king of Ulster, famous for fighting the Vikings and was killed by drowning in the Callan River whilst fighting the Vikings near Milford.

GCSE RESULTS (2021)

Performance Indicator	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
GCSE	School	NI Average	School	NI Average	School	NI Average
Whole School 5A*- C	61%	79.7%	73.5%	76.5%	77.3%	N/A
Whole School 5A*-G	85%	97.7%	85.7%	97.2%	94.7%	N/A



LEAVERS INFORMATION

City of Armagh High School is very proud of the achievements of our past pupils and the 'Class of 2021' show that many are on course to add to these accomplishments. Of our leavers, over 89% have decided to proceed to Further Education which reflects the love of lifelong learning instilled into the pupils by the staff.

The annual attendance rate for academic year ending June 2021 was 90.7%.





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OF GOVERNORS
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WWW.CITYOFARMAGH.ORG**

FIND US ONLINE



**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
SCHOOL INCLUDING ALL OUR
POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND THE
MOST RECENT ANNUAL REPORT CAN
BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE.**

**ALL INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT
THE TIME OF PUBLISHING.**