PARKHALL
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Welcome...

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Thank you for your interest in Parkhall Integrated College. I trust you will find our prospectus helpful as an introduction to life in our school. As a caring learning institution we aim to serve our local community through providing an inclusive, child-centred environment in which all students achieve their full potential.

Our college is rightly proud of its long-standing reputation of academic achievement and extra-curricular opportunities, and we regard the education of our pupils as a partnership between the young people, their parents, the school and the local community.

We are absolutely delighted to be located in our new state-of-the-art school building from January 2018. This £20-million-pound investment has brought all of our pupils and staff together on one site, and our current enrolment figure has risen to almost 800 pupils. Each classroom is equipped with new technology, including interactive panels, which enhances the teaching and learning opportunities for our pupils, and our sporting provision has been enhanced by our new AstroTurf facility, five tennis courts, two indoor sports halls and a fitness suite. Further sporting facilities will be completed by August 2019.

Each year the school attracts pupils from a diverse range of feeder primary schools and from all religious and ethnic backgrounds and traditions. Building upon the college's integrated ethos, we are striving forward with continued efforts aimed at addressing the religious balance within the school and welcome children from all faiths and none.

The curriculum is designed to provide an opportunity for all pupils to succeed, whether their strengths are vocational, academic or a combination of both. Pupils with additional needs are well catered for and supported and partake fully in every aspect of school life. The addition of post-16 education from September 2017 allows our pupils to complete their education from year 8 through to year 14.

The five A*-C GCSE examination results have improved considerably over the past five years, rising to a record-breaking 86% in 2017. The three-year average for five A* - C grades is currently 83%. The three-year average for five A*-E grades is 97% and the seven A*-C three-year average is 55%, all of which are above the Northern Ireland average for similar schools. Annually, a significant number of pupils obtain eight, nine, ten or eleven A*-C GCSE grades.

I hope that you feel very welcome as you visit our school and can sense the strong relationships that permeate the school community.

Please do pay us a visit and find out more about the school than this prospectus can tell you. You will be very welcome at any time. Alternatively, please check out the school website at: www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org

G. Beattie
Principal

Our College

Parkhall Integrated College is a well-established and successful school for 11 to 16-year-olds with a current enrolment of 800 pupils.

Our school ethos is based on Christian values and standards.

We value each person in our school community regardless of colour, religion, creed or cultural background and believe that all can benefit from, and make a positive contribution to the life of our school.

There are currently pupils from eleven different religious denominations attending the school, including the two main traditions here in Northern Ireland, and pupils with twelve different home languages other than English. These include Polish, Portuguese, Panjabi, Cantonese, Slovak and Lithuanian, amongst others.

Every year the school welcomes new pupils from a large number of feeder primary schools.

The current year-8 intake draws from fifteen different primary schools in the greater Antrim area.

Annually the college attracts pupils from:

Antrim Primary
Ballinderry PS
Ballycraigy Primary
Ballykeel PS
Carnaghts PS
Carnmoney PS
Creavery Primary
Crumlin Integrated Primary
Greystone Primary
Kells & Connor Primary
Loanends Primary
McKinney Primary
Mossgrove Primary
Mossley PS
Parkhall Primary
Randalstown Central Primary
Round Tower Integrated Primary
St. Comgall's Primary
St. Joseph's PS Crumlin
St. Joseph's Primary
Six Mile Integrated Primary
Straidhavern Primary
Templepatrick Primary

In Parkhall...

