BALLYCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

NIL SINE LABORE

Prospectus Supplement
2025 – 2026

Contents

SCHOOL VISION

To create a happy, inclusive school where every child is inspired and supported, to develop skills and knowledge in a culture of high expectation.

An All-Round School

Ballycastle High School was established more than 110 years ago, and we are proud of our long tradition of academic success, helping to develop the full potential of all our pupils.

In partnership with our parents and governors, our vision is to provide the best possible education for every pupil within a caring and creative school community.

Our purpose

To give the pupils the opportunity to develop a positive self-image, and the capacity to live as independent motivated adults who have the ability to function effectively as contributing members of society.

Our school crest displays the words 'Nil Sine Labore' (Nothing without Labour). This reminds us that no matter our starting point or natural talents, we all have the ability to achieve our true potential through hard work, dedication and resilience.

Our school motto 'An All-Round School' succinctly describes our ethos – we aim to educate our pupils in a supportive environment, so that they become confident, connected, actively involved young people, who will develop a lifelong love of learning, and become effective members of society.

Monitoring Pupil Progress

Homework

Homework is an important training in self-discipline. A reasonable amount to complement and reinforce the work done in the classroom is set during the week. It is graduated according to the pupil's age and capacity. The time for its completion is unlikely to exceed two hours for year 8 and 9 pupils; two and a half for year 10 and 11 year pupils, and three hours for year 12 and sixth form.

Each pupil will be provided with a student planner to note the homework to be done for each day. Parents are requested to check the student planner against the homework being done and help to ensure that homework is carefully and honestly done. Parents are requested to sign the planner each week.

It is important that pupils should be given privacy, quietness and reasonable facilities for study at home. Homework should be presented on time; excuses for non-production of homework must be in writing from the parent or guardian.

Pupil Tracking Reports

A constant check is kept on the work of each pupil. Approximately twice a term class teachers assess the efforts of each pupil in their particular subject. Parents of pupils in years 8 – 14 will receive a copy of each tracking report via the SIMs Parent App.

Those pupils whose work is deemed to be unsatisfactory will be put on report and parents are informed. The pupil is given a card to be signed in class by the teacher and at home by the parent over a two-week period. This is done to try and ensure that all pupils work to the best of their ability.

In Years 8 – 10, pupils who do exceptionally well, receive congratulatory letters.

Achievement and endeavour are also recognised through our Achievement Points and House System.

Reports

Reports are issued twice a year for each pupil in years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Parents of year 12, 13 and 14 pupils will receive a report following the mock examinations in January.

Reports are published via the SIMs Parent App. At the end of the summer term all pupils' parents/guardians, except those taking external examinations, receive a report. These are the main and most important reports on pupils' school life and parents are requested to consider them carefully.

School Policies and Procedures

A positive child-centred ethos is at the heart of Ballycastle High School. This is encapsulated in our school's mission statement and our aims.

It is our intention to give pupils the opportunity to develop a positive self-image and the capacity to live as independent motivated adults who have the ability to function effectively as contributing members of society.

Ours is a vibrant school community. The teaching in the school provides pupils with a broad and balanced education, in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum which promotes the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, physical, cultural and aesthetic development of each individual.

To this end, and to ensure the smooth running of our school, we have a number of school policies in place which support our school aims and ethos:

Safeguarding Policies	*Curriculum Policies*
❖ Anti-bullying Policy ❖ Attendance Policy ❖ Child Protection Policy ❖ Drugs Policy ❖ E-Safety Policy ❖ Pastoral Care Policy ❖ Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy ❖ Relationships and Sexuality Policy ❖ Mobile Phone Policy	❖ Assessment Policy ❖ Curriculum Policy ❖ Homework Policy ❖ Learning and Teaching Policy ❖ Literacy Policy ❖ Numeracy Policy ❖ SEN Policy
Other	
❖ Admissions Policy ❖ Charges and Remissions Policy ❖ Complaints Policy ❖ Healthy Eating Policy	

This is not a full list

Any changes to policies or procedures during the current school year will be notified to parents in writing.

