



ST PATRICK'S
ACADEMY
DUNGANNON

THE ACADEMY PROSPECTUS 2023



Achieving Excellence Together



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PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to our annual prospectus. Whether you are already part of the Academy community or a prospective student or family member, I hope that you enjoy learning more about everything that happens in and beyond the classrooms here at the Academy.

Dedicated to St Patrick, the Academy has been a beacon for quality Catholic education in Dungannon since 1891. As we continue our work of delivering high quality pastoral care and learning in our new school building, we work hard to be a centre of excellence for the 21st Century – in short, we want to be a modern school with traditional values and high expectations.

Our prospectus offers you a window through which you can see into all aspects of Academy life but, should you wish to visit us in person, to meet our pupils and staff and experience our first-class facilities, please do not hesitate to make contact. Whether you wish to renew old friendships or to learn more about what we do, you will always be welcome. I look forward to seeing you here at the Academy and to working with you.

Colin Holmes
Principal



*We want to be a modern school with
traditional values and high expectations.*

Colin Holmes, Principal



A RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM

The Academy’s curriculum is broad and balanced. We want to ensure that all pupils, no matter their starting points, backgrounds, or individual needs, are afforded the same ambitious curriculum and an equal chance to succeed.

Our provision goes beyond the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum whilst, at the same time, maximising opportunities for the greatest number of pupils. We are able to accommodate the choices of the vast majority of pupils. You will be reassured to know that in an era of great change, we maintain a solid grammar school curriculum with a strong emphasis on English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Languages and Humanities, but we complement this with one of the widest ranges of new courses available locally. We embrace areas such as: IT, Business, Media, Social Sciences, Health & Social Care, Environmental Technology and Engineering, so as to equip our young people for the future with the right blend of knowledge, understanding and skills.

Subject options at KS4 are fully flexible, affording pupils the opportunity to take the subjects most suited to their needs and aspirations. This is supported by our extensive careers education programme which aims to support pupils in recognising their skills and qualities and matching them to the most suitable courses. We spend a lot of time discussing subject choice with all pupils,

both at GCSE and A Level. Subject options at post-16 are designed (i) to ensure that the subject requirements of all third level courses are met (ii) to reflect pupil demand and (iii) to provide opportunities for each pupil to develop the skills and attributes needed to contribute fully to society in adult life.

Our provision goes beyond the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum whilst, at the same time, maximising opportunities for the greatest number of pupils.

Most pupils will complete nine subjects to GCSE level, but there are opportunities for some pupils to take ten or more subjects.

As a grammar school we continue to place a strong emphasis on academic rigour and on preparing our pupils for quality university courses, yet we equally encourage pupils to consider the new opportunities that are open to them such as apprenticeships and foundation degrees.



KS3

GCSE

A Level

Art & Design
Careers Education
Drama
English
French
Geography
History
Home Economics
ICT
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
Personal Development & Citizenship
Religious Education
Science
Technology

Art & Design
Business Studies
Careers Education (not examined)
Computer Science
Digital Technology – Multimedia
Digital Technology – Programming
Engineering and Manufacturing
English Language
English Literature
Food and Nutrition
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
Irish
Learning for Life & Work
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education
Religious Studies
Science (Single Award)
Science (Double Award)
Spanish
Technology and Design

Accounting
Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Careers Education (not examined)
Chemistry
Digital Technology
Economics*
Engineering (BTEC)*
English Literature
Environmental Technology
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
Government & Politics
Health and Social Care
History
Irish
Life & Health Science
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Nutrition and Food Science
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Software Systems Development
Technology and Design



Texaco Children's Art
Competition 2022

From 20,000 entries two of our students, Maria Donaghy (Yr14) and Farragh Mc Geary (Yr 9) were placed in the top 15 in their age category. To add to their achievement, they were the only two prize-winners from Tyrone. The standard in this competition is always exceptionally high and our Art Department enjoy a long association with this competition, having had several prize winners over the years.

Maria Donaghy (left) and Farragh McGeary (right) with their superb winning entries.



*Subject available through the ALC

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

The Academy has a long tradition in producing academic excellence and we pride ourselves in maintaining that tradition.

We achieve it by nurturing relationships and creating an environment where children are happy. We know that when children are happy, they thrive. With supportive teaching and innovative approaches, we develop a culture of learning that produces outstanding results year after year. We work hard to raise the standards for and to add value to every child. We do this by knowing and improving upon their particular strengths and by helping them evaluate their own learning across their seven-year journey. We are always responding to changing economic conditions as the skills and qualifications needed for learning and working now are very different from those that were needed a generation ago.

The success of our approach is evident in our pupils' 2022 GCSE performance. Over 98% of our pupils achieved 7+ GCSEs at grades A*-C. Twelve subjects achieved 100% A*-C including English and Maths. Double Award Science also produced excellent results with over 97% of pupils achieving A*A*-CC.

At A Level we continue to have great success with ten of our subjects achieving 100% A*-C. We strive to maintain high standards of performance and our pupils continue to produce excellent results year on year. While the rigour of traditional A Level subjects has undoubtedly increased, it is pleasing to see so many of our pupils still performing at a high level and gaining access to the most competitive university courses and apprenticeship degree programs.

With supportive teaching and innovative approaches, we develop a culture of learning that produces outstanding results year after year.

While examination results are not everything, we all know that good results greatly improve a young person's life chances, so academic excellence is something that we will not compromise on. At the same time, we are conscious that life chances are enhanced through the development of wider skills in teamwork, communication, decision making, interpersonal relations and personal presentation. We invest in all of these for our pupils and any young person coming out of the Academy will have the academic achievement but will also have the skills and qualities needed to succeed in life.



Pictured is Lauren Martin who achieved Grade A in each of her four A Level subjects. Lauren studied Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Lauren is now studying Microbiology at Queen's University, Belfast.*

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

We believe that it takes more than good grades to achieve success in life and we believe that through our tailored careers programme, we can help students develop the knowledge, skills, qualities, and attitudes which give them a strong foundation for lifelong learning and work in a rapidly changing economic environment.

The school has strong and ever-widening links with both universities and local businesses and offers work-related learning opportunities through a range of industry visits and in-school talks and events. A school-based work experience programme is in place for all Year 13 pupils. Job

applications and interview skills play a prominent role in careers lessons from Year 12 onwards and our own mock interview programme has been hugely successful in helping our students secure places in the most competitive university courses including those in Oxford and Cambridge, where a number of our past pupils are currently studying.

