



Castlederg High School

Prospectus 2026

www.castlederghighschool.org

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A School...



Castlederg High School Uniform

Uniform Stockists:

S&K

Main St, Castlederg, Co Tyrone.

J Kemps

Main St, Newtownstewart, Co Tyrone.

SD Kells

Main Street, Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh.

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A School for You



An Invitation From Our Student Leadership Team

Together we are:

Respectful

Responsible

Ready and Willing to Learn

Rewarded for Excellent Effort

Realising Success

Ready to Welcome You!



Castlederg High School

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www.castlederghhighschool.org



Stronger Starts Every little helps



A School With An Established Culture Of Success



Mrs S Cashel
Principal

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I am delighted to welcome you to Castlederg High School –

a happy school that young people love to attend and that offers a great educational experience of exceptional quality. With a child-centred approach, based on the values of respect, kindness, responsibility, and willingness to learn, we are committed to supporting each young person to achieve personal excellence, thus empowering them towards their best possible future. It is a testament to the high-quality provision on offer here at Castlederg High School, that the school is renowned for its established culture of success.

Each young person is encouraged to develop a growth mindset as they are guided to be the best they can be within a warm, supportive, caring environment based on the sound Christian values that underpin our strong pastoral ethos. Good relationships are at the heart of our school so young people feel secure in their learning and development, seeking help and advice when necessary and responding positively to the guidance of our highly dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching, who work tirelessly for the benefit of each child in their care. It is by feeling valued and secure in this positive, ordered learning environment that our young people gain confidence and flourish.

Alongside superb standards of teaching and learning, the school offers extensive curriculum choice along a variety of pathways tailored to individual need whether academic, vocational or a combined approach. Students have the opportunity to study rigorous academic courses like GCSE Further Mathematics as they would in any grammar school, or if they are more suited, Occupational Studies or the King's Trust are taught



with equal emphasis on securing personal success. This is a school where the achievements of all matter, are celebrated and lead to the best possible career prospects.

As such, Castlederg High School, holds a strong reputation as a high performing post-primary school that is a school of choice for many Year 7 children of all abilities within our catchment area of West Tyrone and North Fermanagh. Each pupil is inspired to achieve excellence through teacher expertise that will match and stretch their ability, and increase their confidence as a learner, whether they transfer with a high AQE score or none. We invite you to put your trust in us to deliver for your child too as we enjoy the ongoing valued support of parents and carers along with the wider community.

In fact, you can be assured that we will take every step possible to ensure that your child feels supported as they transition to become part of our Castlederg High School family. Moving forward, this will involve an initial induction day in June followed by another transition day solely for Year 8 in August, which also includes a

welcome and information session for parents. Our key aim is that all pupils, and their parents, feel confident and at ease when the first full day of Year 8 arrives, and that the day itself is a successful and happy one for each child. Beyond the first day, Year 8 pupils generally settle in surprisingly quickly due to the ongoing support led by our Transition Co-ordinator, Mrs Spratt, and the Year 8 Pastoral Team.

This prospectus offers you an insight into the rich and diverse educational experience that is enjoyed by our current pupils and awaits your child too. As a school we pride ourselves in being welcoming, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to talk to us to get more information or answer a query. I hope you enjoy reading our prospectus, that it gives you a flavour of the high-quality educational experience all our pupils receive and that it confirms Castlederg High School will be the school for you.

With Every Best Wish for the Future

Mrs Sandra Cashel
Principal

Principal
Mrs S Cashel MA, MEd, BA(Hons), PG Dip, PGCE.

Vice-Principal
Mr M Irvine MA, BSc (Hons), PGCE, NASENCO, NPQH

Chair - Board of Governors
Mr E Stevenson

A School That Offers A Great Educational Experience

Our Mission

Castlederg High School offers a warm, supportive caring environment, based on sound Christian values, in which we recognise and value each individual pupil at the heart of everything we do. In a climate of mutual respect, we endeavour to work together inspiring our young people to achieve personal excellence through a consistent effort to meet expectations that are both realistic and high. With excellent achievement, our pupils are empowered to embark on a successful future as confident and responsible citizens.



Our Core Values

01 *Care and Support*

02 *Co-operation*

03 *Determination*

04 *Excellence*

05 *Kindness*

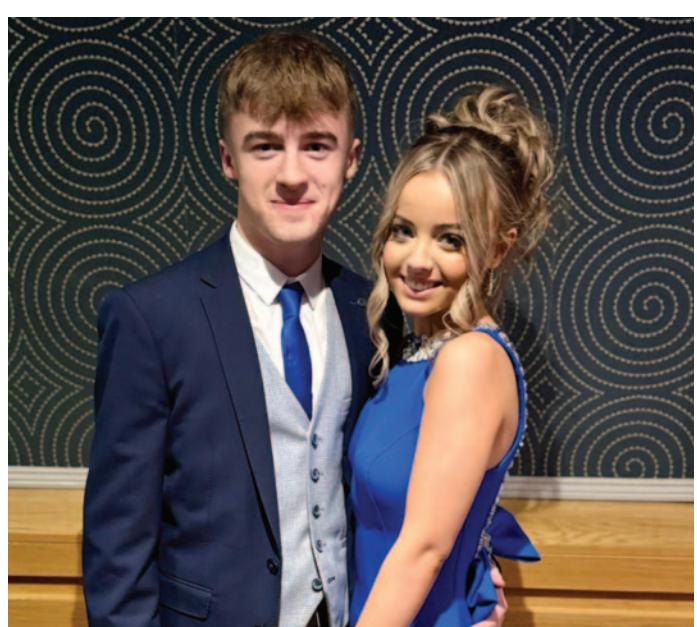
06 *Safety*

07 *Respect*

08 *Responsibility*

09 *Resilience*

10 *Honesty*





Our Aim

The primary aim of Castlederg High School is to provide a well-ordered and caring environment in which all members of the school community can work cooperatively in the pursuit of all aspects of educational excellence.



