



Ballymena Academy

Prospectus







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'Ballymena Academy
Cares for the Individual and
Inspires Learning and
Achievement'





'Committed to the pursuit of excellence in a learning environment which is always welcoming, caring and inspiring.'

Principal's Welcome



Building upon traditions established over almost two centuries, Ballymena Academy remains committed to the pursuit of excellence in a learning environment which is always welcoming, caring and inspiring.

Ballymena Academy provides the highest standards in learning and teaching. It is a school with a reputation for academic excellence and this has been reaffirmed, not only through excellent examination results which are well in excess of N.I. Grammar School averages, but also through

a recent ETI Inspection which highlighted "the outstanding educational provision provided for the pupils which promotes high standards and appropriate levels of motivation, engagement and interest."

Those same levels of motivation, engagement and interest are evident through pupil participation in our co-curricular programme, with pupils enjoying a wide range of physical, cultural and recreational activity. In order to complement the unique Physical Recreation Strategy, which is successfully promoting exercise and healthy lifestyle choices, our facilities are being extensively developed to support a variety of sports. Central to all of this is our reputation as a caring community, with a major emphasis on pastoral care. The school values relationships and provides a safe, caring and creative environment in which pupils can enjoy their education, achieve their potential and equip themselves to meet the needs of an ever changing society.

It is difficult, in a few paragraphs, to do justice to school life in Ballymena Academy, so we hope that you will find out more by visiting the school and speaking to our staff and pupils. In doing so we are confident that you will find a family-centred school committed to its aim of "caring for the individual and inspiring learning and achievement."

S.W. Black (Principal)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



‘Every pupil is valued and has the opportunity to learn, to enjoy and to succeed.’



Our Ethos

LEARNING, ENJOYING and SUCCEEDING

- We foster cheerful co-operation between pupils and staff.
- Each pupil is valued and has the opportunity to learn, to enjoy and to succeed.
- We have high expectations of our pupils in all that they do.
- We expect our pupils to be industrious, determined and ambitious.
- We acknowledge different learning needs and learning styles.
- Each pupil is challenged and supported, in and out of the classroom.

FULFILLING DREAMS and MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- We prepare our pupils for technological and social change and

challenge. Purposeful and visionary, pupils will fulfil their dreams and make a difference.

- We encourage pupil participation in campaigns and causes which improve the lives of others, promote mutual understanding and respect diversity.
- We involve other institutions in our school's development. Educational partnerships and collaborations provide new personal experiences and enhance learning opportunities.

SPIRITUAL and MORAL GROWTH

- We encourage the growth of moral and spiritual awareness so that our pupils may become responsible and tolerant citizens. Collective Christian worship is an integral part of our daily assemblies.





'We provide a safe and caring environment in which pupils pursue excellence and realise their full potential.'

Pastoral Care

FRIENDLY and CARING SCHOOL

Though Ballymena Academy is a large modern school, it is friendly and caring.

If a pupil is anxious or in difficulty someone from our extensive Pastoral team of staff and pupil mentors will be available to help. All Teachers share in Pastoral Care providing a safe, encouraging environment in which pupils can grow.

Parents are key pastoral care partners and are strongly encouraged to contact the school if in any way concerned about their child's well-being. Pastoral issues are discreetly and sensitively addressed in the context of both school situations and broader health, personal and social circumstances.

There is a pastoral team in each year group comprising a year head, a pastoral adviser and class tutors to assist pupils

and their parents with any challenges which arise. A wider network of pastoral support exists through the provision of a wide range of pupil mentors, a full time school nurse, counsellor, and access to information about relevant external agencies. An extensive pastoral programme permeates the school year, helping to educate and support our pupils in their personal development.

Procedures exist for early identification of pupils with special educational needs for whom appropriate provision is arranged in consultation with parents and, where necessary, other support agencies.

In keeping with our positive ethos and the good relationships which characterise our school, we encourage children and young people to act responsibly and with respect for others.







The Curriculum

'Ballymena Academy ranks as one of the top performing schools in the country, with results at GCSE and A Level consistently exceeding Northern Ireland Grammar School averages.'



