

# Prospectus

2025 - 2026

ENRICH · EMPOWER · EXCEL



## It is my privilege to introduce you to Glastry College and to outline the ethos and values of our school.

For over 65 years we have been educating young people from the Ards Peninsula and beyond, irrespective of background, culture, or academic ability. I am privileged to work with dedicated and passionate staff who are committed to ensuring our school community is vibrant, dynamic and forward thinking.

Glastry College is reputed for its warm, family feel, its keen sense of community and excellent interactions between students and staff which reflects our caring, child-centred, Christian ethos. Students at our college are very well cared for and supported and we aspire to develop their

confidence and self-esteem, so they are motivated to achieve their highest potential within a safe and caring environment. This is enhanced and enriched by positive relationships between teachers, students, parents and the local community.

When considering a post-primary school with a sixth form, where your child will be supported, cared for, challenged, motivated and enriched, Glastry College is a school which can realise these aspirations. Our pastoral structure aims to keep the focus firmly on the individual child while supporting the raising of standards and achievements for all students.



"Our teachers are dedicated, enthusiastic, caring and always willing to listen. With their guidance we can fulfil our true potential."

STUDENT

Our curricular provision supports a range of career pathways that are tailored to each student and the enrichment programme affords students opportunities to acquire life-long skills which can be used to prepare them for the challenges they may face in the future.

We have three main aims:

- to enrich the student experience at Glastry College by providing a wide range of learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom;
- to **empower** students to be proactive in their learning and become independent learners; and
- to help them excel in their academic studies and in their ability to reach and fulfil their true potential.

I wholeheartedly believe that Glastry College is a school where your child can flourish and develop into a mature, well qualified, responsible young adult, ready to embrace the challenges of further education, higher education, or employment with confidence. If you are supportive of our ethos and values, willing to support our school policies and want a first-class education for your child, please come along to meet us and find out more.

AHutchinson

A Hutchins Principal





# Our College Badge

The Talbot hound is proudly worn on our blazer and signifies the community links our college has in the surrounding area.

John de Courcy, who invaded Southeast Ulster in 1177, rewarded his knights for his success by giving them tracts of land in Co. Down.

One of these knights called Talbot, developed a small community which later became known as Ballytalbet, or as we know it Ballyhalbert.

During their time, the Talbet family bred hunting dogs that were large Talbot hounds and when the college opened in 1957 it was decided this should feature on the college badge due to its strength of character. Our students still value this link with our local history and wear their school badge with pride.

# **Mission Statement**

To support, guide and equip each young person to reach their full potential as learners, their aspirations as individuals, and to be happy, resilient and successful in life.

# Our College Motto

## **ENRICH • EMPOWER • EXCEL**

- Enrich through Learning
- Empower to Succeed
- Excel in Life

# **Our Values**

These underpin our college ethos and are central to our belief that all students are unique and deserve the opportunity to succeed through:

Respect
Hard work
Compassion
Responsibility
Kindness
Self-discipline

# **Our Aims**

- To create a safe, nurturing environment where every student can thrive
- To support each student in developing self-esteem, self-efficacy, self-respect
- To promote, celebrate and reward success
- To work in partnership with parents
- To provide students with the necessary skills, qualities and attitudes for the world of work
- To enable our students to be their own leaders of learning

# School Enhancement Programme

Our enhanced building programme, which will commence in 2025, will provide additional new facilities to support the positive teaching and learning experiences of our students. This will include state-of-the-art facilities for drama, music and humanities.





## We recognise the transition from Primary to Post-Primary School can be quite exciting, yet daunting.

Through our bespoke Induction Programme, we ensure all students feel happy and secure in their transition by providing several valuable opportunities for students to get to know us before starting in September. In June, we visit our feeder primary schools to meet our new students and their primary school teachers, ensuring we have accurate information about their hobbies, interests and academic ability. We provide 'taster days' for P6 and P7 students, during which they visit the college, meet teachers and participate in lessons such as Home Economics, Technology and Science.

