



ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE BANBRIDGE

2024/25 PROSPECTUS



Excellence Through Partnership

CONTENTS

Principal's Welcome	1
Visions & Aims	3
Excellence in Pastoral Care	4
Child-Centred Provision	6
Safeguarding & Child Protection	8
Pupil Voice	12
Year 8 Transition	14
Uniform	16
Supporting Our Pupils	18
Spiritual Life in St. Patrick's	19
Excellence in Learning	20
A Personalised Learning Journey	26
Careers Guidance	28
Home-School Communication	30
Our School in the Community	32
Our Sporting Provision	34
Developing Talents	36
Celebrating Success	38
School Trips	41



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

I am privileged to be the Principal of Saint Patrick's College and it's with great pride that I present this insight into our strong, vibrant and welcoming school community. I hope you take time to read through this prospectus and I have no doubt, it will enable you to make a well-informed choice about the post-primary transition for your child.

St Patrick's is an all ability, inclusive school which was opened in 1958 to serve the boys and girls of the greater Banbridge area. We are a Catholic school where our pupils are encouraged to participate fully in the Religious Education programme and practice of the faith. We warmly welcome students from other faith groups and value the richness and breadth they bring to our school community.

At St Patrick's, we strive for excellence. We have high expectations for all pupils, not only in terms of their schoolwork and homework, but also in their personal appearance and conduct. We encourage and nurture our pupils to achieve their best and we strongly believe that positive relationships across the school community are the key to our success. Your support, as parents and carers, will help to ensure that they avail of a range of opportunities which will enable them to reach their potential and become positive contributors to society.

Our curriculum provision has grown rapidly and in collaboration with our partner schools in the area learning community, we are well equipped to ensure that our pupils access the full N.I. curriculum at Key Stage Three, Key Stage Four and Post-16. We offer a comprehensive careers programme, complemented by the Career Ready Programme, to ensure our pupils are well informed to make the most appropriate choices about career pathways.

We continually work with CCMS and the Department of Education to enhance the physical learning environment of our school so that it is modern and well equipped to meet the needs of all learners. We now have a state-of-the-art 3G GAA football pitch with floodlights and changing rooms and we hope to continue to extend our school estate to accommodate our rapidly growing intake; in March 2024, we will be opening a new Home Economics suite as well as general classrooms and later in the year, a new well-resourced Year 13 and 14 suite to support our pupils with their post-16 studies.

We are very proud of our reputation as being a child-centred school, focussed on ensuring every learner is happy and content. We have invested significantly on developing relational learning and nurture to ensure every pupil is listened to, well

supported and cared-for and we firmly believe and live out the vision that a happy child is a happy learner.

I hope you enjoy reading through this prospectus and if there is any further information you require that will enable you to make a more informed decision about next steps, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Róisín Woods
Principal



VISIONS & AIMS

OUR VISION

Our work in Saint Patrick's College involves the efforts of teachers, parents, pupils and the whole school community in pursuit of excellence in everything we do.

OUR AIMS:

- To create a happy, caring, welcoming and nurturing environment where childhood and youth are appreciated as special experiences;
- To provide a holistic curriculum and a positive learning experience that will empower each pupil to achieve the highest possible academic and vocational success;
- To recognise and celebrate success while continuously striving for improvement;
- To encourage independent lifelong learning;
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life;
- To promote diversity and inclusion in both the school and wider community within an ethos of mutual respect, care and equality.



EXCELLENCE IN PASTORAL CARE

We are extremely proud of the supportive community here at St. Patrick's College.

We are committed to creating a happy environment where every single pupil can thrive and flourish. Indeed, we understand that above all, wellbeing is a prerequisite of academic excellence. The emphasis we place on pastoral care is, therefore, integral to the ethos of our College community.

We have high expectations of our students to give and receive respect – respect for people, their beliefs, their differences, their talents and their backgrounds. We give support, help and guidance, through what can be challenging periods in a young person's life. We give encouragement and praise and operate a merit system to reward students, but we demand high standards of behaviour and commitment in return. Everyone works hard to ensure our school is a happy, successful and harmonious place to be.

Pastoral Care is supported by a carefully planned, quality Personal Development Programme, a counselling service, which is available to all students if required, and the effective pastoral structure of the school. Mrs Clare McCullough is our Pastoral Support Officer who is always 'at hand' to provide a listening ear, advice and guidance for our pupils.

Each student has a Form Tutor providing day-to-day pastoral guidance and help. The tutor will support and listen, but will also demand high standards of behaviour, attendance, punctuality, appearance and work, and will monitor each student's progress. Tutors can call upon support from our dedicated Heads of Year who also oversee the strategic direction of pastoral care in the College. Our SENCo, Mrs Fidelma McKeever works closely with those pupils with Special Educational Needs and disabilities and both the Vice-Principal and Principal are on hand building excellent relationships with students to ensure that every voice is heard.



Mrs F. Hartigan
Vice Principal

The student voice is one which we put a great emphasis on at St. Patrick's. Our Student Council put forward the views of all pupils to the Senior Leadership Team and we are thrilled to have a trained team of anti-bullying ambassadors, who ensure that our Anti-Bullying Policy is owned by and shared among all members of our student body.

We implement a 'Positive Behaviour Policy' which is reviewed constantly in response to the needs of our pupils. The PBP is well complemented by the nurturing and positive relationships that exist between all staff, pupils, and parents. We always work very hard to resolve any issues as quickly as possible for the betterment of all. We recognise the academic and extra-curricular achievement through whole school trips for year groups and Junior and Senior Prize Giving events. We monitor and record achievements through SIMS. A positive comment can be awarded for an exceptional contribution to school life and participation to events when our students represent the school.

Visitors often comment on the warm and inviting climate that exists within the school. There is now a major focus on the celebration of success, academic achievement, good behaviour and valuable contributions to all areas of school life; success breeds success!

Parents are also engaged. It is vital that school and home work closely together in order to get the very best outcome for each student. Our School motto 'Excellence through Partnership' reminds us of the necessity to establish and maintain close relationships with all our parents and guardians. We will keep you informed of the progress of your child regularly and guide you in helping them to reach their true potential.