A School That Inspires Excellence



Castlederg High School is renowned within the community as a high performing school that inspires excellence. We consider it a great privilege to be entrusted with the education of each young person who joins us and as a staff we strive towards excellence in all aspects of our delivery for them. By optimising learning outcomes we hope to help them secure bright prospects for the future.

This atmosphere of motivation pervades the school. Students recognize the drive and commitment of staff for each one of them to do well. This in turn builds confidence in each young person. When they believe in themselves as learners, and know that the staff are there to support them throughout the learning journey. They rise to the challenge and achieve results that they, their parents, the school and the wider community can be proud of.

All young people are individuals, and consequently the potential exam performance within each year group varies to some degree. Nonetheless, as a school Castlederg High School has firmly established a trend as a high performing school that delivers excellent exam results. This fact underlines our high reputation as a school within the community.

Our status as a non-selective school is no barrier to the ambition that we hold for each young person who joins us. Our curriculum, teaching approaches, and pastoral systems are designed, and indeed proven, to deliver for all students, irrespective of their ability. We delight in the individual achievement of each young person.





Castlederg High School



A School That Welcomes Everyone

Our Invitation to You

All new pupils, whether a prospective Year 8, an entrant to another year group or Sixth Form, can be assured of a warm welcome at Castlederg High School. In accordance with our core values of mutual dignity and respect, we accept pupils from all sections of the community. Given the excellent performance of our pupils in GCSE and A Levels over the past number of years, it is an exciting time to join us.

CATCHMENT AREA

Ardstraw	Irvinestown	Newtownstewart
Castlederg	Kesh	Sion Mills
Drumquin	Killen	Strabane
Gortin	Lack	Ederney

Applications

Applications for a Year 8 place are made through the EA Post Primary Year 8 Application Process. Our admissions criteria are available at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide> or they may be accessed through the school office.

Applications to other year groups are made by direct contact with the school and submitting a completed AP1 form, available from the school office.

Applications to Sixth Form are made in August immediately after the A level results are released, by directly contacting the Head of Sixth Form, via the school office.

APPLICATIONS

Admissions No.	Enrolment Number	Current Enrolment
90	450	465

Our Commitment to Supporting Your Transition

We know that changing school can be an anxious prospect for any young person, and their parent(s), but we assure you that you will be fully supported in your transition to us.

✓ For Year 8 pupils -

we have a dedicated Induction Programme which begins with the Year 6 Big School Day and continues right throughout Year 8.

✓ For pupils who transfer to other year groups during the course of the school year -

we will support you on an individual basis to ensure that you become successfully integrated into our school community. We regularly welcome pupils who transfer from other post-primary schools.

✓ For new Sixth Form pupils -

we offer a highly supportive transition experience from Key Stage 4 to 5. As well as providing progression for our current GCSE pupils, we also welcome students who have taken their GCSEs elsewhere.

The school is a good environment to learn in and the teachers are kind. If you need to talk to them or need help they are always there.

*Summer Crowe
Edwards Primary School*

The teachers are all really kind and welcoming. My form teacher helped me settle in. I really enjoy English because Miss Bell makes lessons fun.

*Amelia Laird
Ardstraw Jubilee Primary School*





I enjoy TD because I love using my hands. My friends helped me to settle in and the teachers make me feel safe. There is nothing to worry about.

*Billy Catterson
Kesh Primary School*

It was easy to settle in because I know a lot of people like my sister and my cousins. I like that the lessons are only thirty-five minutes long. My favourite subject is English.

*Eva Fee
Lack Primary School*

Having a positive attitude and making friends while playing football at lunchtime helped me settle in. I love PE but Spanish, Science and History are fun and interesting too. I like sitting beside my friends during lessons.

*Vincent Birney
Irvinestown Primary School*

I love sports and really enjoy PE because I get to play football and rugby. Home Economics is great too because I love to cook and Miss Connor is a lovely teacher.

*Robbie Bogle
Killen Primary School*



- CREATING
- HAPPY
- HEALTHY
- HIGH ACHIEVING
- STUDENTS

Our Confidence in Providing For You

Experience shows that our new pupils:

- ✓ settle in quickly
- ✓ feel a sense of belonging to our school community
- ✓ achieve success, often beyond their, and their parents, expectations.



