

# BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE



**ST. COLM'S**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Believe & Achieve



**THIS IS  
ST. COLLEGE  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

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**RESPECT**

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**FAITH**

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**RESPONSIBILITY**

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**COMMUNITY**



**ST. COLM'S**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
Believe & Achieve

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## Contents

- 04 Principal's Welcome
- 06 Our Aims
- 07 Our Catholic Ethos
- 08 Our Values, Our Community
- 10 Our Pastoral Care Programme
- 12 Positive Behaviour
- 14 Life Beyond the Classroom
- 15 Educational Visits
- 16 School Curriculum
- 18 Year 8 Pupil Experiences
- 20 Believe and Achieve
- 21 Past Pupil Successes
- 22 Sport in St. Colm's
- 24 Beauty and the Beast
- 28 Meet the Team
- 30 Diary of a St. Colm's  
Pupil Aged 11½
- 31 Our School Uniform
- 32 Pearson National Teaching Award
- 33 The Cornstore Youth Club
- 35 My Time at the Cornstore

# WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

## Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

You are very welcome to St. Colm's High School and thank you for your interest in joining our school community.

St. Colm's has a long history of providing excellent educational experiences for the young people in the local area. We excel in public examinations; provide a wide variety of extra-curricular and enrichment activities and nurture our young people in an environment that embodies our Catholic faith.

St. Colm's has an outstanding staff; our teachers and our support staff work tirelessly to ensure all in our care fulfil their potential. We have high expectations of our young people and craft a curricular and extra-curricular programme that both extends and supports them.

We are rightly proud of our achievements many of which reflect our consistent commitment and contribution to our local community. Our Cornstore Youth Club works closely with Ballinascreen Community Forum to ensure we contribute to the planning and execution of community celebrations such as the Christmas Lights event and Ballinascreen in Bloom.

We have just staged the finale of our wonderful production of 'Beauty and the Beast', it was a huge success and we are extremely proud of all the talent in St. Colm's and their ability to work together to create magic on stage.

Our vision is Believe and Achieve and regardless of all the challenges posed over the last few years, we remain confident that we can bring our vision to life for all in St. Colm's. I look forward to welcoming you into the St. Colm's High School family in September 2025.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead', written over a light blue background.

**Sinead McAllister**  
Principal



IN ST. COLM'S WE **BELIEVE** IN OUR STUDENTS' INNATE ABILITIES AND CRAFT OUR CURRICULUM AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES TO ENSURE EVERYONE CAN **ACHIEVE**.

# OUR AIMS

To create a caring Christian community within this school where the truths and practices of our Catholic faith are taught daily, learned and experienced by all staff and pupils and in so doing, foster spiritual growth.



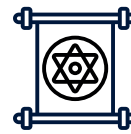
To provide a learning environment that is caring and hard-working and cherishes the nurturing and development of each individual pupil.



To develop pupils who are appreciative of their heritage, their community and their civic responsibilities.



To prepare pupils for the experiences and responsibilities of their adult lives - personal, social, cultural and working.



To foster and develop in pupils an awareness and appreciation of other denominations and cultures.



To develop parent and community partnerships in the education of the next generation.



To promote the well-being and professional development of all staff.



OUR CATHOLIC FAITH IS AT THE CENTRE OF ALL THAT WE DO. IT INFORMS AND GUIDES ALL THAT TAKES PLACE WITHIN ST. COLM'S.

## OUR CATHOLIC ETHOS

Our distinctive Catholic ethos permeates all that we do in St. Colm's. Christ's teachings are central to the experiences of students, staff, parents and the wider community. We regularly worship as a school community and invest in our young people so that they can contribute positively to their parishes.

School experiences are enriched with activities such as retreats, pilgrimages, fundraisers and all our Post-16 students engage with the John Paul II Award.

Our Catholic ethos is evident throughout the school. It is reflected in prayers in the classroom; our shared school values and a cross curricular approach to learning about and protecting our environment for the future.

We bring our Catholic ethos to life through the warm, welcoming and nurturing environment we provide for all in the St. Colm's community.

# OUR VALUES OUR COMMUNITY



ST.COLM'S IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING WE FULFIL OUR SCHOOL VALUES OF **RESPECT, FAITH, RESPONSIBILITY** AND **COMMUNITY** AND BRINGING THEM TO LIFE THROUGH OUR WORDS AND DEEDS.



The school year begins with the celebration of Harvest Mass when we unite as a community.



# OUR PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMME

The aim of Pastoral Care is to support, encourage and develop all pupils as individuals, as young people and as students.

Every teacher is responsible for Pastoral Care in every class. It is Pastoral Care policy that all pupils have continuous points of reference (i.e. Tutor & Head of Year) for advice, encouragement and trust over their years at school.

## ST. COLM'S PASTORAL CARE

**Principal**  
Miss S Mc Allister  
Deputy Designated  
Teacher for  
Child Protection

**Vice Principal**  
Mrs C A Devlin  
SENCo  
Designated Teacher  
for Child Protection

**Senior Leader**  
Miss J Conway  
Responsibility for  
Pastoral Care.  
Deputy Designated  
Teacher for  
Child Protection

**Heads of Year**

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

Year 12

Year 13/14

**Tutors**



The Head of Year is the leader of the Tutor Team.

The Head of Year is responsible, through and with the Tutor Team, for the well-being of every child in the year group.

### The personal and social development of every child –

The student's whole experience of school should continually contribute to their personal and social development. However, the relationships between pupil and Tutor and between pupil and Head of Year are especially important. Each Tutor is responsible for their tutor group under the guidance of the Head of Year.