Our students attend Careers Events and Open Days at Queen's University, Ulster University and St Mary's University College. They have had virtual meetings with representatives from Cambridge and visits from Liverpool John Moores. Pupils gained an insight into the importance of writing personal



statements for their UCAS application and gained advice and tips on how to complete UCAT, Multi-mini-interviews and other university interviews.

We have a designated Careers Room which contains a large range of printed material and multimedia resources. We also have two interview rooms, one which can be used by our external careers' advisor from the Department of Economy. Students can make an appointment to speak to the careers' teachers for guidance and advice. Ultimately our aim is to provide impartial advice to each of our pupils and help them make decisions which they are confident and happy with.

MEGA

The school is delighted to be taking part in the MEGA Ambassador programme. Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement (MEGA) has been established to ensure the manufacturing and engineering industry in Mid-Ulster has a continuous skilled talent pipeline and that our young people are aware of the range of careers in this field.

STEM

At St Patrick's Academy, we will continue to invest in the workforce of the future by raising our young people's skills, aspirations, and knowledge of STEM subjects. As the world becomes increasingly dependent on technology, the range of businesses and industries involving science, technology, engineering and maths has grown significantly. Therefore, in St Patrick's Academy, 'Success through STEM' is a key focus from Key

Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5. We aim to develop our pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding of STEM-related subjects so that they benefit from the local employment job opportunities and can contribute positively to the economy.

A portfolio of innovative and exciting programmes and extra-curricular activities are organised to enthuse and engage our students in STEM:

Career Mornings	
ALMAC Student Placements	
W5 Analysing DNA Workshop	
RSC/QUB 'Chemistry in a Suitcase'	
Irish Biology Olympiad	
International Chemistry Olympiad	
KS3 Salters Festival of Chemistry	
W5 LEGO Mindstorms	
Sentinus Research Projects	
CREST Awards	
Build a Plane Project	
QUB Maths Competition	
UKMT Maths Challenge	
JP Mc Manus Award	
Hans Sloane Awards	



PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Máire Kane - Medical Device Designer at St James's Hospital in Dublin.

I left St Patrick's Academy after completing my A Levels in 2015, 7 years ago now. For my A Levels, I studied art, technology and maths. I made the decision to go to the National College of Art and Design in Dublin to study Product Design.

During my studies, I had the opportunity to study in Milan for 6 months. I got to work with designers and engineers from all parts of the world. It was then that I discovered that I really enjoyed designing products to help improve the lives of others.

In my final year of Product Design, I worked on a device that aimed to reduce waste in a medical emergency and also on an oral motor device to improve oral motor skills in children. These projects went on to win various design awards in Ireland and England, including the Dyson Student Design Award and The RSA Student Design Award. This recognition gave me a huge sense of confidence in my ability.

Following graduation, I decided to study for an MSc in Medical Device Design, as I wanted to specialise more in medical devices. I worked with a range of engineers, designers, scientists and large multinational companies like Boston Scientific and Stryker. I came away from this course with a greater understanding of how to work in a multidisciplinary team.

This recognition gave me a huge sense of confidence in my ability.

When the opportunity came up to become the first designer in a public hospital in Ireland, I was eager to apply. Since last November I have been working in my new role as Medical Device Designer at St James's Hospital in Dublin and I am loving the challenges along with the rewards that it brings. Being located at the hospital means that we can call into the wards to test and communicate our ideas with staff directly, which is really unique in the medical device design world.



In the Academy, we are always mindful that we are preparing young people for life. We want our young people to develop the necessary skills required to understand and navigate the world of work and develop a knowledge and understanding of themselves as individuals, to allow them to learn and to make choices that enable them to meet their full potential.

PAST PUPILS WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

At the Academy we are proud of all our students' achievements, and we love to hear how their careers have developed after the Academy. We met up with the Corr siblings to find out where they are now...

Katie Corr

I was the first member of my family to attend the Academy in September 2005. I felt an immediate sense of community and with the calm and kind Ms Killen as my form teacher, I quickly settled in and made good friends. I qualified as an architect in 2020. I spent three years working in London and I am now working for van Dijk Architects, based in Belfast and Dundalk.

Diarmuid Corr

One of my strongest memories from school is Mr. Brannigan passionately proclaiming "Never let anyone tell you what you can't do". I've stubbornly stuck to my goals and ambitions ever since. I graduated with a master's degree in Applied Maths and Physics. I am currently completing a PhD, entitled 'Monitoring Antarctic and Greenlandic Ice Sheet Melting from Space'. This critical project is funded by the European Space Agency and will support international policy makers in developing effective strategies to manage climate change.

Eunan Corr

Life in the Academy was a mixture of hard work and great opportunities. With the help of very dedicated teachers, I achieved a top grade in my A Level maths,

despite not having additional maths at GCSE. After A Levels, I completed a master's degree in Chemical Engineering. I worked for 2 years for companies such as Pfizer or Johnson and Johnson. My current job in the development of cancer treatments is with a Swiss pharmaceutical company called Lonza.

Aoife Corr

I really enjoyed my years at the Academy. I made brilliant friends and had many great experiences. One of my favourite memories is of the Year 12 history trip to America. I have always loved animals and I am now in my fourth year at university studying Veterinary Science.

Clíodhna Corr

I made friends for life at the Academy. I am currently in the final year of my course in Biomedical Science. My dissertation on "Radiation Induced Breast Cancer" focuses on how treatment for certain types of cancer can cause secondary breast cancer in both men and women.

Dara Corr

I transferred to the Academy in 2018 to begin my A Level studies. A strong family tradition and a sense of community in the Academy made it easy for me to settle. The students, teachers and support staff were welcoming and helpful. I was very lucky to be part of the MacRory Cup panel where commitment and teamwork were essential. I am now in my second year at university studying Renewable Energy Engineering.





*The uniform is a great way to represent our school.
We all look very smart; it looks nice, and it is comfy to wear.
It really helps you to feel part of the school community and
that you belong here at St. Patrick's Academy.*

Anna Mc Geary St. John's Primary School, Moy

UNIFORM

The Academy uniform is designed to be practical, smart, comfortable, affordable and easily available.

Wearing the correct uniform shows commitment and pride in being an Academy pupil and is clearly associated with our high standards, expectations and school ethos.