Parents of transferring students are invited to an Open Evening in June where they can meet with members of the Pastoral Team and hear from current students about their experience transitioning to Glastry College. In August, before the school term officially begins, all Year 8 students are invited to the college for a 'welcome morning'. Here they get to know other students within their year group, their Peer Mentors, Form Tutor and Head of Year. They also have the chance to familiarise themselves with their new school routines and the layout of the building.

Every Year 8 student is a valued member of our college community and as a 'listening college' we support them and their parents through each step of the transition process.

"There is a real sense of family and community throughout the college."

**PARENT** 



### **Emotional Health and Well-Being**

Through our Personal Development programme, we are committed to the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' message. Students are taught and reminded about the importance of connecting, taking notice, giving, learning and staying active to promote positive mental health. Through this programme we also promote the importance of self-awareness, personal health and relationship with others, addressing important issues such as:

- Anti-bullying
- Healthy eating
- Physical activity
- Substance misuse
- Digital safety
- Positive mental health
- Resilience

## **Learning Support**

Our key aims are to ensure that each student achieves their potential, develops self-confidence, improved self-esteem, independence and resilience.

Positive relationships, between staff and students, based on mutual respect, are central to our approach to Teaching and Learning.

Knowing each child and creating an atmosphere of trust, enables students to succeed.

Teaching and learning approaches are informed by current research into the most effective ways students learn. This is crucial in enabling students to manage their own learning and retrieval skills as they progress through each Key Stage.

The learning experience in each subject is mapped to show the progression of skills and knowledge, supported by a range of classroom-based activities.

Additional learning support provision is overseen by our Learning Support Co-ordinator. Our team of classroom assistants support our students: in-class on a one-to-one basis, in small groups and through individual tuition. Personal Learning Plans are drawn up in consultation with parents, students and external agencies and are reviewed regularly to ensure suitable strategies are in place to support and guide all students through their subjects.

Our peer mentoring, motivational mentoring and reading partnership programmes provide further support, whilst fostering positive relationships between senior and junior students and staff.





Pastoral care permeates all aspects of college life as the provision of high-quality care is central to our approach to education. We adopt a whole college approach, led by our Pastoral Vice-Principal, supported by a strong pastoral team of Year Heads and Form Tutors and support staff.

We aim to provide a caring, supportive environment where individuals are valued for their unique talents and abilities, where all our young people can have a positive working relationship with staff and appreciate the support they receive. We believe that knowing our students well and fostering positive relationships based on mutual respect, is key to student success.

## **Our Pastoral Aims**

- To provide opportunities to enable each student to reach their potential both academically and socially
- To ensure each student has access to relevant, vocational and academic guidance and support
- To ensure students develop self-confidence and self-efficacy to face academic and personal challenges they may encounter



Under the leadership of Year Heads, each class has a designated Form Tutor who is responsible for monitoring the academic progress and personal development of their students. They also work closely with Subject Leaders and play a key role in fostering positive links between parents and the college, liaising closely to address any worries or concerns.

Our Pastoral Programme is reviewed annually to reflect societal changes. It is comprehensive and aims to nurture the social, academic and personal growth of each student, through assemblies, lessons and guest speakers.

