

Cullybackey College

*Creating opportunities
for success*



Cullybackey College

Office Hours – 9.00am – 5.00pm

Contact Details;

Telephone: 02825880771

Fax:02825881440

Website:www.cullybackeycollege.org.uk

Email:info@cullybackeycollege.org.uk

Printed in January 2019



Cullybackey College is a vibrant school community with a positive, warm atmosphere, which places great emphasis on the academic potential of every child who joins us. From the outset, as Principal, I would like to emphasise how proud I am of our pupils, of our staff and of the positive links the College has, both with home in particular, and the local community in general.

We aim to make the transition from primary to post-primary education as smooth and straightforward as possible for parent and child alike. We would seek to offer strong reassurance to parents that your child will be educated by a team of dedicated, committed staff, in a caring environment which seeks to nurture the unique abilities of each child and enable them to achieve their academic potential.

Our College has been publicly acknowledged for its outstanding pastoral care provision offered to all pupils. This has been complemented by a pleasing improvement in both GCSE and A-Level achievement in recent years, as well as a steady growth in intake. As an all ability 11 – 19 College our pupils have access to a comprehensive curriculum, coupled with an ever-expanding extra-curricular programme, which offers every pupil opportunities to develop interests and skills beyond the classroom.

Further information may be obtained from our College website and the Senior Leadership Team will gladly meet with parents, and discuss with them questions relating to their children's education, well-being and careers.

The best recommendation for any school is its pupils, through their responsible behaviour, their personal achievements and their growing self-confidence. We are proud of our pupils on all three accounts and on behalf of the governors, teachers and parents commend them to you as our greatest asset.

I hope this prospectus provides you with a real sense of our College identity and I would like to take this opportunity to offer all parents a sincere welcome to Cullybackey College.



At Cullybackey College we recognise that the move from primary to secondary school is a significant change in the social and emotional life of each of our pupils. It is therefore important that we manage this transition successfully to ensure it is as smooth and straightforward as possible.

We support each and every one of our Year 8 pupils as they come through their final years of Primary School, and offer an Induction Programme which consists of a number of key events to ensure the pupils can enjoy the move to “Big School”.

Timetable of Induction Events

Cullybackey College begins building foundations for pupils while they are in their final year of primary school, and we maintain strong links with our local primary schools.

June Visits

Pupils will attend an Introductory Day, where they will meet staff, other pupils who will be entering into Year 8 and older pupils, as well as completing an online test which will assist in placing them in the class best suited to their abilities.

Year 8 Only

The first day of the new school year is dedicated to those pupils who are coming to our college for the first time. Prefects will also be in attendance on this day, and will be available to escort Year 8 pupils to classes (from room to room) and to assist our newest pupils as they settle in.

Residential Visit

In September, our Year 8 pupils attend a residential visit at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra. This is organised to allow our pupils to benefit from a wide range of educational and social activities, and to assist in the formation of new and lasting friendships between the Year 8 pupils.



Year 8 visit to Cultra

As well as the induction activities, Cullybackey College has created a pupils’ guide, which will be available in June, and should answer any questions or concerns parents and pupils have about this transition process. Parents are also encouraged to contact the college at any time with any questions they or their child may have.

All staff in Cullybackey College play a part in the development of each child and ensuring that they settle into their new school, however, there are some key people we would like to introduce you to:

Sixth Form Mentors

Sixth year students act as mentors, supporting, befriending and guiding Year 8 pupils as they settle into life at Cullybackey College. The mentors receive in-college training with assistance from outside agencies. Pupils will be able to relate well with their mentors, and may sometimes find it easier to approach them with a problem or concern rather than approaching a member of staff. The mentors have been very successful in tackling problems linked with settling in and transport, for example, and form an integral part of the college’s highly regarded anti-bullying strategies.

Registration Teacher

Year 8 pupils will have a Registration Teacher who will be available each morning, during registration, to answer any questions or queries they may have. The Registration teacher will also check homework diaries, record attendance and enquire into absences. The Registration teacher will monitor pupils’ overall progress and will alert the Head of Year where there may be cause for concern.

