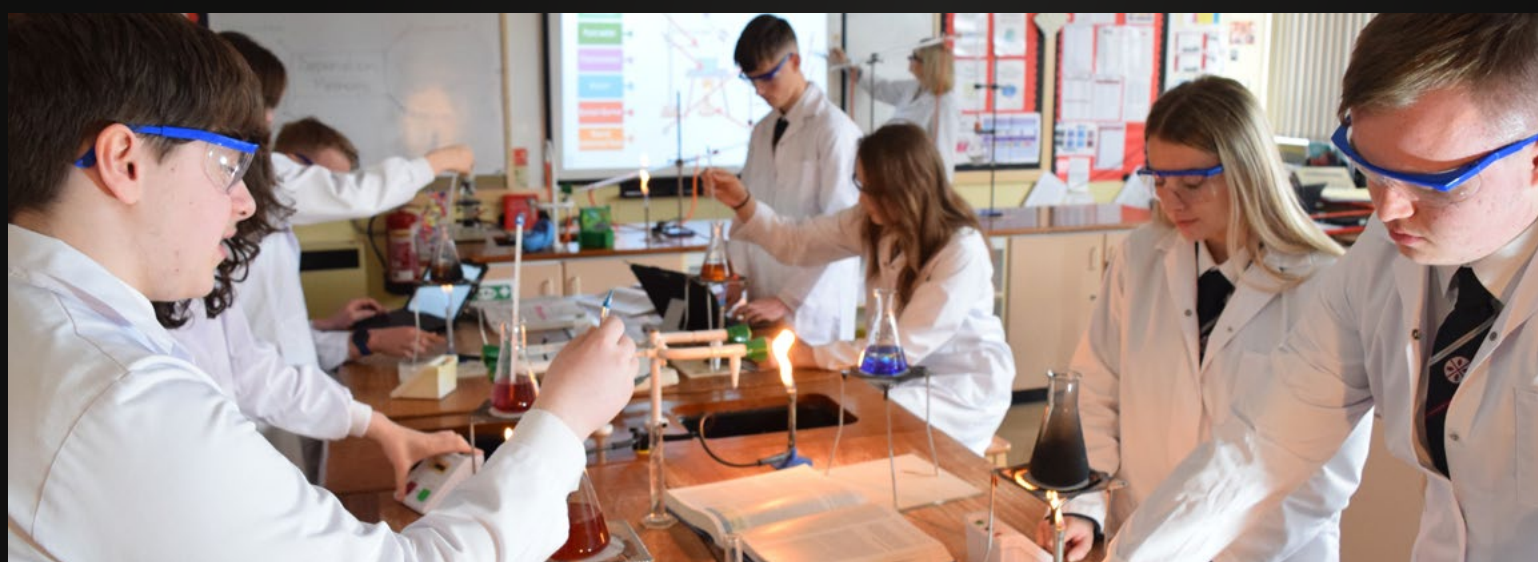


# CULLYBACKEY COLLEGE



*PER ANGUSTA AD AUGUSTA*





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.

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 by the Education and Training Inspectorate for its outstanding pastoral care provision offered to all pupils. This has been complemented by sustained success at both GCSE and A-Level, 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 opportunity to develop interests and skills beyond the classroom.

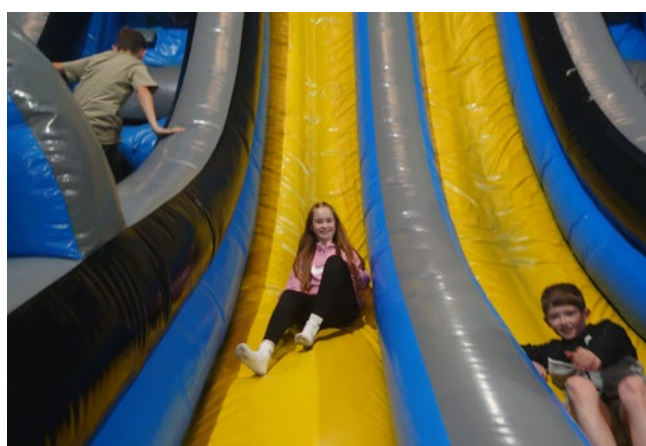
Further information may be obtained from our College website, social media platforms and the Senior Leadership Team will gladly meet with parents to discuss any questions relating to their child's education, well-being and career. The best recommendation for any school is its pupils, through their responsible 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.

*D. Donaldson*

**Mr D Donaldson** Principal





# A new beginning

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 transition from Primary School to Secondary 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 all 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 few days of the new school year are dedicated to those pupils who are coming to the College for the first time. Prefects will be in attendance on this day, and escort our Year 8 pupils to classes (from room to room) so as to assist our newest pupils as they settle in.

## Year 8 Induction Trip

In September, our Year 8 pupils attend an Induction Trip. In 2021 Year 8s were over the moon to visit We Are Vertigo! Our Year 8 Induction Trip is organised to allow our pupils to benefit from a wide range of social activities to assist in the formation of new and lasting friendships between the Year 8 pupils.