All Students

- School blazer (blazers must be worn, not carried or kept in schoolbags).
- School clip on tie. The tie must also be worn on the journey to and from school.
- Years 8-12 long sleeved blue school blouse/shirt.
- Years 13 & 14 long sleeved white school blouse/shirt.
- School V-neck jumper.
- Plain black leather shoes (boots, 'sling-backs', mules, trainers and so on are not permitted). Heel height must not exceed 2.5cm.

Either

- Navy pleated, knee-length skirt (school regulation only and worn correctly; not modified) with navy tights.
- Navy socks (ankle/trainer/sports socks are not permitted) may be worn in September, May and June.

Or

- Plain black trousers (regular-fit, worn correctly so that the hem sits neatly on the shoe; skinny trousers are not permitted).
- Trousers should be worn with plain black socks (ankle/trainer/sports socks are not permitted).

Outdoor Clothing

- If a scarf is worn, only the school scarf is acceptable.
- Outdoor jacket: navy waterproof jacket with the school crest may be worn over, not instead of, the blazer; no other outdoor garment or 'fleece' will be permitted.

PE Uniform

- School crested football shirt, shorts and socks are essential items of PE uniform.

Hair Styles & Jewellery

- Students must not adopt hairstyles which are extreme, with regard to length or colour. (Grades 'O' and '1' are not allowed and hair should be a natural colour).
- Boys must be clean shaven.
- One pair of stud earrings, one in each ear lobe (due to health and safety regulations, no hoops or drop earrings permitted).
- One chain and one plain ring will be allowed.

A full copy of the uniform policy including our position on make-up, jewellery and hair styles is available on the school website.

*Other Academy-branded sportswear items such as kitbags and hooded tops are optional.

**Academy-branded navy leggings/tracksuit bottoms may be worn in KS4 & KS5 only.

Should you have any concerns regarding uniform, please contact Mrs O McVey, Uniform Co-ordinator.

PASTORAL CARE

When you entrust your child to us, you can be confident that they will be treated with respect and every effort made to help develop friendships.

Our Year 8 pupils have many wonderful opportunities to establish new friendships usually beginning with events such as the induction session in June for our new students and an information session for both parents and pupils at the end of August. We have introduced an online registration form to enable each child to tell us a little bit about themselves, so that they can be placed in a class with like-minded children with similar interests and hobbies. This should enable pupils to find new and lasting friendships. To support pupils and their parents in their transition, we have created a transition microsite which provides key information and offers parents a help-desk facility.

Our Year 8 pupils have the school to themselves on their first day and our senior prefects are on hand to show them around. At lunchtime all Year 8 students get out five minutes early to give them priority in the dining room and to give them the additional opportunity to explore all the facilities available. For the month of September, they get out of class five minutes early at home time so that they have a little more time to familiarise themselves with the bus system in place. We always maintain a strong teacher presence around the Academy – on the corridors, in the playgrounds and football pitches and at the bus waiting areas. This keeps

good order for everyone and there will always be an adult to ask if your child has a problem.

We believe in creating a happy and supportive environment and find that this leads to better learning and greater personal achievement.

We place great emphasis in our pastoral programme on the formation and nurturing of friendships and, as a consequence, when we ask our pupils what they liked best about the Academy they placed positive relationships with friends and teachers at the top of the list. Our pupils find their own space to grow and develop and we work hard at resolving differences, if they arise. We believe in creating a happy and supportive environment and find that this leads to better learning and greater personal achievement as your child progresses through the school.

Early in Year 8 our pupils experience the unique “Find, Follow and Connect on the Yellow Brick Road” programme which helps young people develop perspective and resilience, while building lasting friendships. You will be reassured to know that, should your child need additional support, we provide a very comprehensive counselling service, which goes far beyond that which you will find in most schools. Our counsellor is a trained psychotherapist and Trauma-Informed Counsellor.



PASTORAL CARE

All Key Stage 3 pupils have a Wellbeing period on their timetable. This is a time for pupils to connect with their peers, to unwind, to prepare for assessments or go on the Academy 1K walk. From January 2023, pupils will receive training in CPR and use of a defibrillator through the Community of Lifesavers Education Programme. In addition, we have a HEADSTRONG committee made up of Year 14 pupils, working with Cycle Against Suicide's school programme. The committee encourage their peers to Be Brave, Reach Out and Speak Up through campaigns including assemblies on peer pressure, the creation of

a 'Wellbeing Wall' and organising a static cycle fundraiser. We invest a lot of time and energy into our pastoral care provision to ensure the personal development and well-being of each child.

"Taking part in the yellow brick road was lots of fun because I got to meet lots of new people. It helped me to settle into moving to a bigger school. The movie showed me that everyone feels the same when starting a new school and how easy it is to make new friends."

Alanna Moore
Sacred Heart Primary School, The Rock



BIGGER AND BETTER

A bigger school means more for everyone;

- More subject options
- More extracurricular opportunities
- More facilities
- More friends
- More specialised staff
- More career opportunities
- More success

"It was really easy to settle into the Academy because of all the kind, supportive and welcoming teachers. When I came to The Academy, I was afraid of making no friends, but it turns out it was really easy since there are so many people with the same interests as you."

Ruairi McCloy
Our Lady's Primary School, Tullysaran

"When I first started St. Patrick's Academy, I was really nervous because the school seemed really big, but it was easy to find help just by asking one of the teachers or kind prefects. Our principal Mr Holmes was helpful and made us all feel very welcome. I really enjoy this school; I feel very happy, and the food is yummy!"

Niamh O'Donnell
Windmill Primary School

"I was scared at the thought of coming to St. Patrick's Academy because I thought I wouldn't make any friends. I knew everyone in St. Brigid's Brocagh, and to go somewhere more than ten times bigger and knowing no one was scary. However, it turned out to be amazing. I now know so many people and I've made lots of new friends."

Padraig McKeown 8F
St. Brigid's, Brocagh

"St Patrick's Academy has provided me with lots of new learning experiences. Our school counsellor, Jean, will help you settle in with the Yellow Brick Road programme and your form teacher is always by your side supporting you in everything you do. Coming to St Patrick's Academy was one of the best choices I've ever made."

Grace Mc Cullagh
St Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore

"I really enjoy attending extra-curricular activities at school, especially the football. It really helped me to make new friends. The good part about being in a big school is that there are lots of people to make friends with and to help you. It's fun to navigate around the school, there are lots of signposts so you can't get lost."