Heads of Year

The Heads of Year are accessible to all children. They reinforce the work of the Registration Teacher and respond to situations which require advice and counselling. Parents can make arrangements to discuss their child’s progress and behaviour with the Head of Year.



Pupils' Day

8.55 – 9.15	Registration
	Senior Assembly (Years 11 – 14) every Thursday
	Junior Assembly (Years 8 – 10) every Friday
9.15 – 9.50	Period 1
9.50 – 10.25	Period 2
10.25 – 11.15	Period 3
	Junior Breaktime (Years 8 – 10) 10.25 – 10.40
	Senior Breaktime (Years 11 – 14) 11.00 – 11.15
11.15 – 11.50	Period 4
11.50 – 12.25	Period 5
12.25 – 13.40	Period 6
	Junior Lunchtime (Years 8 – 10) 12.25– 13.00
	Senior Lunchtime (Years 11 – 14) 13.05 – 13.40
13.40 – 14.15	Period 7
14.15 – 14.50	Period 8
14.50 – 15.25	Period 9

Cullybackey College operates a two week timetable, with each school day organised into nine teaching periods as indicated above. Most pupils enjoy lunch in the cafeteria, however, those wishing to go home must have parental permission and an official lunch pass.

A wide range of extra-curricular activities are offered in the morning, at lunchtimes and after timetabled classes. More information about these is available elsewhere in this prospectus.

Meals

The College Cafeteria offers a wide range of meals at reasonable prices. At Cullybackey College we operate a split lunch that allows the Junior School to have their lunch first and the Senior School later in the day.

Uniform

Uniform plays an important part in contributing to the ethos of our College, and as such college students wear their uniform with distinction and pride. Acceptance of a place at Cullybackey College is taken as an indication that parents are supportive of our Uniform Policy. Copies of the Uniform Policy are available from the College reception or on the website.



Facilities

Cullybackey College operates within a self-contained campus and is situated in extensive grounds.

Pupils have access to:

- Bright, well equipped classrooms
- A comprehensive library and quiet study rooms
- Six Information Technology suites
- Six Science Laboratories
- Environmental Science facilities
- Art and Design rooms
- A Technology wing – incorporating a Systems and Design room and three specialist areas
- Home Economics Suite - incorporating two practical labs, computer suite and preparation room
- Business Studies accommodation
- A Music wing – housing a teaching area, practice rooms and an iMac computer suite
- A purpose built and fully equipped Careers Suite comprising of a large display / teaching room, two interview rooms and a Careers office
- Physical Education facilities including boys' and girls' gymnasias, two grass football pitches, two all weather hockey pitches, athletic facilities, netball and basketball courts and five tennis courts
- Sixth Form Centre including individual study booths, group work area and kitchen facilities
- A Cafeteria and vending facilities.



Pastoral Care

Cullybackey College seeks to enable its pupils to fulfil their potential in a caring and disciplined environment through the commitment of staff in partnership with parents.

Pastoral care is at the heart of everything we do in Cullybackey College. All staff at the College play a part in the development of each child towards becoming an educated, self reliant, mature and happy individual.

Pupils are placed into registration classes under the care of Registration Teachers who meet the young people on a daily basis in registration class. It is the Registration Teacher who becomes the most knowledgeable about each pupil and therefore is the first point of contact between home and school.

The Heads of Year have an overview of a particular year group's curriculum and their pastoral welfare. They co-ordinate and support the work of the Registration Teachers, monitor pupil progress and organise annual parent-teacher consultations.

Heads of School have overall responsibility for both pastoral and academic matters and they work in close association with the Heads of Year to maintain continuity through Junior and Senior School.

The college has a Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection, who are known to the entire college community and take responsibility for all Child Protection issues. The Child Protection Policy, which is available on the college website, acknowledges the duty of care of each member of staff towards each young person in school and our responsibility to promote and safeguard his or her welfare.

