

# St Colman's College, Violet Hill, Newry Prospectus 2020

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ULSTER HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP  
Cathie Cholmondeley, Mr. Clive Traill  
Presented to Cathie Cholmondeley, Mr. Clive Traill  
Presented at the Ulster Hurling & Football Awards, 2019



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## Section 2

Examination Results, Destinations of A Level Students and Admission Criteria



# Principal's Foreword

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I am very pleased to welcome you to St. Colman's College and I hope that through our prospectus you will get a sense of the rich and diverse nature of College life.

St. Colman's College is a Catholic Voluntary Grammar School located in a magnificent 65 acre site close to the centre of Newry. It is a school with a proud tradition dating back 197 years to 1823 when it was established as the Dromore Diocesan Seminary. We are already looking forward to celebrating our bi-centenary in 2023.

Known throughout Ireland and beyond as Violet Hill, it is characterised by excellent academic achievements and also by the wide range of extra-curricular activities including sport, music, drama, debating and quizzes that its dedicated and hardworking staff provide for all our students. We are very proud of the warm, caring and friendly atmosphere, the opportunities for each student to reach his full academic and extra-curricular potential and the magnificent facilities and surroundings all who come to the school enjoy.

The work of the College is embodied in the vision statement which says, "St. Colman's is a Christian community in which all our members are valued and in which every member of staff is committed to ensuring that each pupil is fully alive to and empowered to reach his full potential." This vision is summarised by the motto "Bonitas, Disciplina, Scientia," translated as "Kindness, Discipline and Knowledge", the mainstay on which the work of the College is based. The school is committed to nurturing the personal, social, spiritual and moral development of each student in its care.

The students who attend the College are friendly, open and very proud of their school. There is a happy and positive atmosphere which is a consequence of the excellent relationships that exist between staff, pupils and parents. We are committed to working in partnership with our parents to ensure that their high expectations are met through excellent examination results alongside diverse and high-quality extra-curricular activities. All that is provided in the College ensures that each student has every opportunity to meet his potential and realise his gifts and talents to the full in a supportive and caring environment.

We are an inclusive Christian community that cares for all its members. The Catholic ethos of the College provides a strong foundation for the students throughout their school life and beyond. We place great value on the support offered to the whole school community by our Chaplain. The caring and supportive Pastoral Care system aims to develop students' self-esteem to the full, and all who are associated with the College, including our Chaplain and excellent Counselling services, work to ensure that students leave as fulfilled and mature young men. St. Colman's is a community which celebrates the uniqueness of each of its members and in which each individual feels valued and respected.

The College is particularly proud of its links with other schools and colleges in the Newry and Mourne Area Learning Community. The co-operation and collaboration which occurs between the students and staff of all the schools in our ALC is enriching for everyone concerned.

I hope that through the pages of this prospectus you will get a sense of College life. I know that you will find it interesting and informative and that it will assist you in making the important decision about the next stage of your child's education. You will be able to get further information through our website [www.stcolmans.org.uk](http://www.stcolmans.org.uk) and you can keep up to date with College life through our Twitter feed @st\_colmans. If you have any further questions you can make contact through the school office (028) 3026 2451 or [info@stcolmans.newry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stcolmans.newry.ni.sch.uk).

**Cormac McKinney, Principal**

## Our Mission

# “Preparing for Life Pursuing Excellence”

St. Colman's College is a Christian Community in which all of its members are valued and in which every member of staff is committed to ensuring that every one of our pupils is fully alive to, and fully empowered to realise, his full potential.

St. Colman's College was founded by Fr. J.S. Keenan in William Street, Newry in 1823 as the Dromore Diocesan Seminary. The Education Commissioners' Enquiry of 1824 recorded an enrolment of some 40 pupils. Known throughout Ireland as Violet Hill, the College has occupied its magnificent rural setting since 1829.

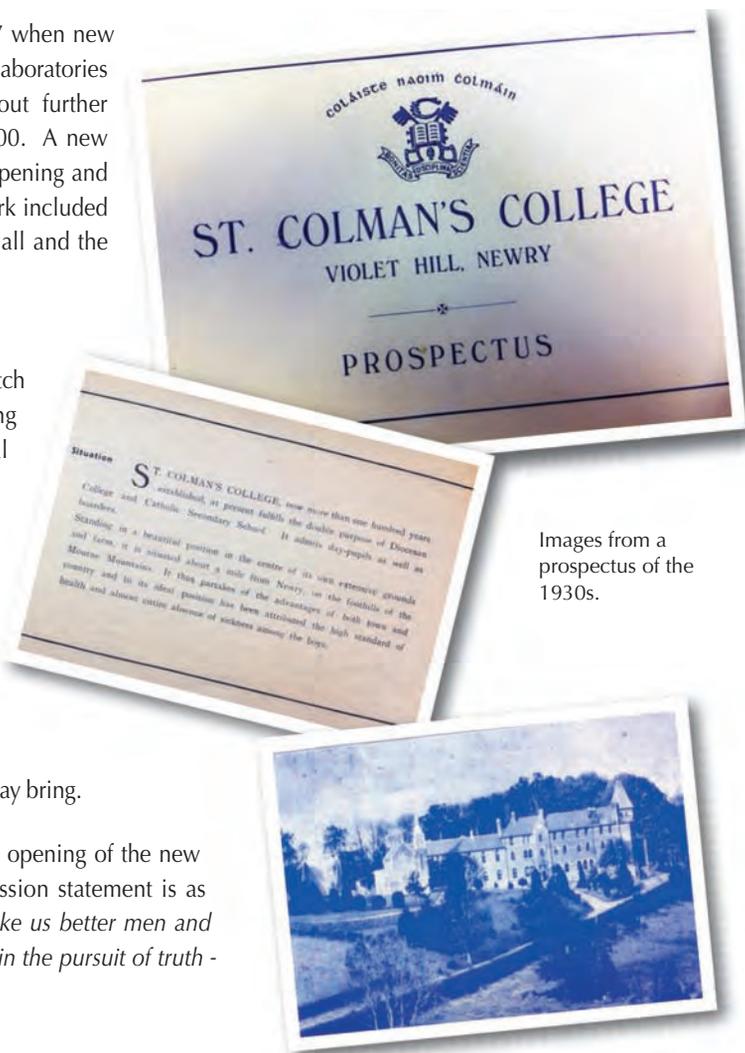
The oldest parts of the present school building date from 1879 and the extensions and renovations under successive Presidents can be traced from the photographs that adorn the corridor walls. In more recent decades a building programme in 1970 made provision for the teaching of Woodwork and later Craft, Design and Technology. In the 1980s and early 1990s, the complete renovation of the Chapel took place. In 1994 the College opened a new fully equipped Science and Technology & Design Block and converted the former study hall into a library.

The improvement of College facilities continued through 1996-97 when new Computer Suites were added and in 1999 the remaining Science Laboratories were fully refurbished. The turn of the century brought about further developments with two sand-based football fields opened in 2000. A new sports hall was completed in June 2006. October 2009 saw the opening and dedication of the new College buildings and renovations. This work included the building of 18 new classrooms, a new multi-purpose sports hall and the complete renovation of every classroom in the College.