### The academic progress of every child –

It is the Head of Year's responsibility, through the Year Team, to ensure that each child is learning as effectively as possible. Subject teachers scrutinise the results of each monthly assessment and keep the Tutor and Head of Year informed of academic achievement. They praise those doing well, assist those who are under-achieving and set targets for improvement.

### Drugs education –

The school's programme aims to educate children about prevention and protection around drugs.

### Relationships and Sexuality education –

This programme is delivered through Religious Education, Learning for Life and Work, Home Economics, Pastoral Care, Science and P.E. As a Catholic school we ensure that all issues are placed in a Christian and Catholic framework.



## YOU ARE IN SAFE HANDS AT ST. COLM'S

### The extra curricular provision for the year group as a whole –

Extra curricular activities are an essential part of a good school. The Head of Year encourages extra curricular activities in the year group.

### Cara system –

Every Year 8 pupil is given a special friend or 'Cara' from Year 12. This helps each pupil to settle in quickly and provides a feeling of security during this time of transition.



## ANTI-BULLYING

We believe that every child has the right to be free from intimidation of any kind and that every child has the duty to respect each person's property, time and point of view.

### Our Staff Will –

- Foster in our pupils, self esteem, self respect and respect for others.
- Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils.
- Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is bullied and the bully. They will also learn the importance of telling a trusted adult when it happens.
- Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying.
- Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them.
- Report suspected cases of bullying to the Head of Year.
- Follow up any complaint by a parent about bullying and report back promptly and fully on the action taken.
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively; in accordance with agreed procedures.

# POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

All aspects of discipline are in the context of pastoral care. Staff, pupils, parents and governors are consulted on the main principles of positive behaviour. Pupils learn in a secure, happy and industrious environment, conducive to effective learning and personal development.

The school expects the highest possible standards in the following areas:

- Uniform, punctuality, attendance, homework
- Co-operation in the classroom, and around the school grounds
- Self-respect and respect for others
- Participation in school events
- Order in the corridors, playgrounds, canteen, coming to and going home from school
- Respect for school and other people's property

Our school policy is to seek to be positive. Staff will endeavour to use every opportunity to encourage and praise the achievements of all pupils.

- There are monthly and annual awards for excellent attendance
- Heads of Year will seek out opportunities to celebrate success in their year group. Evidence of this will be displayed on success boards
- Positive comments, when appropriate, will be written in the Student Planner and in pupil workbooks
- We seek every opportunity to acknowledge and publicise the achievements of our pupils in school, in the local and national press
- We seek to involve all our pupils in all aspects of school life
- We are especially interested in targeting underachievement through our mentoring scheme
- We operate an incentive reward system for KS3 and KS4





**PUPILS LEARN  
IN A SECURE,  
HAPPY AND  
INDUSTRIOUS  
ENVIRONMENT**

# LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

St. Colm's creates many opportunities for pupils to develop their skills and talents outside the classroom.



## Music

We have an active choir that performs at a variety of events throughout the year. We offer tuition to students who wish to learn a musical instrument.



## Charity Fundraising

We encourage our students to actively contribute to their community through volunteering and fundraising. We support local and global charities throughout the year.



## Cultural Activities

We celebrate our cultural identity at every opportunity, with our traditional music group, Irish dancers and Irish language events.



## School Council

We are a listening school. Our School Council is elected annually and meet to discuss the needs of the pupils across all years. The council is a powerful voice for important change.



## Educational Trips and Visits

We are keen that our pupils have an opportunity to learn through field visits, practical activities and travel. Annual trips include a ski trip and a History trip to Poland. We have a new and exciting educational link with a partner school in Madrid.



## Learning in the Great Outdoors

As a Catholic school we are called to enhance and protect our environment. At every opportunity we make use of 'Susan's Trail' as an educational tool.



## Sporting Opportunities

Physical wellbeing is central to our ethos and we encourage competitive and fun sports activities at every lunchtime and through our extensive extra-curricular provision.



# EDUCATIONAL VISITS

St. Colms is a rural school with a global outlook. We love our community but also take every opportunity to seek learning in new and exciting environments.

We have the tried and tested trips: Carrickfergus Castle, Magilligan Field Centre, Balmoral Show, agricultural markets, the Jungle and many more.

the iconic Brandenburg Gates and Checkpoint Charlie. It is an extremely busy trip where you are guaranteed to hit your 10,000 steps!



Students get the opportunity to try new food, meet new people and challenge their perceptions of history. It is an extremely popular trip. We took over 50 students to France earlier this year and what a trip they had. They had a whistle stop tour visiting the Eiffel tower, troglodyte caves, Château de Chenonceau and they ended their trip on a high in the Futuroscope theme park.

Our Post-16 students have the exciting opportunity to ski! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and it is where lasting memories are made. Students ski, fall over, slide on donuts, fall over, eat pizza and quite often... fall over! It is a wonderful trip, one that many spend their school years dreaming of. History students are offered the opportunity to travel to Berlin, see



In June 2024 we set off on our first ever Camino de Santiago (the way of St. James) a walking pilgrimage leading to the shrine of the apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. It was a wonderful trip where we explored our faith, tended to our blisters, laughed and learned about our faith and our friends. This pilgrimage ensured our faith was practised, made real and grounded students in our key values of FAITH RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY and COMMUNITY.

# SCHOOL CURRICULUM

## KEY STAGE 3

### Year 8 - 10

Pupils choose from a range of both Academic and Vocational qualifications in the following subject areas

- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- Science
- English
- Irish
- French
- Geography
- ICT
- History
- Home Economics
- Technology
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education
- Learning for Life and Work
- Drama

## KEY STAGE 4

### Year 11 & 12

Pupils are required to follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum. This includes a compulsory core and a range of optional subjects.