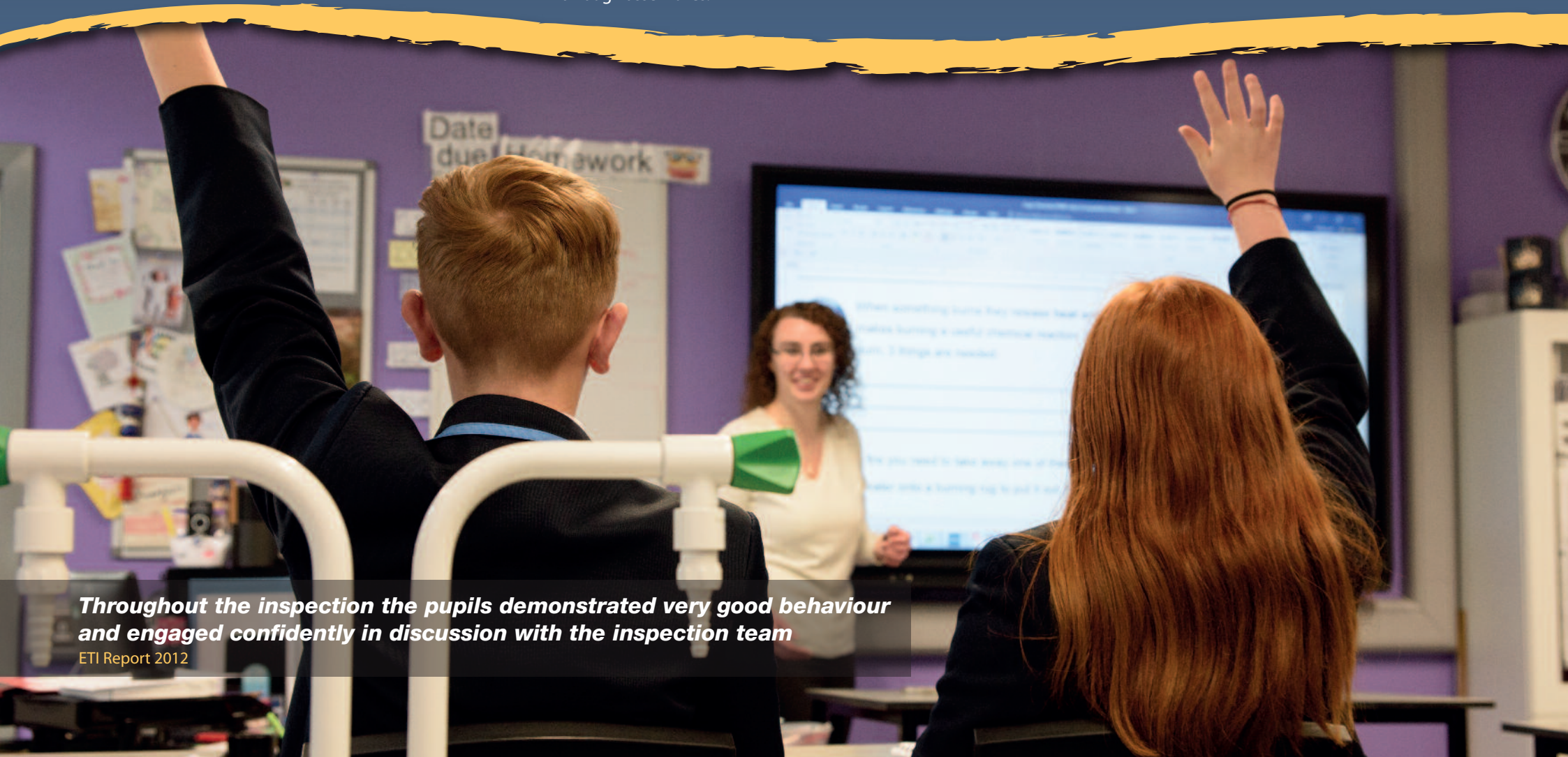
- Teacher expectations are high, and all pupils are challenged to achieve their personal best.
- The growth of moral, spiritual, cultural and aesthetic awareness is encouraged so that all our students may become responsible and tolerant citizens.
- Pupils are taught to have respect for the environment.
- Pupils feel valued and respected and show respect for others.
- Pupils experience a broad, balanced and innovative curriculum, suited to their individual needs.
- The personal, social and physical skills necessary to cope with everyday life, both now and in the future, are developed.
- The school and its members are an integral part of the local community.

Positive Behaviour

Effective learning and teaching can only take place when attitudes and behaviour are positive.

