

LARNE HIGH SCHOOL



Prospectus 2023



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Welcome to Larne High School

I am delighted that you have decided to find out more about all that Larne High School has to offer to the young people of Larne and the surrounding area. The school is in a very exciting stage of its development and we are able to offer a wide range of opportunities to learners of all abilities. We are proud to meet the diverse range of educational needs that young people have in the 21st century and we enjoy seeing our pupils take on the challenges of education and succeed at all levels.

Larne High School is a non-denominational, co-educational all-ability school which has served the community of Larne since 1957. The school has a caring ethos which allows children to fulfil their potential and go on to follow successful careers both locally and further afield. When we work with a young person we do not see them in terms of grades or labels; instead we see an individual with potential and it is our duty to instil in them a sense of ambition to be the best they can be in whatever area of the curriculum their talents lie. Young people joining Larne High School should prepare to contribute to all areas of school life and to be challenged, stretched and inspired.

In recent years the results at GCSE and A Level have improved significantly with on average more than 85% of pupils leaving with at least five good GCSE qualifications or equivalent and over 70% of pupils achieving three grades A*-C at A Level.

Larne High School delivers this high level of success to its pupils because of the high quality of Learning and Teaching we offer. Teaching in itself, however, is not enough to develop our young people. A commitment to quality pastoral care and a strong family ethos give pupils a sense of security and belonging, and the wide range of extra-curricular activities allows our young people to flourish. Sport, music, trips abroad, Duke of Edinburgh, Army Cadets, car racing and SU are only some of the wide range of activities that pupils can get involved in at school.

In Larne High School we believe that a young person develops to their full potential when there are strong links between home and school. We hope that if you decide that your child should undertake their secondary education with us, you will support us in doing our best for your child and all our pupils, so that they leave the school at age 16 or 18 with a strong set of values helping them to contribute to their local community and to make a difference in society.

Dr Stephen Reid
Principal



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Who we are

Our values, ethos and vision

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First and foremost we are a community in school where each individual pupil and member of staff is valued and works with everyone else to bring about the best outcomes for our pupils. We are also at the heart of the community in Larne and benefit greatly from all that the community offers to us and that we offer to the local community. The sense of community has to be built on mutual respect where everyone's potential is valued regardless of their background. The support of the school community and underlying respect has allowed the outcomes for pupils to improve steadily year on year so that everyone is able to achieve and move on to the next stage in their career successfully.

Ethos

Larne High School promotes positive moral values in a climate of high expectations and achievement among all the individuals and groups based on mutual respect. The school provides a secure caring and happy learning environment where everyone is valued and respected. The whole school community is committed to working together to achieve success inside and outside the classroom in preparation for a changing world.

Vision

Larne High School strives to be a community-based centre of excellence where high quality Teaching and Learning will serve to enhance the lives of all, enabling pupils to achieve their potential in a spirit of mutual respect and support.

Our school crest

The school crest comprises three distinct sections.

The ship links the school to the maritime community of Larne.

The open book symbolises the core purpose of the school which is, of course, learning

The star and comet relate in the first instance to the year the school opened, 1957, when two bright comets were visible in the skies of the northern hemisphere.

More than this, the ship and comet symbolise the journey of learning, of reaching beyond the horizon to deepen our knowledge and discover new things, which is what we encourage all of our pupils to do. We want pupils to develop ambition and the determination to achieve their goals, to strive for success and to enjoy the journey through Larne High School.



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ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Open Evening

Thursday 19 January at 7.00 p.m.

Individual visits can be arranged for children with additional needs. Please contact the school office for further information.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the online application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the online application form or attached to it.

Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the school

The following admissions criteria have been formulated by the Board of Governors of Larne High School. In the event of the school being oversubscribed the criteria will be applied by the Principal.

For Year 8 Pupils i.e. those transferring from Primary to Secondary School

The criteria will be applied in the order set out below:

1. Pupils who have any sibling relationship with any present pupil of the school.
2. Pupils who have selected Larne High School as their first preference school.
3. Pupils who, at the date of completion of the online application form, attend a primary school deemed to be local to Larne High School. (see Note 1)
4. Preference will be given to those not meeting Criteria 1-3 attending primary schools which have traditionally transferred pupils to Larne High School. (see Note 2).
5. Applicants entitled to receive Free School Meals.
6. Those pupils whose homes are closest to the school front entrance as measured by direct distance on an Ordnance Survey map
7. In the event that the above criteria do not result in a final decision, random selection will be used.

