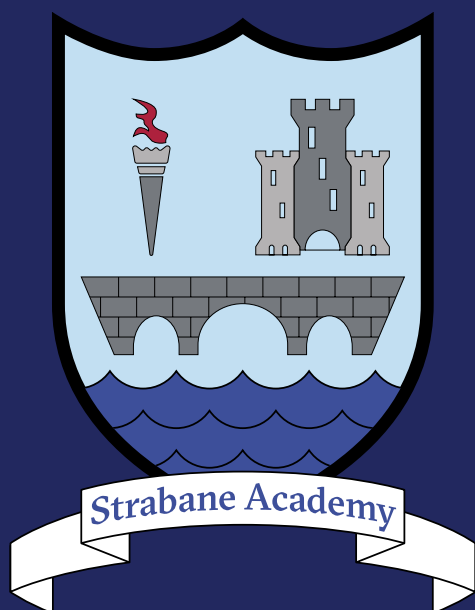




STRABANE ACADEMY PROSPECTUS 2026

strabaneacademy.co.uk

Follow us on:   





A

Ambition

“Great ambition is the passion of a great character”
Napoleon Bonaparte - War Leader

S

Shine

“As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same”
Marianne Williamson - American Author

P

Pride

“If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride, and never quit, you’ll be a winner”
Bear Bryant - American Football Player

I

Initiative

“Initiative is doing the right thing without being told to” Victor Hugo - Romanticist Author

R

Resilience

“Obstacles, of course, are developmentally necessary; they teach kids strategy, patience, critical thinking, resilience and resourcefulness” -
Naomi Wolf - Author

E

Enjoyment

“Without the element of enjoyment, it is not worth trying to excel at anything”
Magnus Carlsen - Norwegian Chess Player

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

ASPIRE

Shine - "As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same" Marianne Williamson



It is with a great sense of pride that I invite you to take the time to read our Prospectus. I hope that as you explore the information contained, alongside looking at our website and social media platforms, you will get a true picture of what makes Strabane Academy unique and special.

We are a school in the community, for the community, who deeply value the strong relationships we share with our families. This strong community spirit is also evident in the many partnerships we share with local businesses and organisations.

Our school's values reflect our Christian ethos, and we welcome all children regardless of religion, race, or social background. Our school population is highly diverse, and we place great emphasis on instilling values of inclusion and togetherness in our students.

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all"

At Strabane Academy we value the pursuit of individual excellence and success. While there is a strong focus on academic achievement, we recognise that success looks different for each individual student. However, for all students we expect high standards of work and conduct, believing that the pupils need to be working consistently and with determination in order to develop to their full potential.

We have a fantastic team of highly motivated, compassionate and knowledgeable staff, both teaching and non-teaching, who are committed to providing an outstanding education. Whilst we ensure that the pupils are challenged, we do so in an atmosphere of mutual respect where pupils are valued within a safe and caring learning environment.

Our curriculum is tailored to nurture the strengths of each individual pupil. To support this, pupils have access to a wide range of academic and vocational courses. On entry to Year 8, students are placed into classes according to their ability. This ensures that all our pupils make progress in-line with their ability. It also ensures that we can cater for the needs of those children who, for whatever reason, did not sit the entrance exam but who we believe will flourish when an appropriate curriculum is in place.

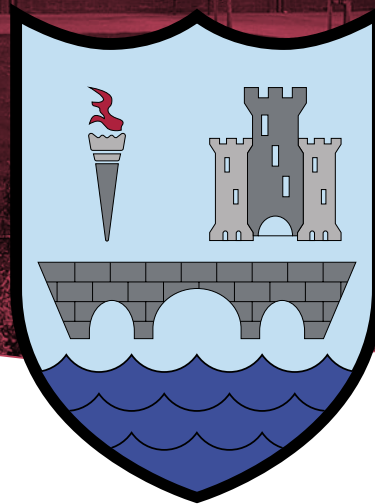
Within these pages we have tried to capture something of the spirit of our school life and convey the sense of pride we feel in being part of our community. However, to get a true sense of what makes Strabane Academy special I would invite you to experience our school firsthand by visiting us on our upcoming Open Night.

If you have any questions or queries about the education we provide at Strabane Academy, I hope you will contact me, and I shall be happy to speak with you.

Mr Craig Johnston.

Principal

KEY INFORMATION



STRABANE ACADEMY

61 Derry Road
Strabane
Co.Tyrone
BT82 8LD
02871882578
info@strabaneacademy.strabane.ni.sch.uk

PRINCIPAL

Mr Craig Johnston
B.Ed. PQH

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mr S Atcheson
Roll 653

ADMISSIONS 110

Our Admissions Policy can be accessed from our school website, or a printed copy can be obtained from the school office.

CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOL

Enrolment no: 700
Boys and Girls
Age Range 11-18
School Type: Controlled Grammar
DENI No: 2410311

OPEN NIGHT

22nd January 2026

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Information about holidays at Christmas, Easter and Mid Term will be available on the school website and via the Parent App.

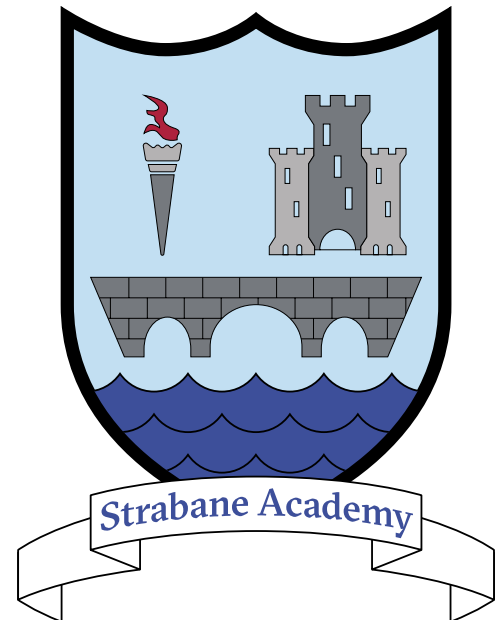
SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

 Facebook - Strabane Academy

 Twitter - @AcademyStrabane

 Instagram - strabane_academy

OUR ETHOS



“A caring, supportive, close-knit community committed to providing an outstanding education that motivates and inspires all to reach their true potential in an atmosphere of mutual respect.”

At Strabane Academy we endeavour to ensure that everyone aspires to be their best.

AMBITION
SHINE
PRIDE
INITIATIVE
RESILIENCE
ENJOYMENT

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

ASPIRE

Pride - "If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride, and never quit, you'll be a winner" Bear Bryant



Mia Magee

Artigarvan Primary School

When I stepped into Strabane Academy, I felt the air go through me and I knew I was going to have the best life in Strabane Academy. I made so many new friends and I met a lot of kind teachers. Now I am loving it and I am not usually the person to love school but I feel at home. I hope you do too.

My advice is do not feel nervous, it is the best school. The canteen food is so tasty and you will be supported if you find things difficult.

#goodfood



Lukas Hodgson

Ebrington Primary School

My impressions of this school are unbelievably good. I love everything about it. The school canteen is the best food I have ever tasted. The other students are kind and supportive. The teachers are also very kind and will help with any concerns.

My advice is to keep your head up and give anything and everything into your classes. Be supportive to others, you won't get lost and if you do, just ask for help. Smile. Never be rude to others. You are never alone. Be yourself

#keepyourheadup



Aaron Kingham

Strabane Controlled Primary School

My first impression of Strabane Academy has been great, as there is no scarcity of variety when it comes to subjects. The staff and older pupils are kind and welcoming. There are lots of opportunities for extra-curricular activities and overall lots to do and have fun with.

My advice for P7s coming to the Academy is, although the size of the new school may seem daunting, plenty of people are willing to help you navigate and 6th form will help you around for the first week. With all this help you're sure to get a hang of it in no time.

#Don'tworry



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

ASPIRE

Initiative - "Initiative is doing the right thing without being told to" Victor Hugo - Romanticist Author



Matthew Short

Bready Jubilee Primary School

My first impression of the school is that it is very welcoming. All the teachers are kind and there's a great selection of sport here like rugby, football and cricket. Also, there is a great selection of food here and there is a wide range of subjects to study.

My advice for the P7's is that you are going to be scared and think about all the worries but when you get here it is really not bad actually.

#footballisgoodhere.



Emmie Scott

St Mary's Primary School, Melmount

At first I was really nervous to switch schools but after a week or so I felt like I had been here forever. In the first week you'll have a sixth form mentor to help you around the school. You'd think it would take weeks to find your way but it only takes a week or so to get used to it. There are lots of clubs you can attend during lunch time and after school as well which is really exciting.

My advice for P7 is to get your bag packed the night before because it means you will not feel rushed in the morning. Try the hot dogs, they are the best! Be yourself, don't change who you are to fit in. Find friends who like you for who you are.

#Don'tWorryBeHappy!



Emma Donaghy

Drumahoe Primary School

I was scared because I was the only person coming from my primary school, it made me sad and nervous but, in the end, it was actually ok. I made lots of new friends and I am enjoying school now.

My advice for P7 is be yourself and don't worry about making friends.

#EnjoySchool



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

ASPIRE

Resilience - "Obstacles, of course, are developmentally necessary; they teach kids strategy, patience, critical thinking, resilience and resourcefulness" Naomi Wolf - Author



Ella-Mae McElwee

St Mary's Primary School, Cloughcor

My first impression was that the school was big and scary. I was so nervous. I visited the school for open night with my parents which helped me get to know the building and have a look round. Now I am not scared or nervous and enjoy being at school.

