



RATHMORE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Ut Vitam Habeant



PROSPECTUS
2022-2023



Make sure to visit our school website to read our school magazine 'Solas' to experience the vibrancy of school life and the breadth of experiences and opportunities offered to all our pupils.

16 Editorial

Just as the final deadline for submission of articles for the 2020 edition of Solas was within touching distance in early March, our world changed profoundly in a matter of days. Merely two weeks previously we had been enjoying our annual ski trip to Italy, when upon arrival into Milan we were checked with temperature guns by medics in full PPE. It all seemed a little surreal, excessive perhaps. Even at the end of February, we seemed oblivious as to what loomed ahead. In a year marked by transition, interruption and tragic loss of life and living, we felt it important to publish a celebration of all that we hold dear. It is perhaps a bittersweet edition - a reminder of all that we enjoyed, and possibly even took for granted, the lyrics of Jon Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi coming to mind - "Don't it always seem to go / That you don't know what you've got till it's gone". On the other hand, Solas acts as an aide memoire to the future that is hopefully again within reach, and we can begin to dream big and achieve our best again.

It's important that we thank Mrs Hamilton for all that she has done for our school community through this crisis. She was due to begin her retirement last summer and start enjoying a more relaxed pace of living. Instead, she agreed to stay on as Principal, navigating our response through these tumultuous waters. We hope that a long and hard-earned retirement is just around the corner for her.

The magazine is a timely reminder of all that our teaching and non-

teaching staff do for our students. Without their encouragement, organisation and their precious time, many of the activities celebrated herein would not exist. I know that staff too wish for brighter days, where we can get back to doing what we love - helping our young people to become the best that they can be. We must acknowledge the fantastic job that they have done pivoting to remote learning and online teaching, ensuring that our pupils do not miss out on education. I thank them sincerely for helping with so much of the content of the magazine.

I am also very grateful to Mrs Jenny Meek for her photography which is vital to the production. This year's cover is a giftling by Desmond Duffy who left in June 2020. This piece of art was auctioned off for quite a sum at our Gala Ball last February. Special thanks to our Editorial Team this year: Orla Gilligan, Aine McCann, Peter Looney, Matthew Cummings, Aine Lam, Erin Keenan, Caoimhe Ryan, Luke Duffy, Michael Graham, Pádraig Glover, Roy Maguire, Gareth and Sean Brennan who managed to write and submit much of their content remotely.

The words from Seamus Heaney in "The Sun on the Rock" captured the zeitgeist of this one out and out in the sun of our time (Moonset, by Eavan Boland) where once again we are and live it to the hilt.

Mr C. T. ...



Our Mission

Rathmore is a Catholic co-educational voluntary grammar school, founded by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, an international congregation of women religious who are called to share in the life-giving mission of Jesus Christ. The school shares the motto chosen for the congregation by its founder, Father Jean Gailhac: "Ut Vitam Habeant" (That they may have Life). The motto reflects the mission of the school which is to enrich through education the life of the people in its care and encourage them, in turn, to bring life to others.

We, in Rathmore, seek to fulfil our mission by:

- building up a school community characterised by the virtues of faith, integrity, mutual respect, justice, compassion and generosity;
- creating a caring and vibrant learning atmosphere where pupils are cherished and their spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual and physical development is fostered;
- seeking to lead pupils to a deeper, active and more personal faith and creating an environment where Christian qualities find practical expression in daily life;
- promoting academic excellence among pupils, in keeping with their individual aptitudes, and preparing them for their future role in society;
- encouraging pupils to become confident, articulate and responsible members of the community, prepared to stand up for their own beliefs while respecting the beliefs and traditions of others;
- establishing effective links with parents, local parishes and the wider community and encouraging participation in activities designed to promote the life and dignity of people, especially those who are most in need of justice.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the patroness of the school. Like her, we seek to grow in faith as we nurture the life which we are called to share.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Chairperson of the Board of Governors:
Mr John Morrissey

Principal: **Dr Arthur Donnelly**

Number of Pupils:

Enrolment Number: 1260;

Admissions Number: 180

Virtual Open Day:

The virtual Open Day and tour of the school will be available on the school website:
www.rathmoregrammarschool.org

Communication

Excellent communication channels exist between home and school. Parents are encouraged to contact the school should they have any concerns. We communicate through letter, e-mail, text, regular statements of results and full reports. Parent/Teacher meetings are held annually for each Year Group to give parents the opportunity to discuss the educational progress of their children.

School policies and the Governors' Annual Report to Parents are on the website. Hard copies are available on request from the Principal.



Meals

Meals, including free meals for pupils entitled to them, breakfasts and mid-morning snacks are provided in the school canteen. In addition, facilities are provided for pupils to consume their own lunches in school.

School Uniform

The school has a distinctive uniform which includes a school blazer. It is compulsory for all pupils to wear the uniform, including the blazer and PE uniform, which should be purchased from the official suppliers. Pupils are encouraged to present a good personal image both inside and outside school and to wear their uniform with pride, knowing that it identifies them as belonging to Rathmore.

Before pupils enter the school, their parents are issued with a copy of the relevant uniform regulations. Copies of the regulations are likewise sent out to parents each summer.

Charges for Optional Extras

The school provides a range of optional extra activities and lessons including instrumental and voice tuition, after school sports coaching and subject-related trips. Parents are required to pay for some of the optional extras. Participation in after and out of school activities is on the basis of parental choice and willingness to meet such charges as are made.

School Funds

The school invites and requests parents to make an annual voluntary contribution to the school fund, the proceeds of which are used for a variety of purposes designed to enhance our pupils' educational experience and achievement. The contribution currently requested is £120 per pupil or £180 per family where more than one member of a family attends. The school makes no distinction between pupils regardless of whether their parents contribute to the fund or not.





