



# Castleberg High School

A High Performing, Non-Selective, Post Primary School

Prospectus 2022

# A School That Values Pupil Voice

## Our Year 8's Experience ...

I have settled into school really well because all the teachers are nice.

The Principal and teachers are really kind and helpful.

The teachers, assistants or older pupils showed us where to go.

Knowing I have family in school makes me happy too.

I enjoy staying over after school for hockey.

It is fun learning new subjects and moving to different classes.

I like having different teachers every day.

There are a lot of teachers around at break and lunch.

I love the PE classes. You get to stay over for football and rugby.

If you are nervous the teachers will help you to feel okay.

Going to the summer scheme really helped me get to know my new school.

The Year 8 days in August helped me to settle in easily.

I like having a longer lunch so that I can talk to my new friends and play outside.



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Castleberg High School  
**Girls' Uniform**



Castleberg High School  
**Boys' Uniform**

### Uniform Stockists:

S&K  
Main St, Castleberg, Co Tyrone.

J Kemps  
Main St, Newtownstewart, Co Tyrone.

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Main Street, Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh.



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# *A School With An Established Culture Of Success*



**Mrs Susan J Wilson**  
Principal

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## I am delighted to welcome you to Castlederg High School –

a school that ensures high academic success, a wide and vibrant extra-curricular provision and a happy school experience. We are aware of the extreme challenges of the past two years on pupils and families, and as a school, we continue to seek to do everything we can to ensure that all our pupils receive a rich and fulfilling experience, helping them to navigate the complex path the pandemic has created. We are confident that we provide an environment where our pupils are encouraged to be resilient and adaptable to change, as our current pupils have already shown, through their outstanding performance in 2021.

As we have become renowned for excellent performance in all examinations at GCSE and A level and have gained a reputation for superb standards of teaching and learning, Castlederg High School has become the choice for pupils who want a full academic education in a warm and caring environment, where every young person is valued and supported in their learning. We pride ourselves on meeting the needs of every pupil and challenging them to be the best they can be. Year on year, more pupils are transferring to us with high AQE scores, or none – Castlederg High School was their first choice.

I can assure you that the high standards the school has reached in recent years means your child can be in no better place to grow and develop. Castlederg High School remains one of the top controlled non grammar schools in Northern Ireland. We continue to sustain an exceptionally high level of achievement. This year, 97% of our pupils achieved 5 or more GCSE grades and 91% achieved 5 or more including Maths and English. Therefore, you can be assured that you have chosen the best in educational quality. Our A Level performance is equally impressive at 96% 3 A\* - C, so you can be guaranteed we will take your child from Year 8 to University or Higher level

*My son has settled in so well. He has spoken very positively about his classes, teachers and new friends.*

*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



**“we focus on the individual and unique needs of every pupil”**

education. We offer a wide range GCSE and A Level subjects, including subjects that are often only provided in grammar schools e.g. Further Maths.

The staff in Castleberg High School are highly driven and completely focused on providing the best possible learning experience and environment for your child. Our professional teaching staff always go the extra mile to provide exciting and interesting learning experiences and they are ably supported by an equally dedicated non-teaching staff. Good relationships are at the heart of our school and as a staff we are committed to building pupil self-confidence and encouraging them to aim for their highest possible achievement. We are focused on our pupils’ future from the instant they arrive in school, with a huge emphasis on career planning from Year 8 on. We believe that every child can have the career they want with good curricular choice and strong careers information. We recognise that young people must feel secure and safe to flourish and we provide an excellent pastoral provision that ensures our pupils are motivated and happy and always have someone to support them. All our pupils feel a strong sense of belonging and our nurturing family environment encourages the best possible achievement from every pupil. Our pupils are proud to be pupils of Castleberg High School and wear their uniform with pride, knowing they are both challenged and cared for each and every day.

You may be particularly concerned about the transition process for your child in these challenging times, but I can assure you that we will take every step possible to ensure that your child’s move to us is happy and smooth. We are very aware that every pupil must feel supported and cared for during transition from primary school. This year in response to the extra challenges P7 pupils had to endure, we provided small group visits in June, a transition summer school and two induction mornings solely for Year 8 in August, so that all pupils felt confident and comfortable when the first day of school arrived. You can be reassured that we focus on the individual and unique needs of every pupil from the very start of their time with us through to the day they leave to follow their future career.

