



CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



2021-22 PROSPECTUS

Student Reflections

Deputy Head Boy Daniel Sharpe

Carrickfergus Grammar School has given me many great experiences that I will carry with me and use as I move forward in my education. I will always be grateful to the amazing staff who go above and beyond to fully support your educational and personal needs. The environment has given me the tools to excel both academically and in extra-curricular activities that I enjoy.

Deputy Head Boy Joshua Davison

Throughout my time at Carrickfergus Grammar School, I have been fortunate to make sincere friendships with other pupils and have appreciated the supportive learning environment cultivated by staff. Beyond the classroom, I am thankful for the school trips to Paris, Italy and London and the memories I will take from them. I will also remember the experiences and friendships formed through sports and clubs during my time at Carrickfergus Grammar School. It has provided a solid platform on which I have and will continue to build. I am very grateful to have spent my time attending CGS.

Deputy Head Girl Katie Magill

During my time at Carrickfergus Grammar School, I have been encouraged to strive in both my studies and extra-curricular activities. The experience that stands out most for me would be Duke of Edinburgh as it allowed me to create many friendships and make memories that I will never forget. All the support I received from staff has allowed me to make the most of my 7 years at Carrick Grammar which is something I will always be thankful for.



Head Girl Megan Boyd

Aside from academic studies, Carrickfergus Grammar School has offered me so many opportunities through participation in sport, Duke of Edinburgh and choir. My favourite extra-curricular activity has been choir. I will take away lifelong friendships and the treasured memory of our trip to Vienna in 2019. I have thoroughly enjoyed my seven years at Carrickfergus Grammar School, and I feel my experiences and the supportive staff have helped to prepare me for my future life after school, and to give me the edge.

Head Boy Michael Brodison

The last seven years at Carrickfergus Grammar have been years I will never forget. The teaching staff go above and beyond to ensure every pupil excels inside and outside the classroom, whether through extra academic support or extra-curricular activities. Particular highlights for me include the 2017 ski trip and the silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition. I know that I can reflect on my time spent in Carrickfergus Grammar and say that it has set me up for my future and that the many excellent experiences and friendships will stay with me forever.

Staff List

Principal

Mr J A Maxwell BA PGCE MSc PQH

Vice-principal

Miss F McKinley MEd BA PGCE PQH

Senior Teachers

Mrs L Kane BA DASE PGCE

Mr K Marshall MEd BSc DipEd PQH

Mr P McKittrick MSc BSc PGCE PQH

Teachers

Mr P Baxter BSc BAgr PGCE

Mrs J Beattie BA PGCE

Mrs L Best BTh MTh PGCE

Mrs J S Botha BA PGCE

Mrs E Bowen BSc PGCE PQH MEd

Mr A Brown MBA BA PGCE

Mrs S Buchanan MSc BA PGCE

Mrs R Butler BA PGCE

Ms B Claver López MA PGCE

Mr E Craig MA Bmus Dip ChD FNCM PGCE

Mr M Crawford MEd BSc PGCE

Mr K Crooks MEd BSc PGCE Adv Cert

Mr R Currie BSc PGCE

Mrs K Murray BSc PGCE

Miss S Elliott BA PGCE

Mr R Gorman MEd BA PGCE

Mrs J Hamilton BA PGCE

Mr K Hamilton BA PGCE

Mr M Irwin BEd

Mr P Irwin BSc PGCE

Mr N Kennedy BSc PGCE

Miss W Lemon MEd BEd

Mr A Macdonald BA PGCE

Mr S Martin BEd

Mr N Massey MSc BSc PGCE

Miss S Mawhinney BSc PGCE

Miss P Maxwell MSc BSc PGCE

Ms H McCaughan BA PGCE

Mrs B McKeeman BSc PGCE

Mrs B McMaw MEd BA PGCE

Mr R McMorris BSc PGCE

Mr L Morrow MSc BSSc PGCE

Mrs S Murray MA PGCE

Miss S Patterson MEng PGCE

Mrs C Reid MA BEd

Mr W J Reid BSc PGCE

Mr Mark Roberts BA (Hons) MA

Mr A Ross MSc BSc PGCE

Mrs V Ross BA PGCE

Mrs S Simms BSc PGCE

Miss E Stewart BA PGCE

Mrs R Taylor MSc BA PGCE

Mrs A Turner BSc DASE PGCE

Mr P Warke MSc PGCE

Mrs K Withers MEd Bmus PGCE

Miss N Wylie MA BA PGCE

Administrative

Senior Executive Officer

Mrs S Foulis HNC

Executive Officer

Mrs T Livings HNC

Senior Clerical Officer Careers

Mrs M Barry

Senior Clerical Officer

Mrs H Kirk HND

Clerical Officer

Mrs K Campbell

Grainger Centre Supervisor

Mrs J Taylor JEB Dip Ed

Technical

Senior Technician

Mrs R McCullough

Technology

Mr A Wilson

Information Technology

Mr M Blair BA BSc

Home Economics

Mrs E Brownlee

Language Assistants

French

Jordan McCullough

Spanish

Miss María Aledo Martínez

Support Staff

Classroom Assistants

Mrs A McCahon

Mrs S J McCullough

Mrs T Porter

Mrs A Sproule

Mrs S Shannon

Miss E O'Lynn

Building Supervision

Building Supervisor

Mr M Murphy

Building Supervisor Assistant

Mr D Vine



Principal's Welcome

A very warm welcome to Carrickfergus Grammar School, a thriving, exciting, ambitious, happy and thoroughly aspirational selective school.

Our main aim is to offer our students a world-class education, reinforced by the most robust research-based evidence into high-quality learning and teaching. The Carrickfergus Grammar 'brand' of learning and teaching is a brand which we firmly believe will ensure our pupils are exposed to high aspiration, high expectation and huge opportunities in order to surpass potential.

Our aim is to give our pupils the powerful knowledge, the cultural capital and the most effective study skills in order to give them the edge academically – both in school and in later life.