Pastoral Care

The school seeks to foster academic excellence while meeting the needs of individual pupils within a well structured, fully supportive Pastoral Care system designed to promote the overall development and welfare of each pupil and to ensure that pupils are protected from harm. Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life and contributes to the creation of a supportive atmosphere in the school for both teachers and pupils. A Vice Principal co-ordinates Pastoral Care throughout the school, working closely with Year Heads who have particular responsibility for the pupils in a specific Year Group and who, in turn, co-ordinate the work of the Tutors in that Year Group. Tutors and Year Heads keep in close contact with parents.

Tutor System

Each Year Group of 180 pupils is divided into Tutor Groups of about 20 pupils and each group is placed under the care of a Tutor who seeks to build up a detailed knowledge of the needs, emotional development, progress and academic attainment of each pupil in the group. Tutors are at the heart of the Pastoral Care System and liaise closely with Year Heads, Heads of Department, subject teachers and parents.

Tutors meet their groups at the beginning of each school day, four times a week for a Tutor Period and once a week for a general Assembly of the Year Group under the direction of the Year Head.

One of the four Tutor Periods is extended, lasting 40 minutes. The Tutor Period begins with prayer and is used to register pupils, to relay information and to deliver a Pastoral Care Programme designed to meet the needs of the pupils in a particular Year Group.

The following themes are included in the Pastoral Programmes from Year 8 to Year 14:

- Positive Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Internet Safety / Cyber Bullying
- Bullying Awareness
- Drug and Alcohol Education
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Social Justice Awareness Campaigns
- Study Skills

The Tutor encourages discussion and seeks to promote group identity and close relationships within the group.

Counselling

A Senior Teacher co-ordinates a counselling service within the school. It is provided by a counsellor from Family Works and an independent registered counsellor. Counselling is available to pupils at their own or at their parents' request and on the recommendation of Year Heads.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The school recognises that children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, to be kept safe from harm and given proper care by those looking after them. It has appointed Mrs U Lavery, Vice Principal, as the Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Miss C Miskelly and Mr P O'Callaghan, as the Deputy Designated Teachers.

Special Educational Needs

The school endeavours to meet the needs of all pupils and makes provision for pupils who have special educational needs, in line with the Special Educational Needs & Disability NI Order (2005), the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools (2006), the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (NI) 2016 (SENDA) and its own Special Educational Needs policy. The school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator works closely with the Vice Principal responsible for Pastoral Care in managing the school's provision.

A team of 18 Learning Support Assistants support pupils in a wide range of areas:- individual, group and whole class support. Individual Education Plans are drawn up in consultation with parents, pupils and staff for pupils with specific needs. Where appropriate, access arrangements are provided in both internal and external examinations for pupils with specific individual needs.

School facilities include signs in Braille, ramps and lifts for disabled access and individual toilet, shower and changing facilities.

A multi-purpose Resource Room provides excellent accommodation facilitating the holistic development of our pupils through a range of activities and opportunities. This area is highly utilised by our Learning Support Team and pupils throughout all Key Stages, proving invaluable for the academic progress, emotional well-being of our pupils, especially those with disappplied curricular time. Various departments also avail of the Resource Room and the enhanced environment provides a space for peer study, Chess Club, Lunchtime Games Club and Homework Club.

Positive Behaviour

The school seeks to create a positive, well-ordered environment within which each pupil feels valued and encouraged to contribute positively to his/her personal development and to the life of the school. Self-discipline and a healthy respect for others and for authority are promoted.

Code of Discipline

The Positive Behaviour Policy includes a Code of Discipline outlining expectations, rewards and sanctions which seek to encourage good behaviour on the part of pupils. Parents are issued with a copy of the Code and it is explained to and discussed with pupils on a regular basis, in particular through Tutor Meetings.

Curriculum

The school seeks to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges of adult life.

Religious Education and community prayer and worship are central to the life of the school. The spiritual, moral and social development of pupils is promoted in particular through Religious Education classes, group retreats and the Pastoral Care Programme. Particular attention is paid to promoting good cross-community relations, to responding to areas of need in the local community and in developing countries and to participating in conservation projects.

Key Stage Three

Pupils at Key Stage 3 follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum which aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives. The key objectives are:



- to develop the young person as an individual;
- to develop the young person as a contributor to society; and
- to develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment.

These objectives are to be achieved for Learning for Life and Work through Key Elements, infusing cross-curricular skills and thinking skills and personal capabilities across the Areas of Learning.

Key Stage 3	
Art and Design	Home Economics
Design and Technology	ICT
Drama	Learning for Life and Work
English	Mathematics
French plus Irish, German or Spanish	Music
General Science	Physical Education
Geography	Religious Education
History	

Pupils at Key Stage 3 study two Modern Languages, French and either German, Irish or Spanish. As well as being infused through the Areas of Learning, ICT is delivered as a discrete subject in Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10.

Key Stage Four

Core Subjects: At Key Stage 4, pupils are required to study at GCSE Level Religious Education, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, at least one Modern Language and at least one Science. All pupils at Key Stage 4 follow non-examination classes in Physical Education and Learning for Life and Work.

The Mathematics Department will select pupils, based on their performance at Key Stage 3, to study Further Mathematics at GCSE. These pupils will normally sit GCSE Mathematics at the end of Year 11 and Further Mathematics at the end of Year 12. Pupils studying only Mathematics will sit one unit at the end of Year 11 and one or two units at the end of Year 12.

