



City of Armagh High School PROSPECTUS



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.



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 extracurricular 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

Geography

History

Home Economics

ICT

Mathematics

Music

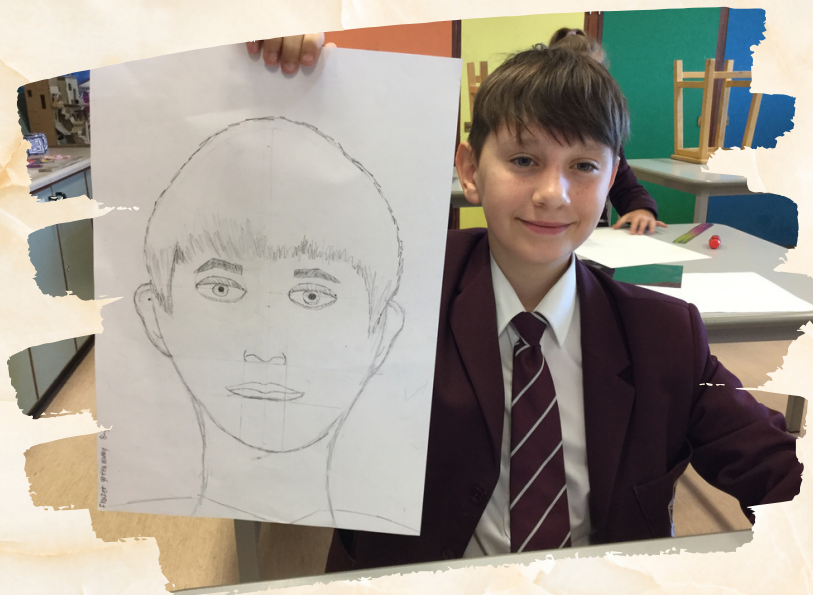
Personal Development

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
Food and Nutrition
Geography
History
Home Economics
ICT
Learning for Life and Work
Mathematics
Music
Personal Success
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:



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



Exam SUCCESS

We are delighted to celebrate a fantastic set of results for our 2021/22 GCSE pupils, with an outstanding 82% of pupils achieving 5A*-C grades, the highest in the school's history!

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.

The ongoing partnership with the Southern Regional College provides pupils with the opportunity to undertake Occupational Studies in a range of vocational areas, with over 60% of the grades achieved at a grade A or A* standard. The partnership with the EA youth service is also invaluable as our pupils achieved 95% grade B or equivalent.

City of Armagh High School is a school where

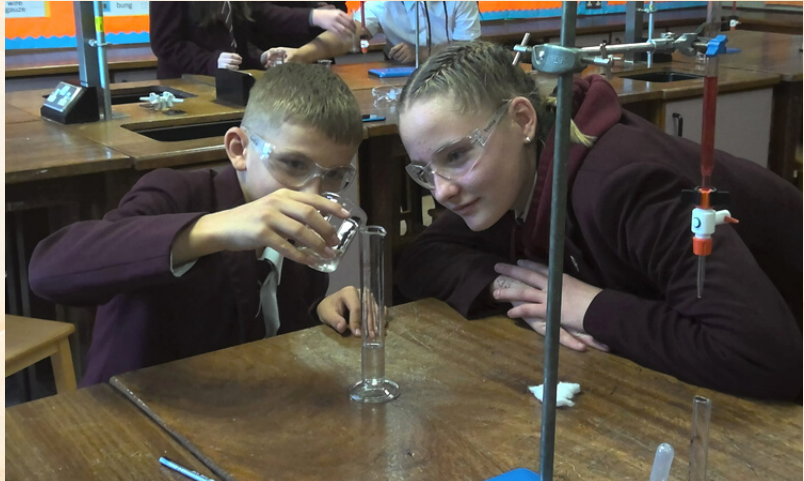
every child can achieve

and 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. reword!



Extracurricular activities include:

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



Please see our school facebook page to keep up to date with our extra curricular activities.

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.

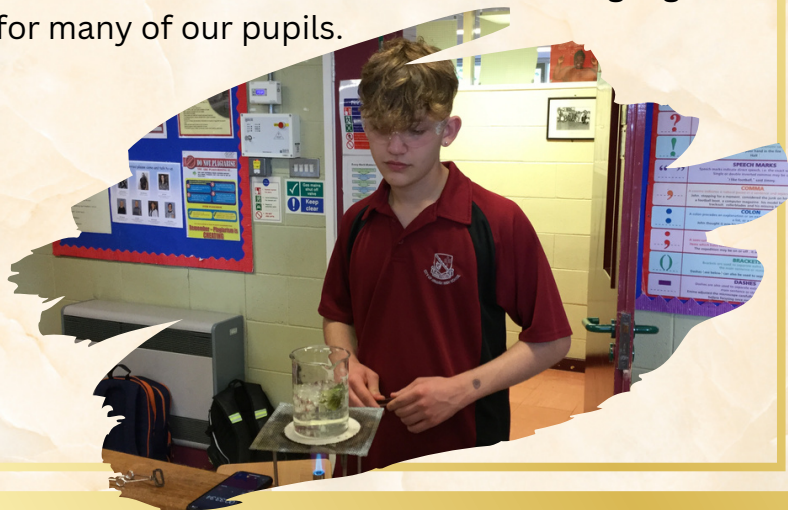
City of Armagh High School were delighted to celebrate many individual and team sporting achievements last year. Our U14 and U16 hockey teams won the Mid Ulster League and our U16 girls football team won the Mid Ulster Cup. Other significant achievements were on track and field, namely Ellie Mae Turner and Lydia Thompson qualifying in the Ulster Cross-Country Championships and Brooklyn Knipe qualifying for the Irish Championships in athletics. We encourage all our pupils to get involved in after school practices so they can reach their potential.



