

#Why us?

City of Armagh High School



At City of Armagh High School we strive to provide a happy, caring and inclusive environment for everyone. With quality teaching, each child will have the opportunity to reach their full potential, both academically and socially.



City of Armagh High School is very proud to have been awarded a Certificate of Excellence from Pearson Teaching Awards. Many thanks to the Education Minister, Mr Paul Givan MLA for presenting us with the award on his visit in June 2024.

Excellence-Opportunity-Care

Principal's WELCOME

Welcome to City of Armagh High School and thank you for taking the time to get to know our school.

Our school motto **“Excellence, Opportunity and Care”** underpins everything we do. All pupils are supported and encouraged to grasp every opportunity, both academic and extracurricular, and to surpass even the highest expectations.

A great emphasis is placed upon pastoral care where every child is unique and valued. City of Armagh High School is a community where staff, pupils, parents and governors work together to enable each child to reach their potential.

Our school is a growing, all-ability school and 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 supportive and stimulating learning environment where pastoral and academic needs blend together, allowing our young people to thrive.

Please feel free to contact me at school to discuss any issues relating to your child's transfer to post-primary education.

K. Mulholland.

K Mulholland
PRINCIPAL



About us. . WHO ARE WE?

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.



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.

Our CURRICULUM

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.

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.

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.

At Key Stage 3 we provide a broad curriculum to allow our pupils to discover their strengths. We also provide an extensive careers programme in Year 10 to allow pupils to make informed decisions about their GCSE subject selection.



Key Stage 3 - Years 8-10

All students study the following subjects:

Art and Design

Local and Global Citizenship

Drama

Employability

English

French

Geography

History

Home Economics

ICT

Mathematics

Music

Personal Development

Physical Education

Religious Studies

Science

Technology and Design



Our PATHWAY SYSTEM

At City of Armagh High School we provide tailored KS4 pathways offering a range of GCSE, OCN and BTEC courses. Our pathway system offers pupils the opportunity to make choices best suited to their academic strengths and career aspirations.

Key Stage 4 - Years 11-12

Pupils have the opportunity to study the following subjects:

Art and Design
Business Studies
Careers
Child Development
English
ESOL
Employability Skills
Food and Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Home Economics
ICT
Learning for Life and Work
Mathematics
Motor Vehicles & Road User Studies
Music
Personal Success & Wellbeing
Prince's Trust
Physical Education
Religious Studies
Science
Technology and Design



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 GCSEs and is an excellent way to get some hands-on work experience whilst progressing throughout their studies. Below are just some of the areas that you can study:



Business and Services

- Creative styling using blow drying techniques
- Shampoo and conditioning treatments
- Manicure and nail art
- Facial skincare
- Contemporary cuisine
- Patisserie and baking
- Childcare: the play environment
- The physical care of babies
- Vehicle servicing and valeting

Technology and Innovation

- Digital Imaging
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Manufacturing techniques: sheet metal
- TV and film production
- CAD
- Bench joinery

Engineering Services

- Maintenance of land based machinery
- Manufacturing techniques: sheet metal
- Vehicle servicing and valeting operations
- CAD

Design and Creativity

- Graphic design
- Total beauty
- Creative styling using blow drying techniques
- Creative styling on long hair
- Patisserie and baking
- Contemporary cuisine
- Website development

Environment and Society

- Working in the care environment
- Reminiscence with individuals in a care environment
- Sports leadership
- Running a leisure event

Construction (Industry)

- Bench joinery
- Carpentry and joinery



Exam SUCCESS

We are delighted to celebrate a fantastic set of results for our 2023/24 GCSE pupils, with a fantastic 77% of pupils achieving 5A*- C GCSEs or equivalent for those completing 5 or more GCSEs.

Our pathway system that has been developed is a huge contributing factor to our pupils' success as it supports each pupil's individual strengths and interests.

Our ongoing partnership with the Southern Regional College has provided pupils with the opportunity to undertake Occupational Studies in a range of vocational areas, with over 86% of pupils achieving A*-C grades in their chosen field.

City of Armagh High School is a school where

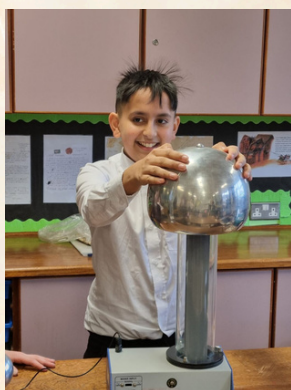
every child can achieve

as the school's results continue to go from strength to strength.



Extra CURRICULAR

At City of Armagh High School we believe in the development of the whole child. 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
Art Club
Cookery Club
Cross-Country
Duke of Edinburgh Award
Football
Guitar lessons
GCSE English & Maths Support
Gym
Hockey
History Club
Headspace
Badminton
CAD
Chess
Netball
Orienteering
Rugby
Board Games Club
School Choir
STEM Club
Scripture Union
Wargames Club



Keep up to date with
our extra curricular
activities on school
social media.