Our behaviour policy is based on the simple requirements of courtesy and mutual respect, which contribute to the development and maintenance of good behaviour and a positive ethos. The code of conduct is on display in all classrooms and is reinforced by teachers in class and through assemblies.

Pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility through opportunities to become a class monitor, mentor, member of the school council, junior prefect or senior prefect.



Throughout the inspection the pupils demonstrated very good behaviour and engaged confidently in discussion with the inspection team

ETI Report 2012

Rewards

Rewards are very important and carry considerable weight in Parkhall Integrated College. In this way pupils will achieve recognition for a positive contribution to school life.

Such contributions include quality classwork, effort, good behaviour, high levels of attendance and adherence to the code of conduct. Rewards are informal through teacher praise and display of good work, and more formal in the shape of merit stickers, pens, certificates, attendance tokens, presentations in assembly and special trips.
In Parkhall Integrated College, we strive to raise self-esteem and self-confidence through recognising and rewarding our young people's achievements.

This initiative was highlighted as an example of good practice within the ETI Inspection Report, citing the "tangible support from local businesses".

This whole school programme of rewards is supported financially by local businesses through our business community partnership scheme.

Each can be viewed from the school website:
www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org

These companies include:

Danske Bank	Moes Grill
Hutchinson Care Homes	Tesco
IED Print	Umbro
Islandbawn Building Supplies	Wallace's Antrim
Legal Island	

Pastoral Care

The most recent ETI Inspection graded the pastoral care provision in the college as "very good".

In Parkhall Integrated College, we believe that children learn best in an environment where they feel happy, secure and valued. We therefore place great emphasis on our pastoral care programme, which fosters positive relationships and community spirit. We strive to ensure every child has opportunities to achieve success, not only in academic or vocational study, but also in the wider life of our school.

We promote healthy lifestyles and positive attitudes in all of our pupils as well as fostering an environment where diversity is valued and where the worth and self-esteem of all individuals within the school are paramount.

"The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good"
ETI Report 2012

Counselling

Parkhall Integrated College has a pastoral team to help support our pupils.

They are available along with year heads to talk to individual pupils who may need help and support in overcoming whatever difficulties they are facing.

Pastoral staff work closely with parents to help pupils with any academic, emotional or behavioural concerns, and a wide range of outside agencies are also accessed when deemed necessary.

The EA has provided a counsellor for all schools in the board area. Pupils can self-refer to the college's counsellor or referrals can be made by pastoral staff.

Individual Pupil Support

Some pupils may require a greater focus on the core skills, and the timetable organisation allows for this.

Those pupils who need support in their learning are provided with opportunities for individual and group tuition from staff with specialist skills and commitment. Close contact with parents is maintained, and learning support assistants give help and guidance in class. In addition, many pupils benefit from numeracy and literacy withdrawal support.

The Education Authority Literacy Service, along with Educational Psychology are utilised where their support is considered beneficial. Other individual support is obtained from the Education Authority Behaviour Support Service based at Rathmore Education and Guidance Centre and the Autism Advisory and Intervention Service (AAIS).