In 2020, Carrickfergus Grammar School:

- *Recorded its highest ever results at GCSE and A Level;*
- *Became the first Grammar School in Northern Ireland to go into partnership with the UK's Teacher Development Trust;*
- *Became the first school in Northern Ireland to appoint a Director of Research for learning and teaching, as we deliver on our ambition and vision to be a regional and national hub of excellence for learning and teaching;*
- *Was identified as a case study of excellence in the development of retrieval practice, a study strategy which aims to embed powerful knowledge in long-term memory;*
- *Appointed Mr Mark Roberts, teacher, author, a regular columnist for the Times Educational Supplement and one of the UK's leading thinkers on boys' learning;*
- *Secured five million pounds for the development of infrastructure, which will result in state-of-the-art sporting facilities to rival any school in the country;*
- *Was nominated for a Key Worker Award for its support of students during lockdown.*

With 18 subjects now surpassing Northern Ireland Grammar School averages for A*-B at 'A' Level, and 13 subjects at GCSE, this is a school which has a clear resolve.

No matter what their background, needs, interests or academic potential, every single student will be taught in a manner which will expedite opportunities for the greatest possible social mobility – including access to all Higher Education pathways at age 18.

This is achieved within an atmosphere which we describe as warm and strict. We care for, support and guide our pupils, and endeavour to build their resilience at every opportunity. We believe in the good, old-fashioned principles of manners, honesty and hard work. We view ourselves here as a big family - caring for, and looking out for each other.

Equally, we adopt a clear zero-tolerance approach to behaviour which falls short of the high standards we promote.

We welcome you to our virtual Open Evening on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7:00pm.

J.A Maxwell Principal

Principal's Welcome



Values and Ethos: A world-class education

We aim to offer our students a world-class education. We look nationally and internationally to identify and understand what the highest quality learning and teaching looks like. We base our developments on world-renowned research. We send our staff overseas to see for themselves what outstanding practice looks like, and to explore how it can be translated into the classroom in Carrickfergus Grammar School.

- *In September 2019 and January 2020, 8 members of staff travelled to London in order to visit another leading school and to develop further their expertise;*
- *In October 2019, 17 members of staff from Carrickfergus Grammar School travelled to the first ever ResearchEd Conference on learning and teaching on the island of Ireland - the largest number of staff from any school in N. Ireland;*
- *In September 2020, world-renowned educationalist Kate Jones delivered staff training.*

Effective learning and teaching, which is central to the life of the school, depends, among other things, on outstanding teacher subject knowledge, excellent subject-specific and general pedagogy, high-quality relationships both inside and outside the classroom and quality communication between students, staff, parents and others in the development of a secure and stimulating learning environment in which all can prosper.

It is the purpose of Carrickfergus Grammar School to provide an educational environment suited to all of the students entrusted to its care, with the highest of aspirations and expectations for all. The school will seek to promote a disciplined, well-ordered, caring and supportive environment, where staff and students can work and learn in an atmosphere of mutual respect and without fear of interruption or learning being hindered, so that each and every student is encouraged to achieve the highest level of academic, intellectual, personal, physical and social development of which he or she is capable.



Standards and Outcomes

In 2020, Carrickfergus Grammar School achieved record results.

19 out of 21 subjects at 'A' Level attained 100% pass rates at A*-C



94.83% of pupils achieved 7 or more GCSE level passes at A*-C including English and Maths, almost 5% above the N. Ireland Grammar School average from last year

18 subjects sat above Northern Ireland averages at 'A' Level

Over 75% of grades awarded at 'A' Level in 2020 were A*-B



An incredible 100% of girls in 2020 attained 3 or more 'A' Level passes at A*-C

Over 95% of girls and over 94% of boys attained 7 or more passes at A*-C inc. English and Maths

23 students managed the feat of straight A*-A grades at 'A' Level – a total of 71 A*-A grades

The school pass rate for the number of pupils achieving 3 or more A Level passes at A*-C (97.59%) was almost 18% above the grammar school average from 2019



Learning and Teaching

Carrickfergus Grammar School has identified six key principles which shape and embody its pursuit of consistency in learning and teaching in the classroom.

These six principles are:

- Stretch and challenge for ALL pupils;
- Effective questioning and oracy;
- Effective modelling;
- Scaffolding;
- Independent practice;
- Robust assessment and feedback.





"The pupils attain very good standards in Mathematics".

ETI Inspection October 2016

Key features of learning and teaching at Carrickfergus Grammar School include:

- Beginning a lesson with a short review of previous learning;
- Presenting new material in small steps with student practice after each step;
- Asking a large number of questions and checking the responses of all students;
- Providing models;
- Guiding student practice;
- Checking for student understanding;
- Providing scaffolds for difficult tasks;
- Monitoring independent practice;
- Engaging students in weekly and monthly review.

"The standards attained by the students in English are very good".

ETI Inspection October 2016





Standards and Outcomes

Grammar - GCSE

	N. Ireland Grammar	CGS 2019	CGS 2020
5 or more A*-C at GCSE	96.1%	91.07%	96.55%
5 or more A*-C at GCSE inc. English & Maths	94.3%	91.07%	96.55%
7 or more A*-C at GCSE inc. English & Maths	89.9%	79.46%	94.83%

CGS by Gender - GCSE

	CGS 2019		CGS 2020	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5 or more A*-C at GCSE	89.39%	93.48%	98.15%	95.16%
5 or more A*-C at GCSE inc. English & Maths	89.39%	93.48%	98.15%	95.16%
7 or more A*-C at GCSE	74.24%	86.96%	94.44%	95.16%
7 or more A*-C at GCSE inc. English & Maths	74.24%	86.96%	94.44%	95.16%

GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2020

COMPARISON AGAINST NORTHERN IRELAND GRAMMAR AVERAGES*

	CGS A*-C %	NI A*-C %	CGS A*-B%	NI A*-B%
Art & Design	100	99	64	84.5
Biology	97.2	99	58.3	81.3
Business Studies	97.8	93.9	65.2	68.5
Chemistry	96.2	99	73.6	82.6
Child Development	95.8	97.1	87.5	79.8
Design & Technology	100	99.2	84.8	86.4
Digital Technology	100	97.3	85.7	84.8
Drama	100	99.2	100	86.6
English Language	100	98.5	85.3	80.6
English Literature	100	98.9	93.1	82.2
French	95	95.5	80	70.9
Further Mathematics	100	99.1	84.1	64.7
Geography	95.5	96.4	81.8	78
History	95.5	97.1	84.1	77.3
Mathematics	100	98.4	92	86
Music	100	99.8	75	90.3
Nutrition & Food	100	97.8	94.7	81.6
Physical Education	100	97.1	89.5	79.1
Physics	100	99.2	80.3	86.1
Religious Education FULL	93.9	96.4	60.9	79.8
Spanish	96	97.4	79	72.5

Grammar - 'A' Level

	Grammar	CGS 2019	CGS 2020
3 or more A*-C	79.7%	75.6%	97.59%
2 or more A*-C	94.4%	96.2%	100%

CGS by Gender - 'A' Level

	CGS 2019		CGS 2020	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
3 or more A*-C	62.5%	89.5%	92.31%	100%
2 or more A*-C	93.5%	97.4%	100%	100%

'A' LEVEL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2020

COMPARISON AGAINST NORTHERN IRELAND GRAMMAR AVERAGES*

	CGS A*-C %	NI A*-C %	CGS A*-B%	NI A*-B%
Accounting	100	84	66.7	56
Art & Design	100	99.2	100	92.8
Biology	100	96.5	83.3	79.9
Business Studies	100	97.6	80	79.5
Chemistry	100	97.7	75	86.6
Design and Technology	100	98.2	90.9	83.2
Digital Technology	100	93.5	75	69.8
English Literature	100	98.2	84.6	81.5
Food & Nutrition	100	96.4	100	81.5
French	100	98.7	100	88.1
Further Mathematics	100	100	100	99.3
Geography	100	97	83.3	81.7
Government & Politics	100	97.4	90	82.2
Health & Social Care	100	99.3	88.2	86.8
History	94.7	91.8	73.7	65.1
Mathematics	100	97.2	80.6	87.9
Media Studies	100	92.7	66.7	62.8
Moving Image Arts	100	98.7	0	86.2
Music	100	99.1	100	85.6
Photography	100	99.2	100	92.8
Physical Education	85.7	98	85.7	82.4
Physics	100	95.5	100	83.3
Religious Education	100	98.7	84.2	85.1
Spanish	100	99.5	100	91
Tourism	100	78.6	100	46

* CCEA Grammar School Averages for 2020 / WJEC Averages 2020

The tables below outline the most current indicators of standards and outcomes for Carrickfergus Grammar School pupils based on August 2020 examination results. The results are compared against the 2019 data for the Northern Ireland cohort.

GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2020

CUMULATIVE GRADE OVERVIEW by Percentage

	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F
Art & Design	25	32	56	64	85	100	100	100	100
Biology	72	6.9	36.1	58.3	81.9	97.2	100	100	100
Business Studies	46	13	34.8	65.2	87	97.8	100	100	100
Chemistry	53	9.4	43.4	73.6	88.7	96.2	100	100	100
Child Development	24	29.2	54.2	87.5	95.8	95.8	100	100	100
Design and Technology	33	12.1	69.7	84.8	90.9	100	100	100	100
Digital Technology	21	4.8	42.9	85.7	90.5	100	100	100	100
Drama	7	14.3	42.9	100	100	100	100	100	100
English Language	116	14.7	42.2	85.3	95.7	100	100	100	100
English Literature	102	24.5	56.9	93.1	100	100	100	100	100
French	20	30	60	80	90	95	100	100	100
Further Mathematics	44	13.6	63.6	84.1	97.7	100	100	100	100
Geography	22	13.6	50	81.8	86.4	95.5	100	100	100
History	44	6.8	50	84.1	90.9	95.5	97.7	100	100
Mathematics	116	6.1	63.3	92	96	100	100	100	100
Music	4	50	50	75	100	100	100	100	100
Nutrition and Food	19	31.6	73.7	94.7	100	100	100	100	100
Physical Education	19	21.1	57.9	89.5	100	100	100	100	100
Physics	61	9.8	41	80.3	88.5	100	100	100	100
Religious Education FULL	115	17.4	42.6	60.9	73.9	93.9	96.5	97.4	99.1
Spanish	100	22	53	79	89	96	100	100	100

A*-C	A*-G
100	100
97.2	100
97.8	100
96.2	100
95.8	100
100	100
100	100
100	100
100	100
100	100
95	100
100	100
95.5	100
95.5	100
100	100
100	100
100	100
100	100
93.9	99.1
96	100

* CCEA Grammar School Averages for 2020

'A' LEVEL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2020

CUMULATIVE GRADE OVERVIEW by Percentage

	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A*-C	A*-E
Accounting	6	0	50	66.7	100	100	100	100	100
Art & Design	3	66.7	66.7	100	100	100	100	100	100
Biology	24	20.8	58.3	83.3	100	100	100	100	100
Business Studies	15	0	40	80	100	100	100	100	100
Chemistry	12	25	41.7	75	100	100	100	100	100
Design & Technology	11	18.2	63.6	90.9	100	100	100	100	100
Digital Technology	4	0	0	75	100	100	100	100	100
English Literature	13	23.1	61.5	84.6	100	100	100	100	100
Food & Nutrition	7	28.6	57.1	100	100	100	100	100	100
French	3	0	66.7	100	100	100	100	100	100
Further Mathematics	4	25	75	100	100	100	100	100	100
Geography	6	16.6	50	83.3	100	100	100	100	100
Government & Politics	10	10	30	90	100	100	100	100	100
Health & Social Care	17	17.6	58.8	88.2	100	100	100	100	100
History	19	10.5	31.6	73.7	94.7	100	100	94.7	100
Mathematics	31	22.6	51.6	80.6	100	100	100	100	100
Media Studies	3	0	66.7	66.7	100	100	100	100	100
Moving Image Arts	2	0	0	0	100	100	100	100	100
Music	1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Photography	8	50	75	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical Education	7	28.6	57.1	85.7	85.7	100	100	85.7	100
Physics	17	17.6	76.5	100	100	100	100	100	100
Religious Education	19	5.3	52.6	84.2	100	100	100	100	100
Spanish	14	0	35.7	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tourism	1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Vocational