### Compulsory Core

- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- English
- Science (Double Award)
- Science (Single Award)
- Physical Education
- Careers Guidance

### Optional Subjects

- Agriculture
- Art and Design
- Construction
- English Literature
- ICT
- Irish
- Business Studies
- Physical Education
- Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies
- Performing Arts
- Health and Social Care
- Child Development
- Technology and Design
- French
- Music
- Business and Communication Systems
- History
- Leisure and Tourism
- Geography
- Drama
- Media Studies
- Occupational Studies
- Learning for Life and Work

PREPARATION FOR  
LIFE LONG LEARNING...  
AND THE WORLD  
OF WORK





**St. Colm's**

**POST 16**  
**Year 13 & 14**

Pupils choose from a range of both Academic and Vocational qualifications in the following subject areas

- The following subjects are taught —
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Construction
- Religion
- Health and Social Care
- Sport
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Geography
- Irish
- History
- Music
- Engineering
- Chemistry
- Environmental Technology
- Psychology
- Life and Health Science
- Politics
- Performing Arts
- Music
- Spanish
- French

Some of these subjects are offered in collaboration within the Magherafelt Rural Learning Partnership.

**CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT**

**All Year Groups**

Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of subject specific educational visits across all Year Groups

- Fund raising activities supporting local and national charities
- Entrepreneurial Skills Programmes
- Subject specific competitions
- Digital Leaders
- STEM Ambassadors

**CURRICULUM PARTNERSHIPS**

**Year 13 & 14**

The pupil's interests are at the heart of everything that takes place in St. Colm's which informs and guides the core of our Curriculum provision.

**A sample of our community links —**

- Workspace
- GreenPower
- Bank of Ireland
- Learn Spark
- W5
- STEM Module
- NI Careers Service
- Young Enterprise
- Sentinus
- Gaeltacht
- Pope John Paul Award
- Work Experience
- Industry visits
- Geographical Sites
- Field trips
- Catalyst Innovation Centre



Like



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# YEAR 8 PUPIL EXPERIENCES

Some of our Year 8 pupils who transferred from local primary schools tell us about their experience of life at St. Colm's.



**Name:** Leah  
**School:** St Mary's Primary School, Draperstown

I have had a wonderful start to my journey in St. Colm's. My favourite things that I have enjoyed so far: I was part of our Musical and it was an amazing experience. I love being able to dance and sing and enjoy myself. It is so fun to learn all the dance moves. My favourite song is Be Our Guest! I also really love the dinners at St. Colm's. I love the sandwiches and cold drinks. The food makes me so excited to come to the dinner hall. We have so many different desserts to choose from and the cooks are so pleasant. I have made loads of new friends at St. Colm's. I enjoy being able to go to homework club with all my friends and it helps to get homework done when I am busy. I really love St. Colm's.

**Name:** Jonny  
**School:** Knocknagin Primary School, Desertmartin

My name is Jonny and I love my new school. I have settled in so well and my favourite part of St. Colm's is how quick you get used to this school. My favourite activity is PE in our school because we have a really good PE teacher. I absolutely love sports, especially football because I'm good at it and it is so fun. I also love HE because I love cooking and we make delicious food such as baked potatoes and banana bread and ham toasties. We are having a trip to London for history this year which I am so excited for. There is a school draw which helps our whole school community, and some lucky winners will get nice surprises for Christmas.

**Name:** Ieva  
**School:** St. Mary's, Glenview, Maghera

St. Colm's is such an amazing school! Ever since I joined, everyone has been so welcoming, and all the staff help to make every day happy and enjoyable. There are lots of clubs you can attend, including: running club, Maths clinic and homework club. At breaktime we have such tasty options although my favourite is jambons or sausage rolls. My favourite classes are Science because I enjoy doing practicals and also Library. At lunch you can walk around the 3G pitch, go to games club or to the computer suite. Overall, I enjoy St. Colm's so, so much!

ARE YOU HAPPY



W



Hi



**Name:** Katie  
**School:** St. Brigid's Primary School, Cranagh

St. Colm's is a great school. I only joined a few months ago and I am already loving it and enjoy each day with all the different and various new subjects. My favourite classes are HE because of the practical's, French because it is fun to learn a new language and Library. At dinner time there are lots of things you can do like walk the 3G pitch, participate in all kinds of sports and even a games club which is in the Library and is so much fun.

**Name:** Pearse  
**School:** St. Columb's Primary School, Desertmartin

St. Colm's is a great school which is warm and welcoming, I like the food here too! My favourite subject is PE because it keeps me fit and healthy. I also like HE because you get to cook food, we have made lots of delicious recipes and learned new skills - my personal favourite is banana bread. It is probably the best school I have ever been to!

**Name:** Cara  
**School:** St. Mary's Primary School, Draperstown

Being in St. Colm's is like living the dream! St. Colm's has really improved my confidence. My first day at St. Colm's was scary but then I found out that I was in the same class as my friends. My Tutor - Mr McGurk - is nice and helpful. My favourite class is PE right now, we are doing creative dance! The after school running club has started and we are working towards a 5K run. Our school musical, Beauty and the Beast was a 10/10 experience and I hope that we will do more in the coming years.

**Name:** Fionntan  
**School:** Gaelscoil na Speirini

St. Colm's is the best school in the whole world! It is a busy school. The teachers are excellent, kind, caring and make us all feel very special. There are a wide variety of clubs to go to where you can learn new things and bond with team members. There are so many choices at break and lunchtime. Everyone helps each other out. There are some Derry stars at our school. There are also so many exciting subjects and activities. I love doing practical's in Science, Home Economics and Technology. I am looking forward to going swimming in PE. I really recommend St. Colm's because it is an amazing school.