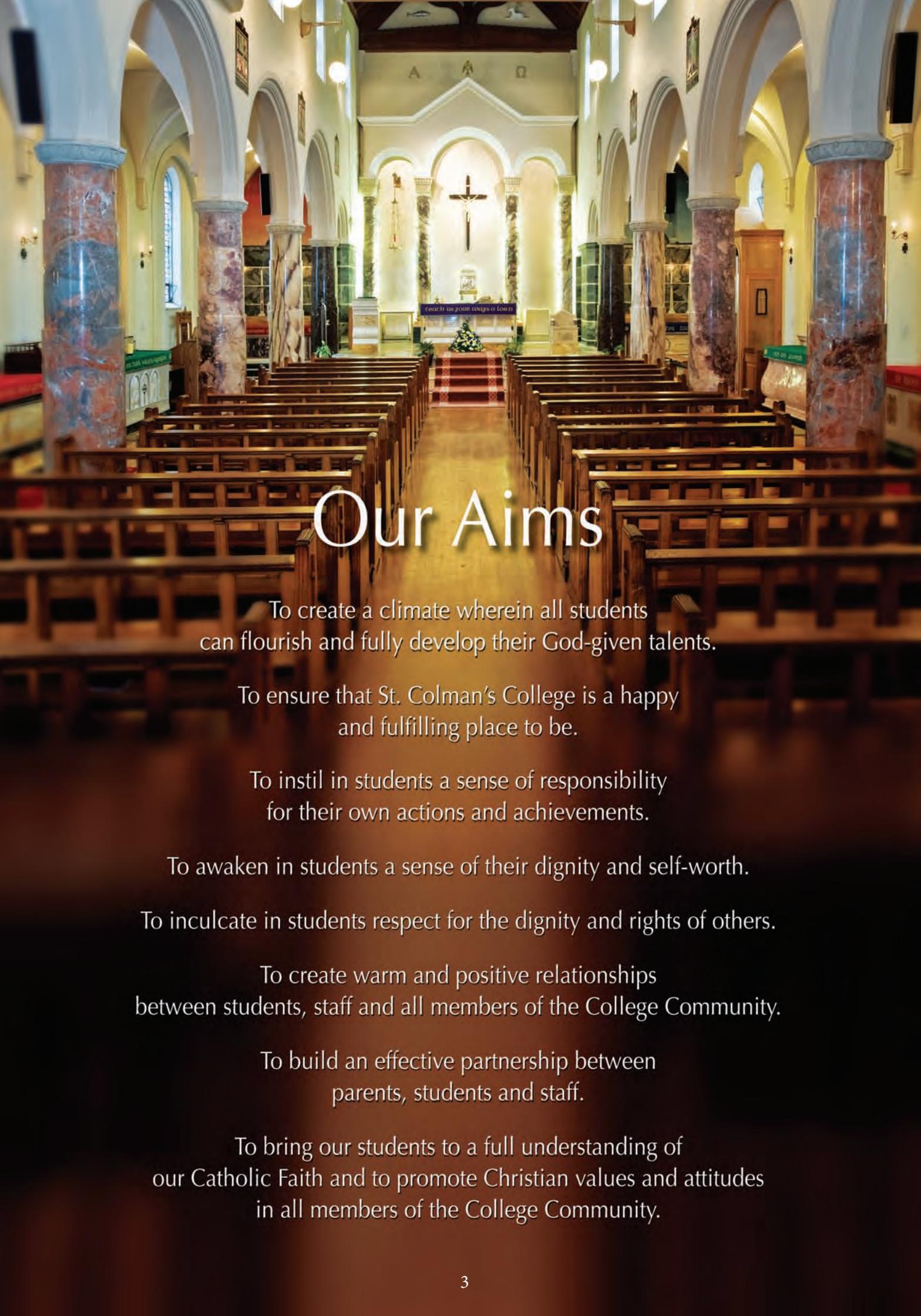
2012 saw the completion of the new floodlit 3G Gaelic football pitch and six lane running track with athletics facilities and changing pavilion, facilities the College is proud to share with the local community.

This process of continuous improvement bears testimony to the foresight and planning which has ensured that Violet Hill, one of Ireland's longest-established Colleges, stands strong and vibrant to meet the challenges of the twenty first century. St Colman's College at Violet Hill has expanded beyond the wildest dreams of its founders 193 years ago and now stands magnificently placed to deliver the full requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and to meet whatever challenges the education future may bring.

An advertisement in the Newry Telegraph in 1823 announced the opening of the new Diocesan School of Dromore. The opening announcement's mission statement is as relevant now as it was then *“The great end of education is to make us better men and women and better Christians – to form and guide the tender mind in the pursuit of truth – is the pleasing duty of the instructor.”*



Images from a prospectus of the 1930s.



# Our Aims

To create a climate wherein all students can flourish and fully develop their God-given talents.

To ensure that St. Colman's College is a happy and fulfilling place to be.

To instil in students a sense of responsibility for their own actions and achievements.

To awaken in students a sense of their dignity and self-worth.

To inculcate in students respect for the dignity and rights of others.

To create warm and positive relationships between students, staff and all members of the College Community.

To build an effective partnership between parents, students and staff.

To bring our students to a full understanding of our Catholic Faith and to promote Christian values and attitudes in all members of the College Community.



# Pastoral Care



**Pastoral Care deals with the overall development of the pupil – physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. It requires a caring commitment by all teachers to guide and advise. It permeates all aspects of school life and contributes to the creation of the school as a caring Christian community of pupils and staff.**

The pastoral care programme aims to help our pupils to identify those issues in their lives which they must deal with as part of their personal and emotional development.

Together, staff and pupils can identify and adopt the values and attitudes which will guide and support them as they encounter the challenges of the modern world.

Our aim is to equip our pupils to lead fulfilled and contented young lives as competent young men following the ethos of the College.

We promote the physical, academic, social, moral and spiritual development of all pupils through our pastoral care system. We aim to create a positive, well-ordered environment within which effective learning can take place. This is guided by our Positive Behaviour Policy.

## Aims of the Positive Behaviour Policy

The College seeks to create a positive, well-ordered environment within which each pupil feels valued and encouraged to contribute positively to his own personal development and to the life of the College. Our Positive Behaviour Policy helps promote this culture.

We aim to bring about self-discipline in every pupil and to help each pupil to grow into a mature, well-rounded individual.

We seek to provide our pupils with the skills they need to deal with challenging and difficult issues in their lives while remaining faithful to the values of the Christian Community to which they belong.

Promoting the values of the College requires commitment and co-operation on the part of pupils and staff. Within such a community, everyone feels valued and this leads to mutual respect and personal fulfilment for all.

The achievement of these aims requires industry and co-operation on the part of pupils and a high quality of teaching, tutoring and supervision on the part of all staff. It also requires effective leadership on the part of Year Heads, Heads of Department, Senior Leaders, Vice-Principals and the Principal.

## Pastoral Structure

- Each year is divided into form classes of approximately 25 students.
- Students meet with their Form Teacher each morning.
- One morning each week the whole year group meets for assembly in the College Chapel.
- There are timetabled Form Periods each week for the delivery of the Pastoral Care programme.
- Form Teachers have designated time to have one to one contact with members of their Form Class.
- The work of the Form Teachers is overseen by a Year Head
- The Pastoral system is under the direction of the Vice-Principal for Pastoral Care.
- The Student Welfare Officer deals with all day to day health and well-being issues.
- Regular contact is maintained with parents using the homework diary, telephone, e-mail, twitter, via our website and by Groupcall (text messaging system).
- Weekly counselling sessions are also available for all students.

## Pastoral Walking Initiative

The S1/S2 Year Group took part in the 10,000 steps a day, walking initiative. The boys took part as part of their pastoral programme to promote good mental health and the importance of physical exercise to general wellbeing.



# The Curriculum

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## **Aims and Objectives** (Years 8, 9 and 10)

The Curriculum in St. Colman's is everything that the College offers pupils by way of learning experience and opportunity, planned in the context of trying to meet individual needs.

In accordance with the College aims, the curriculum that we offer enables each pupil to realise his full potential and to develop all of his interests and talents. It is designed to ensure that there is breadth and balance at each of the Key Stages and, with continuity and progression, to facilitate the student's acquisition of the life skills and competencies necessary for the world of work.

We aim to ensure that individual student's needs, both now and in the future, are at the core of everything we are about as an educational establishment. We seek to do this by fostering a sound educational partnership between the College, parents and the wider community. Therefore, creating a partnership which strengthens and secures the safe and caring educational experience afforded to our pupils and promotes not just their intellectual and academic development, but also their spiritual, emotional and physical growth / well-being.



## Key Stage 4 (Years 11 and 12)

The Curriculum at this stage is designed to ensure that pupils, through a careful choice of subjects, keep open the widest range of career options possible. Choices are made from a structure that enables them to choose subjects for which they have an aptitude and which are necessary for their future careers. A minimum of nine GCSE subjects is taken by all pupils, though many will take ten or more.



At KS4, Science, is studied as either the separate disciplines of Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Double Award Science.

Education for Employability and Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) forms part of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum.



## Key Stage 3

In Year 8 all pupils study the following subjects:

Religious Education

English

Mathematics

Science

Drama

Technology & Design

Digital Skills

History

Home Economics

Geography

Languages (French & Irish)

Art

Spanish is introduced in Years 9 and 10

Music

Physical Education

Employability

PSHE

## Key Stage 4

In addition to the subjects available at KS3 pupils may also study:

Further Mathematics

Business Studies

Computer Science

Construction

Digital Technology

Drama

English Literature

Food and Nutrition

Gaeilge

Learning for Life and Work

Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies

Physical Education Exam

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Double Award Science

## Sixth Form Curriculum (Years 13 and 14)

The Sixth Form Curriculum is designed to provide intensive academic specialised courses in recognised subject areas leading to the award of A-level certificates. While the academic approach central to all courses is very important, teachers ensure that the aims and ethos of the school permeate the teaching of their specific subject and appropriate vocational courses leading to the award of A-level equivalent qualifications.