	Entries	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	D*-P
Applied ICT	1	100	100	100	100	100
Sport Studies	1	100	100	100	100	100

SUMMARY OF RESULTS 2020

TARGET V ACTUAL

Performance Indicator	Target	Actual
% Achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (including GCSE English and GCSE Maths)	95	96.55
% Achieving 7 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (including GCSE English and GCSE Maths)	91	94.83
% Achieving 3 or more 'A' Levels at grades A*-C	81	97.59

Pastoral Care



The high quality of Carrickfergus Grammar's pastoral care provision has been recognised as a strength by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) and the school places great emphasis on the provision of appropriate pastoral care for all pupils. We foster a warm and happy school environment, and the size of the school allows for a real family ethos.

Our robust attendance rate of over 95% means that we are well above the average for Northern Irish schools.

A pastoral system has been designed to build up the students' confidence, enabling them to thrive academically, to understand themselves as individuals and to develop sound relationships with other students and staff at the school.

The pastoral care system places great emphasis on the moral and social welfare and development of each of our students, as well as their intellectual, physical

and cultural needs. Our staff work collaboratively to meet the needs and aspirations of each student. The pastoral care team provides informed and sensitive guidance to support students in their personal development and in times of personal, family or social difficulty. Some students may at certain times benefit from the opportunity to work through any difficulties with a trained counsellor and this service is available through school.

Our experienced Learning Support Co-ordinators work to ensure that the pathway for children identified with additional educational needs is tailored appropriately, whilst maintaining the highest of aspirations and expectations. Individual Education Plans / Personal Education Plans are in place for relevant students, with reasonable adjustments where necessary.

"The provision for care and support of the students is very good".

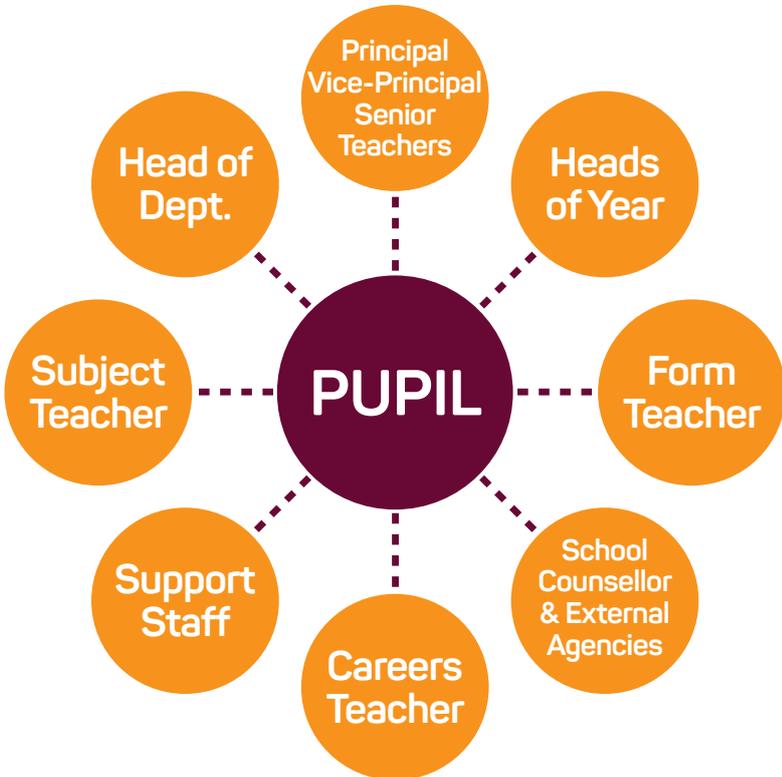
ETI Inspection October 2016



“There is a clear and inclusive ethos... pupils are supported well and sensitively by the teachers”

ETI Inspection October 2016

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Kane, whilst the Deputy Designated Teacher is Mr Gorman. The Principal, Mr Maxwell, is also a member of the safeguarding team alongside the Designated Governor for Child Protection, Mr Montgomery.



Mrs Kane is the Senior Teacher in charge of Pastoral Care at the school, ably assisted by 7 Heads of Year and 28 Form Teachers.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and reporting are key elements in measuring pupil progress and planning for improvement.

Carrickfergus Grammar School fuses formative, summative and standardised assessments in order to ensure that feedback from assessment is tailored to the individual needs of students, with the aim of identifying targets for progress which will allow them to meet and exceed potential.

Students' work is marked regularly and within a reasonable amount of time. Attention is given by all teachers to literacy and numeracy according to the whole school Literacy and Numeracy policies. Assessments are therefore a regular and extensive feature of all academic subjects, but a number of 'Core Assessments' are formally tracked for each student in each subject in each academic year.

Current arrangements for assessment and reporting include the following:

- Parent consultations providing opportunities for parents to speak to teachers regarding their child's progress;
- The use of diagnostic data and examination board data to benchmark student performance and negotiate targets for improvement;
- Regression analysis at Key Stage 3;
- Use of homework as a learning tool, properly marked with suggestions for improvement, following the School and Department Homework Policies;
- Moderation of student work within subject departments;
- External moderation for public examinations at GCSE and A Level;
- Utilisation and reporting of DE Benchmarking data for comparison of school and NI performance in external examinations and identification of areas for improvement;
- Publication to the wider community of school and pupil achievement.





Behavioural Standards

Carrickfergus Grammar School insists upon very high standards of behaviour.