Note 1:

The following Primary schools are deemed local to Larne High School:

Linn Primary School, Moyle Primary School, St McNissi's Primary School, Corran Integrated Primary School, Larne and Inver Primary School, Olderfleet Primary School, Cairncastle Primary School, St Anthony's Primary School, Toreagh Primary School, Glynn Primary School.

Note 2:

The following Primary schools outside the town have traditionally transferred pupils to Larne High School:

Ballycarry Primary School, Ballynure Primary School, Seaview Primary School, Carnlough Integrated Primary School, Upper Ballyboley Primary School, Islandmagee Primary, Woodburn Primary School, Whitehead Primary School, Doagh Primary School.

Please note:

The school places much importance on the relationship between home and school as a means of maintaining high standards of work and behaviour. A school charter is in operation to support this relationship. Copies of the charter are available on request by contacting the school.



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Joining Year 8

Our Induction of New Pupils

Induction into Year 8 at Larne High School can begin at any stage in Year 7. The majority of new pupils begin this journey towards the end of May each year when they get their letter of acceptance into the school. For some pupils this journey begins much earlier. A number of young people with a range of varying needs will begin visiting the school much sooner to familiarise themselves with the building, members of staff and some of the school routines. This is always organised on an individual basis and can even allow some pupils to have taster sessions in class so that they can prepare for the transition from Primary School to Larne High School.

At the end of June all new pupils and their families are invited to the Year 8 Induction Evening. At this time, pupils meet their form teacher and parents have the opportunity to learn more about the settling in process and to ask questions. Pupils also get the opportunity to try the PE kit for size and place orders for the coming year.

New Year 8 pupils begin school at the end of August and spend two mornings with us before the rest of the school returns from the summer holidays. At that time, they will get more information about how the school day runs, they will receive timetables and then begin classes. These days are important as it gives the children the opportunity to make new friends and to get familiar with the layout of the building while it is still relatively empty.

Tracking, Learning Support and Intervention

When pupils arrive in the school we use a wide range of baseline data to assess their overall academic potential. Some of this data is the same as that used in Primary School such as Progress Tests in Maths and English provided by GL Assessment. Pupils in Years 8-14 are assessed formally three times in the year – at the Autumn half term, Christmas Exams, Easter and Summer Exams. Pupils are set targets in line with their base line data to challenge and stretch them across the full ability range. The success of pupils who achieve in excess of their targets are recognised and praised. Pupils who miss their target grades are given additional support. In the first instance this will be at a low level with class teacher and form teacher offering support and help. Additional after school Maths and English support is offered to a targeted group of pupils, and our Key Stage 3 intervention programme allows parents to meet with the Head of Key Stage 3 to discuss their child's progress and set individual targets to allow the young person to achieve in line with their potential.



The Curriculum

Our Learning Pathways

Larne High School is an all ability, non-selective school. We cater for a wide variety of academic needs and aspirations. We recognise that all children have talents and skills, and an important part of our job as teachers is to nurture and develop those skills and talents for each individual pupil in our care. To do this the school has developed a carefully structured system to deliver quality education to all our learners.



Academic Plus

Many of our pupils are academically gifted and will achieve very strong grades in traditional GCSE and A Level subjects. The Academic Plus pathway allows these learners to access the full range of traditional GCSE subjects with the option of progressing to A Level study.

Nurture

Other pupils will have found the more traditional aspects of learning challenging for a variety of reasons. Some may have Special Educational Needs or be dealing with pastoral issues that make learning more of a challenge. For these pupils we have developed our nurture provision. The SENCO is happy to speak to parents who think this provision might be appropriate for their child.

Blended Learning

Of course, in Larne High School we recognise that one size most definitely does not fit all and some of our pupils need support in some areas and excel in others. For these pupils we offer a Blended Learning approach which allows the young people to access some more traditional courses along with the practical and vocational options, in order to get a balance of subjects, experiences and qualifications that also meet their needs.



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The Subjects You Learn

In Primary School you usually have one teacher for most of the subjects that you learn such as your Literacy, Numeracy, The World Around Us etc. In Secondary School you will study even more subjects and you will have a specialist teacher for each one. This also means that you have to move from room to room as the subjects change. Each lesson in Larne High School lasts either 40 minutes or an hour. The subjects you learn in Year 8 are listed below:
English, Mathematics, Science (Chemistry, Physics & Biology), History, Geography, French, Spanish, Home Economics, Art, Technology, Music, Learning for Life and Work, Drama, ICT and Computer Coding, Physical Education and Religious Education.