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

PARENT

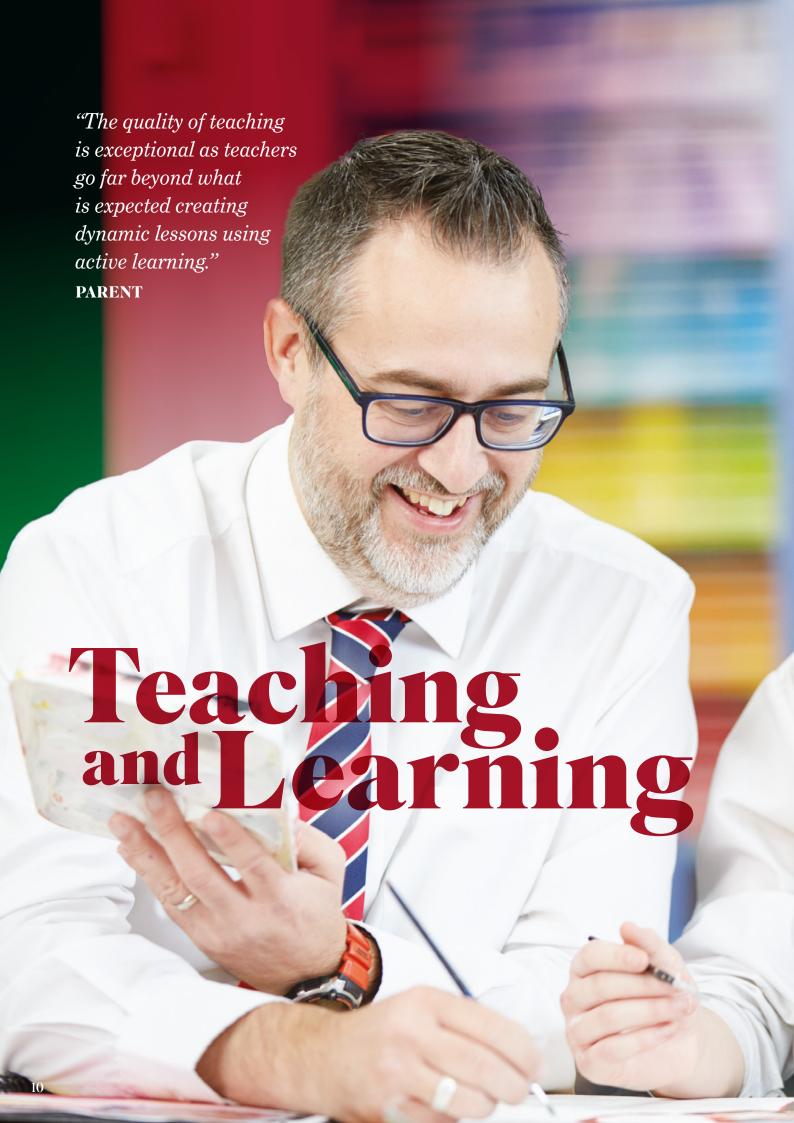
We aim to provide a safe, nurturing, learning environment for all students. Our Safeguarding Team are trained in Child Protection and we are an Operation Encompass College. We liaise closely with external agencies to ensure the well-being of each student is supported.

#### **Pastoral Policies**

The college has a range of safeguarding policies, which are reviewed regularly to ensure a safe and secure environment for learning. Copies of Pastoral Care Polices are available from our website and on request from the college office. These include Child Protection and Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying, Drugs, Mobile Phone and Attendance.

## **Student support**

We work with a range of external agencies who have the skills and expertise to offer guidance and advice to those students facing a range of issues such as difficult home circumstances, stress, personal trauma, friendship issues or bereavement. Counselling sessions, provided by Hope Counselling, are offered on a weekly basis and can be accessed by all students.





We are passionate about learning and we believe it is both what you learn and how you learn that matters, which means our students not only have the knowledge required to be successful now, but have honed their own approach to being a successful learner, which will last a lifetime.

Students are supported through our Learning to Learn programmes that are bespoke to each key stage and ensure our students take ownership of their learning, instilling a sense of independence and diligence they can take with them into their future careers.

We believe in personalising the learning process and our bespoke tracking system enables us to monitor student progress every half term, intervening and providing tailored support for individual students while at the same time recognising and praising those making progress and achieving success. We share this information with parents as we believe that by working together, we can better develop students who are self-motivated, aspirant and successful.

We not only invest in our students but ensure our teachers' Professional Learning is central to our goal of supporting students to achieve their potential. We encourage our teachers to be highly reflective professionals and teaching and learning is driven by our Teaching and Learning Development Team.

We are committed to raising standards and our curriculum at KS3 is broad, knowledge-rich and designed to provide a foundation for all students to pursue their desired careers. We believe that all students can thrive given the opportunity to study suitable courses. We meet the needs of all our students by offering four distinct pathways that include opportunities to study subjects as broad as Further Mathematics and English Literature in our academic pathway and Construction and Early Years Learning, Care and Development in our Vocational pathway. Ultimately, our desire is to see our students excel in their careers and in life.

