

CITY OF ARMAGH HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

FOR 2020/21



Welcome from the Principal

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.



City of Armagh High School underpins all we do 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. Our child centred philosophy puts every child achieving their potential as the ambition for the school, but most importantly strives to enable every child to believe 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 close partnership working with parents / carers we seek to ensure that every pupil’s school career lays a solid foundation for all 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. Our school is ideally located to enable pupils to benefit from a broad and diverse curriculum through partnership working with Southern Regional College whereby students at Key Stage 4 can avail of courses in Occupational Studies.

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 that 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. It is important to note that words and pictures convey only a limited amount therefore I encourage you to take the time to visit the school to see firsthand what we have to offer.

We look forward to meeting you and your son / daughter.

Colin Douglas
Principal



Aims

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 recognize 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 3 year 'School Development Plan' covering 2017-2020 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.



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 2020 or during the course of the 2020/2021 school year)

1. Brothers and sisters in attendance during the 2019/2020 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.

The Curriculum



All pupils follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum. All pupils in Year 8 to 10 follow structured courses in Education for Employability, Local and Global Citizenship and Personal Development.

A Careers Education Information and Guidance programme (CEIAG) is introduced in Year 10 when pupils and parents are provided with appropriate information to make choices of courses for study at Key Stage 4 and life beyond school.



Year 8 pupils take part in a science experiment.

Subjects Delivered

KS3	SUBJECT	KS4
✓	ENGLISH	✓
✓	MATHEMATICS	✓
✓	SCIENCE	
	DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE	✓
	SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE	✓
✓	TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN	✓
✓	HISTORY	✓
✓	GEOGRAPHY	✓
	BUSINESS STUDIES	✓
	MOTOR VEHICLE STUDIES	✓
✓	HOME ECONOMICS (FOOD)	✓
	HOME ECONOMICS (CHILD DEV)	✓
✓	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	✓
✓	ART AND DESIGN	✓
✓	MUSIC	✓
✓	DRAMA	
✓	FRENCH	✓
✓	RELIGIOUS STUDIES	✓
✓	ICT	✓
	PRINCE'S TRUST	✓
	LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK	✓
✓	LOCAL AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP	
✓	PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	
✓	CEIAG (CAREERS)	✓
	OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES AT SRC	✓

The School Day

Registration 8:45 –9:00 a.m.

Assembly 9:00 –9:10 a.m.

Period 1 9:10 –9:45 a.m.

Period 2 9:45 –10:15 a.m.

Period 3 10:15 –10:45 a.m.

Break 10:45 –11:00 a.m.

Period 4 11:00 –11:30 a.m.

Period 5 11:30 –12:00 p.m.

Period 6 12:00 –12:30 p.m.

Period 7 12:30 –1:00 p.m.

Lunch 1:00 –1:40 p.m.

Period 8 1:40 –2:15 p.m.

Period 9 2:15 –2:45 p.m.

Period 10 2:45 –3:15 p.m.



Pupil Georgina Morrison winning several prizes at the Annual NICDA Prize Giving event.

GCSE Summary



GCSE prize winners receiving their awards from Principal Mr Douglas at the school's annual Prize Night in recognition of the pupils outstanding efforts.



Principal Mr Douglas with past pupil Sam Kerr during the school's Prize Night. Sam won a host of awards including the GCSE Attainment Cup.

Performance Indicator	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	School	NI Average	School	NI Average	School	NI Average
5A* - C	44%	77%	56%	77%	61%	TBC

School Leavers Destinations

City of Armagh High School is very proud of the achievements of our past pupils and the 'Class of 2019' show that many are on course to add to these accomplishments. Of our leavers, over 80% 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 2019 was 88.2%.



Pictured here are a few of our 'Class of 2019' pupils receiving their GCSE grades in August.

