

# BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE



**ST. COLM'S**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Believe & Achieve



**THIS IS  
ST. COLLEGE  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

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**RESPECT**

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**FAITH**

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**RESPONSIBILITY**

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**COMMUNITY**



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

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# WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

## Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

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

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

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

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

Sporting achievements also abound as we are currently the U16 Girls Gaelic Football Ulster champions, and our boys were narrowly defeated in the Pat King U16 Ulster final in December 2023.

Our vision is Believe and Achieve and regardless of all the challenges posed over the last few years, we remain confident that we can bring our vision to life for all in St. Colm's.

I look forward to welcoming you into the St. Colm's High School family in September 2024.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead'.

**Sinead McAllister**  
Principal



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

# OUR AIMS

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



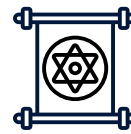
To provide a learning environment that is caring and hard-working and cherishes the nurturing and development of each individual pupil.



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



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



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



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



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



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

# OUR CATHOLIC ETHOS

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

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

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

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

# OUR VALUES OUR COMMUNITY



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



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



# OUR PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMME

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

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

## ST. COLM'S PASTORAL CARE

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

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

**Senior Leader**  
Miss J Conway  
Responsibility for  
Pastoral Care

**Heads of Year**

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

Year 12

Year 13/14

**Tutors**



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

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

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

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

### The academic progress of every child –

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

### Drugs education –

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

### Relationships and Sexuality education –

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



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

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

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

### Cara system –

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



## ANTI-BULLYING

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

### Our Staff Will –

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

# POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

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

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

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

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

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





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

# LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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



## Music

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



## Charity Fundraising

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



## Cultural Activities

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



## School Council

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



## Educational Trips and Visits

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



## Learning in the Great Outdoors

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



## Sporting Opportunities

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

# EDUCATIONAL VISITS

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

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

History students are offered the opportunity to travel to Poland, see around Krakow and visit Auschwitz. It is an extremely busy trip where you are guaranteed to hit your 10,000 steps! Students get the opportunity to try new food, meet new people and challenge their perceptions of history. It is an extremely popular trip.

We are blessed to have international links with schools in Europe, including Spain. We have welcomed Spanish students to Ballinascreen and shown them South Derry hospitality. They experienced Irish music, dancing, GAA sports and cultural activities. The return journey involved site seeing, a visit to the Bernabeu stadium and exploring the historic city of Segovia.

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



Our sights are now set on walking the Camino de Santiago (the way of St. James) a walking pilgrimage leading to the shrine of the apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, northwestern Spain. This pilgrimage ensures our faith is practised, made real and grounds students in our key values of FAITH, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and COMMUNITY.

# SCHOOL CURRICULUM

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

### KEY STAGE 3

Year 8 - 10

The following subjects are taught –

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

### KEY STAGE 4

Year 11 & 12

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

#### Compulsory Core

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

#### Optional Subjects

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



## POST 16 Year 13 & 14

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

### The following subjects are taught —

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

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

## CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT All Year Groups

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

### The following subjects are taught —

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

## CURRICULUM PARTNERSHIPS All Year Groups

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

### A sample of our community links —

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



Like



# YEAR 8 PUPIL EXPERIENCES

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



**Name:** Katie-Marie  
**School:** St Eoghan's Primary School, Moneyneay

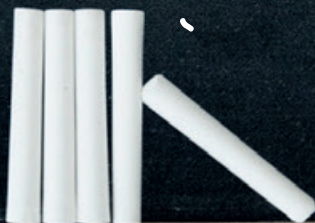
When I started my first year in St. Colm's I received such a warm and inviting welcome and I felt so excited. During the first few weeks, I got to know a lot of new people and started to make new friends very quickly. St. Colm's is fun and full of excitement. My favourite subjects are Art, English, Irish, French and Religion. All the teachers are so nice here but sometimes they are a bit strict, but they only want us to get our work done and to be the best. St. Colm's is a great place to be, I'm very glad I chose St. Colm's, and you will be too.




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

St. Colm's is a great school to be a part of, as all the teachers and classroom assistants are so helpful and kind. When you join first year you get a Cara, which means "friend" in Irish. Your Cara helps you find your way around the school and helps you if you need anything. My favourite subject is P.E because it keeps you active and is enjoyable. In St. Colm's I can be part of so many activities and clubs and am really looking forward to the Gaelic to start soon. The days in St. Colm's are very fun.