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 and responsive, 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 Castleberg High School will be your number 1!

Best wishes

**Mrs Susan J Wilson**  
Principal

Principal	Vice-Principal	Chair - Board of Governors
Mrs S Wilson BA Hons, PGCE, PQH(NI)	Mrs S Cashel MA, MEd, BA (Hons), PGCE, PG Dip.	Mr E Stevenson

# *A School That Offers A Great Educational Experience*

## Mission

Castledearg High School values each pupil as a unique individual endowed with abilities, both academic and non-academic.

The ideal to which we aspire is to develop the confidence and self-esteem of the pupils so that they are motivated to achieve their highest potential within a safe and caring environment.

An understanding of the world and the place of humanity in it will be offered in the context of belief in Christian values whilst respect for other beliefs or none will be fostered.

## Our Core Values

Castledearg High School aims to foster the following core values for all:

- ✓ a strong sense of loyalty to the school and its goals
- ✓ positive, caring relationships through an effective pastoral care system
- ✓ a sense of belonging to the school community
- ✓ a sense of confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ freedom to express views
- ✓ respect for others, their views and their property
- ✓ high expectation of attendance, behaviour and attainment
- ✓ high quality learning and teaching
- ✓ self-evaluation in the pursuit of improvement to achieve quality provision
- ✓ communication among all members of the school community
- ✓ promotion of the high reputation of the school in the community
- ✓ an attractive and stimulating school environment
- ✓ promotion of mutual dignity and respect  
- promoting a dignified workplace.



We are delighted with CHS.  
My daughter loves Year 8 and settled in great.  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)



## Our Aim

The primary aim of Castleberg 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 Is High Performing*



Castledearg High School is renowned within the community as a high performing school. This was consolidated in 2018 with our position as top non-grammar school for GCSE performance in Northern Ireland. 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.

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 Castledearg 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.