Cormac Judge
St Brendan's Primary School, Craigavon





TRANSPORT

St Patrick’s Academy draws its pupils from a wide catchment area. Many pupils, therefore, travel to school each day by bus. Currently pupils travel from as far away as Carrickmore, Pomeroy, Lurgan, Armagh, Cookstown and Moortown.

We have a purpose-built bus only platform at the rear of the building to accommodate the large numbers of pupils who travel to school via either Translink buses or other private bus companies. The bus platforms, 9 in total, all are clearly marked and spread across a large area to lessen the impact of congestion.

The bus platforms will be supervised by teaching staff to ensure all pupils safely and appropriately load their correct bus.

At the end of the school day pupils who avail of Translink, or other buses, should make their way to the supervised indoor waiting area or to the bus platforms awaiting their bus. The bus drivers for a given area always park in their assigned platform number. Pupils are asked to arrive promptly for their buses as the platforms require a quick turnaround.

Mr Mulgrew is the St. Patrick’s Academy Bus Co-Ordinator; he will call each bus number and the area in which it will be travelling on a

loudspeaker. The bus platforms will be supervised by teaching staff to ensure all pupils safely and appropriately load their correct bus. In the unlikely event a pupil misses their bus, and no other bus can accommodate the destination, the pupil will be guided towards reception to contact home and await safely on their arrival.

Mr Mulgrew works closely with Translink and EA Bus Inspectors to ensure the safety of all pupils travelling to and from school. Strong links with the Inspectors allows the school to resolve any issues that may arise during travel, these are dealt with promptly and effectively. St. Patrick’s Academy has a clear and concise bus behaviour policy which all pupils receive during regular assemblies on road safety.

“On my first day I was so nervous about getting the bus. I was afraid I was going to miss the bus or have no one to sit beside. I had no need to be nervous as there were lots of other pupils getting the bus too. At home time I didn’t know which bus to get, Mr Mulgrew was there to help me along with the other teachers. After the first day I got the hang of it, and I love it now.”

Meaghan Moloney 8G

DINING FACILITIES

Our pupils have access to two very modern dining areas in the Academy, the Canteen and the Mezzanine, serving a wide range of snacks and meals at breakfast, break and lunch.

Ask any pupil and they will tell you that the dining areas are great places to relax and catch up with your friends. In spring and summer, pupils also have access to the outdoor quadrangle area, with green space and picnic tables, where they can get some fresh air whilst enjoying their break and lunch.

The canteen is great, and the food is so nice. You can order your own fresh sandwich in the morning and paying for it is so easy. You simply set up your sQuid account and begin paying for dinner and break with your fingerprint.

Erin O’Sullivan, St Francis’ PS Derrylatinee

THE MAIN DINING ROOM

Our main dining room offers pupils a wide variety:

Breakfast

Free Bowl of Porridge in the Canteen normally between 8.30am and 8.45am

Break

Scones, breakfast items and crackers. Range of hot drinks, milk, and fruit juices

Lunch

Traditional school dinner counter

Sample menu

- Breaded Chicken served on a bed of champ
- Lasagne served with side salad
- Spicy pork chop served with potatoes and vegetables
- Fish of the day
- Daily vegetarian option

Grab-and-go hot snack counter

Sample menu

- Heated sandwich/ filled Ciabatta
- Filled ‘Yellow Door’ buttermilk baps
- Quick Box range e.g. Creamy Italian pasta, Chinese Curry & Nann and Irish Stew

Freshly made Sandwich counter

Sandwiches can be pre-ordered at the electronic kiosk from 8am – 11am and collected at lunch time.

Allergen content provided to help pupils make appropriate choices.





DINING FACILITIES

THE MEZZANINE

In our Mezzanine pupils can enjoy a more relaxed environment where they can enjoy a light snack at break and lunch time.

Breakfast items

for example;

- Panini's
- Waffles
- Hot dogs

Quick Box items

for example;

- Creamy Italian pasta
- Chinese Curry & Nann
- Irish Stew

Allergen content provided to help pupils make appropriate choices.

THE ARDLANN

The Ardlann is our brightly styled barista coffee shop.

This area is exclusively catered for our sixth form pupils and gives our young adults a place to meet and have lunch with their friends.

Having a healthy, balanced diet that follows the advice of the 'Eatwell Guide' can improve concentration levels, memory, and information processing. Foods that are rich in fibre keep the body feeling fuller for longer, providing enough energy to focus and stay alert throughout the school day. We take great pride in producing food that is nutritious, delicious, imaginative and attractively presented, with the emphasis being on healthier choices. Pupils who make healthy choices are rewarded with points on their sQuid account and we run a competition each year where the pupils with the most points receive a prize.

Our catering staff are continuously trying to improve their offerings not only with the food they offer but wider environmental issues. This year they have been working particularly hard playing their part for the environment by introducing biodegradable packaging, wooden cutlery and a new 'bring your own cup' initiative. Pupils now can enjoy their dining experience whilst also contributing positively to the environment.



LEARNING THE ACADEMY WAY

All teachers in St Patrick’s Academy are well-resourced and highly trained to create impactful learning opportunities and nurture relationships with all pupils.

Positive teaching environments lead to effective learning. Our teachers take the time to get to know each pupil, to understand their needs, and to establish meaningful relationships. They create a safe space where pupils will embrace challenge and can reach their potential. Pupils feel respected and appreciated and therefore are more willing to cooperate and are more motivated to learn. Learning with and from other pupils builds strong communication and social skills along with content knowledge. Therefore, in St Patrick’s Academy, we develop active learning skills using various approaches such as self-reflection, collaborative groupwork and mentoring. Students continue to develop lifelong skills which will enable them to take advantage of job opportunities in the future and to contribute to the economy.

Digital Learning

We actively use digital tools to enhance teaching and learning across all subject areas. Our school has invested in our ICT infrastructure; all classrooms have touchscreen boards, and we enjoy reliable and secure Wi-Fi, campus wide. All teachers have their own iPad which they use to develop creative resources and innovative lessons. Lessons are engaging, varied and interesting; they provide challenge and support. Pupils are encouraged to

have learning conversations with their teachers in the private comments section of Google Classroom; enabling our teachers to provide rich, personalised feedback. We know learning is social and our online classrooms provide opportunities for collaborative projects which support problem-solving and self-led research. Our pupils’ digitally rich experience ensures they develop the future ready digital skills vital for success in the modern, digital world.