Copies of full school policies are available on the website or from the school office upon written request.

Admissions Criteria: Entry to Year 8

The School will follow the procedure below in processing the Year 8 Intake.

Places will be allocated in the following order:

1. To pupils who have a sibling currently attending the school.

2. To pupils from *contributory primary schools, irrespective of academic attainment.

3. To pupils from any other primary schools in the historic catchment area of a 10 mile radius of Ballycastle High School.

4. To pupils from other primary schools beyond the catchment area.

5. To pupils whose surname begins with the same initial letter in the same order as those below:
    F S R X D P A N Mc C Q W Mac B M J K H L Z I T V E G O Y U
    (The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters)
    In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letter of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order.

*CONTRIBUTORY PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Armoy Controlled Primary School

Ballycastle Controlled Integrated Primary School

Ballytober Controlled Primary School

Bushvalley Controlled Primary School

Dunseverick Controlled Primary School

Kilmoyle Controlled Primary School

Knockahollet Controlled Primary School

Straidbilly Controlled Primary School

Wm. Pinkerton Mem. Controlled Primary School

Where the number of applications falls below the permitted number of places they will be accepted by the Principal without reference to the Board of Governors.

Where applications exceed available places the allocation may be referred to the Board of Governors for decisions.

The complete Admissions Policy is available from the school office upon written request.

Complaints Procedure

In the event of a parent or guardian having a complaint in that the school is failing to fulfil its obligations in any way, they should initially discuss the matter with the school principal. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, please refer to the school Complaints Policy.

The complaints procedure is intended to be a good practice guide which, will apply to most general complaints received by our school. It is not intended to cover those matters for which there is a specific statutory requirement. Separate procedures exist for appeals relating to special educational needs, school admissions and exclusions. Child Protection and staff discipline issues will be dealt with through procedures that have been adopted for these purposes.

The complete Complaints Policy is available to view on the school website or from the school office upon written request.

Bus Routes

Bus Route 131	
Cloughmills	0740
Knockahollet Road	0755
Drones Crossroads	0800
Armoy	0805
Capecastle Cross	0810

Bus Route 178	
Ballymoney	0740
Dervock	0749
Stranocum	0758
Armoy	0808

Bus Route 142	
Dry Arch	0750
Ballyoglagh	0805
Toberkeigh	0810
Straid	0815
Ballinlea	0820
Lagavara	0825
Novally Road	0830

Cloughmills, Corkey, Loughguile, Magherahoney and Glenshesk students:

131 bus, leaving Loughguile at 0755, runs along this route.

Bus Route 171	
Coleraine	0740
Ballybogey / Derrykeighan	0752
Liscolman	0809
Mosside	0815
Moyarget	0820

Portstewart Students:

Bus leaves at 0705, connects to the 171 bus at Coleraine.

Bus Route 172	
Bushmills	0745
Lisnagunagh	0750
McCaughan's Corner	0755
Whitepark	0800
Ballintoy	0805
Carnduff	0815

Cushendall, Ballyvoy students:

162 Bus leaves Cushendall at 0750 and runs along this route.

Note: This information is subject to change at the discretion of Translink.

Further information can be found at *www.translink.co.uk* or by telephoning one of the local offices:

Coleraine: 028 7032 5400   Ballymoney: 028 2766 3241   Ballycastle: 028 207 6 2365

Examination Results

Ballycastle High School has always published its full examination results at the Annual Prize Distribution. The Department of Education no longer publishes the Performance Indicator booklet but directed schools to include external examination performance statistics in their publications to parents.

There were 63 pupils in year twelve in the school year 2023/24. As a non-selective post-sixteen school, Ballycastle High School has pupils from the full academic spectrum including some pupils with special education needs. The school policy is to offer every pupil the opportunity to take a full range of external examinations, irrespective of ability. In the current year there was a 100% entry in G.C.S.E. Some pupils took non-G.C.S.E. examinations.