Our Focus on Punctuality and Attendance

Attending school regularly, and on time, is vital to ensure each pupil has the best possible educational experience. We work closely with parents and carers to ensure that each pupil has the highest possible attendance rate. Absences are monitored closely by Form Teachers and Year Heads to:

- ✓ minimize the impact of absence on learning
- ✓ ensure support is in place, where needed.



Our Classes

At Castlederg High School we put great emphasis on planning for learning to maximize the outcomes for each young person. Our timetabling structure ensures a best fit approach for each individual pupil's learning profile, as well as allowing scope for movement in accordance with pupil progress. Continuous monitoring of class placement ensures individual pupils' learning needs are met.

At Key Stage 3, in Years 8-10, pupils are assigned to a combination of the following types of classes:

- ✓ Form Class - mixed ability thus giving the maximum opportunity for inclusion and wider social interaction within the year group. This benefits all pupils.
- ✓ General Streamed class based on ability determines your child's class placing for the majority of subjects, including English
- ✓ Maths streamed class is set separately to ensure the most appropriate provision for each pupil, given that a child's ability in Maths and English can often vary.

At Key Stage 4, in Years 11 and 12, pupils are assigned to the classes according to:

- ✓ Mixed ability form class
- ✓ Their choice of subject options
- ✓ Streamed classes for Maths and English.

In Sixth Form, Years 13 and 14, pupils are assigned to:

- ✓ Mixed ability form class
- ✓ Their choice of subject options
- ✓ Study Periods
- ✓ Research Periods
- ✓ Recreation Periods.

Our School Day - A Typical Year 8 Timetable

Time	Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.40 – 9.00		Assembly/Registration				
9.00 – 9.35	1	English	IT	Maths	Geography	History
9.35 – 10.10	2	Science	History	Science	RE	English
10.10 – 10.45	3	Art	Science	Music	Modern Languages	Personal Development
10.45 – 11.05		Break				
11.05 – 11.40	4	Art	Geography	PE	Science	TD
11.40 – 12.15	5	Maths	Maths	PE	Science	TD
12.15 – 12.50	6	Lunch				
12.50 – 1.25	7	English	Music	Geography	Maths	Modern Languages
1.25 – 2.00	8	History	RE	Maths	English	Drama
2.00 – 2.35	9	Employability	HE	English	PE	Drama
2.35 – 3.10	10	Modern Languages	HE	Library	PE	Maths
3.10 – 4.15		After School Clubs		After School Clubs		

A School That Cares About Each Pupil

Our Pastoral Commitment

At Castlederg High School we place great emphasis on care and support. We pride ourselves on getting to know each young person as an individual and are committed to ensuring they reach their full potential within a caring and supportive learning environment.



Our Pupils are:

- ✓ recognized as individuals
- ✓ valued and respected
- ✓ given a voice and listened to
- ✓ treated fairly
- ✓ encouraged to reach their full potential
- ✓ rewarded for their achievements.

Key Members of our Safeguarding Team

- ✓ Designated Teacher – Mr M Irvine
- ✓ Deputy Designated Teacher – Mrs S Spratt
- ✓ Support for Children Looked After – Mr O Russell.

Duty of Care

We have a great sense of responsibility to each young person in order to:

- ✓ ensure their safety
- ✓ safeguard their welfare
- ✓ offer personal, social and emotional support
- ✓ support them as learners
- ✓ guide them towards their future.



The Form Teacher

The Form Teacher plays a key role in the pastoral care of each pupil by:

- ✓ meeting with them each morning
- ✓ offering help and encouragement
- ✓ monitoring behaviour, punctuality and attendance
- ✓ reviewing completion of homework and progress
- ✓ assisting with individual target setting
- ✓ delivering their Personal Development Programme.

Health and Wellbeing

We place a strong emphasis on pupil health and wellbeing by:

- ✓ being dedicated to the care and welfare of each child
- ✓ having a strong team of First Aiders on the staff
- ✓ working in partnership with parents and medical professionals
- ✓ arranging staff training to meet pupils' individual medical needs
- ✓ being vigilant of pupils' emotional state
- ✓ offering counselling, should a pupil and their parents wish them to avail of it
- ✓ having wellbeing workshops to aid strategies for healthy living
- ✓ offering peer mentor support.

A School That Builds Self Esteem and Confidence

Our Emphasis on Promoting the Individual Pupil

As a school we place a strong emphasis on building the self esteem and confidence of each young person. It is important to us that each pupil feels recognized as an individual within the wider school community. We build confidence and self-esteem by:

- ✓ actively offering praise and reward
- ✓ acknowledging achievements in lessons, assemblies, school events, and on promotional media, where possible
- ✓ providing opportunities to develop leadership skills
- ✓ encouraging pupils that they have a right to their voice being heard
- ✓ mentoring individual pupils, as necessary, to promote motivation, self-image and self regard as learners.

Our Approach to Positive Behaviour

The school takes a positive approach to behaviour management encouraging, and rewarding, good behaviour and respect for self and others. Each pupil is taught to be responsible for their actions so as to:

- ✓ ensure their safety, and the safety of others
- ✓ create an ordered learning environment
- ✓ develop the skills of self-management required in adulthood.

Our Pastoral House System

Each pupil is allocated to one of three houses in our pastoral house system: Derg, Mourne and Strule. Pupils gain achievement points for their house for:

- ✓ conforming to the correct school routines
- ✓ effort and excellence in their work
- ✓ participation in various aspects of school life.