Stretch and Challenge

Many of our young people are academically very able and it is important that they are given the opportunity to access a broad range of subjects to challenge them and meet their needs and aspirations. In Northern Ireland we operate, to our shame, a system of selection which writes off the academic potential of so many of our children at the arbitrary age of 11. But in Larne High School we view this as a fantastic opportunity to work with lots of incredibly gifted and talented young people that have been disregarded by the selective sector. It is a great privilege for us to work with these children and offer them identical academic opportunities to schools in the selective sector by giving them access to the full range of traditional academic GCSE subjects including History, English Literature, Geography, Technology, Double Award Science, French and, of course, English and Mathematics. We have also expanded the curriculum to include Spanish and a wider range of ICT and coding options.



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Pastoral Care

Maximising Potential



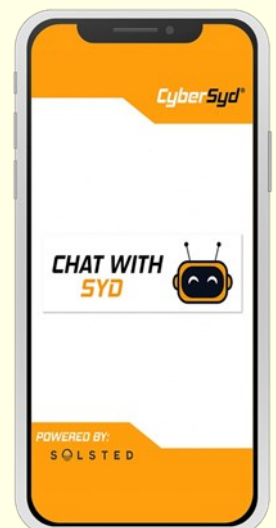
If a young person does not feel safe, secure and happy, they will not learn and will not progress to their maximum potential. We also recognise that at various times in a young person's life they experience situations that require more individual support than at other times. Mrs Stevenson is the Senior Teacher in charge of Pastoral Care and she leads a team of Year Heads and Form teachers to ensure that each individual child is supported and At Larne High School we take pride in the quality of the care and support we offer to each individual pupil. When a pupil joins the school they are placed in a Form Class and have a Form Teacher who acts as the principal link between home and school. Pupils meet their Form Teacher each morning for registration when notes from home, information about school events, and any other issues are dealt with. Pupils also meet during their Form Period to work on personal development, careers and to discuss any topical issues or concerns.

Each team of Form Teachers is led by two Year Heads in each Year Group. Year Heads are available to discuss more complex issues regarding a child's welfare in school or to help address any issues relating to pupil behaviour. They are also instrumental in driving forward the schools Pastoral Care Policies including Anti-bullying, Sustaining Positive Behaviour and promoting on-line safety. Year Heads work closely with the Head of Pastoral Care who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. At all times in Larne High School the welfare and safety of the young people in our care is paramount. We are always available to discuss issues relating to the wellbeing of the children with parents and will work closely with families to support young people who may be experiencing difficulties.

Anti-Bullying Bullying is one of the worst and most difficult experiences a young person can have. They can be left feeling helpless and alone and the consequences of bullying behaviour can be devastating for some pupils at a time in life when they should be happy, safe and protected. Larne High School takes all allegations of bullying behaviour extremely seriously and in every instance we act in accordance with the 2016 Anti-bullying Legislation, designed to protect young people in Northern Ireland Mr Gault is the Senior Teacher with responsibility for Pupil Voice and Anti-bullying. In any situation where bullying is serious and persistent Mr gault works with the target of the bullying and the child engaging in bullying behaviour along with their parents to deal with the behaviour. Pupils who are targeted will always be supported through the Pastoral Care system to help them come to terms with what has happened to them and to find a way forward, and at the same time those engaging in such behaviour may have sanctions applied and will also be supported to address their behaviour and understand why they feel drawn to behave in such a way.

We encourage all pupils to make use of the CyberSyd app which allows children to report bullying concerns electronically 24 hours a day. The App allows the pupil to send these concerns on to their Form Teacher who will pick up on the information supplied by the App and intervene to support the young person.

The pupils themselves take an active role in preventing bullying and supporting children who are experiencing bullying behaviour. There are around 100 pupils who act as Anti-bullying Ambassadors and wear a badge so that they are clearly visible around the school. These pupils can help others to report instances of bullying behaviour.



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Safeguarding and Child Protection



The school has a dedicated Safeguarding Team who are experienced in dealing with a range of Child Protection and Safeguarding issues. The team includes the Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection and the Principal. The members of staff who are part of the Safeguarding Team are Miss Hughes, Designated Teacher, Mr Hawe, Mrs Stevenson and Mr Hanna, Deputy Designated Teachers, the School Nurses, Ms Moore and Mrs Lily, and the Principal, Dr Reid.