Induction

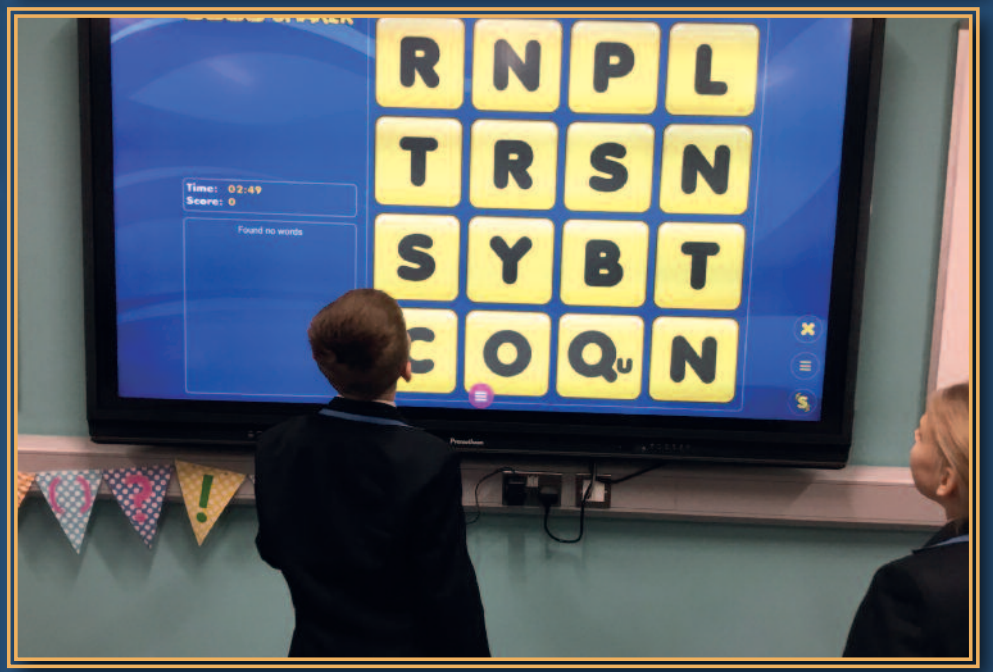
In Parkhall Integrated College, we have always been sensitive to this stage in our pupils' lives and put a great deal of thought into the planning and carrying out of the induction period.

In June, we have an induction evening for the year 7 pupils and parents. During this evening, the pupils receive an induction pack which gives information about the school uniform and the structure of the school. Pupils and parents are introduced to the principal, senior staff and heads of year 8.

At the start of the school year, we have a three-day induction programme for year 8. The pupils meet their class teacher and the other members of their class, take part in activities which focus on the integrated ethos of the college, and get to know their way around the school building.

During their first term at the college, year 8 pupils are involved in presentations and workshops on child protection, attendance, study skills and a session entitled "Stand up to Bullying".

QUIZ...
C'est Paris, ou c'est Antrim?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Key Stage 3

All pupils follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum and have opportunities to study the following subjects:

Art and Design
English
French
Geography
History
Home Economics
ICT
Mathematics
Physical Education
Religious Education
Science
Technology

Courses in Business Studies, Music, Drama, Learning for Life and Work, and Careers are also offered to key stage 3 pupils.

In year 8, pupils are differentiated into classes based on PIE and PIM results in consultation with the heads of year. The allocation of pupils to particular classes takes place at the end of each school year, and there are opportunities for individual pupils to transfer between classes.

Curriculum

The key stage 3 and key stage 4 curricula are organised into subject areas to comply with the areas of study identified in the Northern Ireland Education Reform Order. All pupils study Religious Studies, Learning for Life and Work and Careers Education.

All curriculum development is guided by the school's aims and mission statement.

Finance, personnel and other resources are determined by the college's curriculum. Decision-making for curriculum development is led by the principal and vice-principals, channelled through curriculum-related working parties and heads of departments. The working parties are drawn from a cross-section of the teaching staff and are fluid in response to changing curricular developments.

Key Stage 4

All pupils follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The college complies with the Entitlement Framework and offers 32 courses, both general and applied. All pupils at key stage 4 have the opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum. This enables the college to provide an individualised learning programme, leading to each pupil having opportunities to fulfil his or her academic potential.

The college is a member of Antrim Learning Community, which enables our pupils to access a wider range of courses. Collaborative courses at key stage 4 are offered in conjunction with Northern Regional College (NRC), Antrim Grammar School, St Benedict's College and Ballyclare Secondary School.

All key stage 4 pupils are entered for public examinations in English, Mathematics and Science. The majority study a further five subjects to GCSE or equivalent, and a number of pupils have the opportunity to study a further two courses. The school will continue to monitor and evaluate the success of the courses offered so that all pupils experience a curriculum which suits their abilities, aptitudes and career ambitions.