Learning Support and Autism Specific Centre



ASC/LSC pupils taking part in a Community Project for Prince's Trust coursework

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 full time 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
Pearson	Essential Skills Literacy
Pearson	Essential Skills Numeracy
Pearson	Essential Skills Communication
Pearson	Essential Skills Application of Number
CCEA	Single Award Science
Prince's Trust	Personal Development & Employability
CCEA	Occupational Studies that take place in school as well as at the local Southern Regional College



Pupils who require additional support or adjustment regarding physical, medical, social, emotional or behavioural based difficulties will be supported appropriately in school and with input from relevant outside agencies as necessary and in line with SENDO legislation.

Similarly, pupils with literacy and / or numeracy difficulties will access assistance based on regular diagnostic assessments carried out during Key Stage 3 to allow for individualised education programmes to be implemented and adjusted as required.

“The pupils make good progress, in line with their abilities considering the barriers they face in their learning. They work well alongside their peers in class and are involved fully in the life of the school.” ETI 2012

Pupils with a formal “Statement of Special Educational Needs” provided by the EA are catered for as per the advice contained in the pupil’s statement. The school maintains a register of pupils who require additional assistance and “Individual Education Plans” are developed and maintained as appropriate. Parents are consulted throughout the process and have the opportunity to meet the school SENCO annually to review progress and set targets.

Pupils continue to be supported at Key Stage 4 and at GCSE examination level with appropriate assistance to ensure examination coursework tasks, revision programmes and general preparation is in place. Access arrangements will be made for pupils who meet the criteria established by the examination boards.

Through a partnership of teachers, classroom assistants, outside agencies and parents we work to ensure that each child is afforded the opportunity to reach their full potential and enhance their self esteem and ultimately take their place in society.

Good Behaviour and Discipline

Form teachers and year heads monitor attendance in conjunction with the designated EA Educational Welfare Officer and identify pupils whose attendance is a cause for concern.

City of Armagh High School is committed to positive discipline and the promotion of a supportive and caring environment. Pupils and parents are made aware of the school’s Code of Conduct and Responsibilities which is published in the pupils’ diary. The Year Heads play a prominent and important role in liaising with parents regarding pupil behaviour and the school’s report system alerts parents of problems at an early stage.

The school’s pupil reward programme is designed to promote positive discipline and is used to endorse positive behaviour and award or validate achievement and is designed to be fully inclusive.

Healthy & Active

All pupils are timetabled for Physical Education. In addition, seasonal weekly practices are held in soccer (boys and girls), hockey (boys and girls) 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 boys' and girls' hockey leagues, netball leagues, soccer leagues and in a number of friendly rugby fixtures.

Our Values

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.



Sports Teams



Boys Hockey U12 Mid Ulster Schools
 U13 Mid Ulster Schools
 U14 Mid Ulster Schools
 U16 Taylor Cup

 Soccer U13 Mid Ulster League
 U15 Mid Ulster League/Cup

 Rugby Junior
 Senior



Girls Hockey U13 Mid Ulster Schools
 U14 Mid Ulster Schools
 U14 High Schools Cup
 U15 Mid Ulster Schools
 U16 Mid Ulster Schools
 U16 High Schools Cup

 Netball Minors – ANC League
 Junior – ANC League
 Year 8 Team – Tournament



Both Athletics District Championships
 Ulster Championships
 Provincial Championships

 Cross Country District Championships
 Ulster Championship

 Orienteering Apple Blossom Festival

 Golf D. Clarke Schools League

 Rugby Practice



Guidance & Support



The School aims to develop in pupils:

- a sense of self discipline.
- an acceptance of responsibility for their own actions.
- respect for, and understanding of, the views of others.

To foster the above, the school has:

- a Positive Behaviour Policy for the promotion of good order and discipline.
- a Pastoral System offering support, guidance and counselling.

The school also offers:

- a Personal Development Programme.
- Progress File which includes setting of personal goals and recognising pupil achievement.
- trained counsellors who can be seen by appointment each week.

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 merit award scheme 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 co-operation of parents is sought in relation to maintaining high standards of behaviour with regard to pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, the wearing of full school uniform, the proper equipment for learning including school bag, pens, pencils, PE kit and the supervision of homework.