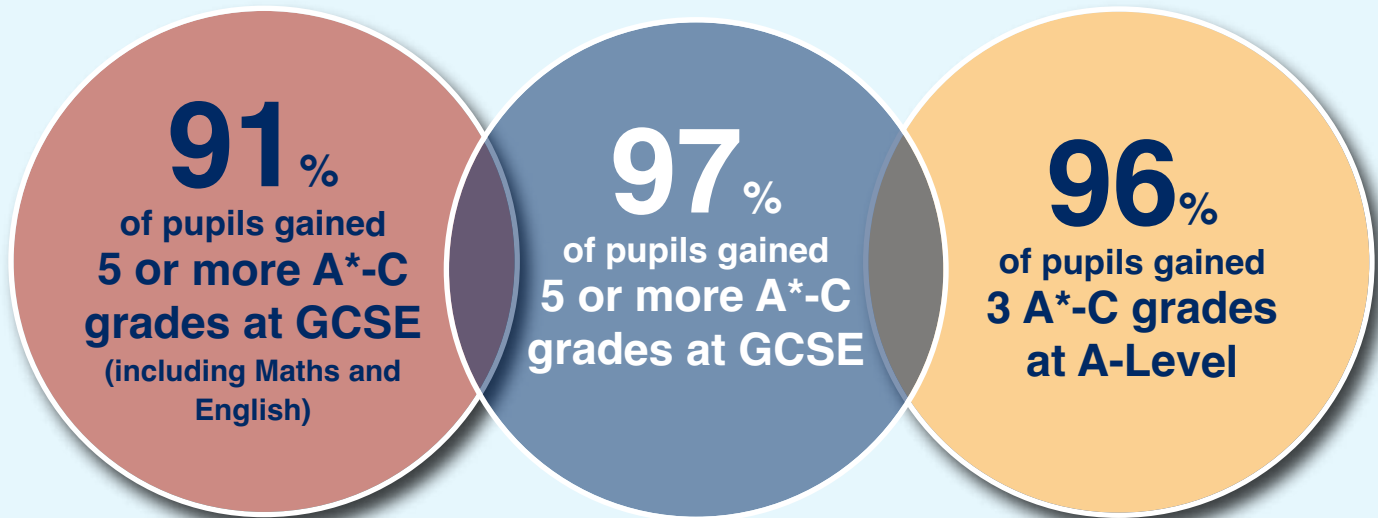




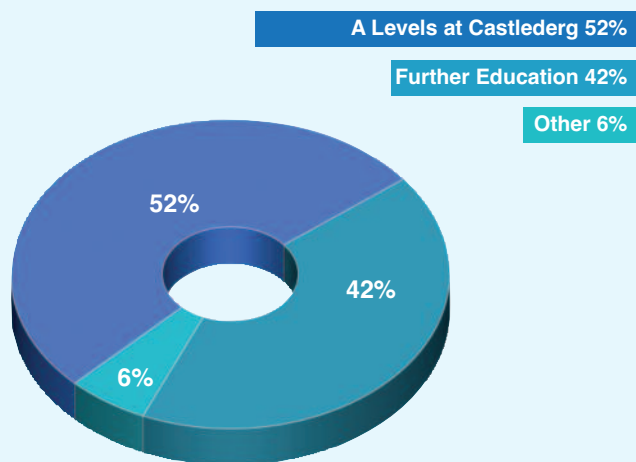
We were right to choose Castleberg High School because it is a great school in our local community and our son is very happy there.  
 Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)



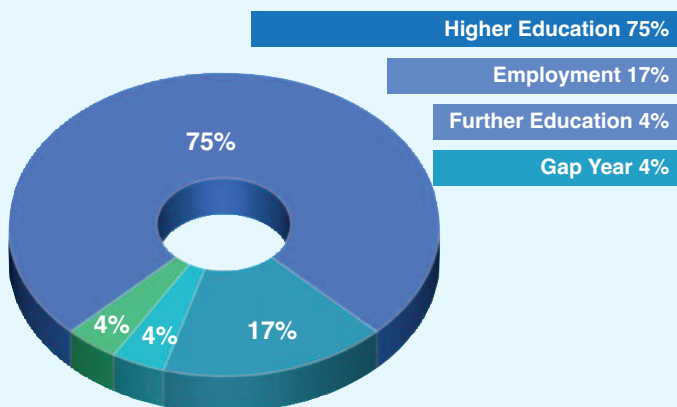
## Headline Statistics



## Destination of GCSE Students



## Destination of A Level Students



## 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 Castledearg 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
Castledearg	Kesh	Sion Mills
Drumquin	Killen	Strabane
Gortin	Lack	

### APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2019/20	90	94	93*
2020/21	90	105	105**
2021/22	90	87	87

\*Includes pupils with full SEN

\*\* Includes temporary variation to admissions number and pupils with full SEN

## 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. In fact, an increasing number of young people make the transition to Castledearg High School at post 16 level.



*Absolutely the right choice of school. My child has always been anxious but he has settled in well and loves his subjects and sport.  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



## Our Confidence in Providing For You

Experience shows that each of our new pupils:

- ✓ settles in quickly
- ✓ feels a sense of belonging to our school community
- ✓ achieves success, often beyond their, and their parents, expectations.

*A School that Pupils are Proud to Attend*



## **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.

*My son gets up every morning buzzing and happy to go to school. He loves the CHS pupils and teachers and the changing of classes. We see an improvement in his attitude and joy of school life.*



## Our Classes

At Castleberg 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 – 9.40	1	English	IT	Maths	Geography	History	
9.40 – 10.15	2	Science	History	Science	RE	English	
10.15 – 10.50	3	Art	Science	Music	Modern Languages	Personal Development	
10.50 – 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 Castledearg 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 Mrs Cashel
- ✓ Deputy Designated Teacher Mrs Spratt

### **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.

*We are very happy with Castleberg High School. The staff are all very friendly and approachable, and the merit card system is a great way to encourage and boost our child's confidence.*



### 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 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 a wellbeing class in Year 8 to aid strategies for healthy living.

