



#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.



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 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

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



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 2022/23 GCSE pupils, with an outstanding 84% 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.

The 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 81% of pupils achieving A*-C grades.

Our school's ability to support and encourage all pupils is further evidenced by the excellent results that our EAL pupils achieved: 71% A*-C for those completing 5 or more GCSE, or equivalent, qualifications.

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 extracurricular activity. Such involvement helps them to make new friends and build good relationships between staff and pupils.



Extracurricular activities include:

- Athletics
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Cookery Club
- Cross-Country
- Football
- Hockey
- Badminton
- Junk Kouture
- CAD
- Chess
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Rugby
- Board Games Club
- 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 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.

Last year we were delighted to open our very own gym in 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

My name is Chloe Bruce and I am Head Girl at City of Armagh High School.

This year I am studying a variety of subjects including maths, English, double award science, RE, PE, child development, french and geography. After high school I am hoping to further my studies by undertaking A Levels.



During my 5 years here, I have really enjoyed the wide range of extra curricular activities that the school has to offer! I have been involved in clubs such as hockey, netball, football, cookery club and Key Stage 4 GCSE revision classes. It has been really good fun getting to know other people outside of normal classes and the GCSE revision classes helped me to study so I can do my best to get the grades I need.

Some of my personal highlights include being chosen to represent the school at a chemistry competition at Queens University Belfast, and our recent year 12 formal. Winning the Under 16 Hockey League as part of our school team is another memorable achievement - I think I'll really miss this place when I leave!

A piece of advice I would give to new year 8 pupils is to believe in yourself and don't be afraid to try something new. Our staff and pupils are here to encourage and support you!

This school is truly a big family and we cannot wait for you to come and be part of it!

Chloe

Head

BOY

My name is Reuben Millar and I am Head Boy at City of Armagh High School. This year I am studying maths, double award science, English, RE, PE, history, business and geography. After secondary school I am looking to do a level 3 course in electrical installation so I can start my own business.



In my 5 years here I have enjoyed the number of clubs and activities that our school has available such as football, hockey, badminton and after school revision classes.

Some of my personal highlights at City of Armagh High School include the GCSE Geography fieldwork trip, our year 12 formal and the schools trip to Emerald park at the end of each year.

The piece of advice I would give to the future year 8s of our school would be to have as much fun as you can in these five years and focus on your school work so you can get onto your chosen course after GCSEs.

Reuben

WHY CHOOSE CITY OF ARMAGH HIGH SCHOOL?

I love to be creative in art and I love history.

Ruby Year 8

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

Amanda Year 8

I have loved making new friends, I have met loads of new people here.

Shan Year 8

This school is friendly and the food is good.

Dimitar Year 9

The teachers are nice and there are lots of different subjects.

Alfie Year 8



What our year 8 pupils say . . .

Hi, my name is William Cloughley, I attended Hardy Memorial Primary School in Richhill. I decided to come to City of Armagh High School because my brother came here and liked the school.

One of my favourite subjects is PE. I enjoy playing sports and in PE we play a variety of sports and get to use the gym. I go to afterschool hockey, football and badminton.

My advice to new pupils coming to City of Armagh High would be that it is normal to be nervous, everyone else is probably feeling as nervous as you. Don't be afraid to ask the teachers or other staff members for help if you need it, especially finding your way around school at the start. You will soon settle in and make new friends.



Hi, my name is Dimitar Asenov, I attended Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School.

I decided to come to City of Armagh High School because some of my friends were going and it is a very friendly place for Bulgarian pupils who want to do well.

I love to go to the board game club on Wednesday lunchtime, I play jenga with my friends.

My advice to new pupils coming to City of Armagh High would be not to worry about finding your way around the school - in a few weeks you will get to know the place very well.



Excellence - Opportunity - Care

What our year 8 pupils say . . .

My name is Tom Wilson and I used to go to the Armstrong Primary School. I completed the transfer test last year and got a high score. However, I chose to go to City of Armagh High School because the teachers were really friendly at the Open Night and I felt so welcome.

My favourite subjects so far are PE and science. I am loving the mixture of sports we get to try out and the science experiments are so interesting. I go to after school football and play for the school team.

My advice for P7s is to choose the school you feel you will be most happy at and don't be afraid to try new things.



Hi, my name is Ella George and I went to The Cope Primary School. I decided to go to City of Armagh High School because both of my brothers went to this school and it seemed like a great school.

My favourite subjects are PE and English. There are lots of after school clubs but I go to after school hockey.

A piece of advice I would give to a new year 8 pupil would be to not be afraid to get stuck into school life, making new friends and not to hesitate to talk to people or ask for help.



Excellence - Opportunity - Care

What our year 8 pupils say . . .

My name is Holly Arthurs. I attended Hamiltonsbawn Primary School up to Primary 5 then I moved to The Armstrong Primary School. I decided to choose City of Armagh High School as I really enjoyed their P6 day. I then attended their Open Night which was also a lot of fun and I got to meet all the staff throughout the school. I got to ask all the questions I wanted to and I am sure the teachers were glad to see me move along!



My favourite subjects in school have to be French, science and art. On a Monday after school I go to badminton club and it turns out I am pretty good at it and competitive! On a Thursday I go to netball and I like to play the position of centre as I feel I compete best there.

Advice for any new year 8 pupils starting would be when you are choosing your high school don't let anyone influence you, make the decision on what you feel is best for yourself and your future. Have fun, work hard, enjoy yourself, make lots of new friends and most important of all is don't be late for class!

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



Excellence - Opportunity - Care

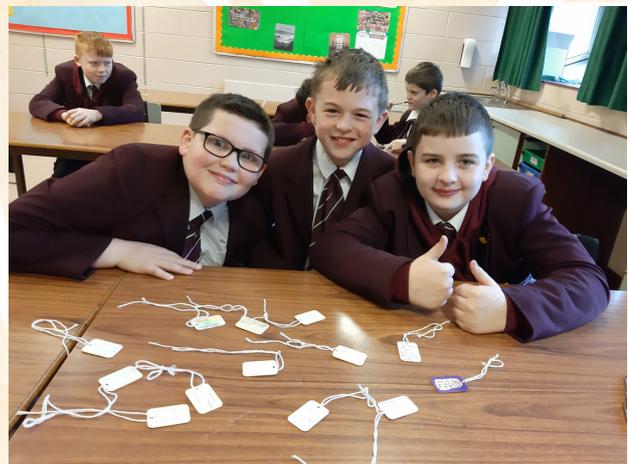
Keeping Creative. . .

During this past year a group of very capable and driven students took on a project to paint a mural at the entrance to our art department. They incorporated iconic pieces of art from a range of artists studied at key stage 3 and filled the space with their creative ideas.



Let's be positive. . .

At City of Armagh High School we understand the importance of picking out the positives. One day during the school year we encourage our pupils to say something positive about their classmate, to focus on how well someone is doing or on a positive quality about that person. Each pupil is given a little wooden tag that they are to write their positive note on and give it to their classmate. In a world where there is so much criticism and negativity it is important to notice the positives.



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.

We run a weekly reward system where the top 10 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 have received Apache Pizza vouchers so that they can treat themselves for all their hard work.



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

Tia Year 11



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.

Wiktorija Year 11

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 11

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 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.

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



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.



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 hoodie/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 hoodie/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.



Vote of CONFIDENCE

[Redacted]

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



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
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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.