**Name:** Shannon  
**School:** St. Eoghan's Primary School, Moneyneany

I have loved my first term in St. Colm's, my favourite thing to do at lunch is to walk the 3G pitch and catchup with my friends. The teachers are all kind and helpful. In PE with Mrs Devlin, we have learned the 'Haka'. In HE we have made kebabs, toasties, banana bread and apple crumble. I came to St. Colm's not knowing a lot of people, now I know lots and have lots of friends.





## I BELIEVED, I ACHIEVED

Hi, I'm Bronagh a past pupil of St. Colm's High School. I am currently in my first year in Ulster University studying pharmacy.

I studied my A'Levels and GCSEs at St. Colm's and thanks to the help and guidance I received from all my teachers I achieved the grades I needed.

One of my fondest memories in St. Colm's has to be the 6th form ski trip, although I doubt my skills in skiing will get me very far, the friendships and memories will last me a lifetime!

My proudest moment was being nominated as Head Girl by my peers and my teachers. I relished the responsibilities that came with the job and it was an honour to represent the school at various events. Being Head Girl is one of my best achievements to date!

Music and Science were always a keen interest of mine, and through the help of all the staff in St. Colm's I was able to nurture this interest and grow it to the point that I am now studying a course that I love at University.

I have so many fond memories of St. Colm's and I have achieved all I dreamt of because of St. Colm's. I am proud to say I have believed and achieved!.

*Bronagh Doherty*



# PAST PUPIL SUCCESS



## Isabella Souza McLaughlin

**Global Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator**

I am a past pupil of St. Colm's High School. I studied both my GCSEs and A'Levels in St. Colm's High School, achieving Top Girl at A'Level 2018. I progressed to study in Queen's University Belfast, graduating with First Class Honours in BSc International Business with Mandarin. Following graduation, I completed a Graduate role as Student Recruitment Assistant in Queen's University Belfast, and am now Global Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator.

None of this would have been possible without the amazing support from teachers and educational staff in St. Colm's High School. I am so grateful for all the support and love having the opportunity to go back and visit with my role in Queen's, and share my experience with current students.



## Cora Rafferty

**Medical Student at QUB**

I am currently in my 4th year of Medicine at Queen's University. I studied both my GCSEs and A'Levels: Health & Social Care, Biology, Maths and Chemistry at St. Colm's and got my required grades to get into medicine. Applying for medicine with UCAT and interviews is extremely stressful, but all careers teachers had me well prepared, from my application to interviews.

Without a doubt I wouldn't have been able to achieve the grades I did without the support of teachers and staff at St. Colm's. Any extra help was never too much to ask for!



## Erin Glass

**Head of Regulatory Affairs**

My time at St. Colm's is among some of the fondest memories I have. I will never forget my time as 'Sandy' in 'Grease, The Musical' what an amazing experience to be lucky enough to have while at school!

The staff at St. Colm's gave me the confidence to ensure I reached my full potential both in and out of school.

The friendships forged between both my fellow classmates and the teachers at St. Colm's will last a lifetime. I always had a keen interest in Science and Healthcare, so after completing my A'Levels in Biology, Geography and Health and Social Care at St. Colm's, I studied Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and graduated with a First-Class Honours, with a Diploma in Professional Practice.

# SPORT IN ST. COLM'S

St. Colm's is committed to ensuring our young people are fit, healthy and can enjoy their lives to the full. Opportunities exist to become involved in the following sports:



Hurling & Camogie



Rounders



Athletics



Netball



Boys & Girls Gaelic Football



Cross Country



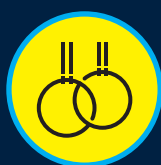
Soccer



Badminton



Handball



Gymnastics



Basketball



Table Tennis



Orienteering



Swimming



### Facilities

Our sporting facilities are second to none and include a state of the art sports hall, a fitness suite for strength and conditioning and spin bikes. We also have a flood lit 3G pitch to ensure field sports continue regardless of the weather. It is not uncommon to spot elite teams like the Derry Senior footballers training in St. Colm's. We are as proud of our sporting staff members as we are of our pupils.

Our facilities are used regularly by the local community and our Post-16 Sports Studies students and teachers provide coaching to our local Primary Schools.



### Sporting Success

St. Colm's has a long and illustrious tradition of sporting success. We continue to compete in Ulster camogie, football and hurling.



**IT WAS AN HONOUR TO WIN MY QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY FUTURE STARS AWARD ALONGSIDE ONE OF MY TEAMMATES. THE OPPORTUNITIES ST.COLM'S HAS PROVIDED FOR ME IN MY SPORTING CAREER IS SECOND TO NONE AND I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO REPRESENT THIS SCHOOL IN COMPETITIONS.**