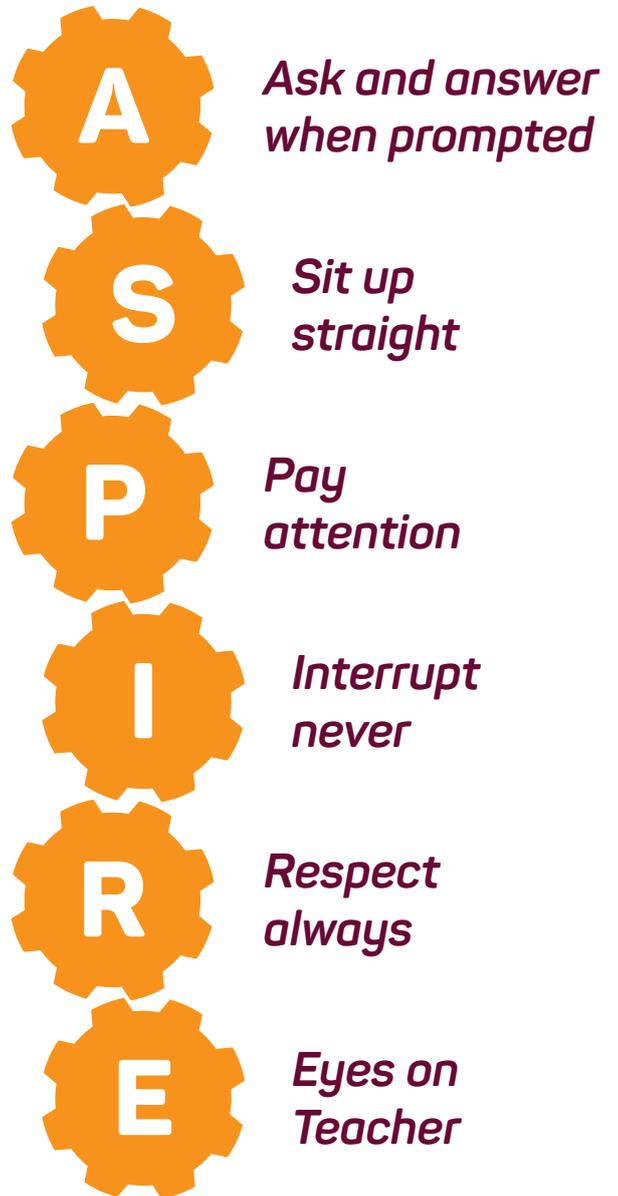
We believe that:

- Children thrive on routines and boundaries;
- Children are ultimately happier when school is a well-disciplined environment;
- Behaviour becomes unacceptable at the very moment a teacher has to stop teaching to speak with a child.

At this school we believe that if you look after the pennies, the pounds will look after themselves. If our students get the 'small' things right such as wearing uniform to a very high standard, not slouching in seats in class and listening attentively to the teacher at all times, the 'bigger' things will fall into place, not least a high standard of education, robust learning and good grades.

We encourage our students to ASPIRE in line with the graphic opposite.

At the start of Year 8, parents are asked to sign a contract indicating their support for the school's behaviour management system. We fully appreciate the support of parents in ensuring that the school environment is well-disciplined.



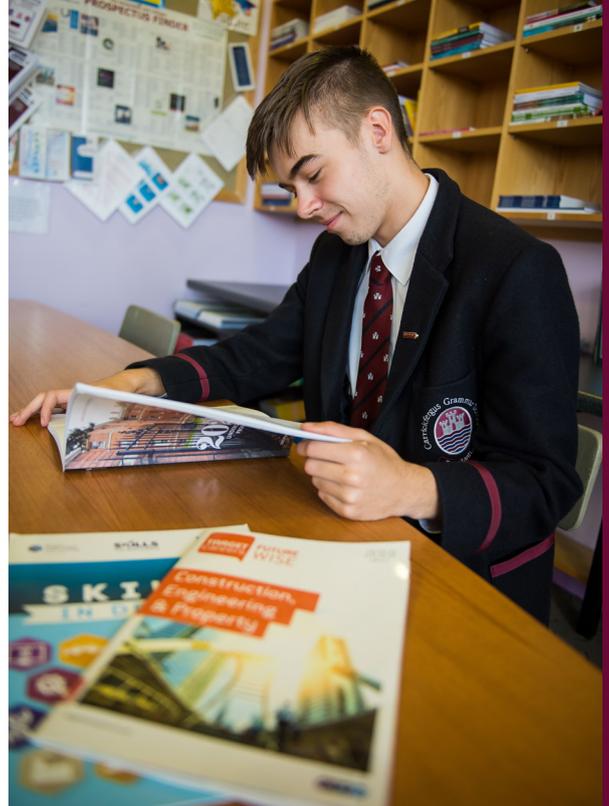
Merits

Carrickfergus Grammar School has introduced a Merit System aimed at fostering and encouraging outstanding values in all aspects of school life, and acknowledging the many positive behaviours staff witness from students on a daily basis.

Students can accrue 'achievement' points which are then recognised and celebrated at Special Assemblies or other functions such as special breakfasts. The students, form classes and year groups with the most points may receive special privileges or rewards.

Students can attain achievement points, amongst other things, for:

- Acting in an exceptionally responsible manner
- Demonstrating stoicism
- Exceptional display of gratitude
- Exceptional display of good manners
- Exceptional display of leadership
- Exceptional classwork
- Exceptional homework
- Exceptional contribution to school life
- Exceptional helpfulness
- Improved effort / attitude
- Exceptional examination performance
- Exceptional fundraising and charity work
- Exceptional contribution to extra-curricular activity
- Full attendance over one month
- No behaviour points in a month



MERIT POINTS



15 points =
Acknowledgment
Letter home



30 points =
Certificate from
Head of Year



40 points =
Certificate from
Head of Pastoral Care



60 points =
Vice-Principal's Award
& achievers' prize



100 points =
Principal's Award
& achievers' prize



Curriculum

The Curriculum at this school meets the requirements of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

KEY STAGE 3

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- PE / Games
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Home Economics
- Art and Design
- Technology
- Music
- Drama (Year 10)
- ICT
- Learning for Life and Work