The following subjects are offered at key stage 4:

GCSE:

- Art
- Business and communication systems
- Construction
- Childcare - Child Development
- English
- English literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Leisure and Tourism
- Mathematics
- Motor Vehicle Road User Studies
- Religious Education
- Double Award Science
- Single Award Science

BTEC- Level 2:

- Equine Btec Level 2 Extended Certificate (double award)
- Horticulture Btec Level 2 Extended Certificate (double award)
- ICT Btec Level 2 First Award
- Sport Btec Level 2 First Award

QCF level 2 Qualifications

- Preparation for Adult Life (PAL)
- Performance Skills
- Working in Creative Craft Industry

At key stage 4, pupils are organised into broad ability bands on the basis of year 10 examination performance, key stage 3 assessments and progress during year 10.

Particular attention is paid to pupil performance in the coresubjects of English, Mathematics and Science.

Occupational studies level 2

In-house:

- Environment & Society: Animal Care & Working in the Care Environment
- Construction: Carpentry & Joinery and Bench Joinery
- Technology and Innovation: Digital Imaging & Computer-Aided Design
- Design & Creativity/Business & Business Services: Contemporary Cuisine & Patisserie & Baking
- Business & Business Services: Using Office Technology & Customer Service
- Environment and Society: Running a Leisure Event & Sports Leadership
- Design & Creativity: Website Development & Graphic Design
- Technology and Innovation: Manufacturing Techniques – Hand Fitting & Manufacturing Techniques – Sheet Metal

NRC:

- Business & Business Services: Contemporary Cuisine/Creative Styling/Using Blow-Drying Techniques/Customer Service/Facial Skincare/Logistics and Transport/Patisserie and Baking/Vehicle Servicing and Valeting Operations
- Design & Creativity: Contemporary Cuisine/Creative Hairstyling on Long Hair/ Creative Styling Using Blow-Drying Techniques/ Patisserie and Baking/Specialised Crafts
- Construction: Carpentry & Joinery/Bench Joinery/ Brick and Block Work/ Hard Landscaping
- Engineering and Engineering Services: Basic Fast-Fit Operations/ Basic Vehicle Body Components and Fitting/ Vehicle Servicing and Valeting Operations/ Vehicle Technician Operations

Examinations

All pupils are encouraged to sit external examinations which cater for the full ability range in a wide range of courses suited to the individual pupil.

Most departments consistently achieve above the NI average for non-selective schools.

In terms of GCSE performance, the percentage of pupils gaining at least five A*-C grades has increased dramatically over the past few years, with a three-year average of 84%.

Of particular note are those pupils who have gained up to and including eleven A* grades at GCSE level.

In addition to the GCSE and BTEC courses, there are music exams from The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College, London.