My advice for P7 is don't be nervous, be happy. I was so anxious coming in but as soon as I stepped in through the door all the staff and pupils were there for me. They have been by my side ever since. I hope you will also attend Strabane Academy.

#YouWillBeOK



Brenna-Mae Mooney

St Patrick's Primary School, Castlederg

My first impression of Strabane Academy is great. They have lots of new subjects and lots of sports to try. All the teachers are very kind and welcoming. After the first week I made lots of new friends that are kind and helpful. As the weeks went by it got much easier to find my way around.

My best piece of advice for year 7 is to make sure you have all your books packed the night before school. Always be brave and don't worry about learning your way around, this will be much easier after a few weeks.

#Aspire



Eve O'Neill

Donemana Primary School

I felt very enthusiastic about Strabane Academy and was excited to start but I also was a bit nervous. Remember though, being nervous means you care and are really just excited for a new experience.

My advice is remember to check your planner it is very important to ensure you have all your work done. This will help you stay organised.

#Alwayskeeporganised



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

ASPIRE

Enjoyment - "Without the element of enjoyment, it is not worth trying to excel at anything" Magnus Carlsen - Chess Player



May Little

Ardstraw Jubilee Primary School

My first impression was pretty good, and I did enjoy it better than my primary school. I was thinking "Oh no, I will definitely get lost!" but in the first two weeks I knew where I was going, and you will too. I am glad you are considering Strabane Academy as your next school

My best advice for year 7 is always bring your equipment to be ready for learning because after the first week you might not get away with it.

#BestSchoolEver



Brianne Harper

St Catherine Primary School

My first impression of Strabane Academy was, "what if I don't make friends" or "how will I navigate this massive school" However, after a week or so I think the school gets smaller and smaller and I have met lots of lovely people.

My advice is remember, everyone gets nervous, and everyone is as nervous as you. The teachers and non-teaching staff are friendly, so don't worry about asking for help.

#Don'tWorry



Emily Cully

Strabane Controlled Primary School

On my first day at Strabane Academy, I was excited but scared at the same time. I mean, it's a whole new school, new friends and new teachers! However, as the day went on those scared feelings faded away. The staff were amazing, and I love all my teachers!

My advice for you in p7 is, do not worry! Even though the school looks MASSIVE, trust me, it isn't. You will get used to it in no time!

#Enjoy #StrabaneAcademy







HEAD BOY JONATHAN ORR

As I reflect on my time at Strabane Academy, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities, support and sense of community that have helped shape who I am today.

The incredible staff and vibrant atmosphere here have not only hugely contributed to my academic achievement but also for the many extra-curricular activities, which have helped me grow outside of the classroom. I envision Strabane Academy as more than a school; it has shaped who I am today while giving me lifelong memories and friends. The unwavering commitment for academic excellence and enrichment activities is inspiring and benefits everyone in this nurturing environment.

As a school body we are very privileged to have such dedicated staff, who are willing to go the extra mile for each student, their commitment is truly commendable, and I personally would like to thank each member of staff. The staff are the driving force which creates the best version of each student in this close community. As head boy, it is an honour to serve in such an environment and I eagerly anticipate what is to come in the year ahead. Representing my fellow students and contributing to the continued growth and success in all areas of our school community is an opportunity I deeply cherish.



HEAD GIRL LAUREN SMYTH

My experience at Strabane Academy has been encompassed with opportunities for success, self-growth and lasting memories.

The atmosphere within Strabane Academy is nothing short of vibrant, as you can truly feel the dedication, positivity and engagement from every pupil and member of staff within our school community. We are truly privileged to have such an involved and caring team of staff here in school who not only strive for our academic development but ensure that the emotional and physical wellbeing of every single student is a priority. The bustling environment of Strabane Academy celebrates every success of our staff and student body, whether its

sporting, charity or music, creating a space for creativity, transformation and individuality.

My 7 years at Strabane Academy have instilled invaluable lessons as the guidance from both my peers and teachers have set me up for life beyond the school gates next year. I am extremely honoured to have the opportunity as Head Girl. I will continue to promote our school's ethos whilst advocating for student voice and supporting both staff and my peers. Overall I am in awe of the incredible experience I have had here and am thrilled to have been trusted with such an invaluable leadership role.



TRANSITION INTO STRABANE ACADEMY

ASPIRE

Ambition - "Great ambition is the passion of a great character"
Napoleon Bonaparte - War Leader



Supporting our young people, parents, and guardians, is a priority for us here at Strabane Academy as children move from primary to secondary school.

This process begins before pupils transfer to us in Year 8. Once the decision has been made to move to Strabane Academy the transition team of Mr Pollock, Miss Donnelly, Mrs Dunn and Ms Doherty work very closely with each primary school to ensure we are prepared for each individual pupil who is transferring into year 8. This will involve a discussion with relevant staff, school visits to us, where necessary, to support individual needs and discussion with parents. All of this facilitates a smooth transition experience for all pupils and makes for happy and stress-free pupils and parents.