Our pastoral house system is also effective because it:

- ✓ helps integrate pupils further, as they belong to a house as well as a form class, streamed classes and a year group
- ✓ helps junior pupils become familiar with senior role models
- ✓ provides opportunities for pupils to develop teamwork and leadership skills
- ✓ promotes motivation and a competitive spirit to achieve.

Our Personal Development Programme

We recognize our duty to prepare young people to cope responsibly with the various pressures of 21st century society. We safeguard our pupils by developing their ability to make informed choices on personal, emotional and social issues that could otherwise leave them at risk.

Our Personal Development Programme, delivered at an age appropriate level to all pupils, raises their awareness of responsible decision-making about important issues, such as:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ e-Safety✓ anti-bullying✓ stress management✓ relationship issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ alcohol and substance abuse✓ eating disorders✓ road safety✓ mental wellbeing and resilience. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



A Message from Our Head Boy A Message from Our Head Girl

“Being a Student at Castlederg High School has helped me to discover strengths that I didn't know I had and to better understand what I'm capable of achieving. From the beginning, the teachers took the time to understand how I learn best and encouraged me to push for the highest grades possible. Their support, combined with the wide range of subjects and opportunities offered here, has allowed me to flourish both academically and personally. My GCSE and AS-Level results so far are something that I am truly proud of, and they have opened the door to some very promising career pathways. Knowing that the teachers and staff genuinely want the best for me has made a huge difference.”

Daniel England

“I believe my time at Castlederg High School has provided me with excellent opportunities to develop both academically and personally. The dedication and expertise of the teachers have challenged me to achieve more than I thought possible, enabling me to gain 3 A*’s, 5 A’s, and 1B grades at GCSE and to continue to study A-levels in Double Award Health and Social Care and Biology. The school offers a broad and engaging curriculum, allowing students to explore a wide range of subjects and discover their strengths. Castlederg High School also encourages interests outside of the classroom, which for me included participating in the school hockey team. The guidance and experiences I have received have helped me consider potential career paths in healthcare. With its committed staff, wide-ranging opportunities, and supportive environment, Castlederg High School has prepared me fully to succeed both in the next stage of my education and in my future career.”

Katie Davis



Our Dyslexia Friendly Approach

All classrooms offer a dyslexia friendly approach which benefits pupils who have dyslexia, but others too. Teachers use a range of dyslexia friendly strategies in their teaching which enables pupils with dyslexia to access the curriculum more easily, and supports them in processing and expressing their ideas.

Our Learning Support Provision

At Castlederg High School we actively promote the achievement of all pupils. We see each pupil as an individual learner and provide additional support when needed. This approach is most effective when we as a school work in partnership with parent(s) and pupils. Our belief in inclusion for all pupils across all aspects of school life leads to each young person reaching their full individual potential.

All pupils are supported in their learning through:

- ✓ additional setting for Maths
- ✓ differentiated lessons that cater for the ability of each individual child
- ✓ guidance on revision topics and skills before examinations
- ✓ mixed ability form classes
- ✓ specific home study skill lessons.

Recognising Pupils Who Need Additional Support

We offer a high level of support to pupils with Special Educational Needs. Where appropriate additional provision is offered in the form of:

- ✓ in-class support, provided by highly committed Learning Support Assistants
- ✓ a Personal Learning Plan
- ✓ mentoring
- ✓ Reading Partnership, which consists of one-to-one reading assistance
- ✓ the provision of a reader and extra time or other relevant concessions in examinations
- ✓ Literacy support
- ✓ Numeracy support
- ✓ a sensory room.



Recognising Pupils who Excel

Gifted and talented pupils excel in one or more of the following areas:

- ✓ academic achievement
- ✓ music
- ✓ leadership
- ✓ creative thinking or expression
- ✓ sport.

We promote their interests through:

- ✓ a strong emphasis on personalised learning
- ✓ high quality learning and teaching,
- ✓ an emphasis on differentiation upwards
- ✓ a culture of high expectation and aspiration
- ✓ separate streaming for the core subjects of Maths and English
- ✓ offering extension subjects, like English Literature and Further Maths
- ✓ extending the curriculum to cater for individual pupil interests
- ✓ participation in community music events
- ✓ opportunities to mentor other pupils
- ✓ membership of sports' teams and participation in sporting competitions
- ✓ selection for regional sporting trials
- ✓ participation in recognised award schemes - Volunteer Now and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- ✓ opportunities to promote leadership skills.



Our Gifted and Talented Provision

We recognize each pupil as a unique individual with their own particular gifts and talents and are committed to developing their full potential. Whilst all pupils are equally valued for their gifts and talents, we at Castlederg High School aim to recognize and develop those pupils who have the potential to achieve to a level beyond their peer group.

A School That Works In Partnership With You

As a school we work in close partnership with pupils and parents, believing that this approach ensures the best possible school experience. Tailoring our provision to the needs of each individual pupil entrusted to us lies at the heart of our success as a school. This pupil-centred commitment requires that we:

- ✓ listen to pupils' views
- ✓ have strong links with their parents.