Cullybackey College has access to counsellors, through Family Works, a Department of Education funded province wide service, who provide an independent counselling function which all our pupils can avail of. Alongside this, we have access to other counsellors and all referrals – from parents, staff or the individual pupil, are channelled through the Designated Teacher.

Pastoral staff work alongside relevant agencies and bodies to maximise support, ensuring adequate provision for individual children. Staff take great care to ensure that the needs and concerns of individual children are recognised and heeded.

"The quality of pastoral care is outstanding."

ETI Inspection Report



Special Educational Needs



One to one Support with SENCO.



Reading Partners help with Year 8 reading confidence.

Cullybackey College's Special Educational Needs Department ensures that appropriate support is provided for pupils who have been identified as having any Special Educational Needs. Support includes reduced class sizes, alongside in-class and one-to-one support, and is available for pupils with learning difficulties, social / emotional / behavioural difficulties, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, speech and language difficulties and medical conditions.

Appropriate use is made of external agencies when necessary; Education Psychology, Literacy Teaching Support Services, Education Welfare, Behaviour Support, Speech and Language Support and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. The Department of Education Code of Practice and Special Educational Needs Disability Order (SENDO) regulations guide our decision making in all matters regarding educational needs.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs), for those at stage 2 or above on the Code of Practice are drawn up in order to fully support all of our pupils and they are monitored and evaluated in consultation with staff, parents and pupils.

Pupils, particularly those with Statements of Educational Needs, will be assigned a Learning or Behaviour Support Assistant (LSA/BSA) and / or given individual teaching as appropriate. All our pupils are encouraged to attain their maximum potential.

Cullybackey College seeks to ensure that the needs of all the pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or disability will be addressed and provision made available to them throughout or at any time during their school career. In addition, the college acknowledges their right to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, including maximum possible access to the NI Curriculum, and accordingly we will endeavour to facilitate these opportunities.

In Cullybackey College, the Curriculum is designed to make sure that students have the opportunities that they need to be successful. Our aim is that young people will achieve their potential to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives. Pupils are expected to develop skills at Key Stage 3 that will enable them to access and perform well at GCSE level, A Level and beyond. There is an emphasis on Assessment for Learning, giving students advice and direction on how they can improve their personal skills, knowledge and attainment.

Pupils with learning difficulties are given extra support as appropriate. Our teachers use a wide range of teaching and learning strategies to provide the best possible opportunities for our students.

Key Stage Three

Years 8 to 10 students follow the full Northern Ireland Curriculum. This includes courses in Learning for Life and Work and cross-curricular skills including Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT. Every subject includes aspects of Thinking Skills, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Creativity, Opportunities for Self-Management and Working with Others. Year 8 students engage in a 'Learning 2 Learn' programme where they will think about the different ways that they learn and try to improve how they access school. At the end of Key Stage 3 – Year 10 pupils will choose their GCSE and alternative courses. Guidance is given through Careers lessons and parents and students are given support as they make appropriate choices.

Areas of Learning at KS3 are:

English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, French, Religious Education, Physical Education, Drama, Geography, History, Business Studies (Year 10 only), Learning for Life and Work, Art, Music, Technology, Home Economics and Learning 2 Learn (Year 8 only).

Learning Intentions and Pupil Progress

Academic progress is monitored closely and effective use is made of baseline data on entry to Cullybackey College, allowing teachers to tailor their teaching to suit all pupils' needs, as well as providing individual support as necessary.

We use an electronic tracking system to record the details of assessment tasks through the year. This ensures that pupils make progress through the year and that pupils who are underperforming can be targeted and given additional support. Pupils and teachers work collaboratively in the learning process and its outcomes. Our students are involved in setting their own learning intentions and success criteria. Active learning, peer and self-assessment are at the heart of lessons in Cullybackey College.



Creating opportunities for success



Key Stage Four

Throughout Year 10, students will start to think about the courses and opportunities that are available to them. Cullybackey College is proud to offer a wide range of courses to cater for the individual needs of our students. From September 2017 new GCSE courses were rolled out across Northern Ireland and we offer students a wide range of academic GCSE courses alongside more vocational BTEC courses that suit the interests, potential careers path and abilities of each student.