Patrick McDaid – Queen's Future All-Star



Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**

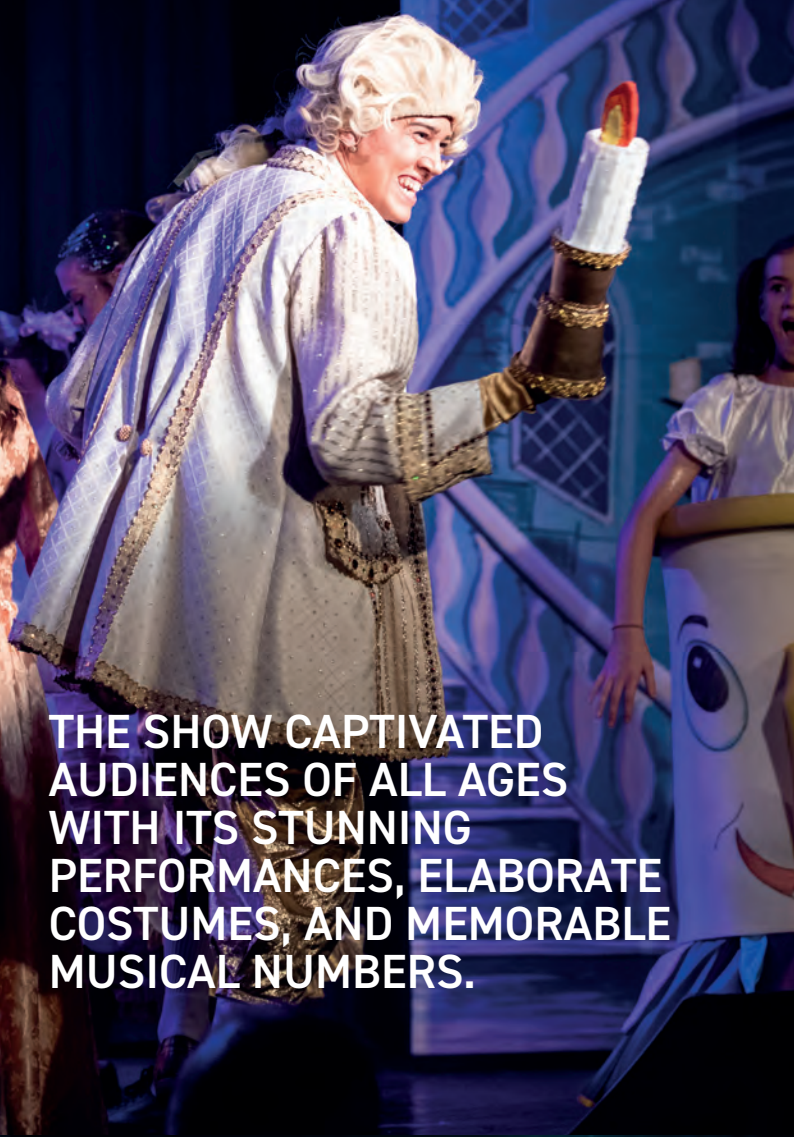
**ST. COLM'S HIGH SCHOOL BROUGHT DISNEY'S BELOVED CLASSIC "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" TO LIFE ON STAGE.**

There were stellar performances by the lead actors, Emma Doherty as Belle and Patrick McDaid as the Beast, who brought depth and emotion to their roles. Aoife McNamee took the show by storm as Mrs Potts with her lyrical rendition of the crowd favourite "Beauty and the Beast", while Jamie Trainor (Lumiere) and Katie Deery (Cogsworth) had the audience in stitches with their puns and physical humour on stage.

St. Colm's created an imaginative set design that transported the audience from a quaint French village to the Beast's mysterious castle and back again. The costumes dazzled and brought the enchanted objects to life with creativity and flair.

The show was accompanied by a full orchestra of talented student musicians who provided a rich, professional-quality soundtrack.





**THE SHOW CAPTIVATED AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES WITH ITS STUNNING PERFORMANCES, ELABORATE COSTUMES, AND MEMORABLE MUSICAL NUMBERS.**





**I'M INCREDIBLY PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS' DEDICATION AND TALENT. THEY'VE WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR MONTHS TO BRING THIS MAGICAL STORY TO OUR COMMUNITY, AND THEIR HARD WORK HAS TRULY PAID OFF.**

**EMMA YOUNG –  
SHOW CO-ORDINATOR**

**PATRICK MCDAID**  
**The Beast**

Being part of Beauty and the Beast is a once in a lifetime experience, it was phenomenal! I made so many new friends. I will miss absolutely everything about it, especially the exciting feeling of walking on stage to start another show. I have made wonderful memories and I appreciate the opportunity to take part in such a successful show.

**EMMA DOHERTY**  
**Belle**

From start to finish the experience of being in such a professional production of a much loved Disney classic was nothing short of wonderful. It is the highlight of my high school years. From the cast, to the staff, the music and the moves, I will cherish the memories made on and off the stage. I am so grateful to have been a part of St. Colm's Beauty and the Beast.



### **ADRIAN MARTIN**

#### **LeFou**

The experience of taking a lead role in the musical was even better than I expected. I made lots of new friends, we grew together during the show and our experiences and memories will bond us together. I loved my character – LeFou – perhaps we shared too many characteristics! My favourite scene was in the Tavern, Gaston (James Heron) and I worked well together. I already miss the musical and our shared experiences. I would do it all over again in the morning.

### **AOIFE MCNAMEE**

#### **Mrs Potts**

I loved every minute on the stage! It brought the cast so close, especially singing the big numbers such as Human Again. I will never forget my favourite song Beauty and the Beast, I adored singing it and I think the audience loved it too. I was nervous the first night, but I would do it all again in a heartbeat.

### **JAMES HERON**

#### **Gaston**

Beauty and the Beast has become one of my most beloved times at School. It was time well spent! Performing with friends has really strengthened my relationships and also my patience! I will never forget the memories made of the last 3 months playing Gaston.

### **JAMIE TRAINOR**

#### **Lumiere**

The musical enabled me to build new relationships and to develop existing ones. I was nervous to showcase my talents in my younger years, but St.Colm's encouraged me to take the opportunity and it is a new milestone my teenage years. I want to thank all the teachers and sponsors for the opportunities they provided to us, it could not have been achieved without their support and the community's help.

### **KATIE DEERY**

#### **Cogsworth**

The musical was such a magical experience, and I enjoyed it more than I ever thought I would. The friendships built not only on the week of the musical but during the whole process, are special ones which I know I will cherish for the rest of my life. Being up on the stage and getting out of my comfort zone was something that has developed my character and confidence.