Each A-level pupil is expected to study three or four subjects to AS level and continue with three to A2 standard, although some will study more. Pupils taking any of the vocational courses are expected to supplement their studies with the appropriate number of A-level subjects for the university course of their choice.



### Additional Studies

In addition to his main studies each pupil is given the opportunity to select from a wide menu of enrichment activities including First Aid, Study Skills and Home Economics.

Enrichment is further enhanced by our Pupil Leadership programme whereby pupils are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the school by playing a key pastoral role with junior pupils. This develops ownership of the school by senior pupils who work in partnership with staff.

The Additional Studies programme also includes Interview Training and Careers Conventions and an "Industry Matters" day in Years 13 and 14. A week-long work experience is also arranged for the Year 13 pupils. Strong links have been forged with Queen's University, Belfast and many local businesses and industries. Such links provide opportunities for our pupils to develop an awareness of the world of work and career opportunities.

We encourage our sixth form pupils to be careful about the selection of their AS and A-level subjects. GCSE results will play a vital role in any final decision, but we also expect intending A-level pupils to have a real enthusiasm for their subjects. This makes it easier for pupils to become committed to their studies, to become independent learners and to take responsibility for their own work.

## Academic Main Studies

All A-level pupils follow courses in Religious Education (CARITAS) and Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).

A-level / A-level equivalent subjects on offer are:

- English Literature
  - Mathematics • Further Mathematics
  - Physics • Chemistry
  - Biology • History
  - Geography • French • Irish • Spanish
  - Religious Studies
  - Music • Government and Politics
  - Sociology • Art and Design
  - Accounting
  - Software Systems Development
  - Business Studies
  - Technology and Design
  - Performing Arts
- BTEC Sports Studies is offered as a Double Award (Level 3 Diploma equivalent to 2 A Levels) or a Single Award qualification (Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma equivalent to 1 A Level)
- BTEC Level 3 Diploma (Double Award) in Construction and the Built Environment
    - Moving Image Arts
    - Health and Social Care
    - Environmental Technology
  - BTEC L3 Diploma in Information Technology
    - Nutrition and Food Science



*We are committed to working in partnership with our parents to ensure that their high expectations are met through excellent examination results and diverse and high-quality extra-curricular activities.*

# Monitoring Progress

**In accordance with the College Mission Statement, it is essential to promote, to the highest possible degree, the academic and pastoral achievement of every pupil. One of the essential roles of the teacher, therefore, is to monitor and assess the performance of each pupil in all his subjects.**

It is vital that the pupils receive regular feedback so that they can be aware of their achievements and progress towards their aspirations.

Various assessment methods may be used by subject teachers to determine the achievement of each pupil. These will include continuous assessment based on written or oral/aural work, as well as practical experiments/demonstrations or investigations. By continuously estimating the extent of pupil knowledge and understanding, by asking questions and noting responses, the teacher is monitoring pupil progress. Such diagnostic assessment allows the teacher to give a prompt response to individual difficulties.

Other types of assessment include homework, which is designed to complement the classroom experience, unit/topic tests and coursework assignments. Formal assessment occurs on five occasions during the year. Reports are issued to parents after the formal mid-year and end-of-year assessments. Form Teachers report on the personal development and extra-curricular commitments of each pupil; Year Heads provide an academic overview with recommendations for improvement.

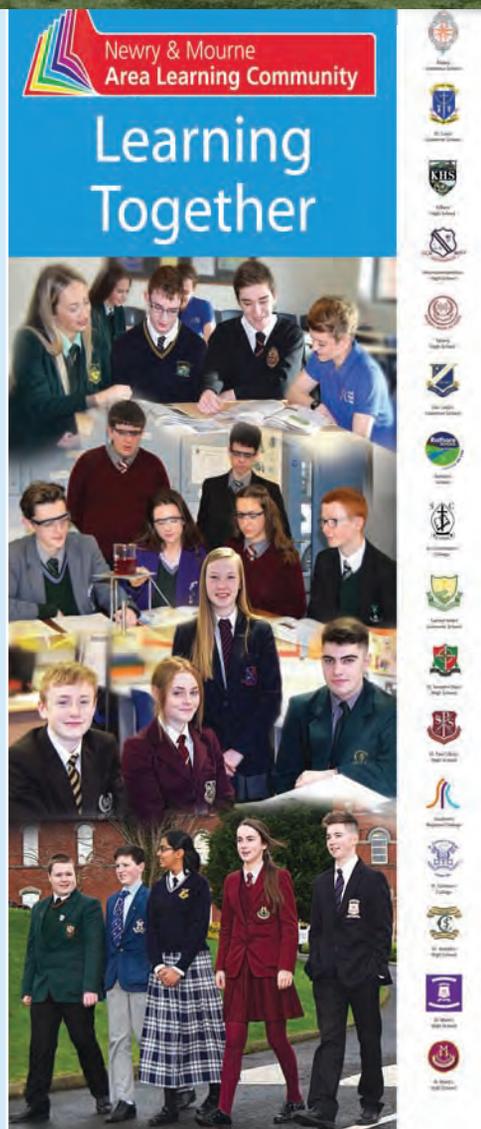
The Newry and Mourne Area Learning Community has been set up to meet the statutory requirements set down in the Department of Education's Entitlement Framework.

## Area Learning Community and the Entitlement Framework

The Entitlement Framework will guarantee all post primary pupils aged 14 and above greater choice and flexibility, by providing them with access to a wide range of learning opportunities suited to their needs, aptitudes and interests, irrespective of where they live or the school they attend. Schools are required to provide pupils with access to a minimum number of courses at Key Stage 4 (current target 24) and minimum number of courses at post-16 (current target 27). In both cases at least one-third of the courses must be general (academic) and at least one-third applied (vocational/professional/technical). The remaining one-third of courses is at the discretion of each school and provides schools with an opportunity to develop a unique and distinctive curricular offer.

Of equal importance to the range of courses is the coherence of the offer which should enable young people to choose from a menu of courses that will allow progression to appropriate higher education courses that will equip them fully for the world of work.

Schools in the local community are currently working together to identify the needs and priorities within the area and to develop the necessary collaborative arrangements to maximise the offer to our young people.





# St. Colman's College Activities

**In St. Colman's, we recognise the need to provide an all-round education and the need to provide the opportunity for pupils to realise their full potential – academically, physically, socially and spiritually. To this end, we offer a rich and varied range of extra-curricular activities and are confident that there is something for everyone.**

Participation in one of the many extra-curricular activities on offer enhances the pupils' self-esteem and enables them to build strong friendships outside the classroom. We also recognise the important role such activities play in developing good relationships between pupils and teachers.

## Music

The College supports a vibrant Music Department which aims to offer a broad experience of music to each student. The department currently enjoys unbroken 100% grade A-C success rate at GCSE and A2 level. In the year 2012 Mateusz Jadczyk and James Somerville were awarded first and second place respectively in Northern Ireland in CCEA GCSE Music and in 2016 Conor McGlone gained second place in Northern Ireland in CCEA GCSE Music.

Music facilities at St Colman's College are excellent. These include two dedicated music classrooms, each with three group rooms. All rooms are wired to the C2K and iMac networks and are equipped with Yamaha keyboards. A complete range of classroom percussion is available including Samba and African drumming sets. There is a music specific iMac suite and recording studio, three ensemble rooms and a two-manual Kenneth Jones pipe organ in the chapel. Our six pianos include two Yamaha U3S and Yamaha 211S. The College owns its own Yamaha soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones and percussion facilities are suitable to ABRSM Grade VIII standard. Cellos and double basses are provided so that students do not have transport difficulties.

Music technology includes 25 iMac computers and four MacBooks all upgraded to using Sibelius Ultimate, Logic Pro X and Garageband. The recording studio contains a 27" iMac, Focusrite OctoPre & M-Audio ProFire 2626 interfaces with a digital Mackie Audio Workstation. Full microphone facilities for all types of recording are available. Headphones, keyboard controllers and Yamaha keyboards are available to all students.

A full range of orchestral instruments is taught in partnership with EA Southern Regional Music Service. Our school orchestra gained first prize at Newry Musical Feis in 2013, 2014, 2016 & 2019. Private tuition is available for guitar, organ and voice. Opportunities are provided on a bi-annual basis to either participate in a musical or significant sacred choral music.



The choir of St Colman's College continues to perform at a provincial level and in 2015 was regional winner and finalist of the BBC Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year.