"Teachers have high expectations for learning and encourage students to achieve their very best."

PARENT

# KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form Curriculum

## **Key Stage 3**

In Years 8, 9 and 10 students study the following subjects in line with the NI Curriculum:

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



## **Key Stage 4**

All GCSE Students are offered up to nine subjects and study the core subjects of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- An LLW course, including Careers and either Preparation for Adult Life, or Prince's Trust
- Religious Studies



## **Optional Courses Modules (\*subject to demand)**

- Agriculture\*
- Art & Design\*
- Business & Communication Studies\*
- Business Studies\*
- HE: Child Development\*
- Drama\*
- English Literature\*
- Early Years Learning, Care & Development\*
- French\*
- Further Mathematics
- Geography\*
- Government & Politics\*
- History\*
- HE: Food & Nutrition\*
- ICT<sup>7</sup>
- Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies\*
- Music\*
- Religious Studies\*
- Science Double Award\*
- Spanish\*
- Sports Studies\*
- Technology & Design\*
- Tourism\*
- Occupational Studies Courses\* in Engineering, Business, Construction, Sports, ICT, Beauty, Child Development and Catering



"Glastry has encouraged me to be a better person and to focus on my future career and choices."

## **STUDENT**

Having achieved 5 GCSE subjects at Grade C or above, most of the Sixth Form student population is generated by Glastry students who have chosen to access the post-16 curriculum on offer. However, increasingly students from other schools and colleges are deciding to transfer to Glastry, due to the warm welcoming ethos at the college, strong academic success at Key Stage 4 and 5, the range of subjects we have to offer and the enrichment opportunities available, which develop their personal and social skills.

Our curriculum provision is reviewed annually and continues to expand as we strive to meet the changing needs of our students. We therefore provide a range of traditional academic and vocational courses.

Private supervised study is facilitated in the Sixth Form Study Centre while students also have access to the Sixth Form Common Room. Students are also supported by a comprehensive careers programme, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding potential pathways upon completion of their post-16 education. The programme is enhanced with university visits, apprenticeship talks, work placements and individual meetings with our Careers Officer.

## **Sixth Form**

Courses available:

- Agriculture
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- COPE Level 3 (compulsory for all students)
- English Literature
- Engineering
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Hospitality
- ICT
- Life & Health Science
- Mathematics
- Performing Arts
- Production Arts
- Professional Business Services
- Uniformed Protective Services
- Science
- Sociology
- Sports Studies
- Technology & Design
- Tourism



"We are taught to be independent thinkers, making informed decisions about our career paths."



#### **Assessment**

Students are encouraged to engage actively in the learning process to help them become independent, reflective, life-long learners.

As part of our personalised approach to learning, all students are encouraged to set aspirational targets and strive to achieve these by monitoring their own progress after each tracked assessment. They are encouraged to identify personal strengths and areas for improvement.

Staff effectively use data to track each student's level of progress and achievement throughout each key stage, helping to identify underachievement and initiate intervention strategies, to enable students to fulfil their potential.

#### **Timetable**

In Glastry College we operate a weekly timetable, with forty-five minute lessons. Students will meet with their Form Tutor each morning and attend a whole-school assembly once per week. Students enjoy a 15 minute mid-morning break and a 40 minute lunch break. Enrichment activities are held on a Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45pm until 4:30pm and on a Wednesday from 3pm until 4.30pm. \*Students who do not wish to attend the Enrichment Programme on a Wednesday, will need to provide proof of withdrawal from a parent.

| 9:30 - 9:45   | Registration time with Form Tutor and Peer Mentors |
|---------------|--|
| 9:45 - 10:25  | Period 1   |
| 10:25 - 10.40 | Break  |
| 10.40 - 11.25 | Period 2   |
| 11:25 - 12:10 | Period 3   |
| 12:10 - 12.50 | Senior Lunch                                       |
| 12.50 - 1.30  | Junior Lunch                                       |
| 1.30 - 2.15   | Period 6   |
| 2.15 - 3.00   | Period 7   |
| 3.00 - 3.45   | Period 8   |