# Our Teaching Staff

## MEET THE TEAM



IN ST. COLM'S WE ARE RIGHTLY PROUD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR PAST PUPILS. WE ARE DOUBLY PROUD OF THOSE PAST PUPILS WHO HAVE JOINED US AS STAFF!

### **Mrs Leanne Steele** History Teacher

My own history is deeply rooted in St. Colm's. As a past pupil and living within the local community, I feel a deep sense of belonging with St. Colm's. It is my school, and I am now so proud to work as a teacher here. I often talk about my time here as a pupil with my own classes; fondly remembering the changes that have taken place over the years, the staff that have come and gone. I hope that one day, my own children will also make their own little bit of History here too!

### **Miss Jacqui Conway** Religion Teacher

St. Colm's will always be a very special place for me. The community that the school builds helps each child to develop a sense of belonging and highlights all their individual strengths. I have experienced the school from many different angles; as a pupil, a teacher and as a parent. I can honestly say that St. Colm's will always be home for me.

### **Mrs Marie McKernan** Geography Teacher

My St. Colm's journey started as a year 8 student and I feel very fortunate to still be part of the St. Colm's family. I am very proud to be a past pupil and have many fond memories of my time here as a student. St. Colm's is a special place that fostered my love for learning and supported my ambition to become a teacher. It is a wonderful place for both pupils and staff.

### **Mrs Emma Young** Music Teacher

I never thought, as a pupil in St. Colm's, that one day I would return as the Music teacher. It was a nostalgic and proud moment to walk through the doors again and be welcomed into a place that taught me so many valuable lessons that I've been to carry into adulthood.

### **Mary Mc Ivor** Business Studies, Digital Technology and Religion Teacher

I am a past pupil and current teacher of Business Studies, Digital Technology and Religion at St. Colm's. I am a form tutor to a year 11 class, and I have recently taken on the leadership role of Head of Year 11 which is proven to be a fulfilling and gratifying experience. I work with a team of three other form teachers to ensure that each pupil transferring to GCSE makes a smooth transition. St. Colm's is a fantastic school with a wealth of opportunities on offer for all students. I often reminisce upon my fond memories as a pupil, and I am so proud to return as a teacher!

## Our Support Staff



### **Mrs Maria Doherty**

Learning Support Assistant

I was a past pupil in St. Colm's many years ago! Throughout my time in the school, I was extremely happy and thoroughly enjoyed being a student in such a warm and caring environment. I am currently a learning support assistant in St. Colm's and delighted to be back. It is very rewarding to see our students achieve their full potential in line with our school ethos 'Believe and Achieve'.

### **Mrs Anna Marie Mullan**

Learning Support Assistant

As a pupil, I loved St. Colm's. I will always remember the feeling of being part of a family that you can only get in a small rural school. I was delighted to rejoin the St. Colm's family as a learning support assistant. I love the interaction with the pupils; we have fun but we learn together every day. It's a great place to work!

### **Mrs Louise Toner**

Learning Support Assistant

I enjoyed my time here so much I came back as a staff member! St. Colm's is a friendly school and everyone is made to feel very welcome. We all work together as a team. We support each other to learn and to have fun!

### **Mrs Karen McGuigan**

IT Technician

It sometimes feels like I have been in St. Colm's forever! I started in 1986 as a Year 8 pupil and joined the staff in 1992. I loved school and rarely missed a day. Everyone was so friendly, and the staff were brilliant. I have worked alongside some amazing people who go beyond their duty of care. St. Colm's is a very homely school where everyone is welcome.

### **Mrs Una O'Hagan**

Learning Support Assistant

As a pupil of St. Colm's I loved the way teachers and pupils cared for each other. I was delighted to return as a learning support assistant. I enjoy the interaction with pupils and watch how their social and intellectual skills develop over the years. Obviously I love my work as I am now into my 25th year!

# My School Day

Diary of a St. Colm's Pupil Aged 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

HELLO



I'm in Year 8 in **St. Colm's High School**. I love it here, so I thought I would tell you about my day.



8.20am

## Breakfast Club

I love the days when there are sausages, it's a real treat. There is tea, toast and pancakes every day. It's only 20p, so it is a real bargain.



12 - 12.40pm

## Lunchtime

I bring my packed lunch, the canteen is great, but there is so much to do at lunch! We can play table tennis, go to the ICT suite, play soccer on the 3G pitch, swing ball in the summer and lots of other clubs and activities too!



8.50am

## Tutor

I go to my tutor's classroom every morning, we say a prayer, catch up with our friends, hear messages and take a register. It is over in a flash, but I am glad to see my Tutor, they are always kind to me.



12.40 - 1.30pm

## Period 4: French

'Bonjour', that's hello in French. French is fun, on international languages day we had crêpes (French pancakes) and a quiz too.

Time



9.10 - 10.00am

## Period 1: English

I love English (although I'm not a great speller!). Our teacher sometimes reads to us, we all love that as it is a calm way to start the day!



1.30 - 2.20pm

## Period 5: LLW

This is one of the many new subjects. It means Learning for Life and Work. We study all sorts of things including learning more about ourselves, our health and how to stay well.



10 - 10.15am

## Breaktime

We can buy hot food from the canteen or bring our own snack. There is just enough time to chat to my friends, eat something, visit the bathroom and the bell has gone for period 2.



2.20 - 3.10pm

## Period 6: Maths

I thought Maths was difficult in Primary School, it still isn't easy, but I know I can always go to Maths clinic after school if I need help.



10.15 - 11.55am

## Period 2 and 3 PE

This is one of my favourites! We are going swimming this term. It's very busy but we love it. There's always good craic on the bus and we are starving for our dinner when we get back to school.