In June, a 'Pupil and Parent' evening will take place. On this evening, we share key information which will be of benefit to show how Strabane Academy functions on a daily basis and provide an opportunity for you to meet and talk with key staff that will support Year 8 Pupils.

Following this, a transition morning for all new intake year 8 pupils. Pupils will have the opportunity to complete some fun activities with some surprises along the way. The aim of this is allow students a chance to get to know each other, the staff, and the school better and to ease the anxiety of the first day in August.

In August, year 8 pupils will attend their first day in Strabane Academy. This will be the first day of their educational journey with us. They will be introduced to classmates, Form tutor and be given key information.

During the month of September, we focus on developing a team ethos within the year group. A positive, supportive experience makes for happy, content pupils and a high level of success for each individual.



HOUSE SYSTEM

ASPIRE

Shine - "As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same" Marianne Williamson



This year, the Academy is reintroducing the House System with a new up to date design. Each form group and form teacher will be allocated a House. Throughout the year, competitions and events will be held, allowing students an opportunity to represent their house. The Winner of each event or competition will win points for their house.

The names of the houses were chosen by selecting significant and important people who have a connection to the Strabane Area.

The Names of our School Houses are **Abercorn, Alexander, Maunder, and Wilson**



Cecil Frances ALEXANDER

1818- 1895

Born in Strabane,
in Milltown house.

She showed her concern for disadvantaged people by travelling many miles each day to visit the sick and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister also founded a school for the deaf. She is also a well-known Hymn writer, one of her most famous hymns was "All things bright and beautiful"



Annie Dill Scott MAUNDER

1868- 1947

Maunder was a Northern Irish astronomer and mathematician born in Strabane. In a time when women were not allowed to vote, getting secondary education, and then completing a degree in Mathematics was a real achievement.

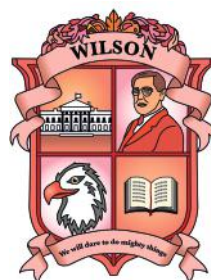
In her career she pioneered scientific discoveries and ground-breaking achievements as an astronomer. She worked as a teacher, then as a 'lady computer' at the Royal Observatory Greenwich.



Alexandra Anastacia Hamilton The Duchess of ABERCORN

1946-2018

She married James Hamilton, who later became the Duke of Abercorn in 1966. During the mid-1970s, the Duchess trained as a professional counsellor. Living through the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland made the Duchess increasingly aware of the trauma sustained by children in the province. This led to the establishment of the Pushkin Prizes in 1987. After the Omagh bomb in 1998, the Duchess became a trustee of the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation. In 2003, the Duchess received an honorary doctorate from the University of Ulster for her work with young people during the troubles. She died in 2018.



Woodrow WILSON

1856-1924

Like many Americans, Wilson's ancestry can be traced back to Strabane. His parental grandparents came from County Tyrone. He was the 28th President of the United States (1913-21), an American scholar and statesman. He is best remembered for his legislative accomplishments and his high-minded idealism.

Wilson led his country into World War I and became the creator and leading advocate of the League of Nations, for which he was awarded the 1919 Nobel Prize for Peace. During his second term the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was passed.





EXAM SUCCESS

ASPIRE

Shine - "As we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same" Marianne Williamson



At Strabane Academy success comes in many ways as the students follow academic pathways which best fit their interests and abilities.

It's not just the students who receive the very highest grades that we celebrate; students who have worked

extremely hard and get grades which reflect this work ethic are celebrated throughout the school.

Congratulations to all our students on making it through an incredibly tough two years, in preparation for their GCSEs and A levels. We all know how hard it's been at times, but also how hard you've worked. You should be very proud.

GCSE RESULTS 2025	>5 A*-C 95%	>5 A*-C including English and Maths 77%
NORTHERN IRELAND AVERAGE	89.2%	73.3%

GCE RESULTS 2025	3+ A*-C 80%	3+ A*-E 100%
NORTHERN IRELAND AVERAGE	80% (Grammar) 71.4% (All Schools)	97.6% (Grammar) 93.6% (All Schools)

GCSE OVERALL EXCELLENCE

Melissa Caldwell
Lilia Darragh
Ruairi Gillespie
Chaise Kee
David Kerr
Abi Moore
James Roche

Maddox Cummings
Alex Gamble
Sam Hannan
Emily Kelly
Connor McClintock
Poppy O'Neill

A2 OVERALL EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATES 2025

Lauren Bell
Alex Kennedy
Aimee McBride

Nathan Russell
Rebecca Sheridan





CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS



Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do, and we take every opportunity to celebrate their achievements and individual success.

We monitor achievements through SIMS and analyse each month.