Traditional music is vibrant within our school. Many of our pupils are involved with Comhaltas and enjoy producing quality sets for special occasions throughout the academic year. Their music contributes greatly to the celebratory atmosphere and Gaelic culture within the school.

## ECO Schools

The St. Colman's Eco-Committee meet every second Tuesday and is involved with all things Environmental that go on in the College. Ultimately they are responsible for St. Colman's meeting and renewing its prestigious Green Flag status.

To ensure that we meet the required environmental standards, the college has taken part in various initiatives such as; the Translink Travel Challenge, the re-think waste scheme, the European week for waste reduction and the Newry and Mourne District Council annual calendar competition.

We were very fortunate to be recognised as the top school in Northern Ireland in the Translink Travel challenge, and the award is available for viewing on the Eco-School's notice board.

## Debating and Public Speaking

The College Debating Society provides an excellent opportunity for students of all ages to debate controversial issues in a casual and sociable environment. The society has proved to be very popular among students, often providing them with an entertaining and lively topic to discuss over lunch.

The College Debating Society hosts one session per week, students have the opportunity to debate contemporary issues in a casual environment. Students have, in the past, had the opportunity to debate contemporary political and moral issues.

The Society sits in two different forms - Junior and Senior. The Society is chaired and organised by a group of students.

The Debating Society provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop a range of public speaking and debating skills, which will assist them throughout their lives. The Society also provides students with an excellent opportunity to engage with students outside of the classroom, and to make new friends.



## Other extra-curricular activities include:

- Agricultural Club
- Arkwright Scholarships
- Athletics
- Basketball
- BT Young Scientist
- Campa Chormaic
- Children in Crossfire
- Coding Club
- College Musicals
- Cross border links with Béthune High School, France
- Cross Country
- Drama Club
- Eco Club
- European Enrichment Project
- European Youth Parliament
- Fitness club for S3/4 pupils
- Football
- Golf
- Gael Linn quiz
- Handball
- Hurling
- Mathematics Olympiads
- MENSA
- Mini-enterprise
- Music
- North/South Ministerial Council schools' project
- President's Award
- Rugby
- Science Club
- Science Olympiads
- Sentinus Young Innovators Competition
- Shoobox Appeal
- Short Stories Competition
- Skiing
- Spanish
- St Vincent de Paul
- Swimming
- Technology Club
- Trócaire

# St. Colman's Activities

## Drama

Our Drama Department is renowned and several of our recent pupils have gained both national and international success as "stars of stage and screen."

Every two years, our pupils stage the College Musical. This is very much a whole-school project and pupils can use and develop a range of talents as actors, singers, musicians, make-up artists, set-builders, stage-hands and lighting technicians. The Musical provides great entertainment for both the College and local community, and inspires happy memories of successful teamwork between staff and pupils.

## Art and Design

The Art & Design Department is a vibrant, inspirational and engaging creative environment, where every pupil's individuality and potential to fully realise their artistic ambitions is highly valued. We nurture imaginative, critical thinking and provide opportunities to communicate creatively. Students have the opportunity to explore and gain accomplishment in both contemporary and traditional art making techniques. Every year group is encouraged to work with new and unfamiliar art materials, alongside approaches which are challenging, to extend the boundaries of their experiences and acquire new skills. This also helps to instil a progressive approach for all future studies. There are various creative methods taught through art forms ranging from the core discipline of observational drawing to the use of printing and experimental media. An annual trip is organised for senior students to visit the Ulster Museum and also local Art galleries.

## Mathematics

Our pupils enjoyed success in a range of Mathematical Competitions including the UK Mathematical Challenges for junior, intermediate and senior pupils. There has also been success in the BT Young Scientist of the Year Competition.

## Computing/Digital Technology

A range of activities are on offer in the computer suite giving students an opportunity to further develop their Digital Technology and more recently Coding skills. These include BBC Microbit challenges, Raspberry Pi Club, App Inventor CodeSchool in partnership with QUB and revision sessions for GCSE /A Level students. The department has forged strong links with a number of local Software Development companies including LibertyIT (School Partnership Scheme), Kainos and Allstate who facilitate company visits and guest speakers giving an insight into career opportunities. Throughout the year we host Digital Technology Roadshows and students are encouraged to participate in a variety of projects and competitions.

## Sport

St. Colman's has enjoyed a long and illustrious tradition of participation and success in many inter-school sporting events throughout Ireland.

The College's record in Ulster and All-Ireland Gaelic Football competitions ensures Violet Hill's reputation as the most important Football Nursery for Down, Armagh and other counties is very well founded. We look forward to continuing this proud tradition, providing pupils with the opportunity to succeed.



## Quiz

Pupils are involved in the following quizzes throughout the year:

- J1 students – Credit Union Quiz
- J2 students – Junior Schools' Challenge
- Senior students – Senior Schools' Challenge and the Newry and Mournie Quiz

## Community and Cultural Awareness

Our pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of themselves and an awareness of, and respect for, other people and cultures. To this end, they regularly attend seminars/lectures and take part in various projects, fostering links between the school and the community.

Great emphasis is placed on travel and attendance at language courses at home and abroad and our pupils regularly travel to France, Spain and the Gaeltacht. There are biennial ski trips to various resorts throughout Europe.

## Fundraising

Fundraising to help less fortunate members of society is an important facet of College life. A concerted effort is made during Lent and a large sum of money is given to Trócaire each year.

Recently we have established links with St. Leo's Secondary School in Ludwar Diocese in Africa.

The College also fundraises for other charities such as St. Vincent de Paul, MacMillan Cancer Research, Multiple Sclerosis and Children in Crossfire.





We recognise the importance of physical activity in enhancing the pupils' self-esteem and in catering for their physical well-being and so we endeavour to -

- Ensure that every pupil has opportunities to be heard and valued;
- Encourage pupils to make active use of their leisure time throughout their lives;
- Develop trust, co-operation and mutual respect for one another;
- Promote in each pupil interest in, and love and knowledge of, physical activity and its contribution to the maintenance of life-long personal health and fitness;
- Enable pupils to attain excellence in personal performance;
- Inculcate knowledge of, and successful adaptation to, a variety of environments, recognising and coping with potential hazards.



# State of the Art Sporting Facilities

Our vast Sports Complex is an extremely popular amenity for our pupils and the surrounding communities. The development incorporates a full size floodlit 3G Gaelic pitch, six lane running track, athletic facilities and pavilion. It has been a very exciting project for the College to be part of not only for our own students and staff but also for the wider community.

The College has been very happy to work on this project with its partners and funders – Sport Northern Ireland, Newry and Mourne District Council, Department of Social Development and Down GAA County Board.

St. Colman's is looking forward to continue to provide 21st century facilities that will meet the needs of athletics and other sporting groups in the Newry and Mourne area and beyond.

The College is particularly pleased about the potential for this development to impact positively in terms of community involvement and neighbourhood renewal in the Newry area.



# Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

St Colman's gives full recognition to the values of Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance (CEIAG). The programmes offered encourage pupils to develop an awareness of their strengths and skills as they prepare for the future and world of work. In addition, each pupil is guided through a selection of occupations through which he may find self fulfilment and make his own contribution to society.

Careers Education is delivered to all year groups through discrete timetabled classes throughout the school year.

## Key Stage 3

In Years 8, 9 and 10 pupils follow a coordinated sequence of activity based lessons on Education for Employability (EfE). Pupils learn about Personal Career Planning, Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and working in a Local and Global Economy.

## Key Stage 4

In Years 11 and 12 pupils continue with the themes of Personal Career Planning and Education for Employability. They are also encouraged to explore career options and to develop the decision making skills which will enable them to make informed choices as they transfer to the next stage of their educational career.

## Sixth Form

All pupils undertake a tailored CEIAG programme which involves guidance interviews, work-shadowing, mock interviews, university visits and talks by visiting speakers from business and industry. Particular attention is also given to the online process for university application, with all pupils receiving detailed instruction and guidance. St Colman's has strong links with universities and colleges, in particular we have a unique link with the University of Cambridge.

## The Library

The Library enjoys a central location in the building. It presents a large, bright, comfortable area, with an atmosphere conducive to both purposeful study and leisure reading.

In addition to a comprehensive selection of novels, the Library has a wide range of specialist non-fiction material and periodicals. The Library catalogue is fully computerised and pupils have access to curriculum-based project work via the internet.

## Evening Study Facilities

This option is very popular with many pupils, especially those who enjoy disciplined and structured approach of the environment of evening study in the College. This facility is open for all pupils and is most popular with students who are preparing for examinations, particularly at GCSE and A-Level. Pupils can avail of 2½ hours of supervised homework/study each evening, including work in the Library and use of ICT facilities.



