



Newtownhamilton High School

PROSPECTUS 2024 - 25

Every Child An Important Child



www.newtownhamiltonhigh.co.uk

WELCOME



As Principal of Newtownhamilton High School, I thank you for your interest in this prospectus. I am a parent of two children and therefore I understand that selecting a post-primary school is a very important decision and hopefully this document will answer some of the many questions that you have. Further information on life at Newtownhamilton High can also be obtained via our popular school website and Facebook page.

First and foremost, **every child is an important child** to our committed and caring staff and therefore pupils will be encouraged to develop Christian

principles so that they can become mature, responsible, self-sufficient adults that will leave them equipped with the skills and values to support them for the rest of their lives. We take great pride in the fact that every pupil is known individually by all our staff.

Our curriculum (including our rich and diverse extra-curricular programme) is also designed to support this aim and allows each pupil to fulfil their maximum potential. This includes the provision of a much wider curriculum offered at Key Stage 4 which explores many different career paths and is delivered in partnership with other schools/colleges within the Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community. Furthermore, the EA Area Plan Proposals acknowledge the development of these collaborative arrangements in South Armagh and therefore predict a bright and secure future for our school.

I believe that our smaller class sizes have contributed significantly to the high quality teaching and learning which is provided by our enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Our excellent GCSE statistics over recent years prove that Newtownhamilton High School can compete with the very best non-selective schools in the province and these results were pleasingly acknowledged in our most recent inspection report.

Finally, I trust that this prospectus gives you a taste of the unique educational experience that we strive to offer pupils aged 11-16 in **our small, but yet successful, country school**. Prospective parents/guardians are welcome to contact me to discuss any aspect of the school and/or the post-primary transfer process.

Neil Megaw

Principal

(nmegaw549@c2kni.net)

AIMS

Within a Christian, caring environment, the school aims:

- To provide a welcoming atmosphere where pupils are prepared to become mature, responsible, self-sufficient adults and contributors to society.
- To broaden horizons through a variety of experiences within the school and further afield in order to foster and encourage an appreciation of the benefits, challenges and difficulties of living in this isolated area that is part of the Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community.
- To provide a curriculum suited to the intellectual, aesthetic, spiritual, practical and physical needs of each individual child - a curriculum designed to allow each child to fulfil his/her maximum academic potential. This will include the use of ICT, where appropriate and may include provision of courses outside the confines of the school in collaboration with other educational providers in Newry & Mourne ALC.
- To provide a caring environment which promotes confidence and self-esteem and therefore a heightened awareness of the needs of tolerance and sensitivity towards others.
- To develop good relationships and closer links between school and home, community and the outside world.



PASTORAL CARE



Every Child An Important Child

Pastoral Care is of the utmost importance at Newtownhamilton High School and it forms the foundations of everything we do. Positive relationships are key as we are very aware that a happy child will learn. Through this approach our pupils develop and learn to their optimum potential and are provided with opportunities to develop into responsible, self-aware, confident and capable young people equipped to cope with the challenges of the 21st Century. We implement a proactive rather than reactive approach and much of what we do can be summed up in the statement, "prevention is better than cure".

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

The value of professional counselling should never be underestimated. A counsellor can offer immense support to a young person who needs help and guidance. Our school will endeavour to enlist the support of professional counsellors to assist our young people to develop towards a more concise and definitive awareness of self.

Our school works closely with 'Familyworks NI', who provide a professional specialist counselling service for our pupils on a weekly appointment basis and also through drop-ins.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR & MERIT SYSTEM

Great emphasis is placed on promoting positive behaviour through our Positive Behaviour Policy. This document provides an agreed course of action amongst teachers, pupils and parents thus promoting effective teaching and learning while respecting the rights of all members of the school community. We believe a healthy balance between sanction and rewards is fundamental and encourage everyone to implement the school Code of Conduct fairly and consistently.

Our Positive Behaviour Policy encourages positive behaviour through a Merit System. Pupils will earn merits through good behaviour, which they can cash in to receive various privileges or rewards. These merits also contribute points to our House System where our 3 houses of Dorsey, Fane and Whitewater compete in various sporting and non-sporting competitions throughout the year, and the winning house captains are awarded trophies on Prize Night.