Mainstream Educational Support

The school's vision of "Excellence, Opportunity and Care" is encapsulated in the support and guidance provided to all of our pupils who have a statement of special educational needs or who require some additional support through our "Code of Practice".

We are committed to providing quality education for all of our pupils. We seek to offer appropriate, stimulating and enriching opportunities to challenge all children, some of whom will be less able than others and may have additional learning needs or disabilities. We are committed to the principles of equal opportunity and inclusive practice.

Working together with parents and pupils, all staff and Governors will:

- provide access to a balanced and broadly based curriculum.
- set suitable learning challenges for pupils.
- encourage pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs to engage in school activities, together with all pupils.
- help pupils to overcome any potential barriers to assessment, learning or wider school activities.
- respond to the diverse learning needs of pupils.

The individual support offered by qualified classroom assistants and general assistants ensures that, with collaboration and partnership from parents, we afford such pupils the opportunity to improve basic skills and to succeed in and attain external examination accreditation.

The Learning Support Centre plays a central role in the academic and pastoral life of the school and we liaise closely with external agencies, educational psychologists and the EA to ensure pupils' needs are met.

Review meetings with parents are arranged annually (excluding ASC/LSC pupils who have their meetings with ASC/LSC staff) and parents information evenings are organised.

All of the above is managed by the school's SENCO.



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.

WE LOSE OURSELVES
IN BOOKS. WE FIND
OURSELVES THERE,
TOO.

Extra Curricular



Scripture Union

Scripture Union meets weekly on Wednesday at lunch-time.

A variety of activities – quizzes, games, treasure trails and speakers such as Open Doors, SHINE outreach, Scripture Union, Crown Jesus Ministries and local church groups are planned each week. End of term parties, outings and summer trips are arranged for SU members.

Philippians Ch: 4 v: 13 – I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

The Games Room

The games room is equipped with a PlayStation, pool table, table tennis table and seating for up to 30 pupils.

The games room is a place to relax and re-charge before going back to class.



Cookery Club

The cookery club develops pupil's culinary skills from Year 8-10. A range of tasty savoury and sweet dishes are prepared, which can be brought home for your family to enjoy.



International Club

The International Club is a club which strives to promote student awareness and appreciation of the diverse cultures and heritages in our school community.

Pupils of all cultures are welcomed and enjoy taking part in fun games and activities. Pupils who attend also enjoy the refreshments provided.



The School Choir

The School Choir has members from Years 8 – 12. It meets on Monday and Tuesday at lunchtime. The Choir enters competitions, performs at school events and participates in Carol Singing around Armagh at Christmas. Every year they help the Southern Area Hospice to raise money by Carol Singing in Tesco and Rushmere. The School choir also provides support during school productions.

Lego Club

At Thursday lunchtime, pupils are able to design, build and code robots to complete tasks set. These robots have the capacity to be coded to sense colours, travel specific distances and do a host of other incredible tasks.

This academic year pupils will be competing in an international robotics competition against teams from China, a national competition held at the SSE Arena and a cross-border competition with schools from Cavan and Monaghan.



Duke of Edinburgh

The school offers both the Bronze and Silver elements of the Duke of Edinburgh award. This award is an outstanding chance for our pupils to learn new skills, help out in their local communities and to push themselves to their limit with the overnight expeditions.



Junk Kouture

Each year the Art department enters pupils into a Junk Kouture fashion competition. Junk Kouture is for secondary school students which takes elements such as fashion, design, engineering and environmental sustainability and transforms them into a creative contest like no other.

Inspiring young designers to use everyday junk materials to create striking works of wearable art.