Peer Mentoring

The Peer Mentoring programme at St Patrick’s Academy provides a powerful opportunity to harness the natural influence which young people have on each other. It is based on ‘The Big Brother, Big Sister’ approach whereby the older pupils help the younger pupils to develop emotionally, socially and academically. This process requires the mentor to have a high level of interest, empathy and a genuine desire to help the younger pupil. The mentors receive training in order to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the role and develop the skills and attributes of a successful mentor. The mentees find in their mentor, a trusted advisor and friend to whom they can relate, and from whom they get a ‘helping hand’. The mentoring programme therefore boosts self-confidence and creates a positive experience for mentor and mentee. This approach to overcoming hurdles has now become embedded in the Academy pupil experience.

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

When you entrust the Academy with the care and education of your child, we see that as the beginning of a partnership with you in the nurturing and development of your son or daughter until they leave us as young men and women.

For this partnership to work effectively, we provide many opportunities for parents to become closely involved with their children's education and development.

We provide many opportunities for parents to become closely involved with their children's education and development.

We normally begin with a Parent Information Morning in August of Year 8 where you will get the opportunity to meet with your child's Form Tutor and Year Head and other key members of staff, such as the school counsellor, who will play an important role in ensuring the well-being of your child.

We host parent teacher meetings each year to provide you with the opportunity to get a first-hand report on your child's progress and development with each teacher.

We have an "open door" policy, and we encourage you to contact us and meet with us should you be concerned about any aspect of your child's progress or development.

Equally, we do not wait for problems to arise and we will contact you if we have any concerns about your child's progress or happiness.

We provide you with progress statements twice each year as well as full written reports once a year and we follow these up with individual meetings where appropriate.

We believe in creating a happy and supportive environment and find that this leads to better learning and greater personal achievement as your child progresses through the school.



STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Our school is one of the largest in Northern Ireland with all the latest specialised facilities.

For example, our science and technology suites are modelled on the latest educational thinking with classroom layouts and equipment. All classrooms are designed around the needs of learners and are equipped to facilitate the most effective teaching and learning approaches. Classrooms are fitted with Teaching Walls, incorporating the latest digital touchscreen technology, an important element of our programme to allow for more flexible teaching strategies that facilitate different modes of learning. In addition, students have access to our new library, and small groups of students have facilities to run their own collaborative learning groups in the library group room.

For those who are interested in astronomy, we have access to a rather unique facility in the form of the school observatory with a rotating dome and 14-inch telescope. Opportunities to work with the equipment and facilities used by professionals are some of the best ways of inspiring young people to aim high and to develop a clearer sense of possible career paths at an early age. This is why we complement our facilities with extensive input from professionals in the world of work.

We use the same approach in music and media studies, where pupils can work with iPads and Apple Mac suites, experiencing the professional world of music technology and video editing. The new suites

for the creative and expressive elements of the curriculum are extensive and of the highest quality.

Our technology department have thirty designated computers used for computer aided design and manufacturing as well as electronic simulation and programming software. We are delighted to have the very latest equipment including two laser cutters, three 3D printers and three CNC routers for our pupils to use.

Our indoor and outdoor sports facilities are amongst the best in any school in the country.

Our Sports Pavilion is at the centre of our outdoor facilities including:

- Two full-sized Gaelic pitches
- One full-sized soccer pitch,
- Four hard court tennis courts,
- One 3G pitch and one gravel pitch.

Indoor sports facilities include:

- A fully equipped matrix fitness suite,
- One spinning/dance studio,
- A full-sized netball/basketball sports hall, and
- One gymnasium.

These facilities allow our pupils to access a full range of sporting activities on the school site ranging from traditional sports to all health-related activities.



St Patrick's Academy is a beautiful, modern school, with amazing resources and the most up to date technology.

Grace Mc Garrity, St Mary's Primary School, Dunamore

SPORTING LIFE AT THE ACADEMY

Gaelic Sports

The Academy prides itself on a well-earned reputation in sport. Our sporting pedigree is something we value and celebrate as a school community, and we have a number of experienced and dedicated teachers within our staff that coach and manage teams in a wide variety of sports. In addition, we have a full-time Gaelic coach who will assist and challenge players to achieve their full potential across all our traditional games. We are committed to providing the best sporting opportunities for all our pupils. We have been very successful in the modern era, winning numerous trophies and competing regularly in the latter stages of competitions, both provincially and nationally. All our pupils are encouraged to develop their sporting interests and talents and can avail of a number of opportunities on a recreational and/or competitive basis. We encourage pupils to participate in whatever way they can, as it is a great source of enjoyment and an opportunity to build lasting friendships.

Ladies Gaelic Football

Our Year 8 girls are encouraged to represent the school in Ladies Gaelic football. Training commences in early September until Halloween mid-term and resumes in the summer term. Our present Year 8 girls have already participated in an Ulster Schools blitz and an invitational competition will take place in the school to conclude this first training block. Over 60 Year 8 girls are registered to play in the 2022/23 season and the future looks bright with this talented bunch of players.

Our Senior ladies took pride of place in 2019 making the breakthrough on the national stage. Winning a highly contested Ulster Championship, the senior team went on to win the U20 All Ireland title for the first time in the school's history. Promoted to the topflight in Ulster football in 2020, the girls reached the semi-final of Ulster. Following the success of Beth Jones and Lana Sheehy as 2021 All Stars, we are thrilled that Lana received a second All Star in 2022 and she is joined by Lára Devlin who is our first ever dual All Star, winning a LGF and a Camogie All Star award this year.

Camogie

Our Year 8 girls are encouraged to pick up the camán early in their first year. Our Camogie teams have a proud record in Ulster competitions at all age groups, but the Senior Camogs made the breakthrough on the National stage in 2019 finishing as runners-up in the All-Ireland Final. Promoted in Ulster, the 2020 senior team went on to win back-to-back Ulster titles and following an All-Ireland semi-final replay, went on to lift the All-Ireland title for the first time in our school history.

Our U16 and U14 teams took pride of place in the 2021/22 season with both teams winning Ulster titles.

Following the success of Katie Comiskey as a 2021 All Star, we are delighted that Lára Devlin has been recognised in 2022 with a Camogie All Star.