The School Nurse is available during the school day and deals with a wide range of medical concerns. The Nurse will take care of pupils who become unwell in school and also supports many children who have a medical condition that requires additional support in school.



Pupils with Additional Needs

In Larne High School we are particularly proud of our provision for pupils with additional needs. In LHS there is a focus on listening to the voice of the child and on the participation of children, young people and their parents in decision making about their learning and pastoral care.

Our provision is extensive across all ability levels and includes Nurture provision at Key Stages 3&4 allowing pupils to access the mainstream curriculum with additional support as required. The school also has a Learning Support Centre for young people with moderate learning difficulties and specialist Autism provision for ASD students who have reached stage 3 on the latest Code of Practice.

The Special Needs team in conjunction with the pastoral team in LHS prides itself on honest and open communication with the parents and the child with the young person's views at the centre of all we do. There is also a strong focus on improving and measuring outcomes for children and young people with SEN or disabilities

It is vitally important that children with additional needs are identified as early as possible and that an awareness of their potential difficulties is clearly communicated between all the professionals involved in their development.

If the Special Educational Needs staff feel that your child has an additional need parents will be consulted on the support which can be made available and we will also provide advice to you about how you can support your child at home. Your child will be placed on the learning support register and be given a Personal Learning Plan/Individual Education Plan. At times outside agencies support us in providing additional support. These agencies include Educational Psychology, Autism advisory Service, Behaviour Support Service and many more.



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Pupil Voice



In a school setting it has often been the case that the people who matter the most — the pupils — are heard the least. A lot of work has gone in to developing the role of the School Council. Each Year Group has a council which allows the views of each form class to be represented. Members of this group are then elected to the school council. The school council has a very active role in the life of the school. This year they have worked to improve the outdoor facilities in the school and additional outdoor seating and a “buddy bench” have been purchased following consultation between the school council and the Principal. Representatives from the School Council have attended meetings of the main Board of Governors to present the views of the pupils and following this meeting additional extracurricular activities have been put in place. Members of the School Council are regularly invited to meet the Senior Leadership team and to present the views of the pupils. Girls from the School Council have been very active in addressing Period Poverty and have worked with the School Nurse to ensure that there is availability of products that the girls want to have in the school if needed.



As part of our work in allowing pupils to take more responsibility for school life, a team of over 40 pupils in the Sixth Form are involved in mentoring pupils in Year 8 to help them settle into the school. We also have Subject Champions who are older pupils engaged to help younger pupils with subjects they may find challenging. It has been fantastic to see our young people making such a positive contribution to the life of the school and getting actively involved in supporting one another.

Rewarding the Positive

While sometimes pupils do not engage and there have to be consequences, at Larne High School we are much more focused on the good work that pupils do and we actively look for the positive contribution that pupils make. Reward points are awarded for all sorts of things including good work, making a real and genuine effort, contributing to all aspects of school life and displaying really good behaviour and manners. Each month pupils are recommended by their teachers to have hot chocolate with the Principal and each term the top points scorers have a pizza lunch or a trip to the cinema. It is important that everyone is recognised for the contribution they make and everyone who tries hard has to be recognised.



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Extra-Curricular

What we offer you beyond the classroom

Scripture Union

Scripture union encourages young people to be the light of the Gospel in the classroom and the playground. We meet together on a Wednesday lunch-time to join together in prayer and worship. Scripture Union is open to all students and teachers who want to find out more about the message of the Gospel and those who are already committed Christians.

Recently Scripture Union completed a programme of Bible Journaling. This allowed students alongside teachers to creatively engage with scripture. Larne High School's Scripture Union also has close links with the E3 Scripture Union worker. We work alongside the E3 work to deliver engaging and exciting programs tailored to the experience of the students.

Scripture Union in Larne High School as a safe place for students to discover the truth of Christ and engage in active worship during their school day.



Young Enterprise

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme where they take on the responsibility of running their own small business. Students are allocated various roles within the business and have to plan and produce their goods for sale at various events, including a sales event at St George's Market in Belfast. Students also have to work as a team in order to solve any problems they may face along the way. The participants gain a wealth of skills which they will find useful on entering the world of work.



Formula 1 in Schools

Formula 1 in Schools has been an important part of Larne High School for the past number of years. Pupils meet at lunch times and after school to design and build their own Formula 1 racing cars. They use software packages to design the cars and the latest 3D printing technology to manufacture the components. The school has worked with some of the best names in the motor industry, including Nissan in Sunderland to perfect the design of the cars. The school has been Northern Ireland and UK Champions, and a senior team of six girls even travelled to the world F1 championships in Malaysia. We are hoping to maintain our high level of success once competitions begin again. The pupils are currently building their own "green power" car which they will be able to drive in the school grounds in the near future.