** On offer through the Carrickfergus Learning Community.*

KEY STAGE 4 (GCSE)

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- PE / Games
- PE (GCSE)
- Art and Design
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Business Studies
- Digital Technology (ICT)
- Drama
- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Food and Nutrition
- Child Development
- Health and Social Care
- Learning for Life and Work
- Music
- Technology
- Careers
- Engineering

KEY STAGE 5 (A LEVEL)

- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- PE (A Level)
- Accounting
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- History
- Government and Politics
- Geography
- Travel and Tourism
- French
- Spanish
- Food and Nutrition
- Health and Social Care
- Music
- Photography
- Technology
- Digital Technology (ICT)
- Applied ICT
- Media Studies*
- Moving Image Arts*
- Sports Studies*
- Environmental Technology
- Games



Extra-Curricular

- Army Cadet Force
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Book Club
- Breakfast Club
- Bridge
- Chess
- Choir
- Cookery
- Cricket
- Debating
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Equestrian
- Football
- Gaming
- Golf
- Gym
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hockey
- ICT
- Instrumental Ensembles
- Mandarin
- Minecraft
- Modern Languages
- Netball
- Orchestra
- Orienteering
- Photography
- Reading
- Rugby
- Running
- Science
- Show Jumping
- Scripture Union
- STEM
- Strings
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Young Enterprise



YEAR 8 EXPERIENCES



**Jake Robb – 8P
Oakfield Primary School**

I'm going to tell you about some highlights of my first term at CGS, starting with subjects. I have enjoyed learning all subjects especially things like French, Maths, Spanish and Art, these subjects are my favourite because I have nice teachers and I just enjoy learning them more than others, but overall I enjoy all subjects. I also enjoy PE and games, I like Games because I get the opportunity to learn a sport I've never played before and PE because we did Orienteering which was something else that I hadn't done. I think that's all the highlights for my first term at CGS.



**Katie Grattan – 8P
Whitehead Primary School**

Carrick Grammar is such an amazing school, and if you're considering choosing this school to go to or put as a first, second or even third choice I would highly recommend doing so. You learn so many new subjects and even if the subject isn't new (for example Maths) you'll still learn a lot of new things. In Carrick Grammar you'll make loads of new friends, friends that'll last a lifetime.

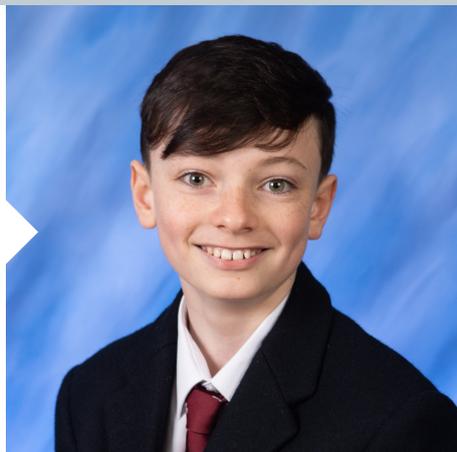
**Charlotte Carmichael – 8P
Woodburn Primary School**

Some of my highlights from term one are getting to learn all different and new subjects. My favourite subjects so far are Maths, Art, Design Technology and more. Another highlight is during PE sometimes when the weather is bad, our class would go down to the gym and do 'Just Dance', usually we would either do hockey or orienteering.



Rhys Ellis – 8P
Acorn Integrated Primary School

Hello, my name is Rhys Ellis. I originally went to Acorn Integrated Primary School before I went to Carrickfergus Grammar School. Here at CGS there is a wide range of subjects to learn. My favourites would be French, Maths and PE. I've also tried a new sport called orienteering. I have really enjoyed it as I would class myself as an energetic person. The teachers here are all amazing in their own ways, they teach you to your best capability and will also be there if anything upsets you.



Esther Bovill – 8P
Islandmagee Primary School

I have lots of highlights from this first term. CGS have done a great job with balancing safety and trying to give us the full experience. I've been able to start hockey on Tuesday afternoons. I've been able to get grab & go bags which is basically the equivalent of the canteen but in a safer way. Our timetable runs on a two-week cycle which means we don't get bored because it is a switch teach week, and every week two Friday we get out early. I've really enjoyed all the different subjects (especially French with Mr Maxwell!) All our teachers have been doing a really good job with making our lessons interesting and safe due to the COVID 19 guidelines.



Grace Lochhead – 8P
Eden Primary School

I have really enjoyed my time at Carrickfergus Grammar School so far. I have made new friends and also talked to some familiar faces. In my opinion French is the best subject and Mr Maxwell is the best teacher although all the teachers are very welcoming and kind.



Beth Mailey – 8P
Greenisland Primary School

3 months into CGS and I already think I am going to have a great time here. So far I have really enjoyed learning about History, Religious Studies, Biology, French and many more. It's not just the subjects I enjoy it's also the people I'm surrounded by, all of the teachers have helped me settle in and with my work. All of the teachers are dedicated to help their students with everything. Along the way of my time here I have also many friends and got to know my class. Mr Maxwell is my Principal but is also my French teacher. He has taught me about the French language.



Jude Kingston – 8Q
Ballycarry Primary School

Hi, I'm Jude and I am a Year 8 at Carrickfergus Grammar School. Over my first term at Carrickfergus Grammar School, I have enjoyed the variety of subjects that I do. I mostly enjoy Music and French. I like Music, because I play the piano and the violin and it makes me feel good. I like French, because I enjoy speaking a new language and getting to know new vocabulary. The teachers are very kind and they are very good at educating us. I have learnt so much in my short time at Carrickfergus Grammar School and I would definitely recommend P7's to come and experience the life in our school. Au revoir!



Poppy Crooks – 8Q
Carrickfergus Model Primary School

Some of the things I've enjoyed the most at my first year at Carrickfergus Grammar School would have to be the range of different subjects and teachers. Each new subject has already taught me loads of new and interesting facts. My favourite out of my 17 new subjects would have to be History, Geography and Spanish. I love learning all about the different techniques you use when you're a historian and knowing where different countries are in the world really comes in handy when learning about certain Kings and Queens heritage.