Optional Subjects: In addition to their core subjects pupils are offered a choice of the following subjects:

Optional Subjects at Key Stage 4	
Art and Design	German
Biology	History
Business Studies	Irish
Chemistry	Music
Computer Science	Physical Education
Digital Technology	Physics
Drama	Science (Double Award)
Food and Nutrition	Spanish
French	Technology and Design
Geography	

Students studying History, Religious Studies and Technology will sit one unit at the end of Year 11 and then either one or two units at the end of Year 12.

In Year 12, Students studying Double Award Science will sit one unit in each Science in November and then one or two units in each Science in June. Also in Year 12, students will sit one unit in English Language in January and one unit in May/June.

Organisation of Classes

Pupils are taught in mixed-ability classes in all subjects apart from Mathematics where classes are arranged in sets at Key Stage 4 to enable pupils with greater mathematical ability to follow an accelerated GCSE programme.



As young adults who have freely chosen to pursue their studies to A level, Sixth Form pupils are invited to assume a leadership role within the school, working closely with teachers and fellow pupils in promoting a caring and vibrant learning atmosphere.

We hope that pupils will enjoy their Sixth Form years and avail of the opportunities which the school provides for them to achieve academic excellence, in keeping with their individual aptitudes, and to become more confident, articulate and responsible young adults.

Requirements for Sixth Form

To enter and remain in the Sixth Form, pupils must be able to demonstrate their ability and commitment to pursuing their studies to A level within the supportive environment of the school. Their school record must demonstrate in particular:

- respect for school rules and policies and full cooperation with school staff;
- regular and punctual attendance; overall attendance should be at least 95%;
- serious commitment to study, including independent study, under the guidance of their teachers;
- ability to cope with at least 3 A levels, as demonstrated by their GCSE results which must include at least 4 Grade Bs and 3 Grade Cs, including Grade C in English and Mathematics.

Requirements for Individual Subjects at Sixth Form

To take a subject at AS Level, pupils should have at least Grade B at GCSE in that subject or in a subject which requires similar skills. The GCSE must be the full examination and all papers must be at higher Level.

For A Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics, pupils must have a minimum of a Grade B in both units of the GCSE Science subject or a minimum of a Grade B in all units of Double Award Science. For



Physics, pupils should also have Grade B in Mathematics which includes the M8 paper. It is an advantage to have studied GCSE Further Mathematics.

For Mathematics, pupils should also have a Grade C in Further Mathematics or Grade A in Mathematics which includes the M8 paper. Pupils who have not studied GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12 must study it in Year 13.

To take a subject at A2 level, pupils should have at least Grade C at AS level in that subject. To proceed from Lower 6 to Upper 6 pupils, should have at least 3 Grade Cs at AS level.

Core Curriculum in Sixth Form

All Sixth Form pupils take a school designed course in Religious Education, Careers and participate in an Enrichment Programme. Students study a minimum of 3 subjects chosen from the following:

A Level Options	
Applied Health and Social Care	Government and Politics
Art and Design	History
Biology	Irish
Business Studies	Mathematics
Chemistry	Moving Image Arts
Computer Science	Music
Digital Technology	Physical Education
Drama and Theatre Studies	Physics
English Literature	Religious Studies
French	Sociology
Further Mathematics	Spanish
Geography	Technology and Design
German	

Choices within the Curriculum

Where there is an element of choice within the curriculum, for example, the second modern language in Year 8, subjects for GCSE and A/AS level, the school endeavours to accommodate pupils but may not be able to give them their first choice because of factors such as timetable and budgetary constraints, regulations regarding class sizes and teachers' expertise.



Homework

Homework is central to the learning process of the pupil. It extends and consolidates classroom learning and encourages pupils to develop independent research and study skills. For homework to be effective, an active partnership between pupils, teachers and parents is necessary. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on the feedback given by their teachers and to take the necessary steps to improve their learning.

Parents are asked to take a keen interest in their child's homework and to ensure that it is done in an environment suitable for study. A reasonable amount of time should be spent on homework and private study each evening and at weekends. Times recommended range from 1 hour per day for Year 8 pupils to 3 hours for Sixth Form pupils. When homework is completed within the recommended time, pupils should devote the remainder of the time to private study.

Homework club offers academic support for Key Stage 3 & 4 pupils from 3:30pm – 5:00pm Monday – Thursday, under the guidance of our Sixth Form Mentors and Learning Support Staff.

The library is open to Sixth Form Monday to Thursday until 6.00pm and on Friday to 4.30pm.

School Council

The School Council in Rathmore provides a meaningful way in which students can voice their opinions and views and have a real say in decisions that affect them. The School Council provides a representative structure through which students can debate issues of concern and undertake initiatives of benefit to the school and the wider community.



The School Council allows students to develop skills and qualities in leadership roles, involving them in meaningful ways both in and beyond the classroom. It provides opportunities for students to demonstrate their talents and interests while continuing to develop new skills.

Representatives from each Year Group meet with a Sixth Form Communication Officer on a monthly basis to present feedback from their Tutor Group on a whole range of issues and each term the School Council meets with Mrs Hamilton and the Senior Leadership Team. The School Council liaises with the Student Body to contribute to school policy.



Religious Education

We are a Catholic school where our pupils are encouraged to participate fully in the Religious Education programme and practice of the faith. We warmly welcome pupils from other faith groups and value the richness and breadth they bring to our school community.

The school endeavours to lead pupils to a deeper, active and more personal faith and to create an atmosphere where Christian qualities find practical expression in daily life. Throughout the year, opportunities are created for pupils to experience prayer and to participate in the sacraments and in paraliturgies, especially during the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Pupils in Years 8 to 10 have an annual one day retreat, an opportunity to further develop their faith and understanding of God. During Advent and Lent there is a whole school response to communities in need both locally and abroad.