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Sport

Hockey Rugby Football Netball Athletics ...and many more!



Sport is an important part of life at Larne High School. Pupils have timetabled Physical Education classes throughout the week as well as an afternoon of games once a week. It is no surprise that our pupils are so successful in competitive sport at all levels in Northern Ireland. Our Sports Academy is now in its sixth year, and the graduates continue to secure places to study at top universities, including the University of Ulster, or have entered the world of work in the Sports and Leisure Industry.



Our girls' hockey and netball teams go from strength to strength and pupils can enjoy these sports as part of the taught curriculum and after school. For those who wish to play at a higher level, after school training and coaching sessions take place every week.



At all ages our footballers are incredibly successful. Our junior boys are regularly Northern Ireland champions and our senior players continue to make great progress competitively. The school has grass pitches and our own Astroturf pitch has recently been re-laid and is a fantastic playing surface for all sorts of sporting activity.

Our rugby players are ably supported by excellent coaching staff and a strong involvement from Larne Rugby Club. After school training allows boys and girls at all levels to improve their skill in the game. A number of our pupils currently play for Ulster and we are proud of past pupil Ben Moxham who now plays for Ulster and has played for Ireland at Under 20 level.



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Extra-Curricular

Languages Club

This club meets weekly and is open to anyone in the junior school. It is an opportunity to learn about other languages, countries and cultures. There is the chance to try different foods, listen to foreign music, play games and win prizes. We also have a pop-up Foreign Cinema Club - This fortnightly club is open to any pupils who wish to gain an insight into another culture. It is a chance to relax and watch various French and Spanish films (with English subtitles). This is a great way to develop listening skills in the foreign language, one of the key exam components at GCSE.



CCF—Combined Cadet Force

An exciting development in the life of Larne High School has been the establishment of the Army section of the LHS Combined Cadet Force. Young people from age 12 follow a course of training that develops their skills in terms of orienteering, first aid, map reading, rifle shooting etc. along with the opportunity to enjoy weekends away at Ballykinler and Palace Barracks, and trips further afield. Cadets will also take part in an annual one week summer camp at an army base on mainland UK. There are opportunities to take additional Level 2 qualifications and complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold level which will allow cadets to build a wide range of skills that ensure they become more employable and an active contributor to society. The cadets also lead our annual Act of Remembrance in November and accompany the Principal to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Pupils are encouraged to join cadets from Year 9 and remain affiliated to the detachment throughout their time in the school.



Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is held in the highest regard in the world of Employment and for access to Higher Education. Pupils are encouraged to complete their Bronze Award followed by Silver and then Gold. The Award consists of four sections in Bronze and Silver with a fifth added at Gold level. These include volunteering, physical activity, developing new skills and taking part in an expedition.

Parent and Pupil Cooking Classes

This is an opportunity for parents to join their children after school to develop their cooking skills. The classes run over a three week period and allow families to learn how to create a range of culinary delights. We make a succulent starter in week 1, a mouth-watering main meal in week 2, and a delightful dessert in week 3!



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Music

The school has a thriving Music department. Pupils study Music from Year 8 and can continue all the way through to A Level. In recent years a number of students have left the school to study Music at Queen's University and the University of Ulster. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year for all our young musicians to perform. The choir provides an impressive repertoire of choral music while individual pupils avail of instrumental and voice tuition from our peripatetic music teachers. The choir, individual singers and instrumentalists continue to have a high level of success in local music competitions, and a number of singers annually secure places with the Ulster Youth Choir.



School Trips

At Larne High School pupils have opportunities to travel both closer to home and further afield. There are numerous trips to other parts of the UK and Ireland, including visits to industry in the north of England, to events in Dublin and sports trips to the North Coast of Northern Ireland. For the more adventurous we have run a water sports trip to Spain, which allowed pupils and staff to take part in various water sports including, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and surfing. The Formula One team have visited Malaysia where they have competed in the F1 in Schools World Championships and the school is regular visitor to North America. A ski trip also leaves each Winter and recently we have visited the French Alps and Bulgaria.



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Please contact the school if you would like to have an individual tour arranged. We are also delighted to talk to parents whose children may have additional needs.



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