66.7% of pupils obtained five or more grades A* - C

47.62% of pupils obtained five or more grades A* - C including English and Mathematics

23.81% of pupils obtained between one and four grades A* - C

95.24% of pupils obtained more than five A* - G

At Advanced Level 100% of our students qualified for courses in Higher Education.

Overall, the results from this school are testimony to the diligence of our pupils, the professionalism of our teachers and the support and encouragement of our parents.

The following tables present the attainment of our pupils in 2021/22 public examinations at:

- AS Level
- A Level
- GCSE
- BTEC L2
- BTEC L3
- CTECH L3
- CNAT L2

Year 13 and Year 14 Pupils

Number of Pupils in Years 13 and 14 on 31st October 2023   <u>44</u>

Number of these with a statement of special educational needs   <u>1</u>

AS Level

Number of Pupils taking AS GCE examinations	% of those Pupils Achieving 1 or More at Grades A* - E
13	92.3

A Level

Number of Pupils taking A Level GCE examinations	% of those Pupils Achieving		
	3 or More Passes at Grades A*-C	2 or More Passes at Grades A*-E	1 or More Passes at Grades A*-E
31	51.61	96.77	100.0

Year 13 and Year 14 AS and A Level Results by Subject

AS LEVEL

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades:							
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X
Biology	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Business Studies	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Chemistry	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
English Literature	2	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Food and Nutrition	1	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	-
Health & Soc Care Single Award	1	0.0	00.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
History	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Life & Health Science D Award	4	0.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	-
Mathematics	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	-
Performing Arts	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Psychology	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Technology & Design	3	0.0	0.0	66.7.	0.0	33.33	0.0	0.0	-

A LEVEL

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades							
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X
Art	5	20.0	0.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Business Studies	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	-
English Literature	5	0.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	-
Food and Nutrition	6	0.0	0.0	16.67	33.33	50.0	0.0	0.0	-
Health & Soc Care Single Award	12	0.0	8.33	50.0	33.33	8.33	0.0	0.0	-
History	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	-
Life & Health Sc Double Award	2	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Mathematics	3	0.0	33.33	33.33	0.0	33.33	0.0	0.0	-
Physics	2	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Psychology	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.33	33.33	0.0	33.33	-
Physical Education	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	-

BTEC NATIONAL AWARD LEVEL 3

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades				
		D*	D	M	P	U
Agriculture	3	33.33	66.66	0.0	0.0	0.0
Applied Science	4	0.0	0.0	25.0	50.0	25.0
Construction	2	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Travel & Tourism	4	0.0	0.0	75.0	25.0	0.0
CCLD	5	0.0	20.0	80.0	0.0	0.0

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades				
		D*	D	M	P	U
Business Studies	3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Information Technology	4	0.0	25.0	75.0	0.0	0.0
Sport (Double Award)	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0,0	0.0

Year 12 Pupils

Number of pupils in Year 12 on 31st October 2024   63

Number of these with a statement of special educational needs   4

Overall Results in GCSE or Equivalent

Year	% Entered for 5 or more GCSEs	% Entered for 1-4 GCSEs	% Achieving 5 or more Grades A*-C	N. Ireland Average
2024	63	0	66.67	82.0
2023`	53	0	79.25	86.6
2022	97	3	85.3	89.8
2021	100	0	78.7	89.5
2020	95	5	63.9	89.9
2019	98	2	66.0	75.3

Year	% Entered for 5 or more GCSEs	% Entered for 1-4 GCSEs	% Achieving 5 or more Grades A*-C Inc. English and Maths	N. Ireland Average
2024	63	0	47.62	64.7
2023	53	0	66.04	63.2
2022	97	3	66.7	89.8
2021	100	0	62.7	N/A
2020	95	5	59.2	N/A
2019	98	2	53.6	52.2