Our Students' Council

Our Students' Council is made up of elected representatives from all form classes from Year 8 to 14. It also includes the Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies. Elections are held every two years.

This forum allows pupils to meet regularly as an elected body and:

- ✓ express their views
- ✓ influence decision making
- ✓ impact positively on school improvement.

Welcoming Parents' Support

At Castlederg High School we warmly encourage parents to be part of our school community by:

- ✓ attending our Year 8 Welcome Morning
- ✓ attending other school events
- ✓ becoming involved in the parent-teacher association
- ✓ providing feedback during the review and development of school policies
- ✓ responding to parental surveys of school performance.



Promoting Links With Parents

As a school we value the parents of our pupils as key partners in ensuring their child's success. We believe that parents have a key role to play in:

- ✓ encouraging their child as a learner
- ✓ promoting the value of what the school can do for their child.

Communicating With Parents

Good communication is vital between home and school in order to maximize the positive benefits of this partnership. Parents are encouraged to contact the school regarding any relevant matter relating to their child. In addition, formal home-school links are established through:

- ✓ pupil organizer, which may include teacher and parent comments, as necessary
- ✓ annual parent-teacher meetings for each year group
- ✓ annual pupil progress reports
- ✓ tracking reports to monitor pupil progress towards external exams
- ✓ parent information evenings at key transition points
- ✓ prompt communication on significant pupil issues like well-being
- ✓ individual pupil review meetings, as necessary, with the Year Head
- ✓ SEN annual review and transition review meetings
- ✓ regular updates to parents by school app
- ✓ school Facebook page and website.





A School That Offers A Stimulating Curriculum



Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum allows students to avail of a wide range of learning experiences. It is our aim to encourage and nurture the development of each child's individual talents to prepare them for the world beyond school. We offer a multitude of subjects which actively promote key skills such as managing information and personal capabilities while improving Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills in all subject areas.

The following subjects are offered at Key Stage 3:

Art and Design	ICT
Citizenship	Maths
Drama	Music
Employability	Physical Education
English	Religious Education
Geography	Science
History	Spanish
Home Economics	Technology and Design