The Religious Education programme, Fully Alive, followed by pupils in Years 8 to 10, is a continuation and development of the Catholic primary school programme. It includes elements of doctrine, morals, liturgy, sacraments, prayer and major world religions. Year 11 and 12 pupils follow the CCEA GCSE Religious Studies syllabus which involves the study of Sacred Scripture and the chief tenets of Christian belief and ethical practice. They sit one unit at the end of Year Eleven and one unit at the end of Year Twelve. The school-designed Sixth Form programme provides pupils with opportunities to reflect on their own faith experience and the demands of Christian living in contemporary society. In addition, pupils who take Religious Studies to A/VAS level follow the CCEA syllabus which includes options on the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics, with special reference to Medical Ethics.

Sport

Sports facilities include a Sports Hall, Gymnasium, state of the art fitness suite, a full size Gaelic Football pitch, a regulation Football pitch and a smaller junior Gaelic Football pitch, two synthetic pitches, the larger of which is flood lit, six Tennis Courts, two outdoor Basketball Courts, two outdoor Netball Courts, a polymeric running track, Long Jump pit and general games area. The school also makes use of the local Leisure Centres for Swimming and the local parks for Orienteering.

Participation in a wide variety of sporting activities is central to life at Rathmore Grammar School. Students are taught a range of physical skills as well as communication, teamwork, time management, organisation, leadership and resilience. They are taught that frequent physical activity isn't just good for their bodies; it's good for their minds too. The Physical Education Department strongly believes that sport has many physical, psychological and social benefits for children. They believe that sport goes beyond learning new physical skills. Sport helps children develop better ways to cope with the highs and lows of life. It also gives children the opportunity to make new friends and build better friendships. It can give children a sense of belonging.

All students in Year 8 –12 take part in Physical Education classes as part of their statutory curriculum and there is also the opportunity to take part in enrichment PE in Sixth Form. There are opportunities for the students to take part in extracurricular sporting activities. The activities on offer include Cross-country, Basketball (Boys & Girls), Netball, Gaelic Football (Boys & Girls), Football (Boys & Girls), Hurling and Camogie. Pupils also have the opportunity to represent the school in Swimming, Athletics and Waterpolo. The benefits and experiences gained by students through their involvement in sport is invaluable and creates many memories. The school also offers GCSE and A Level Physical Education. There are currently two classes at GCSE, AS and A2 level.



The Physical Education and Games staff endeavour to facilitate students in all sports and activities. Physical Education staff work closely with our gifted and talented athletes to ensure pupils are recognised for their achievements and ability within their sport. They are fully supportive of our students and encourage them to represent the school at all opportunities and events during their time at Rathmore.

Sport

Students are encouraged to develop their creative and expressive talents through individual activities such as Athletics, Cross-Country, Dance, Outdoor Pursuits, Gymnastics, Boxing, Martial Arts and Swimming. They are also afforded opportunities to pursue certified coaching and officiating qualifications in Gaelic Games and Football to boost their records of achievement.

They also have opportunities to work with primary partners in developing sports-based programmes and coaching sessions.

The appreciation and love of all local games and activities such as Gaelic Football, Netball, Football, Hurling, Basketball, Athletics, Camogie and Ladies Football are the cornerstones on which our PE and Extracurricular Programme is founded. Various teams representing the school have brought local and national success to Rathmore Grammar School. The PE and Games staff endeavour to facilitate students in all sports and activities. PE staff work closely with our gifted and talented athletes to ensure pupils are recognised for their achievements and ability within their sport. They are fully supportive of our students and fully encourage them to represent the school at all opportunities and events during their time at Rathmore.





The Music Department is a bustling and exciting place at Rathmore, where students of all ages and abilities are encouraged to strive for musical excellence. Housed within a modern, bespoke building comprising large classroom spaces, a recording studio and a suite of practice rooms, the department offers a breadth of both curricular and extra-curricular experiences for the pupils.

All students study Music at KS3, gaining opportunities to develop their musical knowledge and skills through a variety of different media. At KS4/5, the department has maintained a successful performance rate at both GCSE and A Level. In addition to this, around a quarter of all pupils receive instrumental and vocal musical tuition each week. Year 8 pupils are given opportunities to either continue lessons in an instrument/voice or to take something up for the first time.

A diverse programme of extra-curricular activities operates each week for our students to engage in. The musical, aural, technical and social skills gained from group performance truly advance our pupils' playing and enjoyment of music. Currently, our weekly provision includes three choirs, a senior orchestra, a junior orchestra, a concert band, an Irish traditional group, a guitar club, a music theory class and a host of smaller chamber ensembles.

Providing musical opportunities and platforms for our students to gain experience is central to our aims and you will find our current pupils performing in both school events and external competitions. The school has also been represented in many prestigious musical institutions, including the Ulster Youth Orchestra, Ulster Youth Choir, City of Belfast Youth Orchestra and St. Peter's Cathedral Schola Cantorum. We also hold a long-established association with the City of Belfast School of Music where a large number of our pupils are members. We are very proud of the many Rathmore students who have gone on to study Music at universities and conservatoires throughout Ireland, the UK and internationally. Many are now established professionals in the fields of musical education and performance or following career paths in the areas of Music Technology / Production.



Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The CEIAG programme is a key element in the curriculum provision across all key stages. In Years 8-12 the Careers Programme is delivered through Learning for Life and Work and in Sixth Form it is delivered through the Pastoral Programme and Careers classes. In addition, Careers guidance is provided by specialist teachers and outside agents who give pupils opportunities to discuss their aptitudes and interests and obtain advice on possible career paths and make informed choices of subjects at GCSE, AS and A level and of courses in Further and Higher Education. All pupils have equal access to opportunities in CEIAG regardless of aptitude, ability or gender.