**Name:** Aoibhinn  
**School:** Gaelscoil na Speirini

My time in St. Colm's has been great so far, I have made loads of friends and learned lots of new subjects that I didn't have in primary school. My favourite subjects are P.E, Art and French because the teachers are so helpful and kind. There are lots of clubs to join or go to like homework club and lots more. My Cara has helped to welcome me into St. Colm's and was very kind to me. I hope to see you here at St. Colm's in September.





**Name:** Joseph  
**School:** St Columba's Primary School, Straw

I have enjoyed my first term in St. Colm's. It is a very busy school. There is lots of clubs, the teachers are nice. We also have some Derry stars in our school, maybe if you come here, you will be able to meet them too. We all support each other in many ways in school life. There are so many exciting subjects and activities. I have made many new friends from lots of other classes too. Our Year 8 mass helped us to celebrate together, and our families were so happy to meet our new friends.



**Name:** Eve  
**School:** St Brigid's Primary School, Tirkane

When I started St. Colm's I was made feel so welcome. What is so unique about this school is that everyone helps each other, and you always have someone to give you some advice if you need it. I really enjoy doing practical lessons in Technology, Science, and Home Economics. One thing I am really excited for is to do Agriculture for my GCSE's because I love farming and I know the class really enjoy lots of outdoor activities and visits to local farming places. I really hope to see you next year at St. Colm's High School.

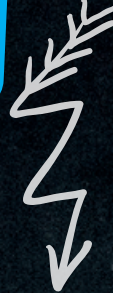
**Name:** Caoimhe  
**School:** St. Mary's Primary School, Draperstown

When I started St. Colm's I felt so welcome. There was many so kind students and teachers. You will know that there are a lot of new subjects. The teachers are good at explaining work and making us better at things we may not be great at. My favourite subjects are Maths, French and P.E. There is a whole range of Sports to choose from both during PE and after school. You can get delicious food at break time and dinner. At lunch you can go to the sports hall. You would be made feel very welcome by us all here in September.




**Name:** Patrick  
**School:** St. Peter's, Primary School, Plumbridge

St. Colm's is amazing. There is a breakfast club every morning. The school has great food choices at lunchtime as well and we look forward to all the arranged activities there are to do at lunchtime. There is a Games Club in the library, and we have Gaelic and soccer after school to train for matches we may have, so far, I have been to one of the games which was a great day out. All the teachers are so helpful if you find anything hard, I really recommend St. Colm's because it is an amazing place to come every day and everyone shows each other great kindness.



**Name:** Ronan  
**School:** St. Columba's, Primary School, Straw

St. Colm's is amazing. There is a breakfast club every morning. The school has great food choices at lunchtime as well and we look forward to all the arranged activities there are to do at lunchtime. There is a Games Club in the library, and we have Gaelic and soccer after school. All the teachers are so helpful if you find anything hard, I really recommend St. Colm's because it is an amazing place to learn. I am looking forward to swimming during PE and being a digital leader.



**APPROVED**

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND BUSINESS LINKS

“When Schools and Communities work together, it creates a two-way dialogue promoting our core values of **FAITH, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY** and **COMMUNITY**. Community members become up to date with the incredible success of our pupils and are more likely to engage in activities that support the interest of establishing employment opportunities at all levels, paving a positive range of pathways for pupils and local business beneficiaries.”



## Career Connections and Business Fair

St. Colm's unique Community Collaboration event offers pupils an exciting chance to gain information for future employment, entrepreneurship, and apprenticeships both locally and globally by utilising opportunities on our doorstep. Creative connections combined with advice on pathways and training assist pupils to access the many unique and diverse and at all levels of both Further and Higher Education.



## Local Business Outreach

St. Colm's invite local entrepreneurs, and some of their employees who are past pupils to discuss their own pathway including education within their working career to enthuse and encourage excitement. This offers opportunity for reflection on the soft skills observed in the most successful people they employ. In addition, space is created to forge links and discuss what is currently as the most challenging aspects in the world of work in attempt to address gaps and builds bridges, forging meaningful and lasting connections.

## University Roadshow

This provides a positive platform to showcase the wide variety of Higher Education opportunities available across a range of pathways, providing expert advice at a highly valuable key transition stage.