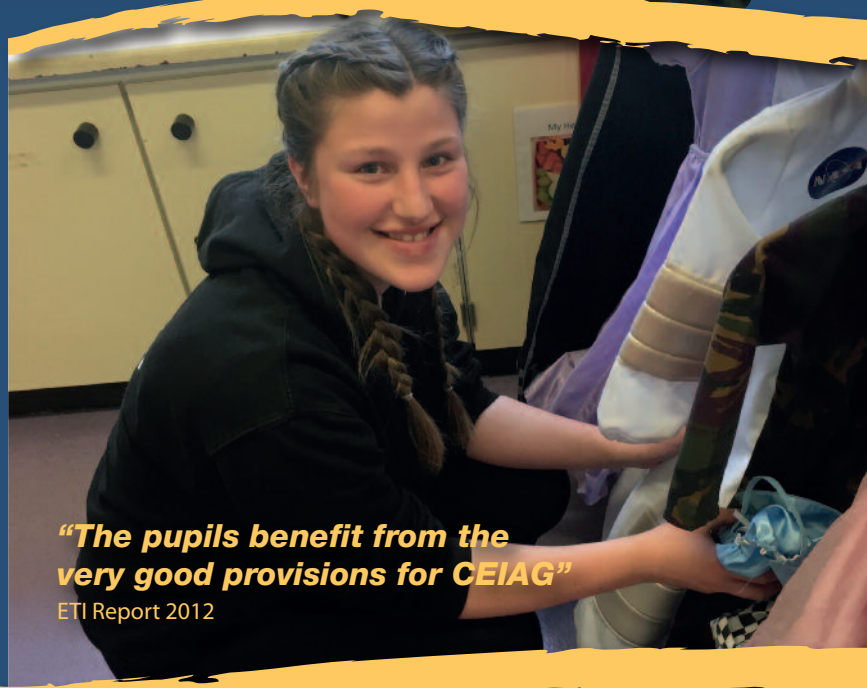
Careers

Careers Education is an essential element in our curriculum.

All pupils have a weekly Careers period: employability in years 8-10, and careers in years 11 and 12. Trips out of school and visiting speakers are regularly organised to enhance the work of the Careers department.

Pupils have opportunities to develop their self-awareness and recognise the skills and personal qualities required by employers. Year 11 pupils participate in a period of work experience designed to help them experience at first hand the challenges, demands and rewards of employment. Pupils taking Occupational Studies spend one day a week in a work placement in year 12.

A careers officer from the Training and Employment Agency is assigned to the school to support the work of the Careers staff.



"The pupils benefit from the very good provisions for CEIAG"
ETI Report 2012

Sixth Form

Our pupils will now have the opportunity to remain at Parkhall Integrated College to undertake post-16 education in a range of subject areas that lead on from GCSE qualifications.

We have always believed that our pupils should have the opportunity to continue in a learning environment in which they feel supported, secure and happy.

At post-16 level, our pupils have the opportunity to follow a pathway in the following areas: Art and Design, Business Studies, Health and Social Care (single and double award), ICT, Life and Health Sciences (single and double award), Sport, Sports Coaching and Travel and Tourism. In addition, students may also select from a number of courses on offer in a collaborative block with Antrim Grammar School. Pupils engage in a Careers programme that will allow them to consider studying at university or further education or to consider employment in their chosen area.

Post 16 level 3 qualifications:

- Art - Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Introductory Diploma
- ICT - Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Introductory Diploma
- Coaching - City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Increasing Participation in Sport and Active Leisure in Community Settings (QCF)
- Business Btec Level 3 National Certificate
- Health and Social Care - Btec Level 3 National Certificate
- Health and Social Care - Btec Level 3 National Extended Certificate
- Travel and Tourism - Pearson Btec Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Travel & Tourism
- Sport - Btec Level 3 National Certificate
- A Level - Life and Health Sciences- double and single award
- Plus courses in collaboration with Antrim Grammar School

Pupil Leadership Opportunities

An important element of school life is the need to provide opportunities for our young people to display their leadership skills through a variety of roles.

The senior prefects are led ably by a senior team consisting of the head boy and head girl and a number of deputies. Committees are formed to contribute to charity work, school events and the organisation of the school formal.

In junior school, we annually have an excellent team of junior prefects who assist with the day-to-day running of the school and a team of mentors who help our year-eight children to settle, by visiting form classes and assisting with any issues. The school council is elected each year and plays an active role in school life, contributing to school evaluation and improvement. These leadership positions give our young people the opportunity to display their many talents and abilities.

Primary School Links

The college enjoys close links with a large number of primary schools throughout the Antrim area.

Pupils from Round Tower Integrated Primary, Rathenraw Integrated Primary, Crumlin Integrated Primary and Glengormley Integrated Primary, have taken part in Integrated Education Week activities within the college's Art department.

Pupils from many of our feeder primary schools have frequently participated in projects and workshops in science, languages, ICT and sport within the college. Primary school pupils from Parkhall, Kells and Connor, Antrim, Loanends, St Joseph's, Ballycraigy, St Comgall's, Greystone, Straidhavern, Templepatrick, McKinney, Randalstown Central and Maine Integrated have participated in a range of activity programmes in the past few years.

Parent Voice

For many years, the college has had a very supportive Parent Voice group who contribute greatly to school functions and events in the college.