Ballymena Academy provides a wealth of learning experiences and opportunities which equips pupils with relevant knowledge, understanding and skills to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The range of subjects on offer is extensive. On-site, our pupils have access to a very wide range of GCSE, AS, A Level and other Level 3 courses, which extends beyond the statutory requirements. The curriculum is reviewed annually and is shaped to meet the needs, abilities and interests of our young people. In addition to the comprehensive range of subjects in the

arts, environment and society, languages, learning for life and work, sciences and technology, recent additions such as Agriculture, Mandarin, A Level Physical Education, Engineering, Government and Politics, Environmental Technology and customised skills development courses, have brought the school acclaim for its innovative approach to curriculum design. The outstanding Careers Education and Guidance Programme was recognised in the attainment of the Gold Standard Award by the international careers service 'Prospects'. Ballymena Academy is the first school in Northern Ireland to attain this prestigious award.







'Ballymena Academy is situated in picturesque parkland within easy walking distance of the Town Centre.'

Facilities

Pupils have access to an extensive complex of well-maintained, 'environmentally friendly' buildings and 80 acres of immaculately maintained grounds in a splendid setting. The accommodation, which has been extensively extended and modernised over recent years, provides a well-

appointed and secure learning environment.

With views of Slemish Mountain and the North Antrim countryside, the D.B. Jagoe Sixth Form Centre is a splendid learning, study and recreation facility.

Main Building Facilities

- 36 General Classrooms
- 4 Networked Computer rooms
- 7 Networked Computer Clusters
- 3 specialist Geography Rooms
- 2 Home Economics Rooms
- 14 Science laboratories, Green House
- Technology and Design Centre
- 2 Art Rooms
- Drama Suite
- Music Centre with Practice Rooms and Classrooms
- Careers Suite with Interview Rooms and Resource Centre
- School Library with Multi-media Resources
- Mol Assembly Hall with Stage
- Minor Hall
- Self-service Cafeteria
- Administrative Offices
- Medical room with First Aid Area
- Mac Suite

D.B. Jagoe Sixth Form Facilities

- Open Study Area
- Silent Study Area
- I.C.T. resources
- Recreation Floor
- 2 Classrooms
- Locker Bays
- Servery





Co-Curricular Physical Recreation



'Ballymena Academy has a high reputation as a centre of Sporting Excellence.'

'Through sport pupils learn to how to manage their lifestyles, respond to challenge, relish victory and cope with defeat.'

At the end of 2012 Ballymena Academy launched its unique Physical Recreation Strategy. The vision of this strategy is that we will create a new generation of healthy young people with 'everyone choosing regular participation in physical activity to support learning and lifelong well-being'. We seek to offer as wide range of activities as possible to suit all of our students, with an emphasis on fun and participation.

This cutting edge approach to physical recreation in schools is designed to complement the existing sporting programme and help to create a sustainable healthy lifestyle for all our pupils.

The school's reputation as a centre of sporting excellence is well-deserved and internationally recognised. Recent past pupils include the current Northern Ireland captain, Steven Davis, Irish International Luke Marshall and 6 members of the current Ulster Rugby Squad.

Aerobics
Athletic Development
Athletics
Badminton
Basketball
Circuits
Conditioning
Cricket
Cross-country
Dance
Girls' Football
Girls' Rugby
Golf
Gymnastics
Hockey
Junior Boys' Football
Netball
Orienteering
Outdoor Pursuits
Rugby
Senior Boys' Football
Show Jumping
Swimming
Table-Tennis
Tennis
Volleyball
Walking Club







Co-Curricular Activities

'Life-long friendships are forged on Playing Fields, Concert Hall and Stage.'

Ballymena Academy provides a very wide range of recreational, cultural, social, business and environmental activities that are the envy of schools throughout the country. Thanks to the involvement of teaching staff, enthusiastic parents, qualified coaches, music tutors – a 'life-enhancing' tradition of co-curricular activity continues to flourish. It is a tradition which parents particularly value and pupils so much enjoy.

The Music Department has a reputation for sustained excellence, as well as pupil participation rates the envy of every school in the country. Over 350 pupils perform in the annual Spring Concerts and Carol Services performing in a range of choirs and ensembles, including a full Senior Orchestra and Senior Windband. The school also provides weekly instrumental tuition for over 200 pupils.

The Senior and Junior Drama Societies produce annual performances of high quality stage productions ranging from Shakespearean tragedies to modern musicals. Recent shows have included Hobson's Choice, West Side Story, Les Misérables and Bugsy Malone.