Close partnership with parents, employers, Institutes of Further and Higher Education and the Department of Employment and Learning is fostered. The Careers Programme includes:

- Working closely with the Careers Service NI;
- A biennial Careers Taster Event Evening;
- Lower and Upper Six careers classes covering Work Shadow, university/career preparation and interview skills;
- Careers information mornings for Years 10,12 and Lower Sixth;
- Careers interviews for Years 10, 12 and Lower Sixth accompanied by their parents;
- Virtual Work Shadowing experience for Year 11, 12 and 13;
- Work Experience in Germany for L6 pupils studying German;
- Year 11 "Take your son/daughter" to work scheme;
- Work with Eye 4 Education;
- Engineering, Law and Medical symposia;
- Business Insight and Interview Skills SENTINUS programmes, Engineering and Medical Symposia, the Engineering Education Scheme and the Insight into Engineering Programme;
- Talks by Admissions Tutors from local, Southern, English and Scottish Universities and Institutes of Further and Higher Education;
- An Interview Skills day for Upper 6 pupils involving Mock Interviews, Aptitude Testing and group activities with representatives from commerce, education and the professions;
- Mock interviews for all Oxbridge candidates;
- Residentials at Cambridge and Oxford Summer Schools in July
- Mock MMIs for Medical, Dentistry, Nursing, Midwifery and Veterinary applicants
- Mock interviews for U6 applying to teaching
- Subject information morning for Year 10 and Year 12 to inform subject choices.
- Miniversity Week for Year 9 in June.
- Engineering workshops throughout each year group.
- Virtual Careers Taster event.

Enrichment Activities

Pupils throughout the school are encouraged to participate in enrichment activities which enhance their school experience, including:

Religious Education, Social Awareness and Cross Community Links

Blood Transfusion Service, Catholic Caring, Eucharistic Adoration, fund raising for Friends of the Cancer Centre, Trócaire, Pope John-Paul II Awards, the Pro-Life Movement, Rosary Prayer Group, singing carols at local nursing home, visits to Christian and other religious places of prayer and worship, Faith Talks, and Advent and Lenten morning services of reflection.

Learning For Life and Work

Young Enterprise workshops for Years 8-11, Young Enterprise 'Tenner Challenge' for Year 10, Student Investor Challenge, talks on entrepreneurship, Love for Life for Years 9, 11 and 14; Youth and Philanthropy for Year 9 with all students developing links with local charities and winners going to an awards ceremony in London.

English, Communication Skills

Library promotion events including visits by writers, story-tellers, Library Club, DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), Kids' Lit Quiz, Public Speaking and Debating, Writer's Mini-Residency, World Book Week, Bar Mock Trials, school magazine, visits to the theatre, visits to the Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Creative Writing Club and writing competitions.





STEM-related Activities

Year 8 STEM Club, Chemistry at Work Exhibitions, Sentinus Engineering Futures Programme, Insight into Engineering Programme for Boys and Girls, Arkwright Scholarships, Sentinus visits, EcoSchools, Laura Lundy (QUB) and the UN Special Rapporteur, Forensic Science Day, STEM Workshops (Eye4Education), STEM Quiz in conjunction with Titanic Belfast, Famous Scientists and STEM Careers Poster competitions, Maths, Science and IT clubs, Code Club, BEBRIS International Computing Challenge, Mathematics Challenge, TEAM Mathematics Challenge, Pi Day, Junior and Senior Maths Support, Future Chef, Cookery Club, Whizz Kids Cookery Competition, visits by professional chefs, visits by staff from CAFRE College, competitions run by Safe Food and Future Chef).



Enrichment Activities

Enrichment Activities

Creative & Expressive Studies

Art competitions, True Colours Exhibition, RUA Exhibition, Year 8 Ceramics Club, Figure Drawing, painting scenery and props in support of dramatic and musical productions, visual displays to illuminate events throughout the school year. Drama trip to London and Dublin, lunch-time theatre, visits to museums and theatres. Irish Dancing Group, Senior and Junior Irish Traditional Music Groups, Senior and Junior Choirs, Girls Choir and Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Senior Strings and Junior Orchestra, Concert Band, String ensembles, Guitar Club, Clarinet/Saxophone Group, Brass ensembles, Music Festivals, annual concerts, Musical Productions, Spring Concert, Music Trips to London, Ulster Orchestra Concert Trips, and Instrumental and Vocal Tuition available at School for: Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tenor Horn, Saxophone, and Drum Kit, Electric Guitar and Bass, Acoustic Guitar, Tin Whistle, Fiddle, Classical, Pop and Musical Theatre singing.





Environment and Society

History, Politics and Sociology conferences, Politics Society, Opening of the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute (QUB), subsequent visits to listen to key political leaders including Former US President, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair. Youth in Government Programme, Eurovoice, Mock European Council. History trips to Dublin, Berlin, Munich, France/Belgium. Mini Enterprise, Stock Market Challenge, Young Enterprise, site visits to local industry (Business Studies). Geographical Association Lecture Programme (QUB), Geological Association competition in London, Geo-club, Worldwide Geography Quiz. Sociology trips to Crumlin Road Gaol as part of A2 Criminology module.

Language Studies

A close link with our partner school Nicolaus-Cusanus-Gymnasium in Bonn. Work Experience in Bonn. KS3 visits to France, Germany, Spain and Gaeltacht areas of Donegal. Attendance at plays and seminars, AILLO, Oxford and Cambridge Summer Schools, Juvenes Translatores Competition, participation in inter-schools debates and quizzes in the foreign language, and lunchtime clubs.