**Erin Badger – 8S
Mossley Primary School**

I found my first term fun but yet different, since CGS is a bigger and a more advanced school. I have enjoyed the new range of subjects such as French and Biology. I've also enjoyed the big playground. What I've found helpful is that CGS makes sure that they're (the staff) always there for you and always there to help you. I've found French and Home Economics really enjoyable. My teachers are really nice. I like to cook and bake as well as learning new things so it works out perfectly.



**Paolo Matusiak – 8Q
Silverstream Primary School**

When I first came here I had a very small idea of what the subjects were, apart from English, Maths, PE and Art. When I first had Biology (the teacher was Mr Irwin) I loved it! It was so interesting and now it's my favourite subject. I've made many friends. Shaw, Adam, Jude etc. Mr Maxwell is an amazing Principal, he cares about the safety of the pupils. I know because on the first day I came to this epic school, the first thing I could smell was hand sanitiser. That's how I know this school cares about its pupils. I used to go to Silverstream Primary School, and I'm very lucky that they prepared me for my AQE to get to this amazing school.



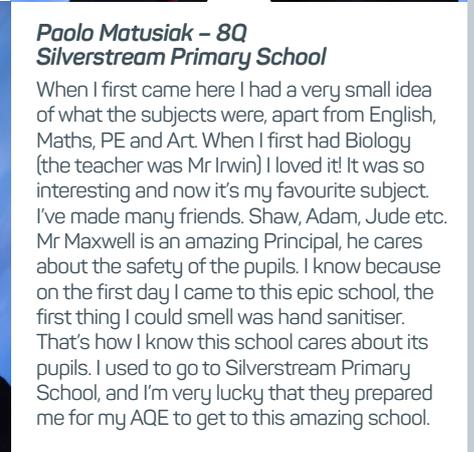
**Colbie Ferris – 8S
Oakfield Primary School**

My first term at CGS has been amazing. I have enjoyed learning new subjects, such as History, Physics, Geography and many more. I've also loved attending after-school Hockey club. My favourite subjects are Art, English and Spanish. I've always loved art because I love to paint and draw but I am happy to have started drawing more complex sketches and develop my creativity. English has been my favourite subject since Primary School because I've always loved writing stories. My favourite language is Spanish as I've been able to speak it from a young age and my teacher Mr Brown is also very funny.



**Rory J Pollard – 8S
St Nicholas' Primary School**

I have found my first term at CGS exciting and full of adventures. I have enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends. The thing that helped me settle into CGS in this pandemic is the support of all the teachers. My favourite subject is History, this is because I watched Horrible Histories on BBC as an 8 year old and still watch it now as an 12 year old. The thing I found helpful is all the support from the teachers.



**Anna Wright – 8S
Carrickfergus Model Primary School**

Starting Carrickfergus Grammar School has been great! I have really enjoyed making new friends and learning new subjects, I have found all the teachers extremely helpful. My favourite subjects are Maths and Physics because there is always an answer to everything but with English there can be a variety of answers. My friends have really helped me settle into school, it's a very big change from primary school but it's great!



**Jack Johnston – 8S
Eden Primary School**

I have really enjoyed my first term at CGS as there are so many great subjects and teachers. I have enjoyed the wonderful range of subjects and the great sports facilities. My favourite subject is Spanish because I love my teacher (Mr Brown). My family, friends and teachers helped me settle into "Big School" as I am given great advice and makes me feel happy.



**Evie Dorrian – 8R
Silverstream Primary School**

This is my first year at Carrickfergus Grammar School and I am loving it here so far. My favourite subject is Biology. I love learning about living things and our lessons are so interesting. I also love PE. My favourite PE lesson I have had so far is when it was raining and we did 'Just Dance' in the gym.



**Jack May – 8R
King's Park Primary School**

Greetings. My name is Jack May, when I first came to Carrickfergus Grammar school I was really nervous but when the Principal (Mr Maxwell) greeted me every morning and the staff were helpful too it started to become routine. My favourite subjects are English, Maths, Spanish, French and Digital Technology.

**Luke Weatherhead – 8R
Acorn Integrated Primary School**

Hello my name is Luke Weatherhead and I am in 1st year in Carrickfergus Grammar School, I am in 8R and I went to Acorn Integrated Primary School. In my first term in the school it was different to primary school, lots of new subjects, new people and new friends, but my first week was like I had been at the school for years all the teachers helped us understand the school life a bit more every day. PE is my favourite subject as I am a very sporty person and for the first time I tried Orienteering.



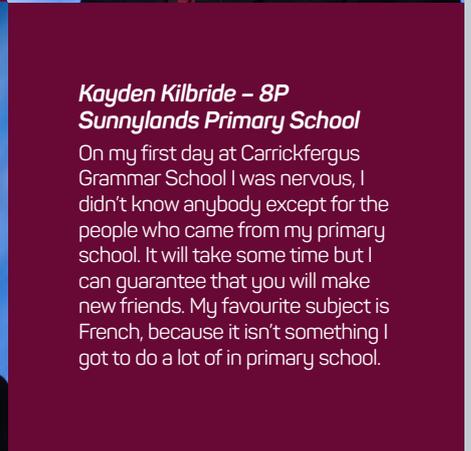
**Aimee McBrierty – 8R
Victoria Primary School**

Hi! My name is Aimee McBrierty and I went to Victoria Primary School. When I first came to Carrickfergus Grammar School I didn't know what to expect, but now I've been here a while I love it! Our school has many different subjects but my personal favourites are History and Spanish. All of the staff are lovely and will always make sure you are the happiest you can be! Thanks to our amazing cleaning staff, our school is also very clean.



**Kayden Kilbride – 8P
Sunnylands Primary School**

On my first day at Carrickfergus Grammar School I was nervous, I didn't know anybody except for the people who came from my primary school. It will take some time but I can guarantee that you will make new friends. My favourite subject is French, because it isn't something I got to do a lot of in primary school.