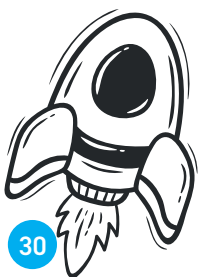
3.10pm

## HOMETIME!



The buses are all outside the school gates and teachers help you find your bus and cross the road if you need to.

Sometimes I like to get all my work done before I go home, on these days I go to Homework Club. It runs from 3.10 to 4.15 and there are teachers and learning support assistants to help.

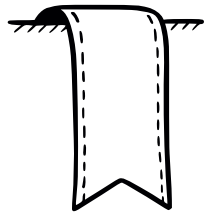


I can't wait to see you all in September!





# Our School Uniform



We wear our uniform with pride!

## Girls' Uniform

Black Blazer with School Badge  
.....

School Clip On Tie  
.....

Black Jumper (Halloween - Easter)  
.....

Light Blue Blouse  
.....

Knee Length Skirt and Tights  
.....



Black Socks  
.....

Black Low Heel Shoes



## Boys' Uniform

Black Blazer with School Badge  
.....

School Clip On Tie  
.....

Black Jumper (Halloween - Easter)  
.....

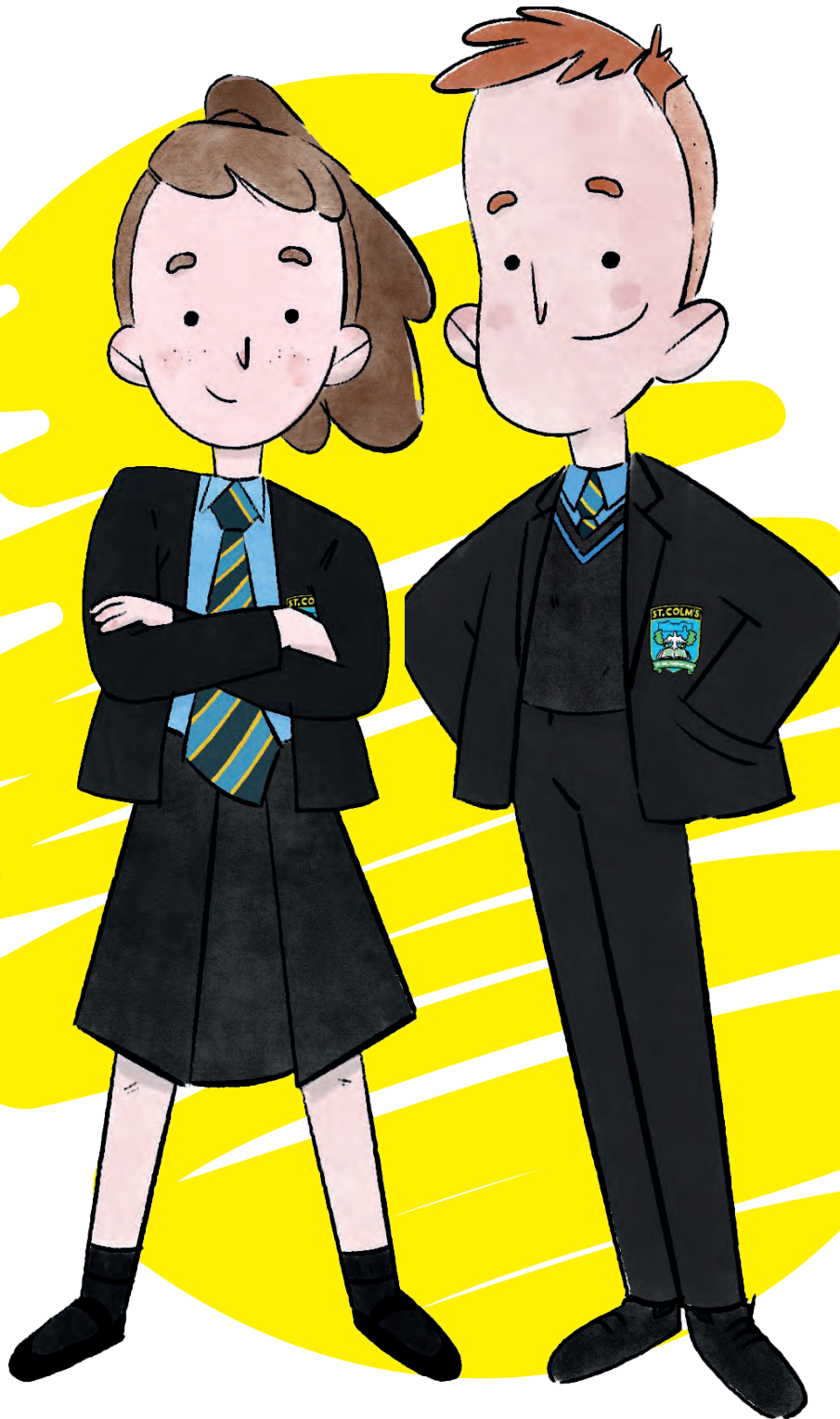
Light Blue Shirt  
.....

Black Trousers  
.....



Black Socks  
.....

Black Shoes



## Dressed for Success!





MRS MICHELLE BELAID WON A PRESTIGIOUS BRONZE AWARD IN THE 'UNSUNG HERO' CATEGORY OF THE PEARSON NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS. SHE GIVES SO MUCH TO THE ST.COLM'S COMMUNITY AND WE WERE DELIGHTED TO CELEBRATE WITH HER ON 'THANK A TEACHER DAY' IN JUNE.