CURRICULUM

It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided to all pupils. Our aim is to have class sizes no bigger than 20 in all subjects – indeed many of our classes are much smaller than this. We believe that the intimacy and closeness between pupil and teacher generated by this small class size is of the utmost importance in facilitating teaching and learning of the highest quality. Our teachers know every pupil on an individual basis, and together with the pupils, they strive for the goal of academic excellence for every child.

KEY STAGE 3

A broad curriculum is provided to all Key Stage 3 pupils, which includes an extensive Careers programme during Year 10 to support the selection of subjects for Key Stage 4 study.



KEY STAGE 3 SUBJECTS

Art & Design
Drama
Digital Technology
English
French
Geography
History
Home Economics
Learning for Life & Work
Mathematics
Music
PE
RE
Science
Technology & Design

KEY STAGE 4

The school is meeting the demands of the Entitlement Framework Curriculum (requirement to deliver 21 subjects). This target has been achieved through collaboration with the Southern Regional College Newry, St Paul's High School Bessbrook, St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen and Newry High School. Pupils from all 4 schools now avail of a wide range of courses (GCSE and B.Tech qualifications) on different sites.



In addition to providing greater subject choice for our pupils, this successful partnership has helped to promote throughout the curriculum, those values and attitudes which lead to mutual respect between the pupils. A sense of tolerance is combined with pupil confidence to share cultural experiences which is extended beyond the classroom and the school environment.

VOCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (VEP)

The programme offered by Southern Regional College is delivered through the Occupational Studies course, with students choosing 2 units in Year 11 and 2 further units in Year 12. Pupils who are successful on this course can achieve a Level 2 in their two units which will be counted by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and FE colleges as being equivalent to 2 GCSEs at grade A*-C.



KEY STAGE 4 SUBJECTS

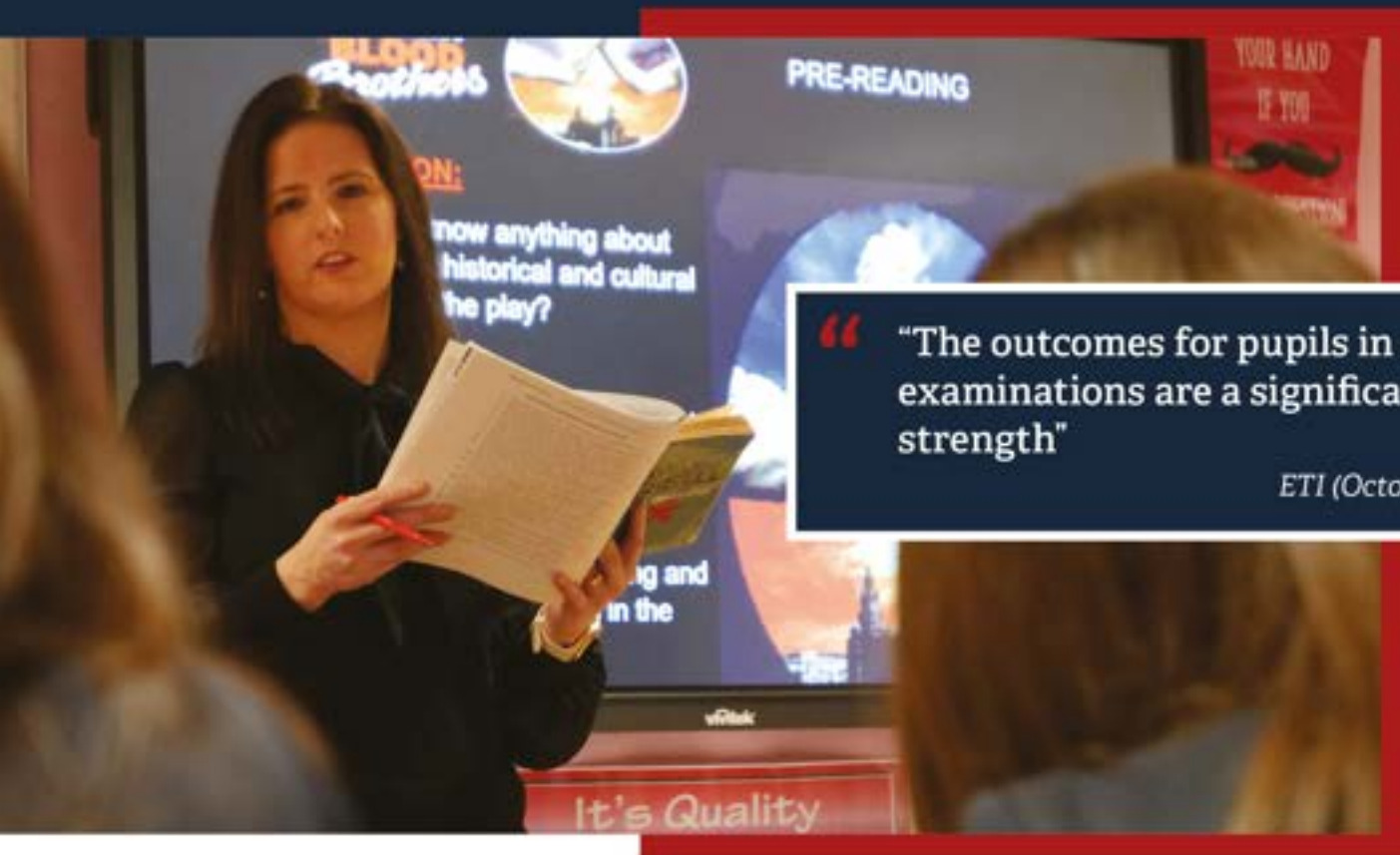
Agriculture & Land Use
Art & Design
Business Studies
Countryside & Environment
Digital Technology
English
English Literature
Essential Skills Communication & Application of Number
French
Further Maths
Geography
History
Home Economics Food & Nutrition
Learning for Life & Work
Maths
Motor Vehicles & Road User Studies
Music
Occupational Studies (6 pathways)
Physical Education
Prince's Trust
Religious Education
Science (Single & Double Award)
Technology & Design