"Playing school camogie isn't just about winning, but the new friendships, teamwork, commitment and a shared passion for the game. Playing for the Academy has developed my confidence and taught me how to be a leader. I will forever cherish the honour to have captained this team to an Ulster title."

Gemma Daly
Captain of the U14 Camogie team 2022



"We are so fortunate to have realised our dreams whilst proudly playing for our school teams winning Ulster titles and winning Ulster Colleges All Stars in Camogie and Football. It shows your dreams are truly within reach at the Academy."

Lára Devlin and Lana Sheehy,
2022 All Star recipients

SPORTING LIFE AT THE ACADEMY

Boys Gaelic Football

The MacRory Cup is the blue-ribbon event of Ulster Colleges sporting calendar for boys. We are proud to have a strong record in this competition, achieving success in 1991, 1997, 2004, 2008 & 2009 and finishing as runners-up in 1992, 2011 & 2016. In 2022 we reached the quarter-final stage losing to the eventual winners St Mary's Magherafelt. At Corn na nÓg level we recently won the trophy for the ninth time with a hard-fought victory over Abbey CBS in final. The hard work and commitment displayed by our students has been recognised at Ulster Colleges level in Boys Gaelic football and, in total, 28 All Star Awards have been awarded to individual players in recognition of their contribution.

In 2022 we also remembered our history making team of 1997; that year we won the coveted Hogan cup (U19 All Ireland) for the first time. To commemorate that memorable achievement, a reunion lunch was held in the school for past players, coaches and supporters after the first MacRory cup match of this year's campaign.

Every boy coming into Year 8 is encouraged to attend after school GAA coaching from the start of their school year. This year we have 80 Year 8 boys attending after school football. The emphasis at this stage is on fun, participation and enjoyment.

As the boys move through each year, they are entered into a variety of competitions, including:

Year 8:	The Martin O'Farrell Blitz,
Year 9:	D'alton Cup & Brother Ennis Cup
Year 10:	Corn na nÓg & Gerry Brown Cup
Year 11:	Oisín McGrath Cup
Year 12:	Rannafast Cup
Year 13 & 14:	MacRory Cup

Hurling

Hurling is also a prominent sport in our school life. Teams play at Ulster Colleges level and over the years several of our students have been recognised with Provincial All-Star awards with Fionn Devlin being a recent recipient in 2020. We are proud to have a number of our past and current pupils playing key roles for their county teams, most recently with several past pupils being instrumental in Tyrone's ascent to division two hurling and lifting the Nicky Rackard Cup this year. We are immensely proud and privileged to have had as our pupil the late, Damian Casey RIP, who was pivotal to all Tyrone's successes, scoring fourteen points in the Croke Park in his final match.

Corn na nÓg Champions 2022



"I had the honour of being invited to take up the captaincy of the 2021 Corn na nÓg team. I felt very privileged and took on the duties of working with my fellow teammates and coaches with the hope of bringing our team to success, and we did just that. When the final whistle blew emotions washed over me, one after the other, relief, happiness, excitement, accomplishment and I felt proud of my teammates, coaches, teachers and myself. I may have started out in first year as a sub on the B-team, but once I began to gain confidence and work harder, I helped lead my team to victory in the end. Being part of this team enhanced my belief in myself and instilled great determination which as improved my overall life skills and helped me communicate with teammates, helping to bring us together with a vision and an aim for success."

Ross Daly, Corn na nÓg captain

"When choosing to come to the Academy, I looked forward most to the school football and I hoped that one day I would represent the school playing in the MacRory Cup. The football is very competitive and there is a real sense of camaraderie. Playing against the best footballers in Ulster has not only improved my football skills but also my ability to be a team player and become a better person."

Fiachra Neilis, MacRory Cup Player



SPORTING LIFE AT THE ACADEMY

Basketball & Netball

One of the most popular sports in the Academy, basketball, is offered to boys and girls in all year groups. We have had notable success at provincial and All Ireland level over recent years, with the under 19 girls' basketball team making history on the 25th of February 2020 winning the first ever All-Ireland girls' basketball title for the school. After a long break due to restrictions, we were so excited to get back on the court again last year. Many of the boys' and girls' teams competed well in their leagues, reaching provincial finals and All Ireland play-offs. For the first time ever, all of the girls' teams competed at grade A in 2021/2022 and while the competition was tough, the girls produced some great performances.

Athletics

If you are interested in athletics, our recently formed club has gone from strength to strength with increasing numbers of participants and growing success. The club consists of students from Year 8 to Year 12, with boys and girls competing at Local, District and Ulster level. We were delighted last year when Aoibhean Dempsey and Alanna Rose Farley qualified for the Ulster's and came away from the competition achieving PBs competing in a top-quality field of athletes.

Soccer & Golf

Our Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils compete in a number of soccer competitions including the Mid-Ulster Leagues for schools, the Mid-Ulster Cup and the Northern Ireland Cup. Once our students reach Year 13 and 14, they also have the opportunity to play in the highly prestigious senior Northern Ireland Cup. In the last twelve months our Year 8 squad won the Mid-Ulster League and our Year 9 team won the Mid-Ulster Cup. We also have a number of students who have played for Northern Ireland in recent times, most notably Christopher Atherton and Joel Kerr in Year 10 and Reece Jordan in Year 14.

Our senior and junior golf teams take part in Ulster Golf competitions, testing themselves against the best local golfers in the Irish Schools' Matchplay championship, Ulster Junior Championship and Ulster Scratch Championship. Many of our past pupils have represented Ireland at amateur level, including Jack Madden who was awarded a scholarship to attend Arkansas State University.



EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

In St Patrick’s Academy there is a world of opportunity awaiting pupils. Every year there is a wide range of trips and educational adventures on offer that cut across all age groups and areas of interest.

Bringing history to life is a key aim of the history department. After a break of three years due to the pandemic, the History department is once again on its’ travels. In April 2023, we will be visiting the fabulous cities of Berlin and Krakow, taking in a range of incredibly important historical sites, including the Berlin Wall, the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and, of course, Auschwitz. We are also planning another joint trip abroad with history students from the Royal School, Dungannon which will take place during the 2023-4 academic year. This will be the first such venture since our trip to Germany in September 2019.

This year, over 70 Year 10 pupils will travel to Paris on our school French trip.