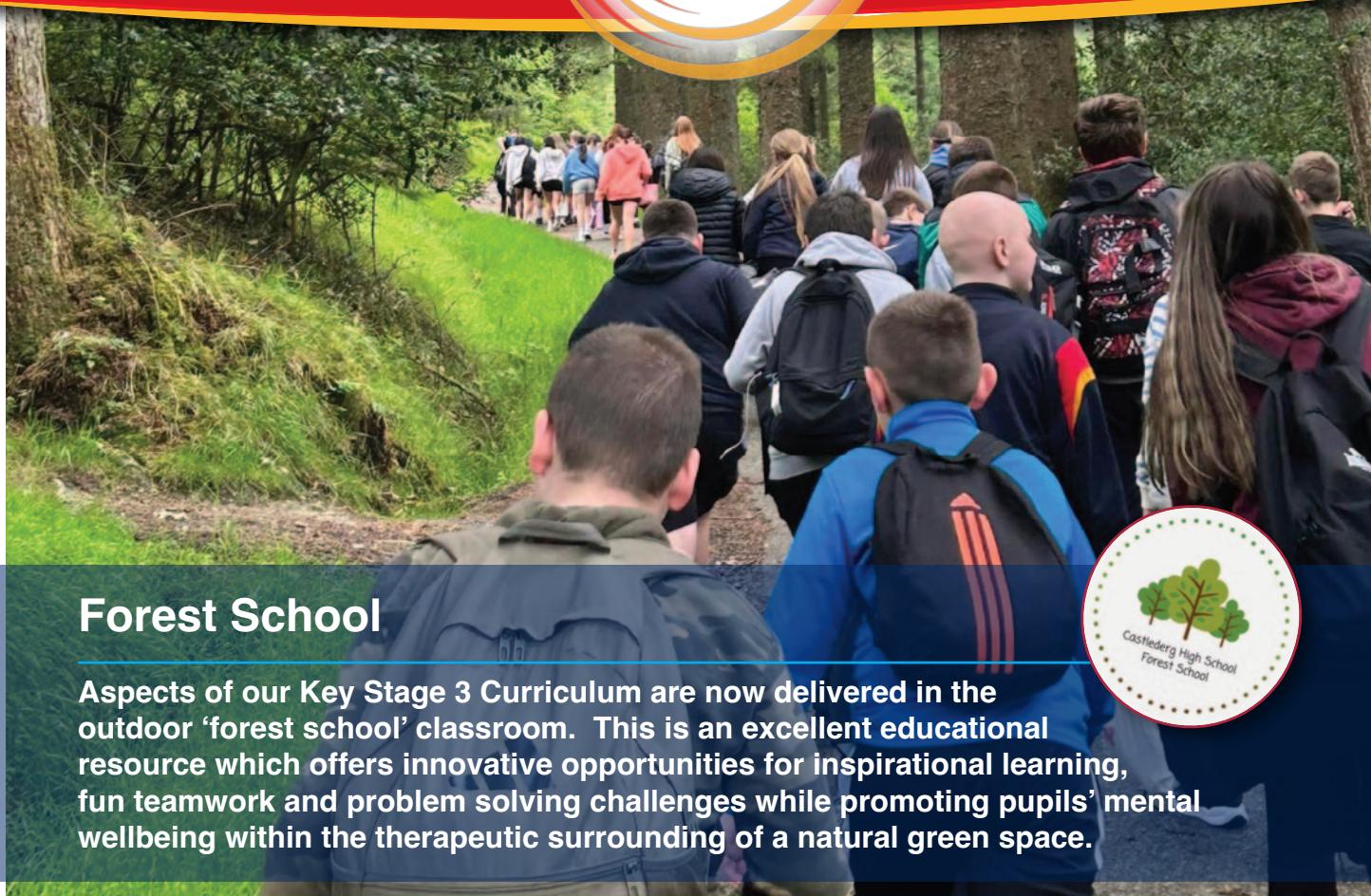
Homework

We view homework of the upmost importance in each child's learning as it:

- ✓ provides opportunities to reinforce class work
- ✓ allows pupils to develop as independent learners
- ✓ instils the responsibility of meeting deadlines, a useful attribute for achievement in school work and beyond.

Pupils receive homework in a variety of different formats. New pupils are supported in the use of their pupil organiser to record and manage homework.

Parental support is also crucial in assisting pupils with the completion of homework. We actively encourage parents to sign their child's pupil organizer each week so that they too are informed of their child's progress in learning.



Forest School

Aspects of our Key Stage 3 Curriculum are now delivered in the outdoor 'forest school' classroom. This is an excellent educational resource which offers innovative opportunities for inspirational learning, fun teamwork and problem solving challenges while promoting pupils' mental wellbeing within the therapeutic surrounding of a natural green space.



A School That Offers Curriculum Choice

Key Stage 4

The fact that we are equipped as a school to promote the achievement of all pupils, irrespective of ability, is due in part to careful curriculum planning. With the extensive range of subjects on offer at KS4 there is undoubtedly something to cater for each child's individual needs.

Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Key Stage 4 offer we offer a broad and balanced curriculum to foster the strengths and talents of each individual student. All pupils are provided with a choice of subjects which includes a range of academic and vocational, with alternative subjects being offered where appropriate.

Pupils and their parents are supported to make informed subject choices, best suited to their individual abilities and interests. It is our aim to maximise a pupil's academic and creative potential so that they are equipped to both integrate and contribute positively to society.

Subjects Offered at Key Stage 4

Agriculture	King's Trust
Art and Design	Learning for Life and Work
Business Studies	Mathematics
Child Development	Music
Digital Technologies	Occupational Studies
Engineering	- Child Care
English	- Construction
English Literature	- Food Preparation
Further Mathematics	Physical Education
Geography	Religious Education
Health and Social Care	Religious Studies - OCN
History	Science - Single Award
Home Economics	Science - Double Award
Hospitality	Science - OCN
I.T. Applications - OCN	Spanish
	Technology and Design





Castlederg High School



A School With A Successful Sixth Form



High Quality Learning and Teaching

Students are supported in their learning through high quality learning and teaching experiences both in and outside the classroom. Our supervised Sixth Form Study Centre provides a quiet and central area for students to complete work outside timetabled lessons. Students also avail of an age appropriate Personal Development and Enrichment Programme as well as numerous opportunities within school life to develop leadership capability.

We provide our Sixth Form students with access to a wide range of subjects. The pathways available include either discrete or combination choices of:

- ✓ academic A levels
- ✓ applied A levels
- ✓ BTEC options.

Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum is comprised of a combination of subjects provided either in school, through our partner schools in the Derg Mourne Learning Community or at South West Regional College.

Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Art & Design	Government & Politics
Biology	Health & Social Care (SA & DA)
BTEC Agriculture	History
BTEC Applied Science	Mathematics
BTEC Children's Care, Learning & Development	Music
BTEC Engineering	OCR Level 3 Business
BTEC in I.T.	Physics
BTEC Media	Professional Business Services
BTEC Sport	Religious Education
Chemistry	Software Systems Development
English Language	Technology & Design
English Literature	Travel and Tourism
Geography	



Preparation for Post 16 Options

Post 16 Options are an integral part of the Sixth Form curriculum, with pupils being provided with opportunities to increase their work experience profile through:

- ✓ block or day release periods,
- ✓ visiting local FE colleges and HE institutions,
- ✓ listening to guest speakers from business and industry
- ✓ being provided with on-going support and guidance through the pastoral and careers structures.
- ✓ UCAS application process
- ✓ CAO application process

Sixth Form students' progress to a range of employment opportunities, higher level apprenticeships, further education and higher education courses.



Our Commitment to Each Pupil

In Castlederg High School we recognise that all pupils are individuals with their own aspirations and learning styles.

In order to help each of our pupils attain their full potential we encourage them to:

- ✓ set personal targets with short and long-term goals
- ✓ engage in regular self-evaluation of their progress
- ✓ identify personal strengths and areas for improvement
- ✓ review their personal targets with their Form Teacher
- ✓ engage positively with the Mentoring Process
- ✓ attend Literacy and/or Numeracy Club, if invited.