WELLBEING

CHILD-CENTRED PROVISION

We work hard to ensure the mental health and well being of every child is at the heart of everything we do. We firmly believe that a 'happy child is a happy learner' and we encourage parents/guardians to let us know as quickly as possible if there are any concerns which we will try to resolve as quickly as possible. We have invested heavily in ensuring our school is a nurturing and loving one where every child is valued in a supportive community. Our staff are well equipped in the skills of nurture, relational learning and trauma informed practice.

DAILY ROUTINE

Each day begins with Form Class where our pupils meet with their form tutor to complete administrative tasks as well as delivering our Personal Development programme which also supports the KS4 CEAG Programme. Our Form teachers create a climate of high expectation while developing a unique, supportive and nurturing relationship with the pupils in their form class. They monitor the assessment and pastoral data of the pupils and challenge them to reach their full potential. They also work in partnership with parents, teachers, classroom assistants and external agencies to remove barriers to learning to ensure pupils succeed.

Form teachers are supported by Year Tutors who will have access to a more extensive suite of support strategies.

We utilise the support of outside agencies to enhance our mental health and wellbeing provision in school; Links Counselling Services, Reach Mentoring, EA Reach, Women's Aid, Behaviour Support, Cara Friend, Health and Social Care Trust, Learnspark, Young Enterprise are some of the agencies we connect with regularly.

HEADSPACE & SENSORY ROOMS

For some of our pupils, particularly those who are on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, we have created two 'nurturing' areas in our school building. The Head Space room is available for those pupils who need to avail of some of the strategies we use and equipment we have purchased to enable them to regulate their emotions.

We also offer our 'Sensory Room' which is a tranquil, quiet and calm space for pupils who need a little 'time out'. Both rooms are an essential part of our pastoral support package and are successfully used to provide a bit of 'equilibrium' for a small number of our pupils throughout the school day.





INCLUSION

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

We have a responsibility for the safeguarding and child protection of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for their unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential. We aim to provide a safe and caring environment that will enable pupils to feel secure in discussing concerns with key members of staff. All members of our school community know the members of our safeguarding team.

MEET OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM:



MRS WOODS
PRINCIPAL



MRS HARTIGAN
VICE PRINCIPAL



MRS McKEEVER
SENIOR TEACHER
SENCO



MR McCABE
SENIOR TEACHER



MISS CASSIDY
ENGAGEMENT
CO-ORDINATOR

With the support of our external partners and in consultation with all members of our school community, we continually monitor and review our suite of safeguarding policies and update them to ensure they reflect changes in legislation and the ever changing needs of our young people. Our suite of Safeguarding policies include our Child Protection Policy, the Positive Behaviour Policy, the Anti-bullying Policy, the Acceptable Use Policy and the Drugs Education Policy.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Our School Counsellor is a fully qualified counsellor who will be available to support our pupils through difficult and challenging times in their lives. Access to the School Counsellor can be secured through self-referral or through a member of our pastoral team.

PASTORAL SUPPORT OFFICER

Mrs Clare McCullough is our valued Pastoral Support Officer. She provides additional support for many of our pupils who struggle with many aspects of their home or school life.



Clare McCullough
Pastoral Support Officer

REACH MENTORING

We are passionate about supporting our pupils through the toughest of times. Many young people are exposed to a variety of challenges which can impact on their ability to cope with the routine of everyday life. We have an established network of support services, including 'Reach Mentoring' who are available for our young people to utilise. 'Reach Mentoring' empowers young people to be the best version of themselves. 'Reach' exists to support the educational experience of young people by providing pastoral care and personal development classes. 'Reach' encourages young people to explore healthy lifestyle choices for those needing additional support with life issues, behavioural difficulties or low self-esteem.

COMPASSION

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

We have a robust Anti-bullying policy that has been created in consultation with staff, pupils, and parents in response to the Addressing Bullying in School Act (2016) NI. Staff are trained to respond urgently to any allegations of bullying and we aim to ensure a swift and supportive resolution so that all pupils involved are happy and engaged in their learning. With the support of staff, our anti-bullying ambassadors have created their own child friendly version of our Anti-bullying policy which has been distributed to all pupils in our school community.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Saint Patrick's College is committed to promoting the health and safety of all members of its school community. We

have a clear Drugs Education Policy which is frequently updated and shared, reflecting the fluid nature of drug related issues and the processes we implement to protect all pupils and staff should the need arise. We strongly believe that prevention is better than cure and throughout the year, our child centred Personal Development programme, complemented by guest speakers from the PCSP and Relate NI aims to educate our pupils across all year groups in the dangers of illicit and illegal drugs and associated products. The Drugs Education Policy will be enforced should there be any possession, consumption or abuse of drugs or alcohol on school premises and in most cases, the PSNI will be contacted for additional support and intervention.

At any time, a pupil, parent or guardian can call any of the following numbers for advice and support:



0808 800 5000



0800 1111



0808 808 8000



0808 8008 0390

A WORD FROM ONE OF OUR PARENTS:

We are the parents of four children who went to three different schools for their second level education. Our youngest child chose St Patrick's College Banbridge. I can unequivocally state that of all the schools attended by our children St Patrick's College Banbridge proved itself best comparatively.

What was evident from the outset was the clear and excellent pastoral policy, where the interests of the student were front and centre. The transition from primary to secondary is a daunting step, but St Patrick's made the transition seamless.

My daughter was guided through five years of education to GCSE. Headmistress, teachers and staff all played a part in making those five years enjoyable and memorable for my daughter. She loved the school and the school knew her, knowing her being of the utmost importance in her development.

So much so that my daughter reached her full potential gaining sufficient grades to continue her education to A Level. Opportunities presented themselves to change schools. However, such was the level of satisfaction and contentment in St Patrick's that my daughter decided to remain there to complete her A Levels. My daughter is now studying Law at the University of Ulster, having attained the appropriate grades to do so.

This was achieved not solely on merit, but with the amazing support, understanding and effort of teachers and staff at the school. All played a part in shaping our daughter through her formative years, giving her an understanding of values and virtues and allowing her to grow in confidence.

Our heartfelt thanks go to St Patrick's College for taking care of our youngest.