Languages are also well catered for, with frequent sojourns to France and the Gaeltacht regions. This year, over 70 Year 10 pupils will travel to Paris on our school French trip. As well as getting a taste of French culture, pupils visit Disneyland Paris, Parc Astérix and spend time in such well-known places as the Chateau de Versailles and the Louvre. It really is an experience not to be forgotten!

Pupils from Year 8-14 have the opportunity to attend summer colleges in the Donegal Gaeltacht in order to practise their oral Irish and immerse themselves in the languages for one, two or three weeks. Many of our pupils are also involved in teaching or supporting Irish language events in their own GAA clubs or working as cinnirí (leaders) in summer camps or colleges.

Our young geographers also get their maps out on a regular basis taking part in field trips. Field trips are an exciting way to practically apply classroom knowledge in a real-world situation. The GCSE field trip to the river Fury is just one way that pupils investigate and explore geography theory in a practical setting.

Every year pupils embark on the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh/President’s Award scheme. Pupils take part in a series of activities including planning, training for, and completing a hill walking/canoeing expedition in pursuit of silver or gold awards. Through this scheme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. In addition, they gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem solving, teamwork and communication.

Our junior and senior ski trip to Europe is always a highlight for many of our pupils. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to experience a thrilling new sport; it also gives them an opportunity to experience new cultures. Whether you are a novice or a veteran, the trip of a lifetime is assured.



ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

Our extracurricular programme is designed to prepare our pupils for employment, active citizenship and leadership.

Pupils are encouraged to join at least one club or society whilst at school. In a large school such as ours, we can cater for a wide range of individual tastes. In addition, the school participates in a wide range of competitions and events.

We also offer our sixth form students a leisure programme and an additional range of extra-curricular activities such as Duke of Edinburgh Award, Rotary club, conservation group and John Paul 2 Award.

Some of our Competitions and events include:

Abair (Gael-Linn) Public Speaking	Coding Club
Art Exhibition In Linen Green	Creative Writing Club
Creative Writing Workshops	Debating/Public Speaking/ Mock Trial
European Day Of Language	Lego Robotics Group (Mega)
Feis Dhún Geanainn & Feis An Oileáin Agus Na Cluaine	Liturgy Group
Francofest	Mandarin
Gaeilge 24	Orchestra
Hispanofest	Pioneer Club
Public Speaking Competition	Quiz Teams
Scrúdú An Fháinne	Sentinus R & D Engineering
Tráth Na Gceist	Sports Clubs (See Previous Section)
Extracurricular Activities	St Vincent De Paul Society
Astronomy Club	Traditional Group
Chess/ Games Club	Uk Maths Challenge
Choir	Young Enterprise



"Astronomy compels the soul to look upward and lead us from this world to another."

Plato, philosopher

At the Academy we are very fortunate to have our own observatory and telescope. The Astronomy Club meets weekly to learn about the wonders of the night sky. Members take part in observation evenings and view the heavens in real time.



MUSIC AND DRAMA

The value of music in the Academy lies in its contribution to the enjoyment and enrichment of our pupils' lives.

The high-quality music education we offer enables lifelong participation and enjoyment of music, as well as providing the foundations for those who choose to pursue a career in music. With a choice of instrumental and vocal ensembles, St Patrick's Academy offers students a range of opportunities to develop their talents. The school orchestra, string ensemble, Irish traditional groups and senior and junior choirs foster the musical talents of our pupils and provide entertainment at various school functions. Their talents are also appreciated by the wider community, as we participate in Carol Services, Spring Concerts, and many other events and competitions.

The Music Computer Suite provides students with opportunities to be creative and expressive and experience the professional world of music technology with access to iMacs. In

preparation for their exam performances, our music students take part in evening recitals and are encouraged to take every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

With a choice of instrumental and vocal ensembles, St Patrick's Academy offers students a range of opportunities to develop their talents.

The music department is delighted to be involved with the EA Music service project called Music Makers. This hugely successful project involves the music department, instrumental tutors and local primary schools coming together to make music fun as well as educational and aims to help each young musician to develop their abilities and confidence in playing and performing. The project culminates in an annual concert which has been hosted by St Patrick's Academy.

"I really enjoy music, as already we have had the opportunity to learn how to play the keyboards and ukuleles. I like performing in front of my class and it has really boosted my confidence. I can't wait to create and perform more music!"

Aoife Black

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Drama

All Year 8 pupils take a drama module. The focus of lessons is on developing physical and vocal skills, working in pairs and groups. Techniques such as improvisation, mime, role-play, hot-seating and freeze-frames are practised; participation and enjoyment of drama is very much the aim in Year 8. Classes take place in the Drama Suite which is fully equipped with blackout curtains, tiered seating, Green Room, lighting and sound.

Many past Academy Drama pupils have gone on to become great performers, most notably, Fra Fee. Fra has performed on film, Broadway and in the West End with his most recent accomplishment starring in the new Marvel TV series Hawkeye.

St. Patrick's Academy has a wonderful tradition of producing top class dramatic and musical productions, including, Les Miserables, Twelve Angry Men, Juno and the Paycock and most recently School of Rock. Being an active member of the music and drama departments offers opportunities of a lifetime which are not to be missed!

Taking Centre Stage

After two long years of disruption and periods of isolation, the music and drama department were delighted to open the doors of the Academy to showcase the incredible talent, hard work and enthusiasm our young people have to offer. Our school performance of **School of Rock – The Musical** was a sensational show and provided experiences and memories that our pupils and staff will never forget.

I have gained so much from the musical. I have gained confidence and the ability to work as part of a team. This once in a lifetime experience has led me to meet new people and develop new friendships.

Annie Tiffney, 12E





LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

“At the start of your school journey, it may seem difficult to settle in, and you may feel very scared. I remember walking through the front doors for the first time as a shy, quiet Year 8. Today, I have the honour of being Head Boy, and as I look back over the years, I think of how much I have developed and grown. My peers and I have changed so much over the years, and this has been achieved through the supportive and caring environment that the Academy has provided us. After seven years, I really do wonder where all the time went!”
Christo Thomas *Head Boy*

“Throughout my time in the Academy I have learned and developed so many skills and qualities that have helped me to become the best version of myself. These include teamwork, communication, time management, leadership and resilience which are all essential skills and qualities in preparing me for life beyond school. The support from the teachers and staff is of the highest standard and there is always someone to talk to if something is bothering you. In my opinion one of the best aspects of my time in the Academy is the friendships I have built and the memories we have made together.”
Maria Donaghy *Head Girl*

As Head Boy and Head Girl this year, we have spent a lot of time with Year 8 pupils during their induction, helping them adjust to life at a new school. We thought it might be useful to answer some of the most frequently asked questions by Year 8 pupils.