## Cafeteria

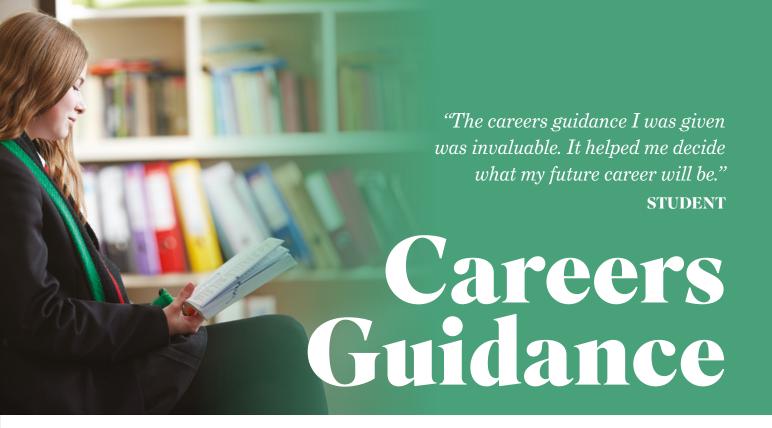
The cafeteria provides the following:

10.25 - 10.40

A range of drinks, hot and cold snacks including homemade traybakes 12.10 - 1.30

A varied menu with hot and cold meals available over two lunch sessions

The cafeteria uses the biometric system which is linked to Parent Pay.



Glastry College is committed to ensuring that students have access to current and accurate Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) within the college curriculum and through other agencies.

CEAIG is essential for helping each student reach their full potential and to develop essential employability skills. It is delivered by a dedicated team of professionals. Careers education is not confined to careers and employability lessons but is used by all subject teachers to illustrate how skills and knowledge, developed through their subjects, will help them in their future careers. This acts as an important motivational tool for students to achieve their full potential.

At Key Stage 3 (Year 8 - Year 10) the focus of learning begins by identifying and developing students' skills and qualities. Students are introduced to careers' management and why it is so important. They also develop an understanding of work in the local and global sector by examining examples of enterprise and entrepreneurship.

In Year 10, students will have a careers interview to assist them in making choices about their GCSE subjects, taking into consideration their subject progress, career plans and aptitude.

At Key Stage 4 (Year 11 - Year 12) students are encouraged to develop knowledge and understanding of potential careers and their suitability for these. During dedicated careers classes within PAL and Prince's Trust time students can reflect on their individual skills, qualities and aspirations and

participate in workshops led by visiting speakers from a diverse range of employment sectors. They will also learn how to complete application forms, prepare CVs and perform effectively during an interview. In preparation for post-16 options, all Year 12 students meet with a specialist careers advisor from the Careers Service of Northern Ireland.

At Key Stage 5, (Sixth Form) students also reflect on their achievements as well as personal skills and qualities sought by employers. They are advised about local and global opportunities, labour market information and different career pathways available to them during timetabled weekly careers lessons. Students identify decision-making strategies needed to make clear, realistic and informed choices about their post-18 pathways by attending Open Days, listening to presentations by visiting speakers, undertaking interview preparation, work experience and other work-related activities.

Our students move on at post-18 level to study at a variety of Higher Education establishments including SERC, University of Ulster, Queen's University, Stranmillis College, Newcastle, Stirling, Southampton, Bournemouth, Portsmouth and Coventry Universities. We also promote a wide range of Higher-Level Apprenticeships to our Sixth Form students as a viable alternative to studying at university.



## The Student Council

Our active Student Council, led by our Head Boy and Head Girl, provides a forum to share and listen to the views, opinions and ideas of our students on a range of whole school issues.

Representatives self-nominate and, aside from presenting ideas from students and ensuring they have an input into improving school life, they play a key role in shaping new initiatives, college policies and leading college assemblies.

Our Student Council enables our students to develop leadership skills and ensures the student voice is heard, listened to and acted upon within the college.