Healthy AND ACTIVE

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

City of Armagh High School was delighted to celebrate many individual and team sporting achievements last year. As well as hockey and football teams performing well, other significant achievements were on track and field, with many athletes performing well in the Ulster Cross-Country and Athletic Championships.

We are pleased that our school gym is now fully functioning and in use both during PE and after school. Fully equipped with both cardio and strength and conditioning equipment, it has allowed our students to set and work towards achieving their fitness goals.



Head GIRL

Hello, my name is Qudssiyya Mukhtar, and I am the Head Girl at City of Armagh High School.

For my GCSEs, this year I am studying mathematics, English, double award science, geography, history, child development, food and nutrition and religious education.



I especially love science, and I am hoping to pursue it in the future. My next step forward is to take my A levels in 6th form and apply for medicine at university.

Throughout the wonderful three years I have spent at City of Armagh High school, I have only received a welcoming and encouraging environment (even in the littlest of things) from the teachers and staff. I have been able to explore different clubs and extracurriculars such as football, hockey, and netball. This has made me discover clubs that I am now interested in. Currently, I am a part of the school's netball team, the School Council, and the school's Culture Welfare Association. This has also led me to joining the Aztecs Volleyball club.

What were my favourite highlights? Well, a memorable moment would be the two 'Global Bites' events organized by me and other students, for the neighbouring schools', parents, and the Minister of Education (thrilling I know!)

As well as the several school trips to Queens University Belfast for science programs. And let us not forget the amazing time I spent studying with friends and teachers during my exams.

A good piece of advice I would like to give to the new year 8s, as well as every other student, is that do not be afraid of who you are and be able to step out of your comfort zone.... answer that question, join that sport. I did it. I am sure you can too.

Qudssiyya

Head BOY

My name is Jake McCauley and I'm Head Boy at City of Armagh High School. This year I am studying single award science, maths, English, technology design, motor vehicles and occupational studies.



After school I'm looking to go to SRC and do a course on plumbing and when I'm 21 I'm aiming to get my lorry licence and drive lorries.

In my 5 years here I've enjoyed the school and meeting new friends. I've also enjoyed the after-school revision classes. Some of my favourite highlights at the school are going to Balmoral Show and Emerald Park and our formal.

The advice I would give to future year 8s is to have fun, put your head down and work hard to get the grades you want.

Jake

WHY CHOOSE CITY OF ARMAGH HIGH SCHOOL?

I love to be creative in art
and I love history.
Ruby Year 9

The staff and students are kind and
helpful. Trust me, you will
love it here!

Amanda Year 9

I love the House System. You get
house points and lots of prizes - it's
awesome.

Chloe Year 8

All of the sports are
really good fun.
Seth Year 8

The school is great. The after
schools clubs are so much fun
and you meet lots of new people.

Lottie Year 8



What our year 8 pupils say . . .

Hi, my name is Ellie-Mae Bruce and I used to attend Killylea Primary School.

I decided to come to City of Armagh High school because my brother and sister both came here and they both did great at school.

One of my favourite subjects is PE because I love all the different sports we get to do, like hockey, football, netball and badminton.

Some advice for people coming next year don't be afraid to make new friends and don't be afraid to try new things.



Hi, my name is Sofie Hawthorne and I attended the Armstrong Primary School.

I love that in high school you have more freedom than in primary school and if you ever need help either a teacher or pupil will always be there to help.

My favourite subjects are art and science because both classes are good fun and quite chilled!

My advice to pupils who would like to come here next year would be not to be scared to ask about anything. The school might seem quite big at first but after a while you'll get to know the place very well.

Excellence - Opportunity - Care

What our year 8 pupils say . . .

My name is Stoyan Draganov and I used to go to the Armstrong Primary School.

I wanted to come to City of Armagh High School because a lot of my friends were going there and I had heard great things about it.

My favourite subjects so far are PE and science. I love lunchtime too because it's 45 minutes and I get to play lots of football. I enjoy the canteen food too!

My advice for P7s is to choose this school. You will make lots of friends and happy memories.



Hi, my name is Aaliyah Morton and I went to Lisnadill Primary School.

I enjoy the classes here at City of Armagh High School. The teachers are warm and welcoming. There are lots of after school activities too. My favourite subject would have to be art, I have always loved to draw and be creative!

For all the new year 8s, here is a piece of advice; do your best in everything you do and you will succeed!



Excellence - Opportunity - Care

What our year 8 pupils say . . .

Hi my name is Grace Carroll and I attended The Cope Primary School. I wanted to come to City of Armagh High School because my Dad went there.

There are lots of after school clubs that I enjoy. I go to badminton on a Monday and I also go to choir on a Monday lunchtime. Monday is a busy day for me!

I have some advice for p7s who want to come here next year; enjoy it, take time to make friends and don't be shy. The teachers are helpful and will help you settle in so just ask them if you need anything.



LIST SOME OF THE THINGS YOU LOOK FORWARD TO IN SECONDARY SCHOOL...



Excellence - Opportunity - Care

We celebrate **DIVERSITY**

This year we celebrated the rich diversity of our school by hosting "Global Bites". This was a cultural coffee morning organised by our school community where pupils prepared traditional food from their home countries and principals from local schools were invited to come and sample these foods and celebrate with us. We had delicious food from Latvia, Poland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Nigeria, Bulgaria and Bangladesh. Our pupils really enjoyed showcasing their home foods and took pride in having the event come together.