KEY STAGE 3

15 Points -

Text message home &
In school Reward

30 Points -

Text message home &
In school Reward

50+ Points -

Bronze Badge Year 8, Silver
Badge Year 9, Gold Badge Year 10

KEY STAGE 4

15 Points -

Text message home &
In school Reward

30 Points -

Text message home &
In school Reward

50+ Points -

ASPIRE Badge- Year 11,
Head Teacher Award Badge -
Year 12

KEY STAGE 5

Year 13 -

Senior ASPIRE Award
Christmas Rewards Trip -
link to target/subject performance

Year 14 -

Leadership Team
Christmas Award Trip -
link to target/subject performance



Whole School Celebration of Positive Behaviour.
Each Academic year- Celebration Awards Ceremony





DIGITAL HUB

Strabane Academy is proud to be home to a brand-new initiative, our very own Digital Hub. A state-of-the-art learning environment designed to inspire innovation, creativity, and digital excellence among our pupils and the wider community.

The Digital Hub is a vibrant, purpose-built space equipped with cutting-edge technology, virtual reality tools, and interactive digital resources including Lego robotics. It plays a central role in delivering a forward-thinking curriculum that prepares students for the opportunities and challenges of the digital age and stress-free pupils and parents.

Empowering Learners Within and Beyond Our School

The Digital Hub is not only a cornerstone of digital learning for Strabane Academy pupils it also serves as a valuable resource for the wider community. We regularly host **digital courses and workshops for local primary school children**, offering engaging, hands-on experiences in coding, online safety, and digital creativity. These sessions help spark early interest in technology and build confidence in young learners. supportive experience makes for happy, content pupils and a high level of success for each individual.

Key Features:

- **Industry-led workshops** with partners such as Allstate NI and other tech leaders.
- **Project-based learning** in areas like coding, digital media, and cybersecurity.
- **Community outreach** through initiatives like the Future Innovators Digital Safety Competition.
- **Career readiness** through mentoring and exposure to real-world digital pathways.

The **Strabane Academy Digital Hub** reflects our commitment to excellence, inclusion, and innovation. It's a space where ideas grow, skills develop, and futures begin not just for our students, but for the next generation of digital learners across the Strabane area.



CURRICULAR PROVISION

ASPIRE

Initiative - "Initiative is doing the right thing without being told to" Victor Hugo - Romanticist Author



The Curriculum at Strabane Academy provides stimulation and challenge to all pupils of all ability, successfully combining both traditionally academic and vocational subjects to ensure all pupils can thrive.

Our aim is to empower our pupils to achieve their best by enabling them to develop as individuals and valued contributors to society, the economy, and the environment. Our curricular provision offers progression across all key stages and leads to academic success.

From the earliest possible opportunity in year 8, support is given to pupils to help them learn and discover they learn best as individuals! Embedded in every year group and in every subject are assessments which have been designed by subject specialists to track pupils' progress at key dates throughout the year. This information is gathered, and parents are then informed of results. This enables the school to work effectively alongside parents to support students appropriately giving individual strategies to ensure improvement.

KEY STAGE 3

Years 8-10 follow a broad curriculum designed so that it can offer the breadth and flexibility to provide access to a range of learning pathways.

A wide range of thinking skills and capabilities including literacy and numeracy are developed across the curriculum. Lessons are interactive, varied, and enjoyable ensuring pupils experience teaching in their preferred learning style and are fully prepared for the challenges of Key Stage 4

The following subjects are delivered in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies **
- Careers Education
- English (including drama)
- French*
- Geography
- Spanish*
- History
- Home Economics
- Information Technology
- Learning for life and work
- Mathematics
- Music

- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Technology

*All students will study at least one modern language.

**Year 10 only.

KEY STAGE 4

Pupils in Years 11 and 12 will be offered GCSEs in the following subjects:

- Art and Design
- Benchwork and Joinery
- Business and Services
- Business Studies
- Digital Technology
- Double Award Science
- Contemporary Craft
- Contemporary Cuisine
- Engineering
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Information Technology
- King's Trust
- Learning for life and work
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Single Award Science
- Spanish
- Technology and Design
- Triple Award Science

The following vocational courses may be offered through collaboration with the North West Regional College:

Early Years, Construction, Electrical Engineering, Joinery, Plumbing, Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing, Digital Music, Horticulture, Hospitality, Tiling and Tourism

CURRICULAR PROVISION

ASPIRE

Resilience - "Obstacles, of course, are developmentally necessary; they teach kids strategy, patience, critical thinking, resilience and resourcefulness" Naomi Wolf - Author



KEY STAGE 5

In Years 13 and 14 pupils will be able to choose subjects from a range of GCE AS Levels, A2 Levels, Applied A Levels and National Awards.