G.C.S.E. RESULTS BY SUBJECT

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades:										
		A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
Business Studies	18	0.0	0.0	22.2	33.3	0.0	16.7	11.1	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0
Child Development	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
Construction	18	5.56	0.0	38.9	5.56	5.56	16.7	16.7	5.56	0.0	5.56	0.0
Design and Technology	14	0.0	35.7	21.4	28.6	7.14	7.14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English	65	1.52	7.58	15.5	22.7	15.5	13.6	9.09	6.06	6.06	3.03	0.0
English Literature	30	0.0	6.67	30.0	20.0	36.7	6.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Food and Nutrition	9	11.1	0.0	55.6	0.0	11.1	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
French	3	0.0	66.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geography	5	0.0	0.0	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care	10	0.0	0.0	30.0	40.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0
History	20	5.0	35.0	30.0	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hospitality	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.6	0.0	42.8	0.0	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0
Information Technology	5	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	40.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Learning for Life and Work	66	0.0	9.09	21.2	2.2	15.1	10.6	9.09	7.58	1.52	4.55	0.0
Mathematics	67	0.0	4.48	20.9	11.9	17.9	13.4	11.9	11.9	2.99	4.48	0.0
Music	1	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MVRUS	19	0.0	15.8	36.8	10.5	5,26	10.5	15.8	0.0	5.26	0.0	0.0
Religious Studies	36	5.56	13.9	36.11	13.9	8.33	13.9	5.56	2.78	0.0	0.0	0.0

U: Pass grade not achieved

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades:									
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Art and Design	14	7.14	7.14	21.4	7.14	21.4	28.6	7.14	0.0	0.0	0.0
Computer Science	7	0.0	14.3	0.0	14.3	0.00	14.3	57.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physical Education	2	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades:								
		A*A*	A*A	AA	AB	BB	BC*	C*C*	C*C	CC
Double Award Science	52	0.0	1.92	3.8	3.8	7.7	9.6	3.85	11.5	17.3
		CD	DD	DE	EE	EF	FF	FG	GG	U
		9.6	19.2	3.8	5.8	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades:								
		*2	D2	M2	P2	D1	M1	P1	U	X	Q
Occupational Studies	20	0.0	0.0	10.0	50.0	20.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0

BTEC NATIONAL AWARD LEVEL 1 / 2

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades						
		D*	D2	M2	P2	P1	U	X
Digital Media	3	0.0	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport	9	0.0	11.1	0.0	33.3	44.4	11.1	0.0
Travel & Tourism	3	0.0	0.0	66.6	52.9	33.3	0.0	0.0

OCN NI – LEVEL 2

Subject	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Grades
		Pass
Applied Science	9	88.88
Religious Studies	12	66.66

SCHOOL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS 2023/24 (YEARS 12, 13 AND 14)

Number of Leavers 2023/24	Destinations: % of Leavers to					
	Higher Education	Further Education	Another School	Jobskills/ Training/ Apprentice	Employment	Other/ Unknown
77	33.7	29.9	7.8	18.2	6.5	3.9

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE   (ALL PUPILS)

Total days attended by all pupils on roll as % of total possible days of attendance: **89.4%**

INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

SECONDARY (NON-GRAMMAR) SCHOOLS

Year of Admission	Number of Applications	Number of Admissions
2024/2025	68	67
2023/2024	49	49
2022/2023	69	69

Key Contacts

Principal: Mr I Williamson

Vice-Principal: Mrs C Stewart

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Miss J Elliott

Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection: Mrs C Stewart
Mrs H Dalzell

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator: Mr J McPeak

Assistant Learning Support Co-ordinator (KS3):   Mr R Gabe

Senior Teacher (Curriculum)   Mr N McMaster

Senior Teacher (Pastoral)   Mrs H Dalzell

Heads of Year:

Year 8:	Mrs N McFeeley
Year 9:	Mr N McMaster
Year 10:	Mrs H Dalzell
Year 11:	Mr D McClelland
Year 12:	Mr J McPeak
Year 13/14:	Mrs R Martin

All queries / concerns should be directed to the relevant Head of Year in the first instance.

Chairman of the Board of Governors: Rev. P. Barton, B.A., B.Th.
Telephone: 028 20768155

Designated Governor for Child Protection: Rev. D. Ferguson, B.Th.

School Life @ BHS