## 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:

- ✓ e-Safety
- ✓ anti-bullying
- ✓ stress management
- ✓ relationship issues
- ✓ alcohol and substance abuse
- ✓ eating disorders
- ✓ road safety
- ✓ mental wellbeing and resilience.





*We both believe that Castlederg High School is a fantastic school and are confident that our daughter will receive a fantastic education.  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



# *A School that Promotes Achievement of all Pupils*



## **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
- ✓ an Individual Education 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 club
- ✓ Numeracy club.

*My child has settled in well to CHS and his additional needs are being met.*

*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



## 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 Castleberg High School aim to recognize and develop those pupils who have the potential to achieve to a level beyond their peer group.

### Recognising Pupils who Excel

Gifted and talented pupils are identified as those who excel in one or more of the following areas:

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

As a school we promote the interests of gifted and talented pupils 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 - Duke of Edinburgh and Volunteer Now
- ✓ opportunities to promote leadership skills.

# 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.

## 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 – Year 8, Year 10, Year 12
- ✓ 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 all parents by letter or parent text service
- ✓ school newsletter
- ✓ school Facebook page, school App and website.



*My son has felt very welcome in CHS. The staff have been very approachable and encouraging. It was definitely the right choice of school.*

*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



## Welcoming Parents' Support

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

- ✓ attending 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.

# *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

*I am extremely happy about my choice of school. My daughter talks highly about the school. She is enjoying all of the new subjects.*  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)



## 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.



## 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 organizer 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.

# 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 Pathways

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, vocational, and alternative subject areas.

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

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





*It is very evident that my son enjoys his school, and he is always happy. Everyone is very supportive.*

*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



# 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:

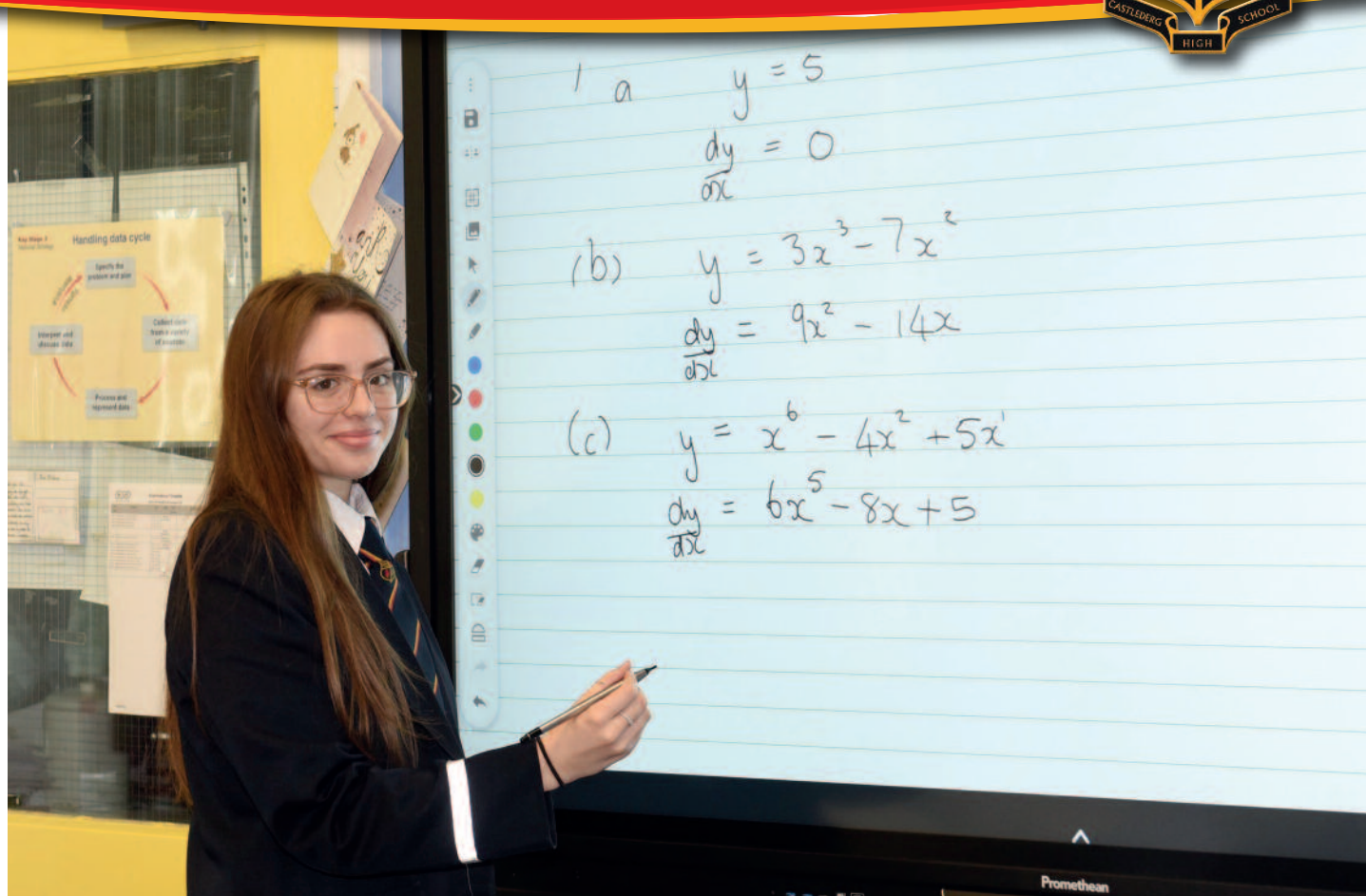
- ✓ academic A levels
- ✓ applied A levels
- ✓ BTEC options.