Paul Ferris
Parent



3G Pitch

PUPIL VOICE

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Each year, a Student Leadership Team is elected, composed of pupil representatives from across all year groups. The School Council is led by a Head boy and Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl as well as the Senior Prefect Team and they actively seek out the pupil voice in relation to many aspects of school life including policy development, extra-curricular activities, charity events and pupil mental health and wellbeing.

The main aims of our Student Leadership Team are:

- To create a stronger relationship between the students and the staff;
- To foster leadership skills within the student body;
- To develop an awareness of the student council within the student body;
- To ensure pupils' views are acknowledged and when appropriate, acted upon;
- To encourage student initiatives to support policies and procedures within Saint Patrick's College;
- To make the school a more harmonious place to thrive and learn.

The Student Leadership Team are responsible for:

- Providing a forum for students to discuss their views/opinions;
- Delivering a representation of the student views;
- Improving the school environment;
- Serving as a spokesperson for the concerns of groups and individuals;
- Promoting the school at public and school events.
- Stimulating student interest in school activities and promoting school spirit;
- Collaborating with the staff of Saint Patrick's College in the development of policies.
- Arranging our annual 6th Form Formal.

The quality of our teaching and learning is well informed by the pupil voice. Teachers and support staff welcome the views and opinions of our pupils in how they learn best. Teachers and support staff will often consider and implement some of the strategies recommended by our students to ensure the level of engagement in lessons is high. The pupil voice is ascertained frequently, at the end of unit work in some subjects or at the end of an assessment period.



Conor Lemon
Head Boy

Kate Williamson-McCabe
Head Girl

COLLABORATION

YEAR 8 TRANSITION

We believe the transition from primary to post-primary is key in ensuring all our new pupils integrate into Saint Patrick's College successfully.

The **Year 8 Transition Programme** is carefully designed to ensure we make provisions for every child. We work in close collaboration with all parents, our primary school partners, and external providers to ensure the transition is a smooth, happy and memorable one.

Key steps in our Year 8 Transition Programme include:

May 2024	When you are notified of your school place, you will receive a welcome pack containing some important and relevant documentation which will have to be completed to enable us to register our new year 8 pupils successfully.
Early June 2024	Key members of staff visit primary schools and meet with primary teachers of transferring pupils to find out more useful academic and pastoral information so that we can get to know them a little better.
Mid-June 2024	All transferring pupils and their parents/guardians are invited into school to meet with teachers and the year 8 pastoral team for the first time. This is an informal and important opportunity for pupils to tell us about themselves and what they hope for as they embark on this next stage of their educational journey. Parents/guardians will also have an opportunity to keep us informed of things they think we need to know.
Late June 2024	Transferring pupils are welcomed back into our school for our innovative and enjoyable induction day where they will meet other pupils who are also transferring. During this induction day, pupils will complete an online CAT assessment to enable us to gain more useful information so that we can tailor our teaching to meet the needs of our pupils. There are also some fun activities to encourage all pupils to integrate and meet new friends in advance of their start date in the new academic year. Pupils can also become more familiar with their new environment, new teachers and support staff.
July/August 2024	Our summer scheme is very popular with transferring pupils where they are provided with the opportunity to get to know each other and some staff members. During this time, pupils participate in games, arts and crafts and trips to fun and interesting places.
September 2024	The first day of school for our new year 8 pupils is always carefully designed to ensure it is easy and fun. Pupils from post 16 also attend school on that first day and they are assigned to year 8 classes to support and mentor them as the year progresses.
Autumn 2024	In term one, there are several events to support the induction of our new year 8 pupils from Primary to Post-Primary. Young Enterprise deliver the 'Step Up' programme, Learnspark deliver the 'Kick Start Big School Ready' programme, Reach Mentoring meet with each year 8 class to 'Address Changes' and key staff deliver a presentation on safe use of ICT and social media. The highlight of term one for our Year 8 pupils and their parents/guardians is the induction mass which signifies the academic and spiritual beginning of their educational journey in Saint Patrick's College.



Year 8 Learning Support

For year 8 pupils who have a Statement of Educational Need and who require a small class setting, our Learning Support Centre offers a nurturing and welcoming environment where each child has access to a bespoke and differentiated curriculum that meets each individual pupil's needs. All information pertaining to each child is carefully analysed and considered and as their time progresses, attainment across all aspects of their curriculum is monitored to ascertain value added or areas requiring further support.

Pupils have access to specialist teachers for core subjects and mainstream teachers for practical subjects such as Design and Technology, Science, Art, Home Economics and PE and are also very well supported by an excellent team of Classroom Assistants. Each pupil within our Learning Support Centre will contribute to their individual Pupil Learning Plan (PLP) in agreement with their parents/guardians and teachers. The agreed targets on these plans are communicated to all staff and are monitored and reviewed regularly.

Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties, Social, Emotional and Wellbeing needs as well as physical needs, thrive and are happy in our Learning Support Centres. We will work closely in partnership with parents, specialist providers and external agencies to ensure all pupils have access to the appropriate level of support.

Key stage 3 pupils follow adapted schemes of work in line with pupils in their year group. At Key stage 4, the pupils follow a range of courses which lead to external accreditation, and which prepare the pupils for the world of work, the world of living and leisure. Some of our pupils in Learning Support are also provided with the opportunity to 'reverse integrate' into mainstream classes if evidence suggests that they are ready.

FAMILY

UNIFORM

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students. Anyone arriving at school in non-uniform clothing may expect to be sent home to get changed. Uniform, as directed, must also be worn when representing the school at any official function. **Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school. Jewellery and make-up are not permitted in school. Coats and other outdoor clothing may not be worn in school.**

GIRLS

Navy blazer
Navy skirt
Sky blue shirt
School tie
Navy 'V' neck jumper (optional)
Navy tights
Flat black shoes

GRILS PE

School jersey
School shorts or,
School bottoms/leggings
School ¼ zip (optional)
School socks
Laced trainers
Football boots

It is compulsory for all students to wear the full PE kit for all lessons and during participation in competitive sports.