EXAM SUCCESS

KEY STAGE 4

Through our diverse curriculum, Newtownhamilton High School has developed a reputation for academic excellence as identified by the Education Training & Inspectorate (ETI) during their most recent inspection.

GCSE statistics for pupils gaining 5 GCSE grades (or equivalent) at A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths have been consistently high over many years thus establishing Newtownhamilton High School as one of the leading non-selective schools in Northern Ireland.



“The outcomes for pupils in public examinations are a significant strength”

ETI (October 2018)

Success has not only been confined to GCSE students. In collaboration with Southern Regional College (Newry), an excellent Vocational Enhancement Programme takes place every week with Newtownhamilton High School pupils regularly achieving top awards.

KEY STAGE 3

A robust tracking and reporting system in Years 8-10 lay the foundation for success at Key Stage 4. Individual subject targets are generated following online testing (GL Assessment) with effective use of data to monitor pupil progress.

As part of this process, all pupils are formally assessed 4 times per academic year with outcomes communicated to parents/guardians via Winter and Summer reports. Ongoing informal assessment may also include homework, class tests, practical work, projects etc.

LITERACY & NUMERACY DEVELOPMENT

Great emphasis is placed on the promotion of Literacy and Numeracy throughout the school. At Key Stage 3, pupils participate in the Accelerated Reader and Mathletics programmes with a reward system linked to success.

Withdrawal support groups for all year groups and externally funded initiatives have also contributed significantly to a further improvement in GCSE outcomes for English and Maths over recent years.