**Julia McMillan – 8P
Glynn Primary School**

When I first attended Carrickfergus Grammar School I was nervous, mostly because I was the only one coming from Glynn Primary School. So far I have loved it, I have enjoyed learning new languages, hockey and lots more! I have made a lot of new friends and memories. All of the teachers are really nice and they can help you with anything. I learn something new every day and enjoy every subject.



Uniform Policy

Full school uniform must be worn correctly at all times, including on the journey to and from school. We take pride in our uniform, which we have drawn up in conjunction with pupils in our School Council, and we enforce it strictly. Inappropriate school-wear may be temporarily confiscated and returned to parent/guardian only. Contravention of these regulations by pupils will lead to school sanctions being enforced.



GIRLS' UNIFORM	BOYS' UNIFORM
Standard Carrickfergus Grammar School blazer and school tie, as supplied by outfitters	Standard Carrickfergus Grammar School blazer and school tie, as supplied by outfitters
Mid-grey, box-pleated skirt worn to the knee-cap or below, as supplied by outfitters	Plain, black, school trousers, as supplied by outfitters (no skinny fit trousers accepted)
Plain white, standard school blouse	Plain white, standard school shirt
Plain navy, V-necked school jumper or cardigan as supplied by outfitters	Plain navy, V-necked school jumper or cardigan, as supplied by outfitters
Plain black tights or white ankle socks	Plain dark grey or plain black socks
Plain black leather shoes with low, flat heels (no boots or trainer-type shoes are accepted)	Plain black leather shoes with low, flat heels (no boots or trainer-type shoes are accepted)
Navy / white striped apron for H.E. (available from school)	Navy / white striped apron for H.E. (available from school)
<p>All uniform should be labelled with the owner's name. Only the following outdoor clothing is acceptable to and from school: a dark (rain)coat (navy, dark grey or black). A fluorescent band or strip is encouraged for dark mornings / evenings. No hoodies are permitted to and from school and will be confiscated. Only the school scarf should be worn. All other scarves will be confiscated.</p>	

GIRLS' P.E. UNIFORM	BOYS' P.E. UNIFORM
Navy school shorts and/or skort	School rugby jersey
Maroon school polo-shirt	Navy blue rugby shorts
School leggings / retro track bottoms / stadium pants	Navy blue school polo shirt
School hooded sweater / retro top	School hooded sweater / retro top
Navy and maroon socks	School retro track bottoms / stadium pants
Sports trainers*	Navy and maroon socks
	Sports trainers*
	Football / rugby boots
<p>*Training shoes must offer sufficient protection and support for young feet. We strongly recommend that these are purchased from a recognised sports retailer. Casual footwear and light plimsolls or Converse™ brand are not acceptable. All P.E. kit should be labelled with the owner's name. Shinguards and gum-shields are needed for hockey and rugby. Pupils should bring a towel and deodorant for all P.E. / Games classes. No valuables should ever be left in the school changing-rooms: We cannot be responsible for the loss of any items which are not given to us for safe-keeping.</p>	

Uniform Policy

Saturday Games/Away Fixtures

Pupils must wear full school or PE uniform on the way to school or when travelling to away fixtures.

This includes blazer/navy overcoat with uniform or school hooded sweater / retro top with PE uniform.

Skirts are to be worn either fully covering the knee cap or partially covering the knee cap. As such, parents are advised to purchase a skirt at the start of the year which covers the knee cap entirely to allow for growth. Girls are not permitted to roll skirts up.

Hair: All hair must be kept neat and tidy. We wish students to take pride in their appearance when they wear the school uniform. Unnatural colours and prominent stylings (e.g. blocked dying, stripes, buzzed/razor cuts etc) are not acceptable. We do not permit hair colouring, tints, dyes, highlights or extreme shapes and styles where one part of the head looks very different from another part. There is no discrimination between genders on hair length although neither boys nor girls may have any section of hair cut shorter than grade number 2. This also means no skin fade and no hair shaven to the scalp. Lines shaved into the head or eyebrows will not be tolerated. In practical lessons hair must be tied back when requested by a member of staff.

Make-up: Discreet foundation only- no coloured nail-varnish/gel nails or eyelash extensions are permitted. No fake tan is permitted.

Jewellery: No earrings are permitted, even if concealed by hair or sticking-plasters. No other facial or visible body-piercings, including transparent retainers, are permitted, even when covered by a sticking-plaster. No wrist jewellery may be worn. One, flat-surfaced ring may be worn. Rubber wrist bands are not permitted.

Badges: The following badges are the only ones permitted to be worn on school uniform:

- 1 A badge representing a recognised youth organisation
- 2 A school badge
- 3 A badge noting significant achievement eg DoE Award
- 4 A charity badge

The Principal reserves the right to send a pupil home for unacceptable uniform / appearance.



Parent Survey

In June 2020, Carrickfergus Grammar School undertook a very comprehensive and broad-ranging survey with parents. 232 responses were received. Questions explored the school's response to lockdown and Covid-19, as well as general aspects of school life. Whilst 75% is often considered as a strong indicator of satisfaction, we were delighted that so many responses achieved a satisfaction rate of over 90%. The percentage indicates the number of responses which either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the statement, and does not include responses marked as 'neutral'.



Satisfaction Levels over 90%

Carrickfergus Grammar School is well led and managed.



The school's curriculum is broad and balanced.



Carrickfergus Grammar School sets high academic standards and expectations for my child.



My child is continually stretched in their learning to allow them to meet their potential.



Lessons and homework are pitched in a manner which allows my child to learn and progress effectively.



My child gets enough homework.



Discipline at Carrickfergus Grammar School is good.



There is a clear vision for school development.



I feel comfortable about approaching school if I have an issue or concern.



Carrickfergus Grammar School has managed the delivery of educational provision during the COVID-19 pandemic well.



I would recommend Carrickfergus Grammar School to others.





CARRICKFERGUS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

120 North Road, Carrickfergus,
Co. Antrim, BT38 7RA

Tel: (028) 9336 3615

Email: info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk

Web: www.carrickfergusgrammar.com