# PAST PUPIL SUCCESS



## Isabella Souza McLaughlin

**Global Marketing and Recruitment Co-Ordinator**

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

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



## Cora Rafferty

**Medical Student at QUB**

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

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



## Erin Glass

**Head of Regulatory Affairs**

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

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

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

# SPORT IN ST. COLM'S

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



Hurling & Camogie



Rounders



Athletics



Netball



Boys & Girls Gaelic Football



Cross Country



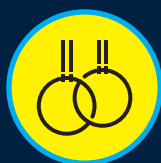
Soccer



Badminton



Handball



Gymnastics



Basketball



Table Tennis



Orienteering



Swimming





### Facilities

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

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



### Sporting Success

St. Colm's has a long and illustrious tradition of sporting success. We continue to compete in Ulster camogie, football and hurling and this year reached the U16 Ulster Football Final.



**I AM SO PROUD OF ALL OUR TEAM HAVE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR AND HOW SUCCESSFUL WE WERE. GETTING TO AN ULSTER FINAL IS A SURREAL EXPERIENCE AND I AM HONoured TO HAVE CAPTAINED OUR PAT KING TEAM.**

Paul McNicholl – Captain of U16 Football Team



**I LOVE BEING PART OF THE TRADITIONAL GROUP. GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE OUR TALENTS IS JUST BRILLIANT.**







## I BELIEVED, I ACHIEVED

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Bronagh Doherty*



# Our Teaching Staff

## MEET THE TEAM



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Our Support Staff



### **Mrs Maria Doherty**

Learning Support Assistant

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

### **Mrs Anna Marie Mullan**

Learning Support Assistant

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

### **Mrs Louise Toner**

Learning Support Assistant

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

### **Mrs Karen McGuigan**

IT Technician

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

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

Learning Support Assistant

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

# My School Day

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



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



8.20am

## Breakfast Club

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



12 - 12.40pm

## Lunchtime

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



8.50am

## Tutor

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



12.40 - 1.30pm

## Period 4: French

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



9.10 - 10.00am

## Period 1: English

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



1.30 - 2.20pm

## Period 5: LLW

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



10 - 10.15am

## Breaktime

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



2.20 - 3.10pm

## Period 6: Maths

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



10.15 - 11.55am

## Period 2 and 3 PE

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

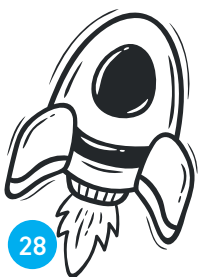


3.10pm

## HOMETIME!

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

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

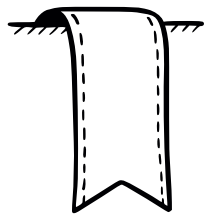


I can't wait to see you all in September!





# Our School Uniform



We wear our uniform with pride!

## Girls' Uniform

Black Blazer with School Badge  
.....

School Clip On Tie  
.....

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

Light Blue Blouse  
.....

Knee Length Skirt and Tights  
.....

Black Socks  
.....

Black Low Heel Shoes

## Boys' Uniform

Black Blazer with School Badge  
.....

School Clip On Tie  
.....

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

Light Blue Shirt  
.....

Black Trousers  
.....

Black Socks  
.....

Black Shoes



## Dressed for Success!





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

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

**THE!**

FOOTBALL

ARTS & CRAFTS

DANCE

# CORNS

ON-LINE GAMING

REST & RELAXATION

IT ACTIVITIES

POOL

FOOTBALL

TABLE TENNIS

FAITH GROUP

# CORNSTORE!

## YOUTH CLUB

BOARD GAMES



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

### Come and Join Us!

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

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

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

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

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

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



### Weekly Activities include:

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

### Annual Activities include:

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





## *My Time at the Cornstore*

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

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

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

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

*Katie - Year 13*



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# FAMILIES FIRST NI EDUCATION AWARDS 2023



First  
FAMILIES FIRST  
IN IRELAND  
AWARDS

Families  
First  
NORTH



POST PRIMARY  
AWARDS 2023

Calvert

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR  
CO LONGONDERY  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ST COLM'S  
HIGH SCHOOL





# ST. COLM'S

HIGH SCHOOL

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Co Derry  
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