Enrichment Activities for Lower Sixth

In September 2019 we launched our Enrichment Initiative for Lower 6 pupils, the aim of which was to give pupils the opportunity to step away from the rigour and pressure of A levels/A level study and to choose one activity, from a range of choices, that they would do for the sheer pleasure of doing it. Pupils have been given the opportunity to spend time with each other, as well as promoting their emotional and physical wellbeing. The programme of activities includes Conversational French, German, Irish or Spanish, Couch to 5k, Fitness Training, Games, Mindfulness, Reading for Pleasure, Recreational Art, Walking, Voluntary Work in a local school and Yoga with Meditation.

Enrichment Activities

School Bus Routes

Mornings

Crumlin	07.35	Crumlin Main Street, Glenavy Main Street (07.41), Filterbeds (07.51), Sheepwalk Road (07.54)
Crumlin	07.55	Crumlin Main Street, Glenavy Main Street (08.10), Filterbeds (08.10), Ballymacash (08.30), Lisburn – North Feeder Road (08.35) <i>Last pick-up Filterbeds</i>
Glenavy	08.00	Glenavy Main Street (08.00), Filterbeds (08.05), Lisburn Rail Station (8.20)
Lisburn	08.05	Rushmere Park, Ballinderry Road (08.07), Lisburn Rail Station (08.10), Lisburn Park Gates (08.15), Lambeg, (08.18) Bell's Lane 08.20), Drumbeg Corner (08.25)
Lisburn	08.15	Murphy's Petrol Stn (Pond Park), Prospect Park (08.17), Ballymacash Road (08.20), Lisburn Rail Station (08.25), Belsize Road (08.30) <i>Last pick-up Lisburn Rail Station</i>
Moira	07.50	Moira Main Street, Flatfield (08.00), Culcavy Crossroads (08.05), Lisburn Bus Centre (08.25), Belsize Road (08.30), Milltown (08.35)
Lisburn	08.25	Lisburn Park Gates, Belsize Road (08.30), Milltown (08.35)
Falls Road/ Black's Road	08.05	Europa Bus Centre, Falls Road (08.08), Black's Road (08.20)
Malone	08.15	Europa Bus Centre, Malone Road, Balmoral Avenue/Malone Road Junction (08.20), Finaghy Road South (08.30) <i>Last pick-up Stranmillis Junction</i>
Malone (08.35)	08.25	Myrtlefield Park, Finaghy Road South
Twinbrook	08.10	Twinbrook Estate, Bellsteele Road (08.15), Black's Road (08.20)
Knockbreda/ Forestsides	07.25	Comber Cemetery, Railway Street (07.29), East Link Road (07.32), Knock Road (07.37), Castlereagh Road (07.45), Knockbreda Road (07.55), Forestside (08.04), Milltown Road (08.07), Upper Malone Road (08.12), Finaghy Road South (08.16)

Afternoons

Crumlin	15.40	Dunmurry Lane (15.45), Ballymacash Road (15.50) Filterbeds (15.55), Glenavy – Main Street (16.00), Crumlin – Main Street (16.10), Antrim Bus Centre (16.36) <i>First stop Filterbeds</i>
Crumlin	15.40	Black's Road (15.45), Ballymacash Crossroads (15.55), Glenavy – Mains Street (16.15), Crumlin – Main Street (16.20) <i>First stop Glenavy</i>
Belsize	15.40	Black's Road (15.42), Dunmurry By Pass (15.45), Milltown (15.50), Lisburn – Belsize Road (15.55), Lisburn – Bus Centre (16.00) <i>First stop Milltown</i>
Drumbeg	15.40	Finaghy Road South (15.45), Upper Malone Road (15.50), Drumbeg Corner (15.55) <i>First stop Upper Malone Road</i>
Flatfield / Moira	15.40	Black's Road (15.42), Dunmurry By Pass (15.44), Lisburn – Bus Centre (16.05), Flatfield (16.20), Moira Main Street (16.30) <i>First stop Lisburn Bus Centre</i>
Falls Road	15.40	Upper Dunmurry Lane (15.44), Suffolk (15.46), Falls Road (16.00), Europa Bus Centre (16.10)
Falls Road (16.00),	15.40	Falls Road (15.50), Grosvenor Road Europa Bus Centre (16.14)
Twinbrook	15.40	Upper Dunmurry Lane (15.42), Suffolk (15.44), Bellsteele Road (15.46), Twinkbrook Estate (15.48), Summerhill Road (15.50)
Malone	15.40	Finaghy Road South (15.40), House of Sport (15.50), Malone Road 15.55, Europa Buss Centre (16.15) <i>First stop Stranmillis Junction</i>
Rosetta	15.40	Kings Hall (15.48), Balmoral Avenue (15.50), Stranmillis (15.52), Ormeau Bridge (15.57), Ormeau Road (16.00) Rosetta (16.15) <i>First stop Balmoral Avenue</i>

All of the buses, except the Ormeau Road morning buses, are operated by Translink exclusively for Rathmore. These buses set pupils down and collect them within the school grounds. Pupils may also travel by public bus. Public bus routes, however, are not listed here.