Our sixth form offering is further enhanced through our involvement with the Derg Mourne Learning Community, South West College and North West College. Pupils in Years 13 and 14 have increased access to subjects in our neighbouring schools and colleges.

## Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Art & Design	Government & Politics
Biology	Health & Social Care (SA & DA)
BTEC Agriculture	History
BTEC Applied Science	Irish
BTEC Children's Care, Learning & Development	Mathematics
BTEC Engineering	Music
BTEC Hospitality	Physics
BTEC in I.T.	Professional Business Services
BTEC Media	Religious Education
BTEC Sport	Software Systems Development
Chemistry	Sports Science and Active Leisure Industry
Drama	Spanish
English Language	Technology & Design
English Literature	
French	
Geography	

We are very happy with Castleberg High School. My son is enjoying school and always wants to aim high in his work.  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)



## Preparation for Post 16 Options

Post 18 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.



# A School That Personalises Learning

## Our Commitment to Each Pupil

In Castledegr 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
- ✓ write Literacy Education Plans or Numeracy Education Plans for individual pupils who might otherwise underachieve in English or Maths. This involves setting targets and working with the pupils to achieve them
- ✓ invite Key Stage 3 pupils who require additional teaching support to Literacy Club after school
- ✓ invite Key Stage 3 pupils who require additional teaching support to Numeracy Club after school.



*My daughter has settled in really well and is enjoying school. She has made new friends already and the teachers have been very helpful.*  
*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



# A School That Encourages Creativity



## Our Belief in the Value of Creativity

At Castleberg 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.



*My daughter is very happy and confident in Castleberg High School with all her new friends. She is making a successful transition into Year 8.  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



# A School That Promotes Learning For The Future

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
- ✓ three ICT suites
- ✓ a Design Technology Department equipped with two ICT suites and the latest 3D printers.



## Our Commitment to STEM

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

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

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.

**We promote STEM through:**

- ✓ the Derg Valley Shared Education Partnership which focuses, with our partner primary schools, on the delivery of STEM to Years 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10
- ✓ 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.





*We are very happy with Castleberg High School. The staff are all very friendly and approachable, and the merit card system is a great way to encourage and boost our child's confidence.*



# *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.

## **Individual Career Planning**

The goal of Careers delivery within the school is to provide each pupil with the opportunity, skills and knowledge necessary to make reasoned and informed decisions about the kind of career that is best suited to their personality and talents. Pupils are encouraged to:

- ✓ identify their own individual strengths and abilities
- ✓ develop knowledge, understanding and experience of opportunities in education, training and employment
- ✓ accept responsibility for the research and analysis required in the decision-making process
- ✓ link their skills and qualities to a range of employment opportunities
- ✓ develop their ability to apply relevant knowledge, understanding and skills to their own individual circumstances when choices have to be made.