Working with the SRC



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



Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff

Principal

Mr C Douglas, BEng, PGCE, MEd

Vice Principal

Mrs K Mulholland, PQH, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Teaching Staff

Miss L Abraham, BA (Hons), PGCE	Mrs K Black, MEd, BA (Hons), PGCE	Mrs A Currie, BSc (Hons), PGCE
HoD Physical Education, SPP/SRC	HoD English, Literacy, Shared Education Co-ordinator, SLT	Maths
Mrs T Creighton, MA, BA (Hons), PGCE	Miss E Freeburn, BMus (Hons), PGCE, CCET	Miss E Girvan, BSc, PGCE
Subject Leader Art and Design, Merit Award	Subject Leader Music, Drama, PD, History, SENCO, SLT	Subject Leader Home Economics & Child Dev.
Mrs N Graham, BSc (Hons), PGCE	Mrs L Gribben, BA (Hons), PGCE	Mrs L Haire, BEd (Hons)
Science	English	Subject Leader ICT & Business Studies, HoY
Mr T Hutchinson, MEd, BSc (Hons), PGCE	Mr D McAreavy, BA (Hons), PGCE	Miss J McKee, BA (Hons), PGCE
HoD T&D, School Marketing, Data Co-Ordinator, SLT	English	Subject Leader Geography, Science, Extended Schools and BTEC Co-Ordinator
Mr J Mulligan BSc(Hons), PgDip & PGCE	Ms A Murdoch, BEd (Hons)	Mrs C Reid, BA (Hons), PGCE
Physical Education and Motor Vehicles	HoD French, Prince's Trust, Head of Year	Subject Leader CEIAG, History, HoY, Exams Officer, First Aid and C2K Co-Ordinator, SLT
Miss K Shanks, BSc (Hons), PGCE	Mrs A Smiton, BSc (Hons), PGCE	Mrs S Spasova- Kafolieva
HoD Mathematics, Newcomer Co-ordinator	Science, Attendance Officer, HoY, SLT	Language Assistant
Mrs H Stevenson, BSc, PGCE	Mr G Veale, MTh, BTh (Hons), PGCE	
HoD Science, House System	HoD RE, Subject Leader History, HoY	

Autism and Learning Support Centre

Ms C Greer, MSc, BEd (Hons)	Ms R Monaghan, MEd, BA (Hons), PGCE	Mrs J Morton, MEd, BSc (Hons), PGCE	Mr S O'Neill, BDes (Hons), PGCE	Miss A Uprichard, BEd (Hons)
HoD LSC, ALC, SENCO, SLT	KS4 Co-ordinator LSC, SENCO	KS3 Co-ordinator LSC, SENCO	LSC	LSC

Non Teaching Staff

Mrs S Bell	Miss J Loughrin	Mrs A McVeigh
Mrs L Berry	Mrs H Maybury	Mrs L Monaghan
Mrs D Davidson	Mrs P McBride	Mrs V Neville
Mrs J Dillon	Mrs J McCammon	Mrs T O'Brien
Miss L Donnelly	Mrs T McCammon	Mrs S Roberts
Miss H Ferguson	Mrs P McCartney	Mrs A Rooney
Mrs A Geary	Mrs A McKinley	Mrs J Todd
Mrs E Johnson	Mrs S McKitterick	Mrs L Willis

Support Staff

Mr M Calvin, Science, HNC Phy Sc, HNC Com St	Mrs C Darragh, Library, BA MIATI
Mr G Ross, Caretaker	Mr C Livingstone, Technology and Design, ICT, C2K
Mr K Mansbridge, Caretaker	Mrs R Marshall, School Secretary



Board of Governors 2019-2023

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage the school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all of the pupils. This involves:

- setting the strategic direction for the school.
- taking corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors.

Chairperson	Mr W Scott
Board Representatives	Mrs S Mc Roberts Mr J Speers Mr W Parr Mr W Scott
Parent representative	Mrs L Archer Mrs E Heatrick Mr D Mc Kee Mrs D Livingstone
Teacher representative	Ms R Monaghan Mr T Hutchinson
Transferors	Mr G Chapman Mr G Marshall Mrs L Bruce Mrs D Irwin Mrs P Hutchinson
Principal / Secretary	Mr C Douglas



Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mr W. Scott addressing the school at Prize Night

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