The following is a list of subjects being offered:

- Applied Science
- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Cambridge Technicals (IT)
- Digital Technology
- Double Health and Social Care
- Drama
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German
- Government and Politics
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Mathematics
- Media
- Moving Image Arts
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Religious Studies
- Technology and Design

If there are insufficient numbers for these courses; they may be offered through collaboration with other schools within our local learning community (Derg Mourne Learning Community)

The following vocational courses will be offered through collaboration with the South West Regional College, National Awards in:

- Agriculture
- Applied Science
- Children's Care, Learning and Development
- Computer Games
- Construction
- Engineering- Mechanical/ Electrical
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality
- Media and Production
- Travel and Tourism
- Sports Studies

Curriculum opportunities at Key Stage 5 are enhanced through the Enrichment Programme which include Volunteer work in care homes, primary schools, charity shops; Computer Programming; European Studies Programme; First Aid; Photography; Sentinus Engineering; Survival Cookery and all the major sports that includes Rugby, Hockey, football, and Cricket



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



At Strabane Academy we endeavour to offer the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities outside of the classroom. We believe that in addition to academic development we must also inspire our pupils physically, culturally, and spiritually.

These clubs and societies take place after school, at lunch times and as well as weekend excursions, fixtures, and visits.



SPORTS

- Hockey
- Rugby
- Football
- Gaelic
- Cricket
- Netball
- Badminton
- Strength and Conditioning
- Athletics
- Gymnastics
- Tennis
- Golf
- Running club



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

- Scripture Union
- Library & Book Club
- Writer's Web
- Homework Club
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
- Film Club
- Rainbow Alliance
- Horticulture Club
- Drama Club
- Public Speaking
- Duke of Edinburgh



STEM

- Science Club
- Sentinus
- UK Maths challenge
- Maths Week Ireland
- Maths Workshops in association with Queen's University Belfast
- Lego Therapy Club
- Technology and CAD club



ARTS AND MUSIC

- Art and Design Club
- Orchestra
- Choir
- Musical Productions

In addition to these clubs, we have also embarked on regular school trips and excursion, below are some of the trips and destinations we have ventured on:

Ski - Every Year Previous destinations: Italy and France.

Geography - Every two years Previous destinations: Iceland and Italy.

History- Every Two years Previous destinations: France and Germany.

Business and ICT- Every two years Previous destinations: New York.

Rugby- Every 3 years Previous destinations: Spain and Portugal.

STEM

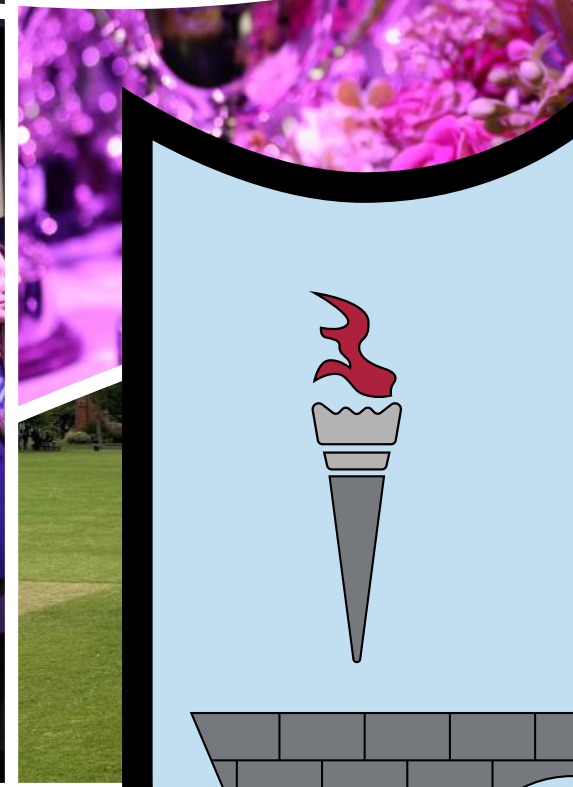
STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It encompasses a vast array of subjects that fall into each of these terms. Today's pupils are tomorrow's leaders.

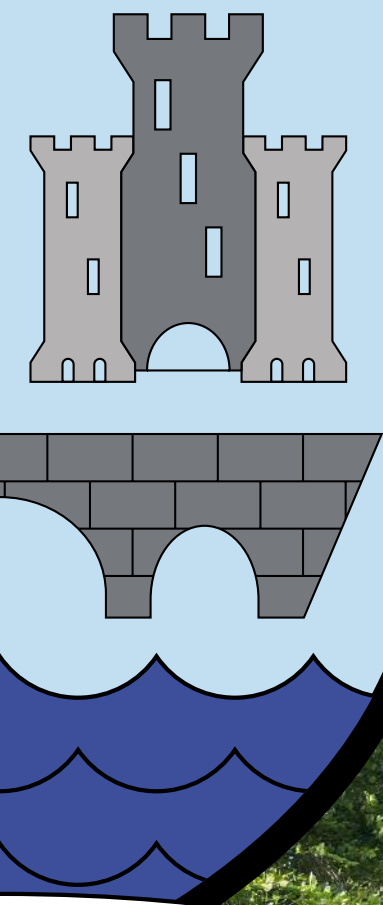
Occupations in STEM-related careers are some of the fastest growing and best paid of the 21st century, and they often have the greatest potential for growth. Our pupils are extremely curious and impressionable, so instilling an interest at an early age could spark a lasting desire to pursue a career in any of these fields. At Strabane Academy we offer a range of STEM activities for years 8-14.