Agriculture Club
Art Department Trip
Author Visits
Business Scheme
Chess Club
Choirs: Senior, Junior, Chamber
Christian Union: Junior and Senior
Junior Drama
French Club – "Club Rigolo"
Computer Club
Creativity Club
Drama Societies
Educational Visits
Geography Field Trips
Junior and Senior School Players
Junior School Council
Junior / Senior Debating Society
Junior / Senior Strings
Junior / Senior Windband
Klub erste Klasse
Maths Club
Middle School Council
Orchestra
Percussion Groups
Physics Paperclip Challenge
Programming Club
Public Speaking, Debating
Salters' Chemistry
School Website, School Newspaper, Film Making, Digital Photography
Science Club
Sentinus Engineering Scheme
Sixth Form Committee
STEM Club
Rock Bands, Traditional Scottish and Irish Instrumentalists
Young Environmentalists' Society







'Through shared educational, charitable and social programmes – empathy, respect and tolerance will develop.'

Engaging with the Wider World

We seek to provide every pupil at Ballymena Academy with the opportunity to engage in a wide range of educational, cultural and social experiences. Educational site visits range from STEM projects with local businesses to exploring the wonders of China. This is a vital way of enriching the educational experience for students and preparing them for life beyond school.

Our pupils are noted for their altruism, compassion and extensive charitable endeavours. Countless deserving causes have benefitted from the Charity Committee's tireless fundraising. The school is a long standing supporter of the ASHA Community's slum building projects in Delhi, sending regular volunteer teams of staff and pupils, and Cancer Research remains at the heart of our charity work.







Parents' Handbook

'Our School Meals Service provides a wide variety of healthy snacks and meals.'

PARENTS' HANDBOOK

The Parents' Handbook, issued to parents of incoming pupils, provides a range of information about many aspects of school life: the Pastoral Care structure, home-school partnerships, parent-staff consultations, pupil welfare, traffic within school grounds, Sixth Form Agreement, summary of Regulations and Pupil Code of Conduct.

It also contains summaries of Key Policies: Attendance Policy, Child Protection Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Codes of Conduct, Pupil Regulations, Discipline Policy, Careers Education and Guidance Policy, Games Provision and Drugs Policy.

From a Pastoral Care perspective, it is important that at beginning of a pupil's school career he/she fully understands the basic requirements concerning attendance, discipline and personal behaviour.

Pastoral Care related policies may be consulted online. They are also available, on request, from the School Office as are other detailed school policies.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

School Type: Co-educational, non-denominational, Voluntary Grammar Age Range: 11-18
Intake: 176
Enrolment: 1200
Chairman Board of Governors:
Dr. D. Johnston, O.B.E., M.B., M. .Sc., M.Med.Sc., F.R.C.G.P
Principal: Mr S. W. Black, M.Sc., P.G.C.E., P.Q.H. (NI)

CONTACTS

For further details regarding Admission Procedures please contact:
The Principal, Ballymena Academy,
Galgorm Road, Ballymena,
Co. Antrim BT42 1AJ

Tel: [028] 2565 2782

Fax: [028] 2563 0855

E-Mail:

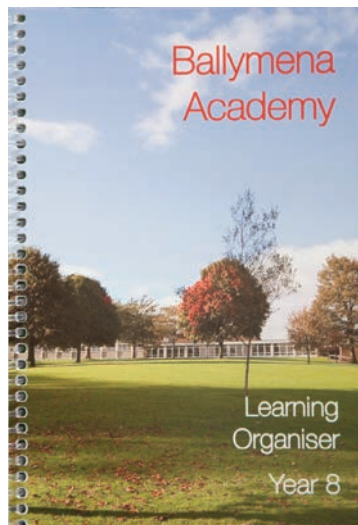
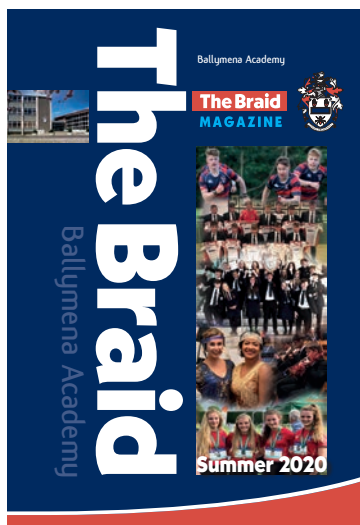
info@balacademy.ballymena.ni.sch.uk

Website:

www.ballymenaacademy.org.uk

Office Hours:

8.30am-5.00pm, Monday-Friday







'A Caring and Inspiring School'



*In Ballymena Academy, academic excellence exists
alongside a strong, caring pastoral ethos and an
extensive co-curricular programme.*



BALLYMENA ACADEMY

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