As well as the induction activities, Cullybackey College has created a pupils' guide, which addresses common 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 question or concern rather than approaching a member of staff. The mentors have been very successful in answering questions linked with settling in and transport for example, and form an integral part of the College's highly regarded anti-bullying strategy.

## 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 inform the Head of Year where there may be cause for concern.

## Head of Year

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







# School Day

**8.55 – 9.15** Registration + Assembly  
*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

**10.25 – 10.40** Junior Breaktime (Years 8 – 10)

**11.00 – 11.15** Senior Breaktime (Years 11 – 14)

**11.15 – 11.50** Period 4

**11.50 – 12.25** Period 5

**12.25 – 13.40** Period 6

**12.25– 13.00** Junior Lunchtime (Years 8 – 10)

**13.05 – 13.40** Senior Lunchtime (Years 11 – 14)

**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. 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 later 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 separate from the Senior School.

## 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 our Uniform Policy is available on the College 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**
- **Technology Suite** - 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**
- **Music Suite** - housing a teaching area, practice rooms and an iMac computer suite
- **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 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.



## Special Educational Needs

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 will reform how children with Special Educational Needs are identified and supported whilst 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.

The 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 / behavioural / emotional / wellbeing difficulties, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, speech and language difficulties and medical conditions.

Appropriate use is made of external agencies when necessary, such as the Education Psychology Service, Literacy Teaching Support Service, Education Welfare Service, Behaviour Support Service, Speech and Language Support Service and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.



Individual Education Plans (IEPs), for those at Stage 1 or above on the Special Educational Needs Register are devised to fully support all our pupils whilst 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 maximise their 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 at any time during their school career. In addition, the College acknowledges their right to access a broad and balanced curriculum and, where possible, full access to the NI Curriculum.



# The Curriculum

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 additional learning needs 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 develop strategies to ensure they achieve success. At the end of Key Stage 3 – Year 10 pupils will choose from a range of academic and vocational GCSE 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, Spanish, 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 pupils' individual needs, as well as providing individual support as necessary.

Details of assessment tasks through the year are recorded and used for individual target setting. This ensures that pupils make progress through the year and if pupils are underperforming they can be identified 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.



## Key Stage Four

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, and PE.

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

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

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 in March.









# Post 16 – Sixth Form Studies

At Cullybackey College we expect the vast majority of our students to want to stay on for A -Level study at Post 16. Our Sixth Form has been established since 1994 and is growing each year, resulting in the 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 wide range of academic and vocational subjects at GCE A Level, delivered by specialist staff. (Prospective sixth form students are welcome to attend the Open Evenings).



Subjects recently offered:

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • <b>Applied Science</b>           | • <b>Health and Social Care</b> |
| • <b>Art</b>                       | • <b>History</b>                |
| • <b>Business</b>                  | • <b>Hospitality</b>            |
| • <b>Construction</b>              | • <b>ICT</b>                    |
| • <b>Engineering</b>               | • <b>Maths</b>                  |
| • <b>English</b>                   | • <b>Music</b>                  |
| • <b>Environmental Technology</b>  | • <b>RE</b>                     |
| • <b>Geography</b>                 | • <b>Sports Studies</b>         |
| • <b>Government &amp; Politics</b> | • <b>Travel and Tourism</b>     |



## 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 the College. The Mentor will visit their allocated junior class to assist the Registration Teacher and to talk to junior pupils about how they are progressing. 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 one-to-one sessions each 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 develop and consolidate reading skills.

## Mental Health and Well-Being Ambassadors

The Mental Health and Well-Being Ambassadors are appointed to act as a support to all our students. They help deliver our preventative curriculum programme and raise awareness of mental health issues and initiatives to year groups and on a whole school basis.