BOYS

Navy blazer
Black school trousers
Sky blue shirt
School Tie
Navy 'V' neck jumper (optional)
Black shoes (no boots)

BOYS PE

School jersey
School shorts or;
School bottoms
School ¼ zip (optional)
School socks
Laced trainers
Football boots



My name is Niamh Mallon and I attended Saint Mary's Primary School, Rathfriland. I was very sad to leave primary school and all my old teachers, but I knew that a new adventure was about to start!

I signed up for the summer scheme for new year 8 pupils. This was held in July. I had a lot of fun and met loads of new people and lots of friendly staff. On the first day we did team building activities in groups, on the second day we went to the Infinity Adventure Park and on the third day there were lots of bouncy castles and inflatable assault courses in the school. It was so much fun!

On my first day of year 8, I was very nervous and was put into a separate class from my primary school friends, but I quickly made new friends and met lots of other people and settled in really well. I've started to learn a lot of new subjects like Spanish, Home Economics, Science, Technology and Design and Learning for Life and Work. I really enjoy all of my subjects, but my favourites would be Home Economics and Technology and Design because I enjoy the practical's and learning new skills and also being mixed with my friends from other classes.

My ambition is to try my best at everything and to do well in my formal assessments. I really enjoy going to the breakfast bar in the mornings before Form Class to get waffles and syrup or a cereal bar. There are lots of cool breakfast treats to enjoy! There is a lot of work in secondary school but I really like how the teachers explain everything carefully and clearly for us to make sure we all understand what we have to do. I do all my homework on the night that I get it so that I don't have to worry about it the night before the lesson.

Saint Patrick's College is a really enjoyable place to learn. The staff are all really nice and funny and we have lots of fun and there are different activities going on all the time. I have already attended lots of workshops, had cake sales, odd socks day for Anti-bullying week and taken part in the Year 8 Induction Mass. I'm sure the next year 8 pupils will have a really fun time here and any nerves will be gone in no time!



Niamh Mallon
Year 8

SUPPORTING OUR PUPILS

NEWCOMER CHILDREN

Children for whom English is an additional language will be screened using the Common European Framework of Reference (CFER) along with other assessment data so that staff can identify the additional support required to enable these pupils to fully access their education. We enjoy learning from our Newcomer pupils and celebrate our diverse and inclusive school at key times of the year. We also utilise all external providers to support and enrich the learning experiences of these children. Our languages department work industriously to ensure all staff are aware of the needs of Newcomer children and the strategies that should be used to support them across all subject areas. Their language development is monitored and reviewed regularly to identify progress.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (S.E.N.D.)

Saint Patrick's College has a qualified and well experienced SENCo (Special Education Needs Coordinator) who is well supported by an Assistant SENCo. They lead all staff in supporting and responding appropriately to pupils who are on the Code of Practice. We aim to create an environment that is sympathetic to pupils who exhibit learning and behavioural difficulties so that their learning is optimised. Additional and individualised help is provided for these pupils through in-class support from our hard-working Classroom Assistants as well as specialist tuition.

Regular in-service training is provided for all staff and Pupil Learning Plans (PLPs) are used appropriately to enhance learning.

The transition programme for pupils with Statements of Educational Need is carefully designed to ensure any anxieties that the pupils and parents/guardians may have are addressed and alleviated. In June, each transitioning Statemented child along with their parents will meet with the school SENCo or Assistant SENCo where they will have an opportunity to find out a bit more about their new learning environment. The pupils and parents/guardians can also tell us about concerns they might have in advance of the new school year.

Teachers carefully monitor assessment and baseline data at the beginning of the school year and as the academic year progresses. Assessment data can highlight learning needs that may have gone undiagnosed. Teachers are encouraged to make referrals to the SENCo for additional support if they are concerned about a child in their class and appropriate interventions are agreed with the support of parents/guardians.

SPIRITUAL LIFE IN ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE



We are proud of our tradition as a Catholic school with a Christian ethos, serving primarily the Catholic pupils in the greater Banbridge area. We welcome pupils of all denominations and other faiths.

All pupils study Religious Education at both Key Stage Three and Four and at Post 16.

We are fortunate to have an Oratory in which pupils and their Religious Education teachers spend time in prayer and meditative worship. Our School Chaplain serves the whole school community offering opportunity for prayerful reflection and worship.

The Celebration of Mass takes place at the beginning of each school year. Special Liturgies are held for parents, pupils, and teachers to welcome our Year 8 pupils and to acknowledge leavers at the end of their time in St Patrick's.

Sacraments are celebrated on many occasions and opportunities for reconciliation are provided in Advent and Lent. A special remembrance service takes place during the month of November.

Counselling will be provided for pupils who suffer bereavement or other major trauma through a Contact Youth Counsellor who works on a weekly basis in the school. We have our Pastoral Support Officer, Mrs McCullough who is always 'at hand' to provide a listening ear to those pupils who need to talk.

Our post-16 pupils enjoy participating in the Pope John Paul II Award which will enable them to gain accreditation for voluntary and community work that they do.

A small number of our post-16 pupils have the privilege of accompanying the sick to Lourdes as part of the Carmelite Pilgrimage each September.

FAITH

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

Key Stage 3

The curriculum for Years 8, 9 and 10 is broad and balanced and reflects the N.I. Curriculum. The curriculum is carefully designed to meet the needs and interests of our pupils and it prepares them well for making those all-important GCSE subject choices during Year 10.

The KS3 years are important years for building a firm knowledge foundation across all subjects and we expect every child to be active participants in their own individual learning journey, accepting positive challenge to ensure they reach their true potential.

An extensive careers programme complements the KS3 Curriculum in Year 10.

KS3 Subjects:

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

- English
- Literacy support

MATHEMATICS

- Mathematics
- Numeracy Support

LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK

- Global & Local Citizenship
- Employability
- Personal & Social Education
- Home Economics
- ICT

THE ARTS

- Art & Design
- Drama
- Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Physical Education

MODERN LANGUAGES

- Irish
- Spanish

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY

- Geography
- History

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Science
- Design & Technology

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Religious Education

Key Stage 4

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum complies with the Entitlement Framework and comprises of both academic and vocational subjects.