The following courses are compulsory for all students: English (or Essential Skills: Communication), Maths (or Essential Skills: Number) and a course in Science. Students must also have statutory classes in RE, Learning for Life and PE.

The following are optional courses that have been offered in recent years:

English Literature	Drama	Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies
Media Studies	Sports studies	Art and Design
Business	Agriculture	Child Development
Carpentry & Joinery	French	Construction
Geography	Double Award Science	History
Hospitality	Prince's Trust	Music
	ICT (Digital Technology)	

Plus we offer an opportunity for students to complete Occupational Studies courses with the NRC in Catering, Hair & Beauty, Brickwork and Motor mechanics.

*Please note that a more complete list of subjects offered to Year 10 students is available to Year 10 parents at the beginning of term2.

Creating opportunities for success



Post 16 – Sixth Form Studies

Cullybackey College's Sixth Form has been established since 1994 and is growing each year, resulting in recent expansion of our Sixth Form provision and resources to deal with this increased demand for Post 16 studies. We offer returning and new pupils a range of subject options when they choose to continue their studies. Pupils are interviewed upon receiving their GCSE results, and various aspects of their school career to-date are discussed. We offer a mix of general and applied subjects at GCE A Level, delivered by specialist staff on campus and in collaboration with other schools and colleges as part of the Ballymena Learning Together partnership. Prospective sixth form students are welcome to attend the Open Evenings. Further information is available from Mr T Manson (Vice Principal). We will hold a Sixth Form Information Afternoon later in the year.



Subjects currently offered:

- Art
- Applied Science
- Business
- Health and Social Care
- History
- English Literature
- Geography
- Music
- RE
- Construction
- Engineering
- Environmental Technology
- Travel and Tourism
- Sports Sciences
- Mathematics (ICT)



Creating opportunities for success



Prefects

Prefects are an important part in whole school life. The position of Prefect is a prestigious role, which offers those elected the opportunity to develop their leadership and teamwork skills, which are essential in the world of work. The role demands certain responsibilities of Prefects, but in return offers authority and rewards for those who accept this position.

Mentors

Mentors are Sixth Formers who volunteer their time, energy and knowledge to help and guide younger pupils within our college. The Mentor will visit a junior class three mornings each week to assist the registration teacher and to talk to junior pupils about any issues or difficulties they are having. They will help the mentee to develop study skills and highlight the importance of hard work and a positive attitude in helping them achieve their full potential.

Reading Partners

Reading Partners are trained pupils who volunteer their time for three 15-minute, one-to-one sessions per week for pupils needing encouragement and support with reading. They provide a relaxed environment within the library or Sixth Form Centre giving each pupil time and space to practise and apply reading skills.



Creating opportunities for success

Careers Education, Information, Advice And Guidance

Careers Education and Employability endeavour to provide information, advice and guidance to all pupils. Rapid changes are taking place in the labour market, driven by technological advances and global economic activity. Young people are required to make informed choices and this can be developed through Self-Awareness, Careers Exploration and Career Management. A large range of external organisations are invited into the college to share their expertise and advice. The Careers Service NI is introduced to pupils in KS3 to assist with the decision making process for GCSEs. Within KS4 the Careers Service and Careers teacher interview all pupils to ensure that informed decisions are made with regard to Post 16 progression.

Our aim in the Careers Department is to prepare young people for realistic opportunities for success within their working adult lives. Careers education aims to equip pupils with the knowledge, research skills and positive attitudes which they require in order to make effective and informed choices as to further and higher educational courses.