Key Stage 3 Activities

- Mathematician of the Month
- Outreach workshops with the Lough agency
- Sentinus robotics programming
- Big Bang event in school
- Seagate Real World Science Conference
- Sentinus STEM Design Challenge







Academy



WELLBEING, PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT



We are proud of our caring school. We know and care for each individual pupil as a member of our school family. In Strabane Academy we work hard to foster positive relationships between all members of our school community, which includes pupils, parents and staff.

Our excellent pastoral care is at the core of all our success. Pupils can only achieve their potential if they are engulfed in a positive learning environment, feel a sense of belonging and know they have the support to succeed. When pupils commence their educational journey with us in Year 8, they will experience our pupil centred ethos. This continues throughout their post-primary school journey, leaving as well-rounded, hardworking and caring young adults ready for life and experiences outside the school environment. We are flexible in our response to the needs of our young people, with the pupil very much at the centre of all we do. Staff work as a team to provide choices and opportunities which are bespoke to pupils and their individual needs.

Our pastoral team, play a key role in supporting the development of the whole person whether it be encouraging a sense of personal accomplishment or achieving academic goals. Form Teachers play a key role in supporting each young person in their care. They are your child's school parent and work hard to develop a positive relationship while reinforcing a strong sense of school identity and belonging. Heads of Year work closely with form staff and pupils within their year group. They will oversee the wellbeing and academic progress of their year. Our pastoral structure also includes a Head of Junior school, Mr Pollock and Head of Senior School, Mr Hetherington, who work very closely with year teams to ensure pupils are encouraged and supported. Our Senior Teacher for Pupil Welfare and Support, Mrs Dunn, leads the pastoral teams and will liaise with outside agencies to provide experiences and support for our young people.

Students learn better when they feel happy and safe and are provided with a range of opportunities. The school has an experienced Child Protection and Safeguarding Team which includes Mrs. Sayers, Mrs. Aiken, Mrs. Dunn, Ms. Doherty, and Mr. Hetherington. The team are supported by Mrs. C McConnell, our Governor for Child Protection and Safeguarding. Together they work to establish a strong ethos of support and care, ensuring that every young person is in a safe and secure learning environment.

The school offers access to a private and confidential counselling service which pupils can avail of when they feel it is of benefit to them. A self-referral option, a drop-in service and a longer support package is available to all pupils in school.

Strong links are maintained with outside agencies such as the Education Welfare Service; to ensure support is ongoing for individuals who find it a challenging maintaining excellent attendance. We also access a range of practical support and workshops with a range of wellbeing support providers. This has included Aware NI, Breathe Mindfulness and Mood Matters Programmes. Initiatives supported by DSDC through OCN wellbeing programmes, Hip Psychology workshops, ASCERT, Mindwise wellbeing sessions to name a few.

Pupils have many opportunities to show leadership and develop their interpersonal skills. Pupil Voice is very much valued. This offers pupils a voice to represent their peers in key areas of school life and the opportunity to organise and contribute to key events. Leadership roles are encouraged and at all stages of school life which would include our senior prefect team.

We care, this is very much seen through our support and contributions made through our various charity activities and donations and all in support of our school community. Charities who have benefitted include Macmillan Cancer Care, Foyle Hospice, Cancer Focus Think Pink Campaign, The Korum Centre, Air Ambulance and Aware NI.

At Strabane Academy, our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors play a vital role in promoting a safe and supportive environment for all pupils. They meet regularly to plan and implement initiatives aimed at improving wellbeing within the school and the wider community. Through awareness campaigns, peer support, and positive engagement, the ambassadors work to ensure every student feels respected, valued, and empowered.

We encourage all our young people to live out our ethos of ASPIRE at every opportunity, support when needed and celebrate all that they can offer and achieve.



LEARNING SUPPORT

ASPIRE

Enjoyment - "Without the element of enjoyment, it is not worth trying to excel at anything" Magnus Carlsen - Chess Player



At Strabane Academy, we endeavour to ensure all pupils with Special Educational Needs achieve their individual potential and are fully included in the life of the school, having full access to the National Curriculum.

We work as a team to ensure that all lessons and resources are differentiated, adapted and tailored to the needs of our students. Adult support is allocated to support pupils in mainstream classes so that every child has equal access to the same learning opportunities as their peers.