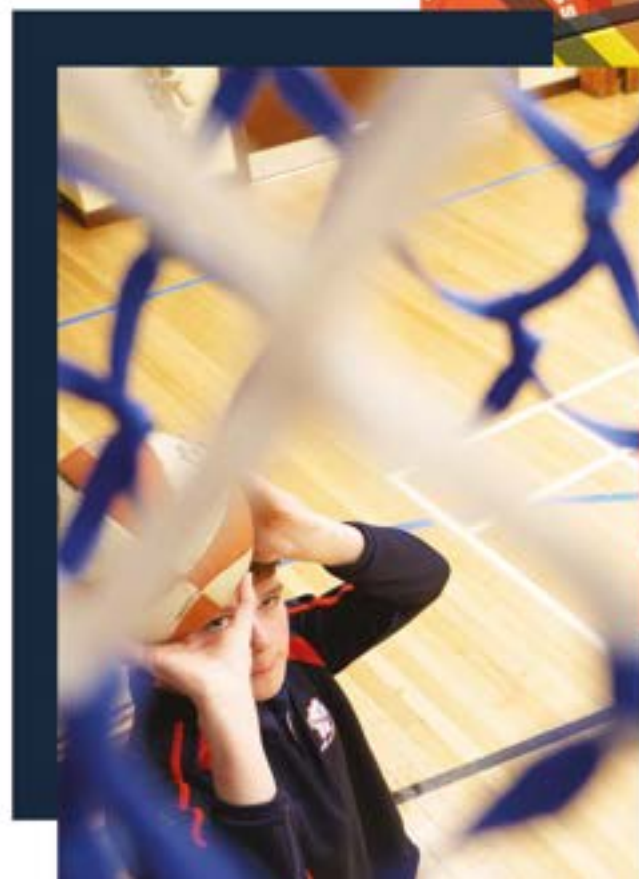


EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Newtownhamilton High School, we encourage pupil participation beyond the classroom environment through our extra-curricular programme. Our Clubs (both sporting and non-sporting) provide opportunities to develop new friendships, strengthen relationships and enhance self-esteem.

Extra-Curricular Activities available include:

- Athletics
- Ceramics Club
- Choir
- Football
- Hockey
- Homework Club
- Fitness Club
- Library
- Music Tuition
- Netball
- Politics in Action
- Rugby
- Scripture Union
- Ski Trip (biannual)
- Volleyball



FACILITIES



The Education Authority has demonstrated its commitment to the secure future of Newtownhamilton High School with significant financial investment in the premises over recent years. This includes a new canteen, 2G hockey/football pitch and a state of the art fitness suite in addition to a recent refurbishment of all mobile classrooms.



SHARED EDUCATION



Over recent years, Newtownhamilton High School has developed a very successful Shared Education partnership with St. Paul's High School Bessbrook, Newry High School and St. Joseph's High School Crossmaglen.

During Years 8-10, pupils from all 4 schools have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities and events. It is through these experiences that pupils from all 4 schools are able to explore cultural diversity and have the confidence to celebrate each other's beliefs in an atmosphere of total mutual respect.

It is the development of these positive relationships during Key Stage 3 which have given our pupils the confidence to follow Key Stage 4 courses at partner schools, thus providing greater subject choice and subsequently leading to improved outcomes.

Outside of the school environment, an increasing number of Newtownhamilton High School pupils are now involved in the TBUC (Together Building United Communities) programmes which are delivered to young people from the South Armagh community by the Education Authority Youth Service.

CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE (CEIAG)

CEIAG at Newtownhamilton High School is seen as part of the whole programme of preparing pupils for the choices, changes and transitions affecting their future education, training and life as adult members of society. In Key Stage 3, Careers Education is taught mainly through Learning for Life and Work (LLW) while at Key Stage 4, Careers Education is a discrete subject. Additionally, all subject teachers have a role to play in helping pupils to make informed and realistic decisions about their future.

There is close liaison with the DEL Careers Adviser who interviews all Year 11 and 12 pupils with parents having the option to be present at these interviews.

A Work Experience scheme is completed by pupils in Year 11 with all placements arranged to suit the requirements of each individual pupil.

All Year 12 pupils participate in an Interview Skills Day. This event gives pupils the opportunity to prepare for and attend a mock interview that is conducted by leading individuals in the local business and educational community. The aim of this highly popular event is to give pupils experience for performing at real interviews.



SCHOOL UNIFORM



The appearance and general conduct of pupils make an impression on the community therefore **school uniform is compulsory for all pupils**. Parents are asked to co-operate by ensuring that this impression is a favourable one.

Many families now receive a grant towards the purchase of uniform. Information is available from the Education Authority website.

UNIFORM FOR GIRLS

- Newtownhamilton High School blazer
- White blouse fully buttoned
- School clip-on tie
- Grey V-necked long sleeved pullover (optional)
- Harrow grey knee length school pleated skirt
- Navy knee high socks
- Black woolen tights in winter (optional)
- Black soft-soled shoes (no high heels)
- Plain dark coloured coat (optional)
- School scarf (optional)

PE WEAR FOR GIRLS

- NHS PE top
- NHS navy skort
- NHS navy leggings (optional)
- Navy hockey socks
- Laced training shoes
- Shin pads & gum shield
- Towel

UNIFORM FOR BOYS

- Newtownhamilton High School blazer
- White shirt fully buttoned
- School clip-on tie
- Grey V-necked long sleeved pullover (optional)
- Harrow grey trousers (light grey)
- Black soft-soled shoes
- Black/navy/grey socks (to cover ankles)
- Plain dark coloured coat (optional)
- School scarf (optional)

PE WEAR FOR BOYS

- NHS PE top
- Plain white t-shirt (optional)
- NHS navy shorts
- Red football socks
- Laced training shoes/football boots
- Shin pads & gum shield
- Towel

**Any under garments or base layers should be plain white.*

All above uniform can be purchased from Lila's, 31 Scotch Street, Armagh, BT61 7BY (02837 524745). It is advised that parents go to Lila's in early July for fitting/purchase in the event that a particular size needs to be ordered.