Transition Points

Key Stage 3

Pupils in Year 10 will receive one period of Careers per fortnight. This will be used to deliver:

- Self-awareness which will aim to identify personal strengths and weaknesses
- Decision-making skills
- Personal Career Planning
- Career researching skills
- Personal interviewing skills
- Subject choices



Key Stage 4

Pupils in Year 11/12 will receive two periods of Careers per fortnight. This will be used to deliver:

- A further understanding of self-awareness
- Investigation of career opportunities
- Work experience opportunities
- Career interviews
- Interview skills
- Local industry awareness
- Visiting speakers from the local community
- Attendance to career conventions
- Post 16 options
- Links with DEL(Department of Learning) Careers Advisors

Key Stage 5

Within Sixth Form, careers support, advice and guidance is available to all students. Our aim is to assist students to make realistic and achievable choices beyond year 14.

Interview skills workshops are delivered to provide students with the necessary skills to enable employment opportunities.

Careers staff assist pupils with the completion of UCAS applications to enable university entry.



Past Pupil Success Stories

Many of Cullybackey College's pupils leave and further their educational careers at local Further Education Colleges or Universities across the UK & Ireland. Here are two such stories.

Ruth McCloy

Left Cullybackey: 2014

Subjects Studied (A Level): Health and Social Care, Biology and Sport

Extra Curricular Activities: During my time at Cullybackey College, I was involved in a range of extracurricular activities. I attended hockey, trampolining and athletics. While completing my A-Levels, I volunteered with VOYPIC, a mentoring organisation which provided advice and support to young people in care. I was also an active member and Treasurer of my local Young Farmers Club in which I participated in a range of activities at both club and county level. These included Public Speaking, Group Debating, Arts Festival, Tag Rugby and Football.

Qualifications: BSc (Hons) in Health and Leisure Studies from Queen's University, Belfast (degree studied at Stranmillis University) First Class Honours

Where Am I Now? I am working as Trainee Manager for Greenwich Leisure Limited, a social enterprise organisation which operates all the leisure facilities in Belfast under the 'Better' brand. My time at Cullybackey has helped develop me personally, socially and academically through active and learning experiences. The connections that I made during my time in Cullybackey College have opened up new opportunities including job offers, volunteering, further education and even experience of working in a Summer Camp in West Virginia, America.

Advice For P7 Pupils: I know you may feel nervous, but I would encourage you to study hard and get involved in as many extra curricular activities as possible.



Jordan McBurney

Left Cullybackey: 2014

Subjects studied (A Level): History, Construction and Business Studies.

Extra-Curricular activities: Young Enterprise Programme and Peer Mentoring

Qualifications: Theology and History from Queens University, Belfast (2:1)

Where am I now? I am currently teaching Primary 4 this year in Gracehill Primary School. It is a really fulfilling job so far and I love working with primary aged children. It is also a very rewarding job but like any other, it comes with its challenges!

Throughout my time at Cullybackey College, the teaching staff with their enthusiasm, support and love for educating inspired me to educate future generations. The quality of teaching at Cullybackey has set the standard in which I aim to teach.

Advice for P7 pupils: The first piece of advice I would give any P7 beginning their time at Cullybackey is to simply enjoy every minute of your time there (while trying your best). Secondly, Cullybackey College is a school that allows you to embrace who you are – take full advantage of all the opportunities offered in school! Whether it's sports, music or Scripture Union, get stuck in!



At Cullybackey College we offer an exceptionally wide range of extra-curricular activities, both sporting and non-sporting. We believe that involvement in these activities allows our pupils to enhance their overall educational experience, as well as supporting their personal development. Pupils get the opportunity to make friends with pupils from other year groups who share the same interests as them.

Sporting

Football
Basketball
Rugby
Cross Country
Athletics
Cricket
Hockey
Netball
Golf
Table Tennis club
Girls' football
Show jumping
Swimming
Tag Rugby



Non-Sporting

Choir
Orchestra
BBC School Report
Scripture Union
School Council
Art Club
STEM club
Army Cadets
Young Enterprise
ICT Club
Drama Club



Educational Visits

A range of educational visits and school trips are regularly undertaken. These enhance the learning which takes place in the classroom and offer the opportunity for enjoyment, excitement and further development. Outside agencies and speakers, with particular skills and experiences, are frequently invited into school to contribute to the students' educational development.