*If I had a trumpet to blow or bells to ring out, then that would be wonderful. But I have only this pen and these words to celebrate your achievements, to express my admiration. So, bravo you, bravo!*

**Michael Morpurgo**  
President of the 'Teaching Awards Trust'

Sir Michael Morpurgo OBE is one of Britain's best loved children's authors. Famous for 'Private Peaceful' and 'Warhorse'

**Sean - Pupil**

'Mrs Belaid believes in us, she let us take the lead and show our ideas for the town to our local councillor.'

**Delores Murtagh - Workspace**

'Michelle is a true force of nature! You can't help but be swept along by her vision, enthusiasm and sense of fun. Everything she does is driven by what's best for the children. She is a great asset, not just to the school but for the whole community.'

**Sarah Jane - Pupil**

'My first ever flight wasn't scary at all as I was with my friends and Mrs Belaid. The trip made me feel more confident and independent.'

**Nadine - Past Pupil / Classroom Assistant**

To watch Michelle's work as a pupil and now colleague has been a privilege.'

**Chloe - Parent**

'You are a guiding light, a mentor and a true inspiration!'

**Kim - Parent**

'I can see the positive impact this wonderful project has had on my children's self-esteem and confidence. It is reassuring knowing my child has a trusted adult in their lives.'







**ST. COLM'S**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Believe & Achieve

# THE CORNSTORE

## YOUTH CLUB

ST. COLM'S IS ONE OF ONLY A FEW SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND WITH IT'S VERY OWN YOUTH CLUB, THE CORNSTORE.

CORNSTORE IS THE EPICENTRE OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF BALLINSACREEN AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

### Come and Join Us!

Monday	Yr 9 & Yr 10
Tuesday	Yr 11 & Yr 12
Wednesday	Yr 8 & P7
Thursday	P5 & P6
Time:	6.45pm - 9.15pm
Cost:	£1 per night

POOL

TABLE TENNIS

FOOTBALL

REST & RELAXATION

ON-LINE GAMING

IT ACTIVITIES

FATH GROLL

BOARD GAMES

ARTS & CRAFTS

FOOTBALL

DANCE

The Cornstore youth club opened its doors in September 2001 with a fresh-faced Michelle Magee as youth tutor and 80 members.

The last 22 years have witnessed many changes – staff have come and gone and the Cornstore has moved out of the building that gave it its name. January 2022 marked the opening of the brand new Cornstore building leased to St. Colm's by Workspace. However, one thing has remained consistent – the unwavering and constantly creative leadership of Miss Magee, now Mrs Belaid.

Cornstore is the epicentre of activities for the young people of Ballinsacreen and surrounding areas. It serves the local community, and in turn, the community has offered steady support to the leadership and membership of the Youth Club – now totalling in excess of 200!

Community links dominate the activities in the Cornstore with strong associations and projects involving Ballinascreen Community Forum, Ballinascreen Mens' Shed and Ballinascreen Fold. The work of the Youth club team has brought about the annual Christmas lights event, and it facilitates volunteering as part of the John Paul II and Duke of Edinburgh/President's awards. The Youth Club membership are currently working on a Ballinascreen in Bloom initiative.

Mrs Michelle Belaid's contribution to life in St. Colm's and the Cornstore Youth Club was recognised in 2023 with the Teacher of the Year Award as part of the Families First Awards.



#### Weekly Activities include:

- Arts and crafts
- Pool
- Fooseball
- On-line gaming
- Board games
- Table Tennis
- Rest and relaxation in the nurture room
- Football
- IT activities
- Dance
- Faith group

#### Annual Activities include:

- A health and wellbeing focus, with yoga twice a week
- Community outreach – pizza and peelers nights!
- Halloween out of town activities in conjunction with the EA Youth Service
- Eco activities – planting in the polytunnel, harvesting fruits and vegetables, creating hanging baskets, painting and repairing fencing in Susan's Trail
- Linking with the Global Leadership project leading to places on a trip to Boston in 2024
- Youth Voice membership – 3 of Cornstore's members will travel to London in February 2024





## *My Time at the Cornstore*

I am privileged to have been part of the Cornstore community over the last 6 years. The Cornstore has brought me boundless experiences, memories, and lifelong friendships. Because of this, I have developed a great interest in and passion for youth work and I see first hand the impact and benefits it brings to an individual and the community. My time as a member of the Cornstore has come to an end, yet I still choose to attend as a volunteer. I am happy to devote my time to the youth club as I want all the members to have the same experiences I am so grateful to have had.

Through the youth club I was offered the opportunity to complete my Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver awards. Mrs Belaid showed us the rugged natural beauty of her home county of Down. I can now confidently claim that I can overcome challenges, work as part of a team, and achieve goals I could only have dreamed of before joining the Cornstore. Despite the mental and physical challenges I faced in Duke of Edinburgh, it is one of the best memories I have in my life to date.

Relationships and friendships developed through the youth club are those I hold closest to my heart. From the second I walked through the green doors as a new member to this very day, Mrs Belaid has guided and supported me and allowed me to become the person I am today. She has taught me many life lessons and has proved herself to be one of the most reliable and trusted support systems in my life – in and out of school.

My experiences in the youth club have been the most enjoyable of my life. I am grateful for the unconditional love and support shown by all those involved in the Cornstore.

*Katie - Year 14*



# ST. COLM'S

HIGH SCHOOL

Believe & Achieve

**St. Colm's High School**

2 Magherafelt Road  
Draperstown  
Co Derry  
BT45 7AF

**Tel:** 028 7962 8377

**Email:** [info@stcolmshigh.draperstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stcolmshigh.draperstown.ni.sch.uk)

**Web:** [www.stcolmshigh.org.uk](http://www.stcolmshigh.org.uk)



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