The KS4 curriculum is reviewed annually and is tailored to meet the needs and preferences of our pupils. When pupils make their GCSE subject choices in Year 10, they are well supported by subject teachers, the Careers Department and the Senior Leadership Team.

Key stage 3 assessment and baseline data are used to inform advice and guidance for pupils, and they are encouraged to select subjects that will secure them their chosen career pathway and best outcomes at GCSE.

KS4 Core Subjects:

- Religious Education
- English
- Science
- Maths
- Physical Education (non-exam)

KS4 Optional Subjects:

- Arabic
- Art and Design
- BTEC IT
- BTEC Sport
- OCN Sport
- Business & Communication Systems
- GCSE & BTEC Children's Play, Learning & Development
- Construction
- Double Award Science
- Single Award Science
- OCN Science
- Design and Technology
- Digital Technology (GCSE ICT)
- Drama
- Engineering
- English Literature
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Health and Social Care
- Home Economics Food & Nutrition
- Irish
- Learning for Life & Work
- Media
- Music
- Occupational Studies
- Performing Arts
- OCN NI Level 2 Personal Success & Well-being
- GSCE Religious Studies
- OCN Religious Education
- Princes Trust
- Public Services
- Polish
- Spanish

All KS4 pupils attend classes in Careers Education.
The above qualifications are offered at GCSE, OCN or BTEC First Certificate/Award Level.
All are GCSE or GCSE equivalencies.

POST-16

The next stage of our pupils' learning journey is to prepare them for Further and Higher Level education or the world of work. Pupils at this stage are expected to be confident in their own ability and are more aware of their own strengths and capabilities.

Admission to our Post-16 provision is based on academic performance as well as a range of pastoral data. Similar to our Key Stage 4 curriculum, our post-16 curriculum which also meets the Entitlement Framework, is informed by the needs and aspirations of our pupils and comprises of vocational and academic qualifications.

Career planning is an important aspect of subject choices at post-16 and pupils are advised at each and every stage by subject teachers, the Careers Department and Senior Leadership Team. We stress the importance of selecting subjects that will facilitate career pathways and maximise outcomes at this level. We will always endeavour to respond to labour market information on employment trends in Northern Ireland and we will work in collaboration with all stakeholders to develop those essential hard and soft skills to enable our young people to secure employment in the future.

All pupils are required to select at least 3 A Levels/A level equivalencies. Non-exam Religious Education, General PE and Careers will appear on all timetables. Pupils are expected to also embrace the wide range of enrichment programmes that are provided to ensure they are gaining those invaluable experiences that lead to essential skills development.





Post-16 Subjects*

- Art & Design
- Biology
- English
- History
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
- Physics
- Home Economics Food & Nutrition
- Cambridge Technical Level 3 in Business
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Media Studies
- Chemistry
- Design & Technology
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction
- Religion
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport
- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport (equivalent to 2 A levels)
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport (equivalent to 3 A levels)
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology
- Mathematics
- Applied A level Health and Social Care (1 A level)
- Applied Double Award A Level Health and Social Care (equivalent to two A levels)
- Software Systems Development
- Geography
- Psychology
- Professional Business Services
- Sociology

*Our Post-16 Curriculum responds annually to the needs and aspirations of our pupils.

Hello! My name is Tara Russell. I am currently a Year 13 pupil studying A Level Art, English and Professional Business Services in St Patrick's College. I attended St Patrick's Primary School, Drumgreenagh. I absolutely love Saint Patrick's College; the teachers are friendly, helpful, and hardworking and always go over and above to ensure we understand what we are learning. It is not unusual to see teachers teaching students during holiday periods to prepare them for GCSE and A level examinations!

I thoroughly enjoy every day in school. I am a member of the school choir and receive piano & singing lessons. I am in the school netball team, and I am a proud anti-bullying ambassador. I would encourage any pupil to come to Saint Patrick's College where they will be warmly welcomed, nurtured, and encouraged to be the best person they can be.



Tara Russell
Year 13



Conall Bustard
Year 11

My name is Conall Bustard and I am a Y11 pupil at Saint Patrick's College. What I find most enjoyable about Saint Patrick's College is how interesting all of my subjects are, especially Spanish and PE. I love how supportive all my teachers are, and they are there for me whenever I need them.

I am always encouraged to showcase my talents, particularly in music; I play and receive additional tuition in school in the flute and I love 'jamming' with Mr Rafferty, the school's music coordinator.

I would definitely recommend Saint Patrick's College to other people who are unsure of where to go after Primary School. This is an amazing school which helps its pupils achieve for the future.

A WORD FROM ONE OF OUR ALUMNI:

Hi. My name is Cathal Morgan and I'm a proud past student of St. Patrick's College, Banbridge. I attended St. Mary's Primary School and following the suit of my family members, the natural progression was to attend St. Patricks. Not being a typical straight A student, the education I received at St. Patricks had a positive impact and influence on not only my academic achievements, but also my personal, social development. The school and the teaching staff fostered individual critical thinking and problem solving, a skill that is essential for my current role within the construction industry.

St. Patricks provided a supportive network for social skills and character development, which included interaction with peers, teachers, and other members of the community. Within the school, we were encouraged to be individuals and to respect the core values of honesty, integrity, respect, and determination.

I have so many positive memories of St. Pat's, from our Year 9 French Trip (even if I was studying Irish), to art classes with Mr. Quail, to the debates and expressing views and opinions in Mrs McKeever's class.

It was these core values and life lessons, which I took with me throughout university, my career and my personal life, that aided my personal growth and development. I was proud to be the only non-grammar school student to obtain a First Class Honours in my undergraduate degree in Construction Engineering and Management, at Ulster University and more recently, I was one of two students to receive a Master of Science with Distinction in Construction Project Management from Queen's University Belfast.

St Patricks contributed significantly to my overall development academically socially, and practically , instilling a determination for improvement , which has been vital for success in various aspects of my life, from marathon running to CrossFit and in my current role as a Contracts Manager within the construction industry.

Cathal Morgan
Cf AMAP, MSc, BSc (Hons)



A PERSONALISED LEARNING JOURNEY

Every pupil is offered a personalised learning journey as they proceed through Key Stage 3 at St Patrick's College.