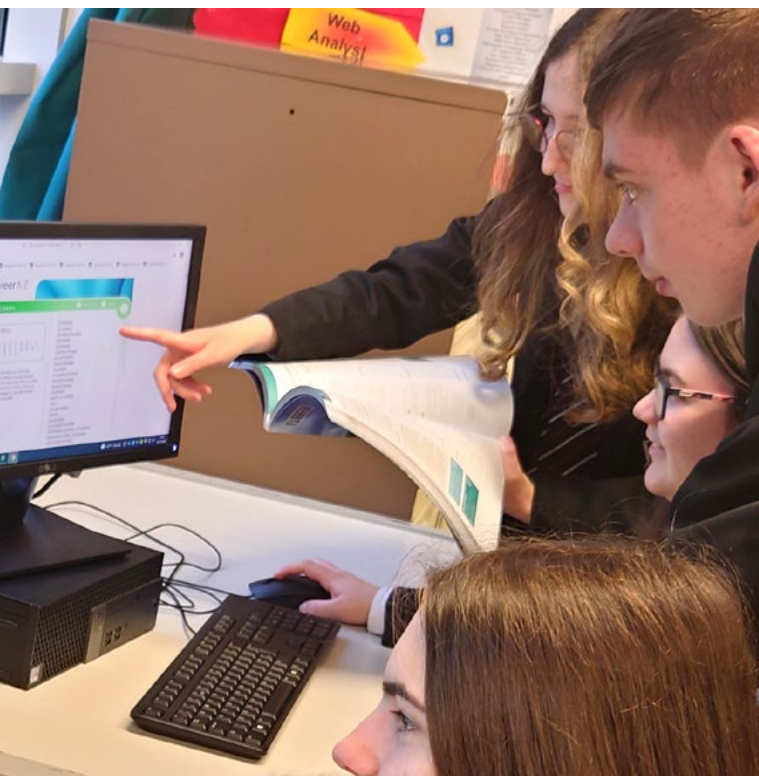
# Careers

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance is constantly changing to address the rapid changes 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 GCSE subject choices. Within KS4 the Careers Service and Careers teacher interview every pupils to ensure that informed decisions are made with regard to Post 16 progression.

The aim of 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 timetabled Careers classes 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 timetabled Careers classes used to deliver:

- **A further understanding of selfawareness**
- **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 informed 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 Universities across the UK & Ireland. Here are two such stories.



**Simone Lyle**

**Left Cullybackey:** 2017.

**Subjects Studied (A Level):** I studied Health and Social Care, Science, and ICT.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** I played netball my entire 7 years at school. I also played hockey both at school and at the local hockey club in Ballymena. Furthermore, I played football for the first few years at school whilst also very much enjoying athletics in the summertime.

**Qualifications:** Since leaving Cullybackey College, I got accepted into Stirling University to do Nursing. In June 2022 I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Nursing.

**Where Am I Now?** I am now living in Aberdeen in northern Scotland working as a full-time nurse in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. I work in the Oncology ward working 12.5 hour shifts 3 days a week.

**Advice For P7 Pupils:** If you have a dream, work hard for it, and never give up. Never doubt yourself. If you know inside you can achieve something you will. Never change who you are. Always be true to yourself. Don't change yourself to fit in. Push yourself outside of your comfort zone, try new things, gain new hobbies because if you never try, you'll never know.

**Memories of Cullybackey:** I loved all our trips away. I thoroughly enjoyed going to Cultra in first year as it helped me to gain some confidence and get to know my peers better. One thing that is amazing about Cullybackey College is how approachable all the staff are. We were always able to go to them if something was bothering us or if we just needed someone to speak to. I also enjoyed my time in sixth form and completing my A-Levels. Over my final two years the teachers really got to know us and we were treated like adults. We were given amazing volunteering opportunities within the College.



**Jason McPeake**

**Left Cullybackey:** 2018.

**Subjects Studied (A Level):** I studied ICT in which I was awarded a C grade, Construction in which I achieved a Distinction\* and finally Sports Science, in which I achieved a Distinction.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Throughout my time at Cullybackey College I played on the football team which achieved some considerable success.

**Qualifications:** I graduated from Liverpool John Moores University with a 2:1 in Quantity Surveying BSc

**Where Am I Now?** I am now working as a Trainee Quantity Surveyor in Liverpool for Graham Group Limited. I am currently working on a project called Pall Mall Press which will be a 22-storey apartment block in Liverpool City Centre.

**Advice For P7 Pupils:** My advice would be to set high goals and believe in yourself that you can achieve them! Also, to not be afraid to ask for help along the way (which is something I've personally learned the importance of in the last few years).

**Memories of Cullybackey:** I always enjoyed playing football at lunch time. I have great memories of all my A-Level teachers who helped me with my studies and have helped me get to where I am today.





# Extra-Curricular

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. Some of the Extra-Curricular activities offered include:

## Sporting

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

## Non-Sporting

- Choir
- Orchestra
- Debating Society
- Scripture Union
- Student 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. Recent educational visits include:

- Alton Towers
- Titanic
- Battlefields
- Windsor Park
- London
- Murals
- Somme Heritage Centre
- Kingspan
- Geography Field Trips
- Theatre Trips
- STEM
- Art Exhibitions
- Choir and orchestra visits
- Stormont visit
- Ski Trips
- Europe
- Sport Tours
- Auschwitz





## 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
- Chest Heart & Stroke
- Habitat for Humanity
- Macmillan
- Angel Wishes
- 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.



## Primary Links

### IN-O-V8

For the last six 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.





**Contact Details**  
 Office Hours – 9.00am – 5.00pm  
 T: 028 2588 0771  
 E: [info@cullybackeycollege.org.uk](mailto:info@cullybackeycollege.org.uk)

**[cullybackeycollege.org.uk](http://cullybackeycollege.org.uk)**



**WALLACE'S**<sup>®</sup>  
 Church St., Ballymena.

**toast**   
 totally original and seriously tasty  
 Main Street Cullybackey - Tel:028 2588 0200

Proud sponsors of Cullybackey College





# CULLYBACKEY COLLEGE

44 Pottinger Street,  
Cullybackey, Co. Antrim, BT42 1BP

T: 028 2588 0771

E: [info@cullybackeycollege.org.uk](mailto:info@cullybackeycollege.org.uk)

**[cullybackeycollege.org.uk](http://cullybackeycollege.org.uk)**