School hoodies for sporting activities with pupil's name are optional and can be ordered from the school office with effect from 1st September. Non-school hoodies and scarves are not permitted.

All uniform should be clearly marked with the pupil's name.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Newtownhamilton High School

9 Armagh Road Newtownhamilton NEWRY

BT35 ODG

Telephone: 028 3087 8246

Fax: 028 3087 8192

Email: nmegaw549@c2kni.net

Website: www.newtownhamiltonhigh.org.uk

Principal: Mr N Megaw BEd, MSc, PQHNI

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr I Bingham

Controlled Secondary

Age Range: 11 - 16+

Admissions Number: 35

Enrolment Number: 175

Prospective pupils and parents are invited to visit the School on
Thursday 25th January 2024 at 7.30 pm
or at any time by appointment with the Principal

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria. The Principal, on behalf of the Board of Governors, will apply the criteria in the order indicated to select pupils for admission.

ADMISSIONS

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and the child concerned accept and are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including the Code of Conduct and Positive Behaviour Policy. Information in relation to these may be obtained from the school.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on the Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or attached to it. An example of such information, in the case of Newtownhamilton High School, might be if a child of the family is currently enrolled at the school. This type of information must be clearly stated on the Transfer Application.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEAR 8

(either in September 2024 or during the course of the 2024/2025 school year)

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 30 January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 22 February 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 22 February 2024 and up to 4pm on 4 March 2024 will be treated as a late application.

In selecting children for admission, it is a legal requirement that those who reside in Northern Ireland are given preference over those not so resident.

Criteria will be applied in the following order:

1. Applicants for whom Newtownhamilton High School is 1st preference.
2. Applicants from the following list of contributory primary schools (all to be treated equally): Bessbrook, Cortamlet, Drumhillery, Lisnadill, Mountnorris & Newtownhamilton. This also includes pupils who were enrolled at Kingsmills Primary School during the 2022/23 academic year.

3. Applicants who, at the date of application, have a child of the family currently enrolled at the school or where the applicant is more than 5 years younger than the next eldest sibling who previously attended the school (name and attendance dates of the next eldest sibling who previously attended the school to be supplied).
4. Applicants who, at the date of application, are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to the school or whose older siblings were refused admission due to over-subscription (names and dates of those siblings refused admission to be supplied).
5. Applicants who, at the date of application, have a parent who is a current permanent employee of the school.
6. Those who live closest to the school (as the crow flies), calculated using the Measure Distances website www.doogal.co.uk.

Note: The term "child of the family" covers children fostered, adopted etc. and avoids having to define all the various permutations of sibling.

If when a criterion is applied there are fewer places available than the number of applicants who meet the criterion, the remaining criteria will be applied in the indicated order to the children who meet the over-subscribed criterion.

WAITING LIST

Details of the school's procedures for operating a waiting list can be obtained upon request from the school office.

DUTY TO VERIFY

A birth certificate only is required to be uploaded to the Transfer Application. However, the Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer Application. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Transfer Application.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2021/22	35	43	40*
2022/23	35	55	57*
2020/21	35	36	37*

*Includes pupils with SEN statements and also those who were admitted following a temporary variation and/or appeal.

TRANSFER BETWEEN SCHOOLS FOR YEARS 9 – 12

The Board of Governors will apply the criteria. The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and the child concerned accept and are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including the Code of Conduct and Positive Behaviour Policy. Information in relation to these may be obtained from the school.

If the school is over-subscribed, pupils will be considered for transfer:

1. Applicants who have a child of the family currently enrolled at the school.
2. Applicants from the following list of contributory primary schools (all to be treated equally): Bessbrook, Cortamlet, Drumhillery, Kingsmills, Lisnadill, Mountnorris & Newtownhamilton.
3. Those who live closest to the school (as the crow flies), calculated using the Measure Distance website www.doogal.co.uk.

A pupil will be accepted from another post-primary school provided that the enrolment would not prejudice the efficient use of resources in the school.



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Newry BT35 0DG

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