- Each year, four formal assessments are undertaken by every pupil in each subject. These are assessed by the subject teacher and moderated within each area of study. The results are placed against each pupil's personalised targets ascertained through the use of CAT baseline testing and PTE and PTM.
- Pupil's personalised targets are reviewed each academic year to continually stretch and challenge all pupils.
- Attitudinal data (PASS) is also analysed to inform intervention and support from a pastoral perspective. This enables every pupil to be challenged to reach his/her potential target.
- Individualised averages will be available so that parents can determine if their child is underachieving/working to their expected standard or overachieving in a subject area.
- Parents will be able to view all formal assessment scores through the SIMs parent app.
- Formal assessment scores are reviewed by departments and SLT.
- Parents/guardians will receive one full subject teacher report per academic year. This provides a 'partnership of learning' to optimise the achievements of every pupil.

- Students are provided with the opportunity to engage in a wide range of assessment and learning opportunities including peer and self-assessment.

Assessment data can be used to identify a learning need whether it is support or challenge. When used with additional pastoral data, it can help us as teachers to identify issues that may be preventing a child from reaching their full potential. We will always work in partnership with our pupils and parents/guardians to remove barriers to learning. Our staff are highly skilled in addressing the needs of all learners and provide differentiated support at all times.





CAREERS GUIDANCE

Our CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance) programme is a key element in the curriculum provision across all Key Stages. It is designed to equip our pupils with the skills and experience to make sound career choices and to progress to third level education or to the world of work.

AT KS3

Our careers programme is initially delivered through Learning for Life and Work (LLW). In addition, a discrete time is allocated at the key transition point of Year 10, when subject choices are made. Relevant up to date and impartial careers information and guidance is provided by our Careers and Guidance staff with the support of the Careers Advisory Service.

AT KS4

Our KS4 CEIAG programme aims to provide our pupils with informative and up to date information towards career pathways. A range of work-related activities complements the work carried out within the College.

CEIAG opportunities are further enhanced by the involvement of employers and the business community. St Patrick's College has strong links with local businesses, and we are fortunate that many are willing to take Year 11 and Year 13 pupils on Work Experience. Industrial visits and initiatives organised through Science, Technology, Education and Maths (STEM) have enabled our pupils to be supported in a wide range of learning.

As a member of the Banbridge Area Learning Community, St Patrick's is able to avail of collaborative learning within the school community and also, the Southern Regional College. This has enabled firm foundations to be built for pathways into post-16 study so our pupils can avail of opportunities in the Banbridge and Newry area.

POST 16

Careers advice and guidance is a critical aspect of our post-16 experience. All pupils have at least one class of Careers Education per week. As well as visiting our local universities, representatives from the Queen's University of Belfast, the University of Ulster, Dundalk Institute of Technology and Saint Mary's College, Belfast, visit the school to speak with our post-16 cohort.

With a strong emphasis on the value of Higher Level Apprenticeships, PWC, Deloitte and BT are just some of the contributors to our post-16 careers programme. Students in Year 14 are fully supported during the UCAS application process and other application processes they have decided to complete. Additionally, advice and guidance are provided to support students preparing for interviews as part of the application process.

We are also a 'Career Ready' school, a programme funded by the James Kane Foundation. A small number of our year 13 pupils are selected to participate in this interactive and innovative programme where they are mentored by a representative from a local industry and are provided with an invaluable work placement opportunity. All pupils also participate in workshops where they can develop their interview and presentation skills, invaluable experiences as they move towards Further and Higher Education or the world of work.

Voluntary Service is also a mandatory aspect of our post-16 experience, and it involves students spending time volunteering in the local community. We provide opportunities for our young people to secure a short weekly placement in an area of work they are interested in pursuing, develop skills and qualities that will prove beneficial as they progress to Post 18 education or the world of work.



AMBITION

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The successful partnership between home and school is essential in ensuring that every pupil in our school is well supported and nurtured to enable them to grow, thrive and develop into positive contributors to society. We welcome and encourage parents/guardians to play their part in ensuring that our pupils have access to the best possible learning environment.

COMMUNICATION

Effective communication between home and school is key to the success of our pupils. We encourage parents/guardians to contact the school with any concerns and we will endeavour to resolve them as quickly as possible. We have several channels of communicating with home:

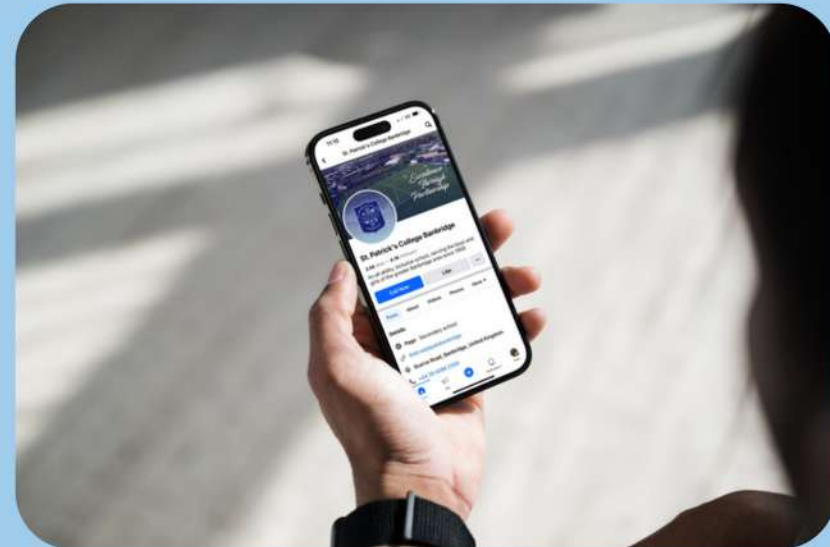
- SIMS parent app: Parents/guardians have quick access to behavioural, attendance and assessment data as well as important documents and letters that are uploaded to the app.
- Email: we regularly email parents with important documents and letters.
- Homework diary: this important little book is frequently used by parents/guardians as well as teachers from time to time to communicate with home.
- Parent/teacher meetings: each child is entitled to one parent/teacher meeting per year where parents/guardians have an opportunity to discuss their child's progress with subject teachers.
- Text to parents/guardians: this is used to alert parents to important announcements.
- Parent surveys: your opinion matters, and we take pride in implementing many of our parents/guardians' recommendations that might make our pupils learning environment as good as it can be.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

We have a vibrant website that is updated frequently and showcases what goes on in our school and in the wider community. Important information about our school can be found on the website including who's who, curriculum and assessment information, school policy and procedures and a calendar of events for the school year.