As a school we make effective use of a range of data to:

- ✓ identify a pupil's level of attainment at the beginning of each year
- ✓ predict a pupil's potential level of achievement at the end of each Key Stage
- ✓ track each pupil's level of progress within Key Stage 4 and 5
- ✓ identify pupils to participate in our Mentoring Programme which involves the pupil, parents and a Teacher Mentor working together to help the pupil maximize their achievement
- ✓ stream pupils in classes according to their level of achievement in English
- ✓ set pupils in classes for Mathematics according to their individual progress
- ✓ offer additional Literacy support to Key Stage 3 pupils who are identified as requiring it
- ✓ offer additional Numeracy support to Key Stage 3 pupils who are identified as requiring it.





Castlederg High School



A School That Encourages Creativity

Our Belief in the Value of Creativity

At Castlederg High School we recognise the importance of creativity within a young person's education. We nurture a positive 'can do' attitude within our learners impressing upon them the value of a risk taking mind set as a key part of the learning experience. Lessons are interesting and interactive. Our pupils are encouraged to be inquisitive and experimental in their learning.

We promote creative activities so that our young people experience:

- ✓ fun learning
- ✓ freedom to express their views
- ✓ further development of thinking skills and personal capabilities
- ✓ opportunities to develop individual creative talent
- ✓ reduced stress and anxiety.





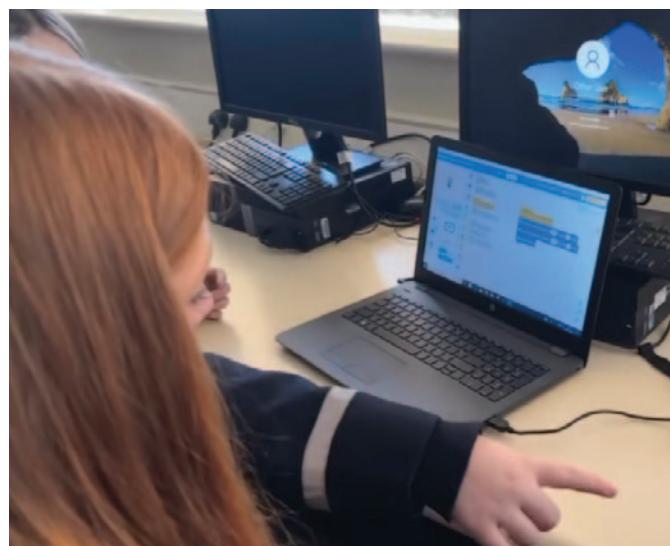
Castlederg High School



Our Commitment to STEM

Castlederg High School is actively involved in the promotion of STEM related subjects. These include:

- ✓ Science
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ ICT
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Maths.



We promote STEM through:

- ✓ offering a wide selection of STEM subjects at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5
- ✓ giving pupils the opportunity to experience STEM for themselves in many ways including use of the visiting STEM module bus and Connected Learning STEM days in school, industrial visits, STEM Ambassadors and STEM Fairs
- ✓ careers education, advice and guidance.

As a school we seek to ensure that each of our young people receives an education that equips them to find their place in 21st century society. We place a strong emphasis on ensuring that our pupils have access to innovative approaches and resources for learning. These include:

- ✓ access to the most up-to-date subject specific software
- ✓ interactive white boards in each classroom
- ✓ access to the internet via WIFI across the school
- ✓ iPad technology in each subject department
- ✓ four ICT suites
- ✓ a Design Technology Department equipped with two ICT suites and the latest 3D printers.

We recognise the growing need for skills in these subject areas within the Northern Ireland Economy. STEM industries are at the heart of current economic growth, and we are encouraging all our pupils to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge necessary to obtain meaningful employment in these sectors of industry.





Castlederg High School



A School That Enhances Employability Skills



We recognize that Careers Education and Guidance has a key part to play in:

- ✓ promoting curriculum and organisational change
- ✓ enhancing student self-esteem and motivation
- ✓ reducing course switching and drop-out
- ✓ creating curriculum relevance
- ✓ promoting lifelong learning.

Under the leadership of Mrs Mowbray, Careers Co-ordinator, we have a strong focus on Careers Education and Guidance which has recently been endorsed through feedback during an ETI focused Inspection visit as being of exceptional quality.

KS3 Employability

This is an important transition year for Year 10 pupils progressing to GCSE and BTEC pathways in Year 11. All pupils are supported and guided in the following ways:

- ✓ taught Careers programme
- ✓ STEM Day – promoting careers in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths
- ✓ personal career plan to identify skills, attributes and learning styles
- ✓ options booklet and associated resources
- ✓ parents' information evening
- ✓ group interviews with the Careers Advisor
- ✓ options afternoon – all GCSE/BTEC subjects represented by Year 12 GCSE pupils
- ✓ options choices.



KS4 Careers Education

A number of key areas are covered through Careers lessons:

- ✓ labour market information
- ✓ personal career planning
- ✓ preparation for work experience
- ✓ Earn to Learn workshop delivered by Young Enterprise
- ✓ recruitment and selection: online recruitment, CVs, application forms
- ✓ interview skills day
- ✓ individual interviews with the careers advisor (DEL)
- ✓ applications for local FE colleges and training organisations
- ✓ annual careers fair
- ✓ post 16 options
- ✓ sixth form at Castlederg High School – options booklet, options afternoon and information evening for parents and other prospective students
- ✓ EMA eligibility and application
- ✓ Year 11 Work Placement.