## Design and Technology

The department runs an after school 'Technology Club' on Tuesday primarily for junior pupils keen to catch up with class work or design and make their own ideas. Many enjoy working independently practising skills they have learned to make small items of interest. Others prefer to bring things to school for repair or modification. Some just enjoy using the computer facilities to model electronic circuits, produce graphics or word process. (Department facilities are also open to all senior GCSE / AS and A2 students Monday to Thursday after school hours). The College Design and Technology students enter the annual Sentinus Young Innovators / Young Engineers for Britain regional competition in Belfast.

## Student Welfare Officer

The Student Welfare Officer (SWO) is a qualified nurse and has the responsibility for students' health and wellbeing while he is at school. She is a member of the pastoral team within the College. She meets regularly with Year Heads, Head of Pastoral Care and the Special Educational Coordinator (SENCO) within the College.

The SWO's hours of work are 9.00am - 3.30pm and she can be contacted through the main switchboard if you have any concerns or issues regarding your son's/guardian's health.

When the students attend the SWO they are given an attendance note and a group call text message is also sent at the end of the school day. This is to keep parents informed if there are any issues that need to be addressed. Also if any student hits his head his parent/guardian will be informed with necessary after assessment by the SWO and advice sheet sent home.

All protocols and policies regarding health issues, medicines and First Aid are on the College website and updated and reviewed annually.

## The Student Council

In St Colman's we have a very active student council that is fully supported and nurtured as we know how much it helps and improves many aspects of school life. The Student Council is also an important and useful way for the College to provide leadership and development opportunities for our pupils. The Council is elected by the students in democratic elections at the beginning of the year and comes together in full council meetings on a regular basis and has representatives across all ages and from all year groups. The Student Council discusses issues that concern the student body, ensuring that their views are heard at management level and that they have an input into decisions that affect them.





# Digital Learning and Teaching

Every student in St.Colman's College will have the option of using a tablet device in their everyday classes.

Pupils in Years 8-12 are equipped with their own iPad device, a case and a range of educational 'apps'. Pupils in Years 13/14 have the option of bringing their own device (tablet or laptop) to school for use as part of their studies.

Some of the advantages / reasons for introducing the tablet devices into the classroom are:

- Use of personal organiser / communication device (encouraging self-management)
- Instant, wireless internet access from any room within the school
- Availability of most up-to-date educational resources
- Raise levels of pupil engagement, motivation and interaction
- Provide effective workflow paths between teachers and students
- Enhance teaching and learning approaches with a greater emphasis on visual, audio and kinaesthetic learning styles.

This initiative, now entering the sixth year, has brought us to the point where tablet devices and e-learning are part of the fabric of school life. Here in St.Colman's we aim to prepare our students for all aspects of life when they leave school and, with the introduction of tablet devices into the classroom, we are encouraging them to embrace the use of digital technology in a positive and innovative way.

Alongside this we have an 'iPad Clinic' where our technical staff can provide support to pupils who may have any technical issues. We also have a series of support materials (including video tutorials) on the 'Information For Parents – iPad Initiative' section of the school website.

With this technology we are acutely aware of the need to educate our pupils about the pitfalls surrounding its' misuse.

We are very pro-active in the area of appropriate use of technology / online safety; holding regular information sessions for both parents and pupils. We aim to make our students aware of their 'online profile' and 'digital footprint' and ensure that they have a mature and responsible attitude towards the use of technology in their everyday lives, keeping their recreational use of technology completely separate from the educational.







# SECTION 2

## Examination Results, Destinations of A Level Students and Admission Criteria



# EXAMINATIONS

The College appreciates the importance of examination success and makes every effort to ensure that students achieve their academic potential.

At the end of Fifth Year (Year 12) students are entered for GCSE Examinations with the following Examination Boards:

**CCEA**

**AQA**

**EDEXCEL**

**OCR**

**WJEC**

In Year 13 students are entered for AS Examinations and, on completion of Year 14, students are entered for A-Level Examinations. Seventeen of the subject options take NICCEA Examinations. Students taking the remaining subjects are entered for examinations with the following boards:

**CCEA**

**AQA**

**EDEXCEL**

**OCR**

**WJEC**

## GCSE 2019 OVERVIEW

Number of Students in Year 12 <b>127</b>	Students entered for 7 or more subjects <b>127</b>	Overall percentage of A*/A grades <b>36.82%</b>
Overall percentage of A*/A/B grades <b>60.89%</b>	Students who achieved A*/A in 10 (or more) GCSE subjects <b>5</b>	Students who achieved A*/A in 8 (or more) GCSE subjects <b>23</b>
Students who achieved Grades A* - C in 7 or more subjects <b>111</b>	Students who achieved Grades A* - C in 5 or more subjects <b>116</b>	Students entered for 5 or more subjects <b>127</b>
Number of A* grades obtained <b>90</b>	Number of A grades obtained <b>346</b>	Number of B grades obtained <b>285</b>

## A LEVEL 2019 OVERVIEW

Number of Students in Year 14

**104**

Overall percentage of A\* - C Grades

**94.09%**

Students who achieved A\*/A grades in 4 A level subjects

**4**

Students who achieved A grades in 3 A level subjects

**21**

Students who achieved 3 Grades A\* - C

**86**

Students who achieved 3 Grades A\* - E

**103**

## GCSE GRADES – SUMMER 2019

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G
<b>Biology</b>	75	10	24	18	12	9	1	1	0	0	0	73	75
<b>Chemistry</b>	43	4	17	5	4	10	0	2	1	0	0	40	43
<b>Physics</b>	58	5	16	27	6	1	2	0	1	0	0	55	58
<b>Mathematics</b>	127	26	37	48	9	4	3	0	0	0	0	124	127
<b>Mathematics Further</b>	53	3	22	8	12	3	1	1	2	0	1	48	52
<b>Digital Technology</b>	12	2	2	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	11	12
<b>Motor Vehicle Studies</b>	27	1	5	9	7	3	1	0	0	0	1	25	26
<b>Business Studies</b>	84	6	30	18	8	11	6	4	1	0	0	73	84
<b>Home Economics</b>	8	0	0	0	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	5	8
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	14	1	1	1	5	0	4	2	0	0	0	8	14
<b>Geography</b>	42	0	6	11	7	9	6	1	1	1	0	33	42
<b>History</b>	38	5	15	11	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	38	38
<b>Religious Studies</b>	127	14	49	25	14	13	8	1	1	2	0	115	127
<b>Gaeilge</b>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>English Language</b>	127	1	26	36	34	26	4	0	0	0	0	123	127
<b>English Literature</b>	14	2	4	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
<b>Drama</b>	11	0	2	4	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	9	11
<b>Irish</b>	39	2	13	14	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	39	39
<b>French</b>	54	0	5	3	7	8	9	14	6	2	0	23	54
<b>Spanish</b>	45	2	8	3	5	7	8	8	3	0	1	25	44
<b>Music</b>	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Physical Education</b>	45	2	21	10	5	6	0	0	0	0	1	44	44
<b>Design and Technology</b>	48	0	8	11	17	5	6	1	0	0	0	41	48
<b>Computer Science</b>	14	2	3	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	13	14
<b>DA Science</b>	76	2	30	14	16	8	4	2	0	0	0	70	76
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1184</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>Grade Percentage</b>		<b>7.6</b>	<b>29.22</b>	<b>24.07</b>	<b>16.39</b>	<b>11.57</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>3.21</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>88.85</b>	<b>99.66</b>

## A2 SUMMER GRADES 2019

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Performing Arts	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Biology	23	3	12	4	4	0	0	0
Chemistry	16	4	7	1	1	3	0	0
Physics	8	2	3	1	1	0	1	0
Environmental Science	21	2	5	10	3	1	0	0
Mathematics	26	9	14	3	0	0	0	0
Software Systems Development	5	1	1	3	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Business Studies	36	1	11	15	4	5	0	0
Art & Design	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Geography	10	2	2	4	2	0	0	0
History	12	1	6	2	2	1	0	0
Religious Studies	12	0	3	4	2	2	1	0
Politics	7	0	4	2	0	1	0	0
Sociology	9	6	1	1	0	0	0	1
English Literature	4	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Irish	6	1	3	2	0	0	0	0
French	4	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Spanish	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Music	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Accounting	9	0	2	4	2	1	0	0
Moving Image Art	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Design and Technology	13	0	1	5	7	0	0	0
Sports Science	9	0	6	3	0	0	0	0
BTEC Construction	41	31	8	2	0	0	0	0
BTEC Sport	32	24	2	0	6	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Grade Percentage</b>		<b>27.41</b>	<b>30.23</b>	<b>23.05</b>	<b>13.40</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.31</b>