Examination Results

2020-21

GCSE - overall

5 A* - C

7 A* - C

7 A* - B

98.9%

97.8%

81.0%

GCSE - gender

5 A* - C

7 A* - C

7 A* - B

M

F

M

F

M

F

98.2%

100%

96.4%

100%

73.9%

91.8%

10 A*/A

44 Pupils

9 A*/A

27 Pupils

A2 - overall

2 A* - E

3 A* - E

3 A* - C

100%

100%

96.5%

A2 - gender

2 A* - E

3 A* - E

3 A* - C

M

F

M

F

M

F

100%

100%

100%

100%

95.4%

98.4%

4 A*

5 Pupils

4 A*/A

13 Pupils

3+ A*/A

64 Pupils

GCSE - overall

5 A* - C

7 A* - C

7 A* - B

100%

99.5%

82.0%

GCSE - gender

5 A* - C

7 A* - C

7 A* - B

M

F

M

F

M

F

100%

100%

99%

100%

76%

90%

10 A*/A

50 Pupils

9 A*/A

29 Pupils

2019-20

A2 - overall

2 A* - E

3 A* - E

3 A* - C

100%

100%

100%

A2 - gender

2 A* - E

3 A* - E

3 A* - C

M

F

M

F

M

F

100%

100%

100%

100%

100%

100%

4 A*

13 Pupils

4 A*/A

3 Pupils

3+ A*/A

57 Pupils

Examination Results

GCSE Results by Subject

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2020-21

Students	All Students %	Male %	Female %
Achieving 5+ A*-C	98.9	98.2	100
Achieving 7+ A*-C	97.8	96.4	100
Achieving 7+ A*-B	81.0	73.9	91.8

GCSE Results by Subject

Subject	Number Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades							
		A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	G
Art & Design	33	12	17	2	1	1	0	0	0
Biology	42	7	18	10	6	1	0	0	0
Business Studies	24	9	10	3	2	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	18	7	8	2	1	0	0	0	0
Computer Studies	37	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
Double Award Science	131	50	40	24	12	5	0	0	0
Drama	20	9	6	3	2	0	0	0	0
English Language	184	51	56	50	19	8	0	0	0
English Literature	181	49	68	38	10	13	3	0	0
French	54	24	12	10	4	3	1	0	0
Geography	78	32	28	9	4	3	2	0	0
German	26	8	9	6	2	1	0	0	0
History	68	24	20	14	7	2	0	0	1
Home Economics	22	7	6	5	2	2	0	0	0
Irish	26	6	5	4	8	3	0	0	0
Further Maths	95	35	45	7	5	2	1	0	0
Mathematics	90	6	49	29	2	4	0	0	0
Music	15	3	6	3	1	1	0	1	0
Physics	23	10	6	5	2	0	0	0	0
Religious Studies	184	62	77	29	5	8	1	2	0
Spanish	86	32	21	17	7	9	0	0	0
Sports Studies	39	19	14	1	2	1	2	0	0
Technology & Design	36	6	14	11	3	1	1	0	0

A Level Results Summary

	All Students %	Male %	Female %
achieving 3+ *-C	96.5	95.4	98.4
achieving 3+ A* - E	100	100	100

A Level Results by Subject

Subject	Number Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Biology	43	13	13	13	3	0	1	0
Business Studies	27	5	13	7	2	0	0	0
Chemistry	37	15	12	6	3	1	0	0
Computer Studies	13	3	4	5	1	0	0	0
D&T Product Design	14	3	5	5	1	0	0	0
Drama	11	4	7	0	0	0	0	0
English Literature	13	4	4	3	1	1	0	0
French	10	3	5	2	0	0	0	0
Geography	35	8	12	11	2	2	0	0
German	8	4	1	3	0	0	0	0
Health & Social Care	12	0	6	5	1	0	0	0
History	29	6	11	9	3	0	0	0
IT	17	4	6	4	3	0	0	0
Irish	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Further Maths	10	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	83	26	40	11	6	0	0	0
Physics	30	11	14	5	0	0	0	0
Politics	13	2	4	5	2	0	0	0
Religious Studies	63	14	24	14	11	0	0	0
Sociology	21	4	9	5	3	0	0	0
Spanish	10	0	7	3	0	0	0	0
Sport/PE Studies	20	6	8	4	2	0	0	0

Examination Results

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2019-20

Students	All Students %	Male %	Female %
Achieving 5+ A*-C	100	100	100
Achieving 5+ A*-C	98.9	99	100
Achieving 5+ A*-C	82	76	90

GCSE Results by Subject

Subject	Number Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades						
		A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E
Art & Design	36	8	16	4	3	5	0	0
Biology	38	7	10	9	6	6	0	0
Business Studies	28	7	11	7	1	1	1	0
Chemistry	23	9	6	7	1	0	0	0
Computer Studies	37	6	18	7	6	0	0	0
Design & Technology	46	10	18	13	5	0	0	0
Drama	19	12	4	3	0	0	0	0
English Language	185	61	61	37	17	9	0	0
English Literature	180	57	55	36	17	15	0	0
French	57	22	14	13	2	4	2	0
Geography	56	25	18	9	2	2	0	0
German	27	10	7	4	3	2	1	0
History	52	20	20	10	2	0	0	0
Home Economics	27	2	12	7	4	2	0	0
IT	13	2	6	3	0	2	0	0
Irish	18	5	5	4	1	3	0	0
Further Maths	83	4	41	26	8	4	0	0
Mathematics	100	33	35	21	5	5	1	0
Music	10	4	4	1	0	1	0	0
Physics	27	11	10	4	0	2	0	0
Religious Studies	185	97	60	17	6	4	1	0
Science DA 1	136	66	33	22	10	5	0	0
Science DA 2	136	43	43	27	13	10	0	0
Spanish	97	33	27	22	7	8	0	0
Sports Studies	35	15	13	4	2	1	0	0

A Level Results Summary

	All Students %	Male %	Female %
achieving 3+ *-C	100	100	100
achieving 3+ A* - E	100	100	100