Alton Towers
Titanic
Iceland
Alpine Skiing
Poland
Amsterdam
Paris
London



Team Building
Geography Field Trips
Museum & Theatre Trips
STEM
Italy
Choir and orchestra visits
Stormont visit



Charity Support

Our school is keen to develop pupils' awareness of the needs of others. This is nurtured by our various fund raising events during the school year.



Saphara
Pretty in Pink
Christmas Jumper Day
Bun and Cake sale
Tearfund Walk



Cullybackey College Parent Teacher Association.

The PTA consists of a group of parents, grandparents and teachers who meet once a month during term time, to discuss fundraising ideas and upcoming events where we can assist the college. Meetings are very informal and usually involve a cup of tea and a bun!

Past fundraisers have included craft fairs, quiz nights, movie days and donut sales to name a few and over the years these events have helped the school purchase various items such as stair graphics and a new sound system.



The PTA have also been able to offer financial assistance to a number of students who have been selected to participate in events outside school or are personally involved in charity work. For example the charity "Angel Wishes".



Our statement says we are "Committed to supporting the pupils, parents and staff of Cullybackey College" and this is what we strive to do, whether it be by organising fundraisers or information evenings. The PTA is a great way to meet new people, share ideas and ultimately help the college.



Partnership with parents / guardians

At Cullybackey College we aim to create constructive working relationships with parents / guardians to support and develop the needs of each individual child.

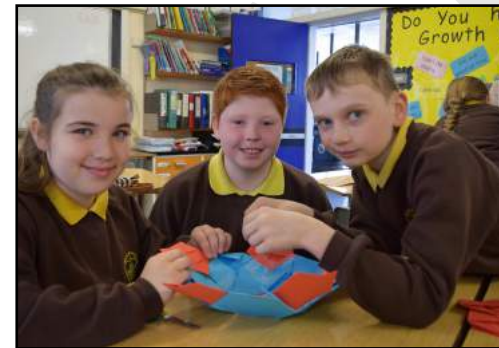
Parent/Teacher consultation meetings are an important opportunity for parents to discuss the individual progress of their child and in 2019 we will be using the SIMS Parent App to communicate more effectively with parents. This will give parents access to important information such as the school calendar, the timetable for their child, attendance information and they will be able to download (and print) school reports.

In addition, parents are encouraged to give us feedback about the school through our annual online survey and focus group meetings.

Primary Links

IN-0-V8

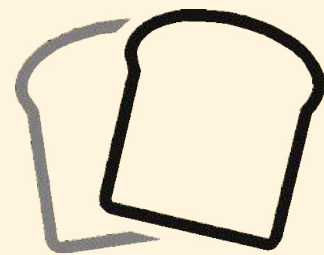
For the last five years, Cullybackey College has invited P7 pupils from the local Primary Schools into the College for a day of fun and interactive learning. This annual event allows pupils to enjoy learning, as they work together to develop their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The day includes scientific workshops making elephant toothpaste, walking on egg shells and making rainbows; technology workshops involving electronics and making a battery powered torch; and special Science shows from Scientific Sue (Sue McGrath) and the boffins from W5. There is something for everyone at our special event!



ACTIV8

ACTIV8 is our all-action event for P6 pupils. It involves a series of original, interactive workshops delivered through PE, Maths, Geography, ICT, History and English. As the name suggests, the morning is all about active learning including team games in PE; making 3D footballs in Maths; experiencing different ecosystems in Geography; creating superhero comic strips in English; and participating in Gamemaker in ICT. In addition to this, our visiting History experts will entertain, with a fantastic interactive performance in which you get to experience weapons through the ages, including those used by the Normans, the Vikings and in World War 2. Learning really can be fun and we guarantee you will go home happy and suitably tired.



toast 
t**o**tally o**r**iginal a**n**d s**e**riously t**a**sty

Main Street, Cullybackey - Tel: 028 25880200

Proud sponsors of Cullybackey College



44 Pottinger St. Cullybackey. Ballymena Co. Antrim BT42 1BP.
cullybackeycollege.org.uk