### 3<sup>RD</sup> LEVEL DESTINATIONS OF A LEVEL STUDENTS 2019

<b>QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST</b> 43	<b>HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH</b> 1
<b>ULSTER UNIVERSITY</b> 34	<b>CARDIFF UNIVERSITY</b> 1
<b>LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY</b> 3	<b>TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN</b> 2
<b>ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BELFAST</b> 3	<b>UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER</b> 1
<b>IMPERIAL COLLEGE, LONDON</b> 1	<b>LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY</b> 1
<b>DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY</b> 2	<b>LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS</b> 1
<b>LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY</b> 1	<b>SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE</b> 2
<b>NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY</b> 1	

# ADMISSIONS

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8			
SCHOOL YEAR	ADMISSIONS NUMBER	TOTAL APPLICATIONS ALL PREFERENCE	TOTAL ADMISSIONS
2017/18	125	149	126*
2018/19	125	184	128*
2019/20	125	193	129*

\*Includes those students admitted on appeal or with a statement of Educational Needs

	2017/18**		2018/19**		2019/20**	
	APPLIED	ADMITTED	APPLIED	ADMITTED	APPLIED	ADMITTED
GRADE A	97	96	117	117	119	117
GRADE B1	12	12	25	8	24	8
GRADE B2	15	15	18	0	20	0
GRADE C1	8	2	13	0	9	0
GRADE C2	8	0	2	0	6	0
GRADE D	4	0	5	0	6	0
OTHER	5	1	4	3*	9	4*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>129</b>

\*\*Results achieved by boys in the Entrance Assessment provided by GL Assessment and administered by the Assessment Centre

\*Includes those students admitted on appeal or with a statement of Educational Needs

## ADMISSIONS POLICY

St Colman's College, Newry, is a Catholic grammar school for boys. This College normally accepts boys who are academically suited for the type of education it offers and whose parents/guardians are in agreement with the philosophy and aims of the College.

When considering which children can be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the Transfer Form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admission criteria is stated on the Transfer Form or attached to it. Examples of such information include whether the child has or had a sibling (list name of sibling) at the school or whether the father was a past pupil of the school (list dates when father attended).

### *Please note:*

***St Colman's College has been directed by regulations to select for admission all children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission before any child not so resident may be selected for admission.***

## Special Circumstances

Boys will be admitted strictly as described below according to the grade achieved in the GL Entrance Assessment subject only to the consideration of **medical or other problems** which may have affected their performance in the Entrance Assessment and which are supported by verified documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These medical or other problems are commonly referred to as **Special Circumstances** and are described in the College's **Entrance Assessment: Access Arrangements & Special Circumstances Policy** available from the College or its website. Parents should read this policy document carefully along with the guidance provided in the **Claiming Special Circumstances Pack** available from the College. This pack contains a Guide to Claiming Special Circumstances, Form SCR and Form SC1.

If a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Access Arrangements were granted or could have been granted, had they been known to the Assessment Centre, the Board of Governors may take into account the fact that the child was granted Access Arrangements or could have been granted Access Arrangements.

The initial claim for Special Circumstances should be registered using **Form SCR** at the Entrance Assessment Centre by 2.00 pm on **Friday 13 December 2019** with the completed claim for Special Circumstances being sent to the EA along with the Transfer Form in **February 2019**. At this time, the claim for Special Circumstances, supported by the required documentary evidence using **Form SC1** must be appended along with the appropriate independent documentation to the Transfer Form before it is sent to the EA Transfer Department by the Primary School Principal. Gathering and submitting the documentary evidence as described above is vital for the consideration of a claim for Special Circumstances.

## Details of Medical or Other Problems

Where it is claimed that a child's performance in the Entrance Assessment has been affected by a medical or other problem, independent evidence of its existence must be provided to the College. Where the problem is a medical one of short term duration which affected the child only at the time of the Entrance Assessment, the College will require the production of evidence that the child was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the Entrance Assessment and the result of that examination. If the medical problem is other than of a short duration, you must ask your

doctor to provide a letter on headed notepaper which explains the medical condition and how it could have affected your child in the Entrance Assessment. Where the problem is of a non-medical nature, the parents must set out the precise details of the problem and append to the Transfer Form all appropriate independent documentary evidence which corroborates its existence. The name of the Assessment Centre at which the child sat the Entrance Assessment must also be included. Please refer to the Entrance Assessment: Access Arrangements & Special Circumstances Policy and other guidance information available from the College in the Claiming Special Circumstances Pack.

## Educational Evidence

All claims for Special Circumstances must include objective and relevant educational evidence to show that the medical or other problem experienced by your child at or around the time of the Entrance Assessment caused him to underachieve. This educational evidence must be provided by the parent/guardian of the child and verified by the Primary School Principal. The evidence should be sufficient to enable the Board of Governors to reach a decision on any adjustment to the grade/score achieved by the child in the Entrance Assessment. This evidence should include all of the results from the child's school administered standardised tests in English/Literacy and Mathematics/Numeracy taken from the beginning of the Key Stage 2 period and should be provided on Form SC1.

**It is emphasised that the onus is on the parent/guardian to ensure that all of the above information is verified and provided by the Primary School to the parent/guardian under the Education (Pupil Records and Reporting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 and under the Data Protection Act (1998). Failure by the parent/guardian to provide such verified information will result in the Board of Governors being unable to consider the application for Special Circumstances. Material referred to above will assist the Subcommittee in making its judgement: Subcommittee it is however, not intended to be restrictive and the Subcommittee will consider any and all material presented and attached to the Transfer Form. It should be noted by parent(s)/guardian(s) that such considerations involve an exercise in judgement and not precise calculation.**

## Special Provision

For those pupils currently in P7 in Primary Schools in Northern Ireland, claims for Special Provision should be made on **Form SP1** and attached to the Transfer Form. **Form SP1** is available from the College or its website. Parents wishing to claim Special Provision should also forward a copy of the **Form SP1** directly to St Colman's College, by **Friday 6 March 2020**. After this date, claims for Special Provision should be made directly to St Colman's College and to the EA Transfer Department.

Special provision will be made by the Board of Governors for boys:

- 1 Who are transferring from Primary Schools outside Northern Ireland and will become resident in N. Ireland,
- 2 Who have received more than half of their primary education outside Northern Ireland,
- 3 Whose educational provision to date has been negatively affected by serious medical or other problems, which is supported by independent, verifiable, documentary evidence and who have not taken either of the GL Entrance Assessments on Saturday **16 November 2019** or Saturday **7 December 2019**.

The Board of Governors will decide whether these boys should be admitted on the basis that they fall within the ability range of other boys being admitted in that year and/or meet one or more of the Admission Criteria 1 or 8 as listed below. The Board of Governors may require an assessment of the pupil's abilities to be carried out by a suitably qualified person or body approved by the College.

Parents/Guardians may provide additional appropriate educational evidence which should include the results of standardised testing carried out during Key Stage 2 or its equivalent period in any Primary School. This will be considered by the Board of Governors along with the educational evidence described above in exercising their educational judgement in these matters. The onus lies with the parents/guardians to provide this educational evidence and to have it appropriately verified.

Those children to whom clause 1 and 2 (above) applies may, if their parents/guardians wish, sit the Entrance Assessment in which case the grade or score obtained would also be considered.

**It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that information relating to Special Provision, or indeed information regarding the existence of any other relevant factor(s), is given on or appended to the child's Transfer Form as described in the guidance documentation. It should be noted by parent(s)/guardian(s) that such considerations involve the exercise of judgement and not precise calculation.**

**\*ATTENDANCE - THE ATTENDANCE RATE FOR THE YEAR WAS 96.2%**

## ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The results achieved by boys in the Entrance Assessment provided by GL Assessment and administered by the Assessment Centre on **16 November 2019** or **7 December 2019** will form the primary evidence to be considered by the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors will admit boys strictly on the following basis:

1. Boys awarded Grade A in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Subcommittee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade A.
2. Boys awarded Grade B1 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Subcommittee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade B1.
3. Boys awarded Grade B2 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Subcommittee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade B2.
4. Boys awarded Grade C1 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Subcommittee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade C1.
5. Boys awarded Grade C2 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Subcommittee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade C2.
6. Boys awarded Grade D in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Subcommittee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade D.
7. All other boys who have applied to be admitted to St Colman's College.
8. If there are more boys who satisfy any one of the criteria 1 to 7 when they are applied in the order of priority set down above than places remaining, then boys will be selected according to the following criteria applied in the order set down below:-
  - (i) Boys who, at the date of their application, have a parent/guardian who is a member of the permanent teaching, administrative, or ancillary staff of St Colman's College.
  - (ii) Boys who, at the date of their application, have another boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) attending the College or having been selected for admission to the College in the coming College year.