A Level Results by Subject

Subject	Number Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	18	5	6	7	0	0	0	0
Biology	43	13	15	10	5	0	0	0
Business Studies	33	11	13	9	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	36	15	18	3	0	0	0	0
Computer Studies	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
D&T Product Design	10	2	5	3	0	0	0	0
Drama	13	6	6	1	0	0	0	0
English Literature	32	7	12	9	4	0	0	0
French	8	2	4	1	1	0	0	0
Geography	24	5	11	7	1	0	0	0
German	9	4	2	3	0	0	0	0
Health & Social Care	6	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
History	23	5	7	7	4	0	0	0
IT	17	3	5	5	4	0	0	0
Irish	8	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
Further Maths	14	13	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	73	24	33	13	3	0	0	0
Moving Image Art	5	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Music	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Physics	22	10	9	3	0	0	0	0
Politics	11	4	1	6	0	0	0	0
Religious Studies	41	13	16	11	1	0	0	0
Sociology	21	4	7	8	2	0	0	0
Spanish	17	5	7	5	0	0	0	0
Sport/PE Studies	20	4	5	9	2	0	0	0

Leavers' Destinations

Queen's University Belfast	Product Design	Trinity College Dublin	English
Manchester University	Astro Physics	Queen's University Belfast	Computer Science
Birmingham University	Accounts	Queen's University Belfast	Pharmacy
University of Manchester	Medicine	Queen's University Belfast	International Business & German
Queen's University Belfast	Chemical Engineering	Queen's University Belfast	Bio Chemistry
Queen's University Belfast	Business Management	University of Aberdeen	Law
Belfast Met	Foundation Pharmacy	University of Manchester	English
Belfast Met	Art & Design	Queen's University Belfast	Medicine (2022)
Trinity College Dublin	Engineering	Swansea University	Aerospace Engineering
Ulster University	Law & Accountancy	Queen's University Belfast	Civil Engineering
Queen's University Belfast	Psychology	Trinity College Dublin	Computer Science
Liverpool University	Medicine	Ulster University	Psychology
Queen's University Belfast	Geography	Queen's University Belfast	Medicine
Liverpool University	Business & Accountancy	Queen's University Belfast	Environmental Sciences
Queen's University Belfast	Geography	Queen's University Belfast	Film Production
Liverpool University	Engineering	Queen's University Belfast	Business Studies
Glasgow University	English Literature (2022)	University of Durham	English
Queen's University Belfast	Finance	Queen's University Belfast	Criminology
Queen's University Belfast	Mathematics	University of Manchester	Physics
Queen's University Belfast	Environmental Management	Queen's University Belfast	Medicine
Ulster University	Game Design	Edinburgh University	French & German
Queen's University Belfast	Mechanical Engineering	Queen's University Belfast	Finance
Salford University	Audio Masters Degree	Queen's University Belfast	Architecture
Ulster University	Construction Engineering	Queen's University Belfast	Biomedical Chemistry
Ulster University	Law and Politics	Queen's University Belfast	Music & Audio Production
UCD	Commerce	Cambridge University	Medicine
Belfast Met	Music Production	Queen's University Belfast	Law
Queen's University Belfast	Geography	Ulster University	Sports Science
Queen's University Belfast	Criminology / Social Policy	Ulster University	Computer Design
Queen's University Belfast	English Literature	Queen's University Belfast	Mathematics & Computer Science
Queen's University Belfast	Law & French	St Mary's University College	History
Manchester University	Physics & Maths	St Mary's University College	Liberal Arts & RE
University Ulster	Apprentice in Business (PWC)	University of Ohio	Criminal Justice - Golf Scholarship
Queen's University Belfast	Business	University of Dundee	International Business
Belfast Met	Construction	Trinity College Dublin	Law
Queen's University Belfast	International relations & Conflict	SERC	BTEC
Queen's University Belfast	Business & Economics	Queen's University Belfast	Nursing
Queen's University Belfast	Astro Physics	Queen's University Belfast	Electrical Engineering
Queen's University Belfast	Business Management	Queen's University Belfast	Business and Finance
Queen's University Belfast	Law	Queen's University Belfast	Midwifery (2022)
Queen's University Belfast	Medicine	Queen's University Belfast	Business & German
Queen's University Belfast	Law	Ulster University	Law
Queen's University Belfast	Medicine	Queen's University Belfast	Medicine
Queen's University Belfast	Mathematics	Belfast Met	Biological Sciences (Foundation)
Queen's University Belfast	Business Management	Queen's University Belfast	Software Engineering
University of Glasgow	Business Management	Ulster University	Law
Queen's University Belfast	Medicine	Queen's University Belfast	Dentistry
Queen's University Belfast	Computer Science	Liverpool John Moore	Educational Studies
Queen's University Belfast	Masters in Marine Biology	Queen's University Belfast	Computer Science
Queen's University Belfast	Sociology & Social Policy	Queen's University Belfast	Computer Science (2022)
UCD	Civil & Environmental Engineering	St Mary's University College	Liberal Arts with Business
Queen's University Belfast	Law	Queen's University Belfast	Aerospace Engineering
Leeds University	French & German	Imperial University	Aerospace Engineering
Cambridge University	Politics, Philosophy & Economics	Queen's University Belfast	Urban Development & Planning
Queen's University Belfast	Law	Liverpool John Moore	Psychology
Ulster University	Business	Ulster University	Accountancy
Ulster University	Business	Queen's University Belfast	Finance
Queen's University Belfast	Business & Economics	Ulster University	Accountancy and Law
Queen's University Belfast	History		
Queen's University Belfast	Masters in Biological Sciences		



Rathmore Grammar School
Kingsway
Finaghy
Belfast
BT10 0LF

www.rathmoregrammarschool.org