The school avails of the services of outside agencies and individuals who can contribute to Careers work within the school e.g. Department of Employment and Learning, universities, and individual speakers. Pupils will also attend a range of careers events to enhance their understanding of courses in Further and Higher Education.

*My daughter has settled into Year 8 extremely well. She has made new friends, enjoys school and loves taking part in after school activities.*

*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



## Work Experience

Five days of work experience is mandatory for each Year 11 pupil and takes place at the end of the academic year. Year 13 pupils in the Tailored Sixth Form attend work experience one day per week. The remainder of Year 13 pupils are offered a further opportunity for a week of work experience at the end of the year. This is optional. These pupils are visited by a member of staff each term and updates on their progress are updated through employer evaluation forms.

## KS3 Employability

Pupils have one period of Employability each week and study the following key topics:

- ✓ personal career planning
- ✓ skills and qualities
- ✓ job information
- ✓ labour market information
- ✓ enterprise and entrepreneurship.

## Year 10

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 Castleberg High School – options booklet, options afternoon and information evening for parents and other prospective students
- ✓ progress file
- ✓ EMA eligibility and application.

## 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 though role as a prefect, organisation of sixth form events, involvement in Volunteer Now, role as a mentor, providing in class support in junior classes.
- ✓ Higher Education Roadshow



## **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.

*My child feels very safe which helps him settle and do his best. We are really pleased with our choice of school. Everyone has made us feel welcome.*

*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



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

Sport	Other	Homework Club
Athletics	Arts and Crafts	ICT
Basket ball	Baking	Literacy Club
Boys' Football	Board Games	Music
Fitness/High Intensity Interval Training	Choir	Numeracy Club
Girls' Football	Coding and Robotics	Scripture Union
Hockey	Drama	STEM Club
Rugby	Eco Club	Technology Club
Netball	Equestrian Team	Volunteer Now Award Scheme
Table Tennis	GCSE/A Level Revision Classes	

## 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, Kilklean.
- ✓ Drumquin, Drumlegagh, Ardstraw, Newtownstewart, Sion Mills, Victoria Bridge, Erganagh, Castleberg.

# 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. To date these have included trips to see the Ulster Rugby Team or Belfast Giants' Ice Hockey in action, as well as stock car racing at Ballymena. A junior and senior ski trip to Bulgaria, and a sixth form trip to Poland have also been on offer to our pupils each year.

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.

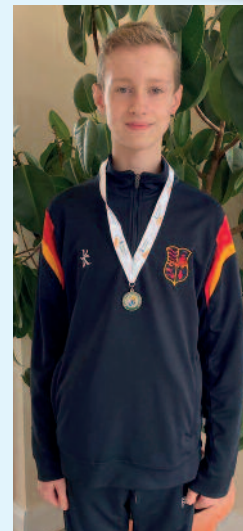
The variety of trips experienced by each individual pupil will ultimately be determined by their chosen curriculum pathway in the senior school.



We were worried about transition due to our child's additional needs. However, everyone has ensured a successful transition from form teacher, classroom assistant, SENCo, Principal and there's many more involved!



# 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

Castleberg 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.

## 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.



## 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



*My son has settled brilliantly into CHS. He enjoys his subjects and teachers, and the sport is great.*

*Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2021)*



# *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 recognised including individual attainment, sporting success and community or charity involvement. Such recognition enhances pupils' self-esteem and promotes further success. This culminates in our annual presentation of awards and certificates 'Celebrating Success.' The school, then, proudly recognises the following achievements:

- ✓ form class prize for progress, effort and attainment
- ✓ attendance (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum)
- ✓ GCSE and A level achievement
- ✓ special awards for top achievement in a variety of subjects at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level
- ✓ other special awards for outstanding achievement.



*My daughter is very happy that she chose CHS. She loves her teachers and subjects and seems to have a better attitude to learning. The merit rewards give great encouragement.*





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