- (iii) Boys who have had another boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) previously attend the College.
- (iv) Boys whose father/guardian attended the College.
- (v) Boys who are the first boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) to transfer to secondary education, i.e. the eldest boy of the family as defined above.
- (vi) Boys who are the first boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) to apply to a Grammar School.
- (vii) Boys, who at the date of their application, are entitled to Free School Meals Provision (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance).
- (viii) Other boys ranked by date of birth with the youngest boy admitted first and all other boys admitted by age (youngest first) until all places have been filled.

If there are more boys who meet one of the above criteria (i) to (viii) than there are places available, then the remaining criteria will become sub-criteria and applied successively in the order set out until the final selection is completed. In the event of two or more boys having the same date of birth and thereby qualifying for the last place(s), the boys will be ranked by alphabetical order of surname and then forenames as listed on the birth certificate.

### **Verification of all Information**

**The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the Transfer Form or appended to the Transfer Form by parents/guardians.** For verification purposes original documents are required and not facsimiles or photocopies.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide any requested verifying documents within the deadline set by St Colman's College will result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the College to offer a place.

**The responsibility to ensure that:**

- **The Transfer Form and other necessary documentation is correctly completed;**
- **Any Special Circumstances/Special Provision being claimed are properly documented as described in detail above and in the guidance documentation;**  
**AND**
- **Any required verification documents are provided within specified deadlines, lies with the parents/guardians of the child. Failure to ensure that this occurs will lead to any request for Special Circumstances/Special Provision not being considered and/or the application not being considered by the Board of Governors and/or the withdrawal of a place in the College.**

**\*Information on the College's waiting list is available from the College or Website\***

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY TO YEARS 9 to 14**

The Board of Governors delegates the admission of pupils other than to Year 8 to the College Principal.

### **Admissions to Years 9 -12**

The following criteria will be applied to applicants for **Admissions to Years 9 -12** in the following order:

1. There must be a place available in the required year, within the College's approved enrolment number.
2. In every case, suitability for Grammar School education will be an over-riding consideration. Convincing evidence of this suitability must be provided from his former school including reports, examples of classwork and homework and copies of completed examination papers. The College may also require applicants to complete assessments in Literacy and Numeracy.
3. A pupil must come with the recommendation of the Head of his previous school.
4. In recognition of the College's position as a Diocesan Seminary, a pupil will be considered who is contemplating study for the Priesthood. He must have the recommendation of his Parish Priest.
5. A pupil, with a special talent, who would benefit from the expertise available in the College will be considered.

### **Conditions**

Application for entry will include an interview with the Principal and/or the Vice-Principals;

- The applicant must show an acceptance of the required academic standard and a willingness to achieve and maintain this standard.
- The applicants must have demonstrated a very good behaviour and attendance record in his previous school.
- The applicant and his parent(s)/guardian(s) must accept the rules and regulations of the College.

## ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SIXTH FORM

The following criteria will be applied to applicants who wish to study AS/A2 in St Colman's College.

As a Catholic Grammar School, St Colman's College aims to ensure that every individual pupil will realise his full potential in spiritual, moral, social and academic terms. While it is assumed that students who enrol in St Colman's in Y8 – Y12 will remain to study A Levels, entry into Sixth Form for existing St Colman's students is conditional on:

- A good academic record of 7+ A\* - C at GCSE including English and Mathematics.
- A good behaviour and attendance record.
- A very good level of performance in the subjects or curriculum areas that he wishes to study in Sixth Form, normally a B grade or better.
- Attending a meeting on results day with a member of the SLT to confirm subject choices.

These conditions reflect that which would have been expected from a St Colman's student throughout his education at the College. If a student's achievements do not meet the conditions listed above but he wishes to apply to return to the College to study A Levels, he will have to attend an interview with the Principal and/or Vice-Principal for his individual case to be considered.

Progression from AS studies to A2 studies is also conditional on a satisfactory level of achievement, normally 3+ C grades or equivalent, application, behaviour and attendance at AS Level.

### **Students applying to join Sixth Form from other Colleges and Schools**

The Department of Education may, on request, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study (as below) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in St Colman's College, Newry.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at St Colman's College, Newry has been agreed by the Department of Education\*.

\* Parents should note how the Department of Education (DE) will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra post-16 pupil to enrol. DE will first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that pupil within an hour's journey of where the pupil lives. If there is, DE will check whether this other school or schools may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue. If these checks find that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue – then DE will agree a school's request for a place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil? To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: (1) denominational (2) non-denominational (3) integrated and (4) Irish-medium. A School requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or schools from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.

Students applying to join Sixth form from other colleges and schools will be required to attend an interview with a member of the SLT. The interview process will establish if St Colman's College is the most appropriate option for the individual candidate.

### **Conditions**

- There must be a place available in the College for the student as set out above.
- There must be a place available in the specific subject(s) that the student wishes to study.
- The student must be able to demonstrate a good level of performance in the subjects or curriculum areas that he wishes to study in Sixth Form, normally a B grade or better.
- The student must be able to demonstrate a good academic, behaviour and attendance record.
- The applicant must show an acceptance of the required academic standard and a willingness to achieve and maintain this standard.
- The applicant and his parent(s)/guardian(s) must accept the rules and regulations of the College.

Progression from AS studies to A2 studies is also conditional on a satisfactory level of achievement, application, behaviour and attendance at AS level.

Applicants must bring a copy of their results slip and their two most recent school reports with them to their interview.

In the event of their being more applicants than places available either in the year group or in an individual subject then the applicants shall be ranked according to a points score for GCSE subject(s) or equivalent according to the following scale, with the higher ranking student(s) being offered a place.

A\* = 4 points

A = 3 points

B = 2 points

C = 1 point

## **ANNUAL REGISTRATION**

Annual Registration takes place shortly before school re-opens for the beginning of the new school year. To register the following must be completed –

- (i) Registration forms.
- (ii) Presentation of uniforms for inspection and approval,
- (iii) Indication of intention re payment of Voluntary Subscription.

Failure to fulfil these conditions means the pupil cannot register on that day.

## CHARGING POLICY

In conforming with the requirements of the (N.I.) Order 1989 it is the policy of the Governing Body of St. Colman's College:

1. to levy, except where pupils are entitled to statutory remission, a charge for all board and lodging costs on residential visits;
2. to levy a charge for activities wholly or mainly outside school hours which are not part of the National Curriculum, statutory religious education or in preparation for prescribed public examinations;
3. to levy no charge for first time examinations entries, except where:
  - (a) the school has not prepared pupils for the examination in the year for which the entry is made, or
  - (b) a pupil has failed, for no good reason, to complete the requirements of the examination or to attend for it;
4. to provide without charge the essential materials required:
  - (i) by the N.I. Curriculum,
  - (ii) to prepare for prescribed public examinations;
5. to request voluntary contributions from parents for school activities in or out of school time which can only be provided if there is sufficient voluntary funding, whilst ensuring that no pupil is excluded from such activity by reason of inability or unwillingness to make a voluntary contribution;
6. to seek payment from parents for damage to or loss of school property caused wilfully or negligently by their children;
7. to delegate to the Chairman and the Principal the determination of any individual case arising from the implementation of this policy;
8. Remission:
  - (i) The Board of Governors will remit the cost of Music Tuition levied by the SELB on pupils whose families are on Income Support.
  - (ii) The Board of Governors will remit board and lodging costs on residential trips according to the terms of Part 2 of the SELB charging policy.

## INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE CURRICULUM

- (i) Details of timetables, programmes of study and curriculum policy are available for consultation by parents at reception.
- (ii) A parent who considers that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory may contact the Vice-Principal. If the matter is not resolved at this level he/she may contact the Principal. Where a parent wishes to proceed further with the matter he/she should write to the Correspondent to the Board of Governors to enable the problem to be examined and a response made.

A black and white photograph of a group of children, possibly in a classroom or school setting, holding up rectangular signs. The children are of various ages and are looking towards the camera. The text is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font with a blue outline. The text reads: "Extracts from Policies", "Child Protection", "and Bullying", and "(Full Policy available on request)".