10 things to know before starting Year 8:

What happens if I get lost?
As somebody who has always struggled with directions, I really understood the new pupils’ concerns about this. Luckily for us, there are signs on every corridor of the school, and if you still cannot find your way, your fellow students and teachers are always willing to help, so do not be afraid to ask! There is no reason to be embarrassed about getting lost; even after all these years, I still find myself wondering how to get to some rooms.

What happens if I lose something?
I have found that it is important to stay calm and retrace your steps. If you still can’t find it, tell your Form Teacher and they will send an email asking if anyone has seen it. Lost items are often left at reception or with the Vice-Principal. Remember to label your uniform and PE kits.

Can I bring my mobile phone to school?
Yes, you are allowed to bring in your phone. If you do, you must take responsibility for it. In school, it must be switched off and out of sight. The only exception to this is if your teacher asks you to use your phone for class work.

What extra-curricular activities are there?
At St Patrick’s Academy, there are lots of extra-curricular opportunities. We have gaelic football, soccer, hurling, camogie, athletics, basketball, chess and so much more. If you aren’t sporty (like

LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

myself) or are interested in something other than sports, not to worry! There are also many other groups and clubs available, such as choir, prayer group, drama club, astronomy club, orchestra and so forth. I would encourage everyone to join clubs and try something new, as they are a great way to meet new people and make friends, as well as develop new skills. There's a club for everyone!

What do I do if I feel upset or anxious? What if I am struggling to get used to my new school?

I was one of the only students that came to the Academy from my primary school, and at the time I felt like I would never settle in. This often upset me and made me worried. One thing I would tell anyone coming into Year 8 is that you are not alone. Many of your classmates will probably be feeling the same. It is very important to talk to someone if you are struggling. There is always somebody that will be willing to talk to you, whether it be any of your teachers, your friends, or a trusted adult at home. In school, we are also very lucky to have Jean, our school counsellor, with us on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week. Speak to any of your teachers if you would like to speak to Jean, or contact Jean directly using her email: arttherapyworks@me.com

What happens if I miss my bus?

Don't worry it happens to everyone, no matter how long you have been in the school. If it does happen you can talk to one of the

teachers on duty who will help. If you need to ring home, you can go to reception. It is important that you do not start to walk home.

What if I feel unwell or I am sick?

We are so lucky to have a school nurse. If you feel unwell or sick tell your teacher/form tutor and they will send you to the nurse. Never ring home yourself as mobile phones should not be switched on. The nurse will ring home for you instead.

What happens if I am absent from school?

If you are going to be absent from school, ensure your parent/carer rings the school before 8.50am or you can bring an absence note to your form tutor when you return. Try to catch up on work you missed by asking a friend, talking to the class teacher or checking your Google classroom.

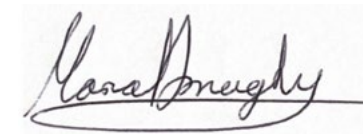
What do I do if I have a medical/dental appointment?

Appointments should be made outside of school hours. Your parent/carer should write a note and bring it to your Head of Year to be signed on the morning of your appointment, but preferably the day before.

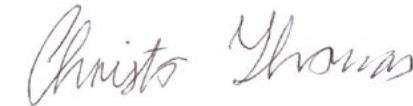
If I forget my lunch/dinner money for my s-quid account, what should I do?

Don't worry, as you can go to your Form Tutor or speak to a teacher in the canteen and they will ensure that you get something to eat.

"We wish you the best of luck in this next chapter of your lives. Remember to work hard and always try your best. Take advantage of all the opportunities on offer and you will reach your full potential. We hope you enjoy the Academy as much as we have."



Maria Donaghy, Head Girl



Christo Thomas, Head Boy



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Religious Education

Catholic schools are called to recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals, to enable them to reach their full potential and to help create the world as God intends it to be. (John Paul II).

As a Catholic school, our aim is that the pupils in our care are nurtured in 'a lived and living' faith. We endeavour to provide spiritual nourishment which is meaningful and enhancing in the face of ever-increasing materialism and the erosion of traditional values.

Our school prides itself not only on academic success, but also on creating a school ethos with relationships and community at its heart.

The school strives to work in harmony with the Church and with parents to help to create and sustain a vibrant sense of spiritual awareness in our young people. Programmes include promoting active participation in assemblies, collective worship, retreats, fundraising for charity and community work, together with frequent visits from our school chaplain. We also offer the Pope John Paul II award which promotes faith in action among pupils.

Our school prides itself not only on academic success, but also on creating a school ethos with relationships and community at its heart. As part of this, we actively encourage all our pupils to get involved in fundraising activities for both local and international charities. Through this work we see our pupils grow as confident and responsible young people with a strong sense of social justice. We are grateful for our parents' support in this work and the very fine young people they are raising in a spirit of charity towards those less fortunate than ourselves.

Central to religious life in the school is our new oratory which was officially blessed and dedicated by Archbishop Eamonn Martin in 2019. This sacred space provides a quiet place for prayer and reflection for pupils amidst the hustle and bustle of school life.

School Prayer

*St Patrick, Patron of our school,
inspire us to bring out the best in everyone.
Encourage us to use our talents to the full.
Help us to respect others as much
as we respect ourselves.
Through your intercession,
Amen.*



A FINAL WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

My own personal links to the Academy go back over 40 years when I joined the ranks as a pupil of St Patrick's Girls' Academy.

Indeed, my own mother had also been a pupil and later taught at the Academy. I thoroughly enjoyed my school days and made friends for life with pupils and staff.

Life has turned full circle, and I am now experiencing Academy life as a parent, and I am also privileged to be Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

Times have changed since the school first opened in 1891. The buildings have changed, and many generations have benefited from Academy life. We are proud of our new school building and modern facilities. The school has grown and embraced change and provides pupils with a holistic education to play their full part in today's society. The ethos, however, remains the same - 'Achieving excellence together.'

Mrs Fiona O'Hagan

Past pupil, parent and Chairperson
of our Board of Governors.





ST PATRICK'S
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