Our school website address is www.stpatrickscollegebanbridge.com

The website is also complemented by our school social media accounts, where the most up to date information on daily events are posted on Facebook and Instagram. Our social media accounts provide an instant glimpse into daily life at Saint Patrick's College.



My name is Ben Magennis, and I am a past pupil of St Joseph and St James' Primary School, Poyntzpass. I am currently studying Maths, Biology and Construction as my A level subjects. Since I joined St Patrick's College, the personal support, the friendships, and the learning experiences that exist mean that the entire school community is like one big family.

Within St Patrick's College, I am involved in the 'Career Ready' programme, which is designed to prepare us for the choices we make after school. It allows us to develop our skills, confidence, and experience to kickstart our future career pathways. I also take part in the Pope John Paul II Award, which is a faith achievement award that allows us to take an active part in the life of our church. In addition, I was awarded the CPR certificate through the post-16 enrichment program. St Patrick's has given me the opportunity to go on the annual Ski trip which was a very memorable and enjoyable experience.

The teachers in St Patrick's College have always gone above and beyond in the dedication they show to encourage all pupils to try their best and I am very grateful for all the effort they put in to help us succeed. I believe young people should come to St Patrick's College because of the vibrant, enjoyable, and friendly environment that exists to learn, to grow and to make valuable friendships that will last a lifetime.



Ben Magennis
Year 13



OUR SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY

Saint Patrick's College belongs to the local and wider Banbridge community, a community that is growing and thriving as more and more businesses move into the area. We have much to learn from our community partners and through them, we can enrich the learning experiences of our pupils.

LOCAL INDUSTRY

We rely heavily on various industries and businesses in Banbridge to provide mentorship for our pupils and to facilitate work placements and voluntary service which are important aspects of their learning journey. We are blessed that so many of our industry and business partners are so willing to give of their precious time to expose our pupils to the real challenges of the world of work so that they are better equipped for the next stage of their educational journey.

OTHER SCHOOLS

Saint Patrick's College enjoys developing positive relationships with our feeder primary schools. Each year we have a variety of events where we engage with our primary partners; our primary 7 taster days in December, the GAA Academy coaching days and primary school blitz, our JP11 pupils support primary school pupils with preparation for receiving the sacraments. We also work closely with our Primary School Partners on ensuring the transition into post-Primary is as smooth as possible.

We are also a member of the Banbridge Area Learning Community, and we work extensively with our Post-Primary School partners to ensure our pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4 and Post 16. We also benefit from sharing and collaborating the latest guidance on Careers Education, topical pastoral issues and innovations in teaching and learning to ensure classroom practice is as active and engaging as possible.

CHARITIES

Each year we have a number of charities that we support. Trócaire is our main charity which is always our focus across all year groups during our Lenten campaign. We also hold many key events to support other charities such as; Cancer Focus, PIPs, Macmillan, Saint Vincent De Paul and our local Hospice.





School Canteen

PARTNERSHIP

OUR SPORTING PROVISION

We pride ourselves on an outstanding reputation for producing some of the top sports people in Ulster. We are determined to continue to build on this success. We are fortunate to have a number of experienced and dedicated staff members who coach and manage teams across a variety of sports. They provide our students with opportunities to play games and encourage lifelong participation in a recreational or competitive basis.

Gaelic Football

Gaelic football is offered to pupils from Years 8 to 14. Training is held each week and teams play in the Ulster Schools Championship competitions.

Soccer

Boys across all age groups are offered the opportunity to play soccer. The school enters the South Down League, Cup and Blitz Competitions.

Rugby

Students are provided with the opportunity to avail of rugby coaching in conjunction with other schools in our Area Learning Community. It is delivered by Ulster Rugby coaches. Players can participate in the Schools Cup and Ulster Schools Competitions.

Netball

Netball training takes place each week for pupils in Years 8-12. Our Year 8 pupils train all year round on Wednesday afternoon and they will compete in the Banbridge Area Netball Tournament in March. Each Tuesday, our minor team train religiously for competitions in the Banbridge Area League. On Mondays, our junior and intermediate girls train together, and they always enjoy success in the local and wider community competitions.

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 Easter term. Our Year 8 girls participate in an annual Ulster Schools blitz and an invitational competition takes place in the school to conclude this first training block. Our Year 8 girls are registered to play each season and they usually enjoy success in their competitions.

Our Senior ladies made history in 2023-24 as the school's first ever U20 team to be entered into an Ulster Schools blitz. The knockout stages of this competition are usually after Halloween.

Our U14 football team took pride of place winning Ulster competition in 2021/22 season, and they continue to build and provide the backbone for success with our football squads.

St Patrick's College had the privilege of sending two pupils to All-Star trials in Cookstown in 2023-24.

Camogie

The College enter Down and Ulster competitions at Year 8 and Under 14 level. Training commences after the Halloween mid-term break, where girls are encouraged to pick up the 'caman' and represent the school.

Athletics/Cross Country

Our athletics/cross country club continues to grow from strength to strength with increasing numbers of our pupils joining and participating in training sessions and competitions. The club consists of students from Years 8 to 12, with boys and girls competing at Local, District and Ulster

Level. We are delighted that in previous years, we had a number of pupils who qualified for Ulster and came away from the competition having achieved 'personal best' times competing with a top-quality field of athletes.

The GAA Academy

In 2022, the GAA Academy for our post-16 pupils was launched in collaboration with Down GAA, our local GAA clubs and feeder primary schools. GAA Academy pupils benefit from achieving qualifications in coaching, refereeing and safeguarding and they are also exposed to the reality and challenges of the administrative aspects of running a successful GAA Club. Our GAA Academy pupils enjoy delivering coaching sessions to our feeder primary schools and they are also given the opportunity to referee at blitz competitions for Primary Schools organised by Down GAA as well as our own GAA Academy blitz. Our pupils can apply for recognition of their volunteering in our Academy through Ulster GAA's Inspiring Leaders Awards.