## **Peer Mentoring**

We know many younger students welcome additional support during transition to their post primary school. Our Peer Mentoring Programme supports this by encouraging our older students to be supportive to our new students, developing a caring community and fostering links between senior and junior students.

Peer Mentors are selected from Year 12 and are assigned to each Year 8 and Year 9 Form class. During this time, they collaborate with our junior students, listening to them, offering reassurance, helping them to develop their confidence, self-esteem and communication skills.

#### **Prefects**

Students in Year 13 and Year 14 can apply to join the Prefect Team. Under the leadership of the Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputies, our Prefect Team take an active leadership role in college life, organising whole school events, providing valuable mentoring for younger students, leading fundraising events, hosting assemblies, and attending important college functions.

Students within Sixth Form can develop further leadership skills by applying for other positions of responsibility: Mental Health Ambassadors, Student Mentors, Bus Prefects and Numeracy and Literacy Buddies.

## **The House System**

Our House System makes a valuable contribution to our Pastoral Care and ethos. It helps generate a healthy level of competition, a sense of belonging and the opportunity to develop leadership qualities. Each student is assigned to one of the four Houses (Dunleath, McCormick, Montgomery, Nugent) and can participate in a range of academic, sporting and physical activities. It helps promote interaction between students from different year groups, provides opportunities to gain experience from each other and develops leadership skills and qualities.

## DUNLEATH MCCORMICK MONTGOMERY NUGENT

### **House Captains**

Our House Captains, chosen from Sixth Form, are ambassadors for each house. They host assemblies, lead House competitions and develop a sense of team spirit and community.

### **Merit Scheme**

It is important to recognise and celebrate the many achievements of our students – academically, spiritually, artistically or on a personal level. Success comes in many forms, meaning different things to different people; therefore, all students are encouraged to be a success in their own field.

To encourage the development of positive attitudes, self-discipline and good attendance, our merit scheme is well embedded throughout our pastoral structure. Certificates, letters of commendation and prizes are used to encourage our students to take ownership of their own development and learning. Each academic year we have 'Celebration of Success' assemblies which endorse these positive aspects of college life. We also have our annual Prize Giving where awards and trophies are presented for excellent attendance, progress in learning, sporting achievements and outstanding performance at GCSE and A-Level.

"Glastry is full of encouraging and supportive teachers who enable students to excel in what they wish to do."

**PARENT** 





Extracurricular activities boost young people's confidence to interact socially with others, extend their social networks and provide them with new skills and abilities. Above all, they offer an important space to have fun and relax away from the pressures of schoolwork.

At Glastry College we invest a great deal into a wide range of extracurricular activities outside of school hours. To enrich the school experience of our young people we have created space during the school day (Wednesday last period) as a time of enrichment, ensuring that all of our students have an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities finishing school at 3:45pm.

Our extracurricular programme includes sport & fitness; arts & creativity; teamwork & competition and academic support & guidance, to create a well-rounded programme of activity.



# Here is a selection of the activities offered at Glastry College:

## Sport & Leisure

- Art Club
- Arts & Creativity
- Badminton (mixed)
- Bible Studies
- Chapters A quiet space for students to relax with an enjoyable book
- Choir (Girls, Boys and Mixed)
- Cookery Club
- Cricket
- Cross Country Running
- Drama Club
- Equestrian Club (no live horses but plenty of fun!)
- Football (Girls and Boys sessions)
- Glastry College Newspaper
- Horticulture Club Developing the school garden
- Netball
- Nurture Club chats, games, walks
- Outside Gym
- Rugby (Girls and Boys sessions)
- School Rock Band
- Science club
- Sign Language
- Technology A blend of SolidWorks CAD and practical projects
- Track and Field
- Zumba Fitness

## Teamwork & Competition

- App Development club
- Careers guidance UCAS Support Hub
- English Support
- Homework Club
- Maths Support
- Politics/Debate club Organised debating
- Quickstart Business Enterprise Club (support & guidance)







# Developing links within our local community is key to helping our students grow and thrive.

Our students develop a sense of empathy towards others - both locally and globally - through our assemblies and visiting guest speakers.