Sixth Form

- ✓ university open days
- ✓ higher education convention
- ✓ health related workshops delivered through Altnagelvin Hospital
- ✓ UCAS planning, preparation and application
- ✓ applications for local FE colleges, employment and other higher level apprenticeships
- ✓ work experience at the end of Year 13
- ✓ taster placements with local employers
- ✓ interview skills
- ✓ enrichment through role as a prefect, organisation of sixth form events, involvement in Volunteer Now, role as a mentor, providing in class support in junior classes.



A School That Offers Extra-Curricular Activities For All



Extra-curricular

Our extra-curricular programme provides each of our pupils with many opportunities to further develop their personal, social, emotional and academic potential. The range of activities on offer ensures provision both during the school day and after school.



We encourage our pupils to avail of the extra-curricular activities on offer as they form an important part in creating a more rounded individual. Participation in extra-curricular activities helps our pupils to:

- ✓ broaden their skills and interests
- ✓ develop their sporting interest and capability
- ✓ maintain good health and fitness
- ✓ understand the importance of teamwork and commitment
- ✓ develop friendships
- ✓ build confidence and self-esteem, and manage stress
- ✓ lay a strong foundation for the quality of their personal statement when making college, university or employment applications.

Programme of Extra-Curricular Activities

Athletics	Arts and Crafts	GCSE/A Level Revision Classes
Basket ball	Baking	Guitar Club
Boys' Football	Board Games	Homework Club
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme	Book Club	ICT
Fitness/High Intensity Interval Training	Choir	Music
Girls' Football	Coding and Robotics	Scripture Union
Hockey	Culture Club	STEM Club
Rugby	Drama	Technology Club
Netball	Eco Club	Ulster Scots Group
Table Tennis	English as a Second Language	Volunteer Now Award Scheme

After School Transport

We believe in the importance of all pupils having access to our extra-curricular provision. Therefore, after school transport is available on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 4.15pm to the areas below as follows:

✓ Killen, Ederney, Lack, Kesh, Irvinestown.

✓ Killeter, Kilclean.

✓ Drumquin, Drumlegagh, Ardstraw, Newtownstewart, Sion Mills, Victoria Bridge, Erganagh, Castlederg.

A School Offering Trips and Fun Activities



All pupils have the opportunity to participate in trips and visits, across a range of subject areas, during their time here at Castlederg High School.

The wide variety of trips and visits organized by our staff include:

- ✓ field trips
- ✓ industrial visits
- ✓ cultural outings
- ✓ sporting events.

Additional opportunities are provided through Derg Valley Youth Club. Most recent trips have included ski-trips to Bulgaria, as well as the opportunity to visit Auschwitz in Poland, the French capital, Paris and Barcelona in Spain.

These educational trips and visits provide important learning opportunities outside of the classroom. They offer a valuable way of enhancing pupils' learning by engaging with the wider world to:

- ✓ reinforce or develop prior learning
- ✓ broaden pupils' cultural experience
- ✓ strengthen pupils' social, emotional and personal development.

The variety of trips experienced by each individual pupil will ultimately be determined by their chosen curriculum pathway in the senior school.





Castlederg High School



A School That Promotes Performance In Sport



Sporting activities form an important part of school life in which we aim to:

- ✓ improve pupils' general levels of fitness, skill and enjoyment of a wide range of physical activities
- ✓ enhance personal and social development through sport
- ✓ prepare pupils to make positive and healthy use of their leisure time.

Our Excellent Sporting Facilities

Castlederg High School boasts a wide range of sporting facilities including a fully equipped sports hall and gym, tennis court, astro pitch, 3G pitch, soccer and rugby pitches.

Sporting Competition Success

The school has enjoyed great success in recent years across all areas of sporting competition. Sports teams represent the school in local and national competitions. These include cross country and athletics, in addition to league and cup matches in hockey, boys' and girls' football, and rugby.



Sporting Activities Offered

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Dance
- Football
(both Boys' and Girls')
- Gymnastics
- Health Related PE
- Hockey
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Rounders
- Rugby
- Softball
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball



Castlederg High School



Identifying Elite Sporting Performance

All pupils, including beginners, are encouraged to develop their sporting ability. Beyond this, pupils who show exceptional skill are nurtured to develop their sporting talent and given opportunities to participate in sporting trials and high level competition.

A School That Recognises Pupil Achievement

Celebrating Success

At Castlederg High School we believe in the importance of recognising our pupils' achievements on an on-going basis throughout the school year. The full breadth of pupil achievement is celebrated including attendance, individual attainment, excellent effort, character development, leadership and sporting success. Such recognition enhances pupils' self-esteem and promotes further success.

This recognition of pupil achievement culminates in our annual Key Stage 3 Awards in June to include a celebration of summer exam performance. At Key Stages 4 and 5, the presentation of awards and certificates at our annual Prize Night in September involves a celebration of GCSE, BTEC and A Level attainment.







Castlederg High School

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All the information in this book is accurate at the time of printing. Some details may be subject to change.