DETERMINATION

DEVELOPING TALENTS

The extracurricular provision in Saint Patrick's College is diverse and vibrant and is a key element in developing our pupils spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Our pupils enjoy participating in events that extend beyond the classroom, providing them with opportunities to develop meaningful friendships, laughter, fun and most importantly, positive memories!

MUSIC

At St. Patrick's School, we are proud to offer a vibrant and diverse music program that caters to a wide range of musical interests and talents. Our commitment to nurturing students' musical abilities, fostering a love for music, and providing opportunities for personal growth through music is at the heart of our school's music department.

Choir

Our well-established school choir is open to students from Year 8 to Year 14. Meeting weekly, the choir is not just about singing; it's a chance to build lasting friendships through a shared love of music. Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or a beginner, our choir welcomes everyone and provides an inclusive environment for musical expression and camaraderie.

Vocal Training

At St. Patrick's, we believe in nurturing the individual talents of our students. To achieve this, we offer solo and group singing lessons during school hours. Our students benefit from the expertise of a professional vocal coach who guides them in developing their vocal abilities.



Instrument Tuition

Music is not just about singing; it's also about playing instruments. We offer a wide range of instrument tuition, including guitar, drums, strings, woodwind, and brass instruments. Our dedicated and experienced music tutors will help you master your chosen instrument and provide opportunities to perform, both as soloists and in groups.

Performances and Opportunities

At St. Patrick's, we understand the importance of giving our students the chance to showcase their talents and hard work. Throughout the year, we organise various musical events and performances, allowing our students to shine. These events include concerts, liturgy services, and opportunities to participate in class performances. Additionally, we offer the chance to pursue musical exams to further develop your skills and achieve recognition for your dedication.

Music at St. Patrick's School is not just a subject, it's a community where students come together to create, explore, and share their passion for music. Whether you're looking to enhance your vocal abilities, master a musical instrument, or simply enjoy the friendships of like-minded students, our music program offers something for everyone.

ADDITIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR PROVISION:

- Science Club
- Craft Club
- Coding Club
- Jewellery Workshop
- Chess Club
- Film Club
- Cookery Club
- KS3 Running Club

We will always strive to provide extracurricular support where there is a particular demand.



ENDEAVOUR

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We take great pleasure in celebrating the successes of our pupils and the positive contributions they make to school life. Our annual Junior Prize-Giving and Senior Prize-Giving provide a platform for us to acknowledge the tremendous achievements of our pupils in their academic and extracurricular endeavours.

As a school at the heart of the community, we always seek to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of all our pupils both inside and outside of school.



A WORD FROM ONE OF OUR ALUMNI:

In 2010, I started St. Patrick's College as an excited, yet petrified, Year 8 pupil - little did I know it was the start of a wonderful journey.

St Patrick's embraces all of its pupils and helps nurture the things which matter most. The quality of teaching I received was nothing short of outstanding - all of the staff (both teaching and non-teaching) went above and beyond to help me and my peers through all aspects of schooling. Any pastoral care I received was always fantastic, and something which I am forever grateful for.

I was able to achieve great academic success because of the quality and supportive teaching in St. Patrick's. One of my greatest achievements during my time there was being named Top Candidate at GCSE Level by CCEA for Business and Communication Systems. I now work as an Executive Consultant for First Derivative/KX, a local Newry firm, in the world of Foreign Exchange.

Anything is possible if we put our minds to it, and St Patrick's College strives to bring out the best in its pupils and help them to achieve their absolute potential. My sister, and two brothers are now pupils at St. Patrick's and are thriving because of the positive, constructive environment which the school provides. I loved every minute of my time at St. Patrick's, and I sincerely hope you do too.

Aimee Dornan (First Derivative/KX)



A WORD FROM ONE OF OUR PARENTS:

So far two of our children have attended St Patrick's College and their experiences have been very positive. Our daughter is now in her first year of university, she really enjoyed her time at school and has many great memories. During her time there, she grew in confidence through the constant support and encouragement she received from her teachers.

She decided to stay at St Patrick's to study her A levels, not all were offered by St Patrick's but with the benefit of shared education she was able to study the subjects of her choice while remaining at her own school. It also gave her the opportunity to meet new friends at the other schools she attended where she received a warm welcome.

St Patrick's offers invaluable advice and guidance when it comes to subject choices and if it transpires that a subject isn't suitable for your child the school will quickly intervene offering alternative options to ensure success and ultimately allow them to achieve their goals.

Our son is currently studying for GCSEs. His teachers have been very supportive and put in considerable effort to ensure success. He also attends the Southern Regional College where they are offered a wide range of practical subjects. He has really enjoyed this opportunity and has gained an insight into a wide range of career options available to him.

Mrs Woods and her team, through their belief, hard work and dedication have provided our children with the foundation to succeed in whatever path they choose to take, as parents we are very grateful for their efforts.

Caroline Rooney
Parent

SCHOOL TRIPS

We organise a broad range of local and international trips for our pupils. Some of the more educational trips complement the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4 and other trips are offered to provide our pupils with an experience that they might never have again.

Over the last number of years, our pupils have enjoyed:

- Our annual ski trip to Les Menuires;
- A visit to the battle fields in France;
- A pilgrimage to Lourdes;
- Visits to Dublin and Belfast;
- The Gaeltacht in Donegal;
- Participation in Gael Linn Irish events;
- Various field trips to support the Geography curriculum;
- Trips to the annual CCEA Art Exhibition.

Our trips and outings are designed to meet the needs and aspirations of our pupils and destinations change from year to year. As always, we will listen to our pupil voice and respond accordingly.





St. Patrick's College

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Review & Amendments

The information in this prospectus is published subject to review and amendment, as and when is necessary.

Any changes in respect of any matter mentioned in this publication known before the end of September 2023 will be conveyed to parents/guardians by letter.