STEM Success

Last year Mrs Smiton, head of our science department, was awarded winner in the STEM Learning Teaching Awards in the Excellence in STEM Teaching - Secondary category.

This award recognises teachers who have developed aspects of STEM education within their secondary schools and as a school we are delighted to see such a well-deserved win for Mrs Smiton. Our science classes are a highlight for many of our pupils.



Head BOY

My name is Dylan Bruce and I am the head boy at City of Armagh High School. Our school has provided me with so many brilliant opportunities to achieve academically and individually. This year I am studying English, maths, double award science, technology and design, PE, RE, ICT and history. I am hoping to further my education with A levels.



I have a sister who attends the school and we both share the enthusiasm that the school brings! I truly believe that this school is a “school for all the family”.

During my time spent at school there have been many amazing extracurricular activities such as football, hockey, rugby and many other educational clubs for extra support. I have also been given the opportunity to represent my school for the year as Head Boy and I take great pride in my role. I have really enjoyed everything that City of Armagh High School has offered me.

The school offers a very caring and friendly environment. All staff are friendly and welcoming to all new pupils as they find their way around the school. The school is incredibly diverse as we welcome everyone from every background into our community.

The advice I would give to year 8 pupils joining the school is to not be anxious! Although it may seem like a big step, everyone here at City of Armagh High School is incredibly welcoming to help you begin your journey.

I came here because I knew this school could provide me with the help I need to achieve the best GCSE marks possible. Now that I am in my final year I cannot recommend this school enough, the support and friendliness of pupils and staff has been wonderful.

Dylan

Head GIRL

My name is Evelina Tomkeviciute and I'm the head girl of City of Armagh High School. I am currently taking 9 GCSEs: double award science, history, English, maths, child development, PE, RE and art. After high school I plan to progress to study A-levels.



Throughout my time at City of Armagh High School I have enjoyed many after school clubs, such as hockey, athletics, cross country and cookery club. I have also enjoyed learning from many visiting speakers, for example, the army and young enterprise. It has been interesting to learn about available pathways for future career opportunities. This year I have also appreciated the opportunity to go on work experience for a week. It is great to learn in the work place environment and it will help me make decisions about my career.

I would encourage our new year 8 pupils to get involved in our after school clubs as it is a good opportunity to build friendships. I hope you enjoy your time at City of Armagh High School.

Evelina

WHY CHOOSE CITY OF ARMAGH HIGH SCHOOL?

I have made good friends
in this school.

Asen Year 8

The staff are very kind and caring,
and I really enjoy the after school
activities.

Scarlett Year 8

I love playing football.
I love the after school football club
and getting in the school's football
team!

Jay Year 8

This school is friendly
and the food is good.

Dimitar Year 8

The teachers are caring and
they make sure you
understand the work.

Phoebe Year 8



What our year 8 pupils say . . .

My name is Harry Thompson and I attended Killylea Primary School. I really like City of Armagh High School and my favourite subject is P.E. I have enjoyed after school football and I am hoping that our team can win plenty of matches! I would also like to try and join the hockey team.

I have really enjoyed getting to know other pupils and making new friends at City of Armagh High School. The piece of advice that I would give to our new year 8 pupils is not to be nervous, staff are helpful and you will make friends.



My name is Poppie Hutton and I am a past pupil of the Armstrong Primary School. I have settled in very well at my new school and all of the staff have been very helpful in getting me settled and helping me find all my classrooms!

I enjoy doing PE in school and I go to two after school clubs; hockey and netball.

A piece of advice I'd like to give to anyone starting high school is don't be afraid, you will soon find your way around and no matter what school you get into - if you put your mind to working hard, you will do great!

Excellence - Opportunity - Care

What our year 8 pupils say . . .

My name is Cara Courtney and I previously attended the Hardy Memorial Primary School in Richhill. I have settled in well here and all the teachers are very welcoming. Making new friends has also helped me to feel comfortable as I didn't know many people at the start of year 8. I am a very creative person and I really love art. There are lots of new subjects to learn and I have a very busy timetable! I enjoy after school hockey and art club, there is always lots to do.

The piece of advice that I would give to our new year 8 pupils to give everything and everyone a chance, get involved and make the most of all the activities on offer.



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



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.

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.



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 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 nine 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	Mathematic Skills
Ascentis and OCN	English Skills
CCEA	Entry Level Science
Prince's Trust	Personal Development & Employability
CCEA	Occupational Studies: taking place in school and at the local Southern Regional College
OCN	Applied Science

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: no heels
- 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

Boys' 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

P.E. Uniform

- Maroon & black sports top with crest
- Black skirt 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.



Admission CRITERIA

INITIAL ADMISSION CRITERIA

The Board of Governors draws up the Admissions Criteria and delegates to an Admissions Subcommittee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term Board of Governors includes any Committee or Subcommittee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admission Criteria set out herein.

ADMISSION TO YEAR 8

(either in September 2023 or during the course of the 2023/2024 school year)

In the event of over subscription a Subcommittee of the Board of Governors will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to identify those children to be admitted to the school 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.

1. Pupils who attend the following feeder primary schools: Churchill PS, Drumhillery PS, Hardy Memorial PS, Killylea PS, Lisandill PS, Mount St Catherine's PS, Saints and Scholars Integrated PS, The Armstrong PS, The Cope PS.
2. Applicants who have a sibling currently attending the school.
3. Children for whom City of Armagh High School is the nearest controlled secondary school to the child's normal place of residence.
4. Other children.

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria then selection will be determined as below:

- Applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter of surname (as entered on Birth certificate) in order set out below:
I P Mac N M Y A J T G S U H Z L R Mc X V W O B K D C F E Q
- In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.



DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer Application. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide verifying documents according to the required deadline can result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.



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.