Extracts from Policies  
Child Protection  
and Bullying  
(Full Policy available on request)

**St. Colman's College is fully committed to the care and protection of the students in its care.**

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr Michael Doyle (Vice Principal) who has received the appropriate Child Protection training. In his absence Mrs Helen Doherty, Mr Kevin Franklin, Dr Patrick Collins or Mr Ciarán O'Hare (all members of SLT) will assume this responsibility. Mr Cormac McKinney (Principal) also forms part of the Safeguarding Team. All have received the appropriate training.

If a student discloses to a member of staff that he is being abused, the member of staff is instructed to report the matter to the Designated Teacher who in turn informs the Social Services. In cases of suspected or alleged child abuse, relevant information and the action taken are recorded and Social Services contacted.

Staff are reminded from time to time of the signs/symptoms of child abuse and all members of staff are encouraged to report to the Designated Teacher or the Safeguarding Team any problems/concerns they may have about the welfare of a child.

Social Services are regularly contacted on matters relating to the welfare of individual students. This is a two-way process.

Topics on self-protection are included in the Pastoral Care Programme which is delivered in the Form Class each morning and during PSHE Classes.

A noticeboard in a prominent area of the school bears all the phone numbers of the following organisations:

**Samaritans ((028) 3026 6366**

**Relate Teen (028) 9032 0709**

**AA (028) 3026 5406**

**NI Childline (0800) 212888**

**NSPCC Child Protection Helpline (0800) 800500**

Also included on the notice boards are the members of the School Safeguarding Team.

We, in St. Colman's College are totally committed to the provision of a happy and secure learning environment for every boy.

The desire of the College in keeping with its Catholic ethos is to ensure that every boy is happy, that is, secure and confident of his own self-worth.

The student who is happy is the one who will realise his full potential at the end of seven years in the College. Unacceptable behaviour includes verbal abuse, marginalising or excluding behaviour, malicious gossip as well as physical contact, coercion or intimidation.

### **Procedures for Pupils**

Report the matter IMMEDIATELY to your parents/guardian and to either your Monitor, your Form Teacher or any teacher or member of staff.

Ask your parents to get in touch with the College to ensure that your Form Teacher is made aware.

If you see another pupil being bullied - report this IMMEDIATELY to any staff member. Telling is responsible and the College guarantees a safe and supportive environment for all students.

### **Procedures for Parents**

- Watch for symptoms of distress in your child.
- Take an active interest in your child's social life.
- If you think your child is being bullied, inform the Principal or the Vice-Principal immediately.
- Keep a written record if the bullying persists; Who, What, Where, When and Why?
- In consultation with an appropriate member of staff, devise strategies that will help your child.
- Advise your child to tell a trusted teacher about bullying incidents.
- Tell your son that there is nothing "wrong" with him which justifies bullying.
- Do **NOT** encourage your child to hit back.

## VHC Canteen and VHC Café

In January 2017 we were delighted to welcome Mount Charles Group as our new Catering provider.

Many of our pupils choose to avail of the fantastic options that our Dining Hall offers. There are two sittings for lunch: 12.25 - 1.05 and 1.05 - 1.45. This allows students from J1 – S1 to have lunch and free time together in a comfortable and relaxed environment followed by students from S2 – S4.

This arrangement works extremely well, being particularly important in the first few weeks of term, when J1 pupils need space and comfort to settle in to the expansive grammar school surroundings. The Dining Hall is supervised by at least two members of our Pastoral Team at each sitting, assisted by a number of Senior Prefects.

### Creating the right atmosphere

The relaxed and friendly atmosphere in our newly refurbished VHC Canteen and VHC Café is a place where students can enjoy their break and lunch in the company of friends and staff. Two plasma screens displaying iconic images of our pupils at recent events and a rolling banner of local and national news are on both sides of the hall.

### Innovation and cashless catering - Squid

Our eMoney payments network works with a contactless biometric solution and enables pupils and staff to pay for refreshments using a state of the art system which can now be accessed remotely. This means that your child does not need to carry money on his person into school to pay for snacks/lunch.

### Early breakfast

To help ensure that no pupil starts the day without breakfast we offer a morning breakfast service from 8am until 9am. This provision is extremely popular and pupils can avail of a range of warm and cold options, e.g. bacon, sausages, cereals, toast, fresh fruit salad, pancakes, yogurts, tea or coffee.

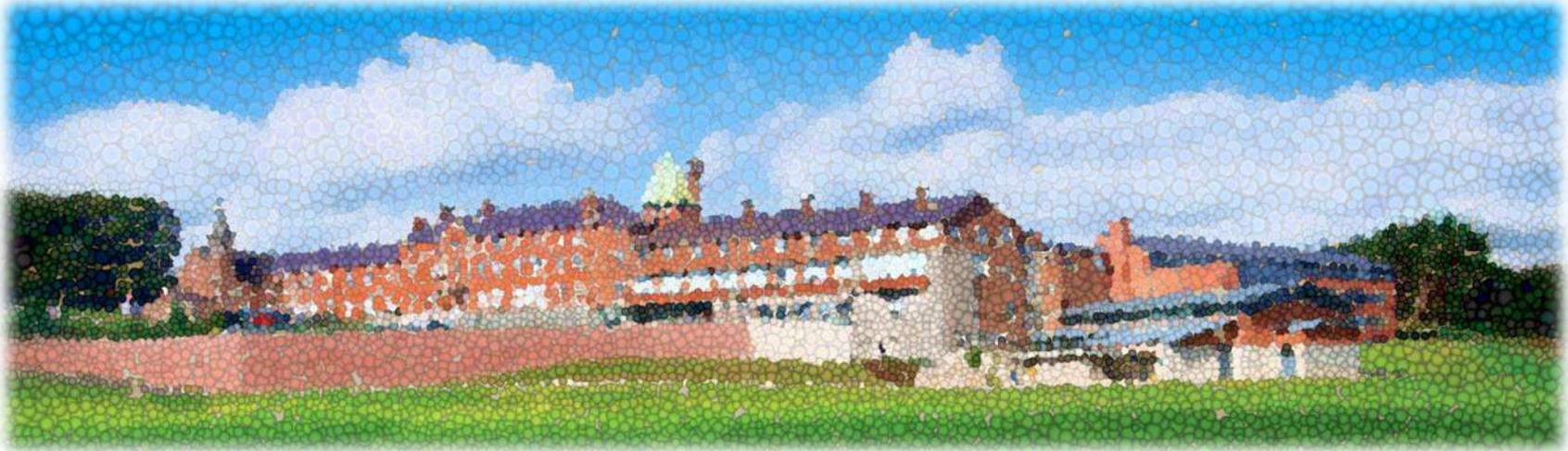
### Commitment to healthy food options

The Mount Charles Group is committed to delivering a range of healthy options for our pupils and staff and fruit salads are prepared freshly on site. Pupils are always encouraged to make good choices at lunch time.

### Proven quality

The outstanding standard of cleanliness and excellence in hygiene and food safety is reflected by a 5/5 Food Standard Agency rating.





# **School and Management Information**

<b>SCHOOL NAME</b> St. Colman's College		<b>ADDRESS</b> Violet Hill, 46 Armagh Rd, Newry BT35 6PP	<b>TELEPHONE</b> 028 3026 2451
<b>FAX. NO</b> 028 3026 7422	<b>CHAIRMAN BOARD OF GOVERNORS</b> Mr Liam Quinn (Acting)	<b>PRINCIPAL</b> Mr. Cormac McKinney BA (Hons), PGCE, M.Ed, PQH (NI).	
<b>MANAGEMENT TYPE</b> Voluntary Grammar	<b>SCHOOL TYPE</b> Catholic Grammar School Boys 11-19	<b>SCHOOL DAY</b> The day begins at 9.00am. Morning Break is at 10.10am or 10.25am.	
<b>TWITTER</b> @st_colmans	<b>ENROLMENT NUMBER</b> 860	<b>EVENING STUDY</b> Supervised study is available to day pupils from 3.45pm to 6.00pm. Parents/Guardians collect their sons at the end of study.	
<b>WEBSITE</b> <a href="http://www.stcolmans.org.uk">www.stcolmans.org.uk</a>	<b>ADMISSION NUMBER</b> 125	<b>SCHOOL YEAR</b> The First Term begins during the last week in August. Details of all other breaks/holidays are available in school early in the First Term.	

## **VIOLET HILL UNIFORM**

Official Blue Blazer with crest

Light grey trousers

Plain light blue shirt

Junior/Senior school tie

Plain grey V-neck pullover

Black leather shoes

P.E. uniform is compulsory