Our charity committee, led by the Student Council, identify specific charities and hold fundraising events for these throughout the year.

Sixth Form students also participate in our Outreach Programme which involves opportunities to volunteer in peninsula residential homes, primary schools and local charities.

As part of our Shared Education Programme, we collaborate with local schools through shared learning experience, joint workshops, events and trips.

Our school chaplaincy nurtures the faith of our students both inside and outside our college. They play a key role by leading assemblies acknowledging key events, as well as facilitating outreach work within our local community.



"Teachers are supportive and always willing to listen."

STUDENT

Through our careers programme, our students can develop links with local business and entrepreneurs and global companies.

Parents play a crucial role in their child's education. We believe fostering strong, positive partnerships with parents, enhances student success and enables fulfilment of their full potential. We actively engage with our parents through our school comms app, weekly parental bulletins, Parent Teacher Friends' Association (PTFA) and annual parental consultations











# College Uniform

The college places a strong emphasis on school identification and personal appearance; therefore, students are expected to always wear the college uniform to a high standard.

We believe that wearing our college uniform helps students develop a sense of pride in their college and fosters a sense of belonging. For these reasons, we welcome the full support of parents in always ensuring their child attends school in the correct uniform.

## **Boys' Uniform**

- Black blazer with college badge
- White shirt
- Black trousers
- Grey college V-neck pullover (optional) [black jumper for Sixth Form (optional)]
- Black leather shoes
- Black/grey socks
- College tie [or Sixth Form Tie]
- Black outdoor coat
- College scarf or plain black scarf may be worn

## Girls' Uniform

- Black blazer with college badge
- Plain white blouse
- Dark grey 4-kick pleat skirt
- Green college jumper or cardigan (optional) [black jumper or cardigan for Sixth Form (optional)]
- Plain black leather shoes (low heel)
- Grey socks or black tights [black tights for Sixth Form]
- College tie [or Sixth Form Tie]
- Black outdoor coat
- College scarf or plain black scarf may be worn

## Please also note the following:

- One earring in each ear lobe is permitted
- No facial piercings are permitted
- Hair should be of a natural colour
- Any form of training shoe is not acceptable as part of our college uniform



## 2025 - 2026 PE Uniform

## Girls' Uniform

### **Compulsory Items**

- Plain white sports socks
- Glastry Kukri white polo shirt with college logo
- Glastry Kukri black shorts with red tab

## **Optional Items\***

- Glastry Kukri black ¼ zip retro track top
- Glastry Kukri black retro tapered track pant
- Glastry Kukri plain black women's technical leggings
- Glastry Kukri black stadium track pant
- Glastry Kukri college hoodie

## Boys' Uniform

## Compulsory Items

- Plain white sports socks
- Glastry Kukri white polo shirt with college logo
- Glastry Kukri black shorts with red tab

## **Optional Items\***

- Glastry Kukri black ¼ zip retro track top
- Glastry Kukri black retro tapered track pant
- Glastry Kukri black stadium track pant
- Glastry Kukri college hoodie
- \* Optional items may be purchased at parents' discretion

## The college PE Kit is only available from the following uniform suppliers:

## **Roberts of Bangor Ltd**

24 Central Avenue Bangor BT20 3AF **Tel**: 028 9127 0516

## School Days Ltd

2 High Street
Newtownards BT23 4JL

**Tel**: 028 9182 7712

## **David Crawford Schoolwear**

21 Frances Street Newtownards BT23 4JL **Tel:** 07801 343505

#### **Focus Menswear**

39 South Street Newtownards BT23 4 JT **Tel:** 028 91828007

## Alan Espey Clothing\*

33 High Street Newtownards BT23 7HS **Tel:** 028 9181 4789

\* For school uniform only (no PE uniform supplied)

# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

In addition to this booklet, our Prospectus Supplement contains information on Admissions Criteria to the College and further details on student performance in recent public examinations. "Glastry has provided me with many great opportunities. I have been able to excel in my education with the support of many wonderful teachers."

**STUDENT** 