Every child matters.

Excellence - Opportunity - Care

Pastoral CARE

Pastoral Care is at the centre of our school's ethos as we seek to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment for all our pupils. Positive relationships in the school are built on trust, kindness, safety and security and are important for the wellbeing of our pupils and also link to a better educational performance. 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 through the introduction of restorative practice.

Positive Reward House System

In City of Armagh High School great emphasis is placed on promoting positive behaviour. We encourage our pupils to develop good habits and to build a positive attitude towards learning. Each pupil belongs to a house and can earn house points for their house. Our pupils are regularly rewarded for their hard work and good behaviour.

We run a weekly reward system where the top ten pupils in each year group are given a small token to say 'well done, keep up the great work' and a text is sent home to the parents. Each month the top 2 pupils in each form group are rewarded with a prize and a certificate. This year our Pupils of the Month were treated with a milkshake to say well done for all their efforts.



I love the reward system in this school because it motivates me to do my best. I think it makes us feel good and confident when we do well and try our best.

Tia Year 12



Empowerment CURRICULUM

When joining City of Armagh High School, your child begins a pastoral journey which is carefully planned across five years to ensure provisions are adequate, relevant, age appropriate and always child centred.

At City of Armagh High School, we completely understand the importance of pupils' emotional well-being, especially in the current climate and ever-growing external pressures. We seek to equip our pupils with skills, coping mechanisms and the ability to manage their emotional and mental well-being in a positive manner, even when the challenges of life are all too apparent. The 'Empowering Our Pupils Curriculum' we have in place assists pupils to develop holistically, and we hope that such provisions will equip them with the skills and ability to make well thought-out and informed decisions throughout life. As parents ourselves, we all want our children to be happy, successful, and safe.



For more
information:



The school has been so helpful with mental health support, I have had struggles and have been thankful for their support.

Wiktorja Year 12

The school has been so welcoming towards different cultures. They organise events to expose us to a range of cultures -it has made it easy to adapt and fit in.

Qudssiyya Year 12

Student Voice and Support

Two pupils from each form group sit on the student council. It is an excellent forum where 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 teachers, 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.

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 and/or a diagnosis of ASD. Access to the Northern Ireland Curriculum is at a level suited to each pupil's age, ability and aptitude.

The classes are currently staffed by six teachers and eleven classroom assistants. A warm, supportive and hard-working atmosphere has been established in the setting, 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/guardians 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	Subject
Ascentis and OCN	English/Mathematic skills
CCEA	Entry level science/single award science.
OCN	Creative arts & digital technologies. Vocational studies in construction.
Prince's Trust	Personal Development & Employability.
CCEA	Occupational studies (SRC)



Our UNIFORM

At City of Armagh High School we believe it is important for our pupils to present themselves well and to take pride in wearing our uniform. Wearing our uniform communicates a respect towards our school and demonstrates a willingness to learn. We ask our parents to ensure the full uniform is purchased in advance of the school term.



Girls' Uniform Regulations

- High School blazer
- Plain black leather shoes or trainers.
- High School grey skirt
- High School tie
- White blouse (cotton/polyester)
- White knee length socks/ black or navy tights
- School hoodie/v-neck jumper
- Plain navy or black coat, no motifs or slogans

Boys' Uniform Regulations

- High School blazer
- Plain black leather shoes or trainers.
- Black trousers
- High School tie
- White shirt (cotton/polyester)
- Black or dark socks
- School hoodie/v-neck jumper
- Plain navy or black coat, no motifs or slogans



P.E. Uniform

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

All our uniform is available from Lila's, Dessies and R A Paynter's in Armagh. Please ensure all uniform is labelled clearly with pupil's name.

Grants are available to help with uniform costs, please scan this QR code for additional information.



Vote of CONFIDENCE

City of Armagh High School is our closest controlled post-primary school and as parents, we both attended. The decision to apply here was never in question. The staff go above and beyond, ensuring that all pupils work to their potential. They are supportive, encouraging and really promote an environment wherein the pupils in their care, develop as fully rounded individuals.

The school motto of 'Excellence, Opportunity and Care,' is at the heart of what they do, and this was on show at the recent Prize Day celebrations, which gives parents an insight into this special and unique school. The children were smiling and cheering each other on, the staff were immensely proud, and all achievements were recognised - academic, vocational, sports, SEN, newcomers, special recognition - proud to be a parent & governor, and delighted that the school is in a huge period of growth.

Well done to all the staff and pupils!

Leana Bruce



I
City of Armagh
High School



Admission CRITERIA



City of Armagh High School

Alexander Road
Armagh
BT61 7JH

Chair of Board
of Governors
Mr W. Scott

Principal
Mrs Karen Mulholland
PQH, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Vice - Principal
Mr Kyle Rendall
PQH, BA (Hons), PGCE

Telephone
028 3752 2278

Website
www.cityofarmagh.org

Find us online



Excellence - Opportunity - Care

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.