Pupil progress is monitored closely and if required, necessary support is put in place to support the individual needs of the pupil by liaising with external agencies and the Education Authority. This ensures the appropriate provision is put in place to ensure each pupil achieves their full potential. We work in close collaboration with the EA Literacy Support Service, EA Maths Support Service and EA Learning Mentors.

In keeping with the SEN legislation for Northern Ireland, a SEN policy and SEN register is in place and updated regularly. The Learning Support Coordinator; Ms Doherty and the Learning Support team, including the School Learning Mentor, Learning Support Teacher; Mrs Malone, and Learning Support Assistants strive to create and maintain a nurturing environment. This builds on positive relationships with pupils and parents to raise the self-esteem and confidence to promote the development of the whole child.

Within school, the Learning Support Teacher delivers bespoke English and Maths intervention programmes which have been specifically devised to provide personalised, targeted learning to meet the needs of individual pupils. Support may be in the form of 1:1 teaching or small group work sessions, to address gaps in knowledge or misconceptions in learning.

Each child is closely monitored provided with a flexible timetable which is regularly reviewed to be responsive to the needs and wishes of each pupil. Pupils are aware that an open-door policy is operated in the learning support area where pupils can come and get help with homework or specific areas of learning that they are having difficulties with. This open-door policy in the learning support area operates before school, breaktimes and lunchtimes where children are welcome to meet friends, play games or read in a safe and inclusive environment. Pupils have the opportunity to socialise and mix with children from other classes, supervised and encouraged by support staff.







6TH FORM IMPRESSIONS



Sophie Hamilton

Bready Jubilee Primary School

After completing my GCSE's I was unsure at first if I should return to Strabane Academy and continue my academic journey or attend elsewhere. After consideration and discussion with my parents I thought that returning to Year 13 at Strabane Academy would give me personally, the best chance to develop both academically and personally.

I knew the teachers, the support system and the learning environment. This made it easier to focus on achieving my goals. Also, I wanted to continue to spend time with the friends I had made over the five years of attending Strabane Academy. I couldn't think of anything different.

I knew coming back in Year 13 would be an academic challenge for me and that I would have to push myself more than before. However, I also knew if I returned to year 13, I would have more time to focus on work and more opportunities to build relationships with my teachers who would continue to support me academically.



Reece Murphy

Strabane Controlled Primary School

When considering A levels at Strabane Academy, I found, didn't require much thought; I knew the career path I wanted to go down, and I knew that the Academy would be the best place for me to work towards this goal. Strabane Academy has an excellent team of teachers and faculty who will always do all they can to help you achieve your goals and will work hard to help you overcome any challenges you may have on your academic journey. The careers department too has been a major help in consolidating my career aspirations and helping me find a placement relevant to my chosen career goal for the job experience program starting in June.

I'd definitely urge any students to pursue A Level at Strabane Academy; the school environment is warm and welcoming, the benefits of A level are enormous, and the teachers here will always fight for your best interests.

YEAR 14 LEAVERS

ASPIRE

Initiative - "Initiative is doing the right thing without being told to" Victor Hugo - Romanticist Author



We are extremely proud of all of our pupils and bid them a fond farewell as they move on to the next stage in their lives.



Gap Year
Christopher McBride

Queen's University Belfast

Ellie Djuric - Sociology
Rhiannon Duffy - English
Alex Kennedy - Actuarial Science & Risk Management
Aimee McBride - Biomedical Science
Rachel Mealiff- Business Management with Placement
Nathan Russell - Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Rebecca Sheridan - Aerospace Engineering

Stranmillis University College

Ryan McAuley -Technology & Design with Education

Heriot-Watt University

Hannah Young - International Business Management

Liverpool John Moores University

Jamie McGarrigle - Cybersecurity
Rebecca Scott - Forensic Science

University of Manchester

Anna Oakes - Speech & Language Therapy

Newcastle University

Lauren Bell - Psychology

University College Birmingham

Stacey Killen - Physiotherapy

Nottingham University

Lauren Barnett - Occupational Therapy

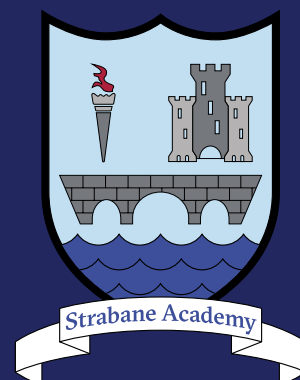
University of Ulster

Katie Atcheson - Politics and International Studies
Dylan Coyle - Marketing
Lara Doherty - Law with Criminology
Dylan Gallagher - Computer Science
Beth Gamble - Marketing
Alana Kennedy - Fine Art
Emilie Kingham - Speech & Language Therapy
Dara McGillion- Computer Science
Frank McGonagle - Mechatronic Engineering
Cormac McHugh - Computer Science
Keisha Mortland - Accounting with Education
Ava Sorrie- Politics and International Studies
Emily Thompson - Nursing (Adult)

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