We have recently replaced the Parent Teacher Association with a newly formed Parent Voice group within the school. All parents are welcome to become part of this group, which has had the opportunity to ensure that the voice of parents is heard regarding major issues within the college.

In the past year, issues discussed have included the new school uniform, the new school build and the shared education programme. This group provides representation for parents and can be a forum for parent issues or concerns to be raised. This increased participation should hopefully deepen parental awareness and understanding of the ethos of the college.

Charities

The caring ethos of our school is clearly demonstrated by the positive response made by our pupils during our charity appeals.

Even though there are many demands on their resources, pupils regularly contribute to a variety of relevant charities.

We regularly welcome representatives to assembly to raise awareness and develop a deeper understanding of the charities we support. Although we actively encourage pupils to participate in high-profile events, we equally welcome the weekly contributions made by both pupils and teachers.

In the past, contributions have been made to Barnardo's, NSPCC, MS, Macmillan Cancer, Children in Need and the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, among others.

Home - School Partnership

As partners in the education process, we expect parents to support the school actively in maintaining the caring discipline and high standards of learning we all wish to achieve.

One of the most important elements of a successful education is regular attendance at school. We work closely with the Educational Welfare Service and parents to ensure high standards of attendance and punctuality. Year heads make regular contact with parents where attendance is an issue.

Individual pupils with 100% attendance are recognised on a monthly basis through certificates and awards. Registration class attendance in each year group is recognised monthly through class attendance shields and annually through reward trips.

We value highly the close links that develop between parents and teachers and encourage and welcome on-going contact.

We believe that when pupils, parents and school support each other, positive relationships develop and reach their full potential.

Bi-annual reports highlighting effort, attainment levels and behaviour are sent to parents. Parent consultation sessions are held throughout the year to provide opportunities for parents to talk to individual teachers and discuss their child's progress.

A special information evening for year-8 parents before the children join us has proved to be helpful in making the induction process as easy as possible.

We expect parents to support the school in implementing our behaviour policy, which is issued to each parent annually.

Community Relations / Shared Education

At Parkhall Integrated College we firmly believe that developing respect for others is a key attribute of all our pupils. To encourage this, pupils are regularly given the opportunity to engage in a range of workshops, events and programmes.

Over the past few years, pupils have participated in IEF PACT programmes, the Dissolving Boundaries programme, the Games of 3 Halves initiative with IFA, GAA and IRFU, the Flags of Hope programme and the Amazing the Space project.

In addition, the college is currently engaged in the Shared Education Programme alongside Antrim Grammar School and St. Benedict's College. The partnership involves pupil activities with years 8, 9 and 10 through LLW, shared school council events and visits and opportunities for staff development and sharing of expertise.

The College has also made a significant contribution to the development of the Moving Forward Together (MFT) group consisting of nineteen schools across all sectors from nursery to post-primary ages. The focus of the groups is to develop a common approach to cross-community and good relations work across all schools in the Antrim and Randalstown area. This has developed into a dynamic vehicle for sharing expertise, joint school choirs and pupil events alongside extensive networking opportunities.

Youth and the Community

The youth club runs five nights each week and boasts perhaps the largest number of members of any NEELB youth club.

A large number of activities is available to the members, including special interest sections in craftwork, drama and photography. Discussion groups are also part of the programme. The provision includes a coffee bar and a computer suite.

Other activities available to members include outdoor pursuits, senior member training, social weekends, residentials, visits to other clubs and an opportunity to become involved in a range of projects which highlight the issues most important to young people today. Members are also encouraged to involve themselves as far as possible in the running of the club.

A summer scheme currently runs for members and non-members during the month of July.

Community Involvement

The college enjoys excellent links with the local community on many levels:

For many years the college has hosted a wide range of community groups including the Camera Club, Parkhall Bowling Club, Art Club, Antrim Choral Society, Angling Club, Antrim Macmillan Fundraising Committee and the Northern Ireland Flower Arranging Society amongst others. These groups have been housed in both the junior and senior schools in the past and are now enjoying the new school facilities.

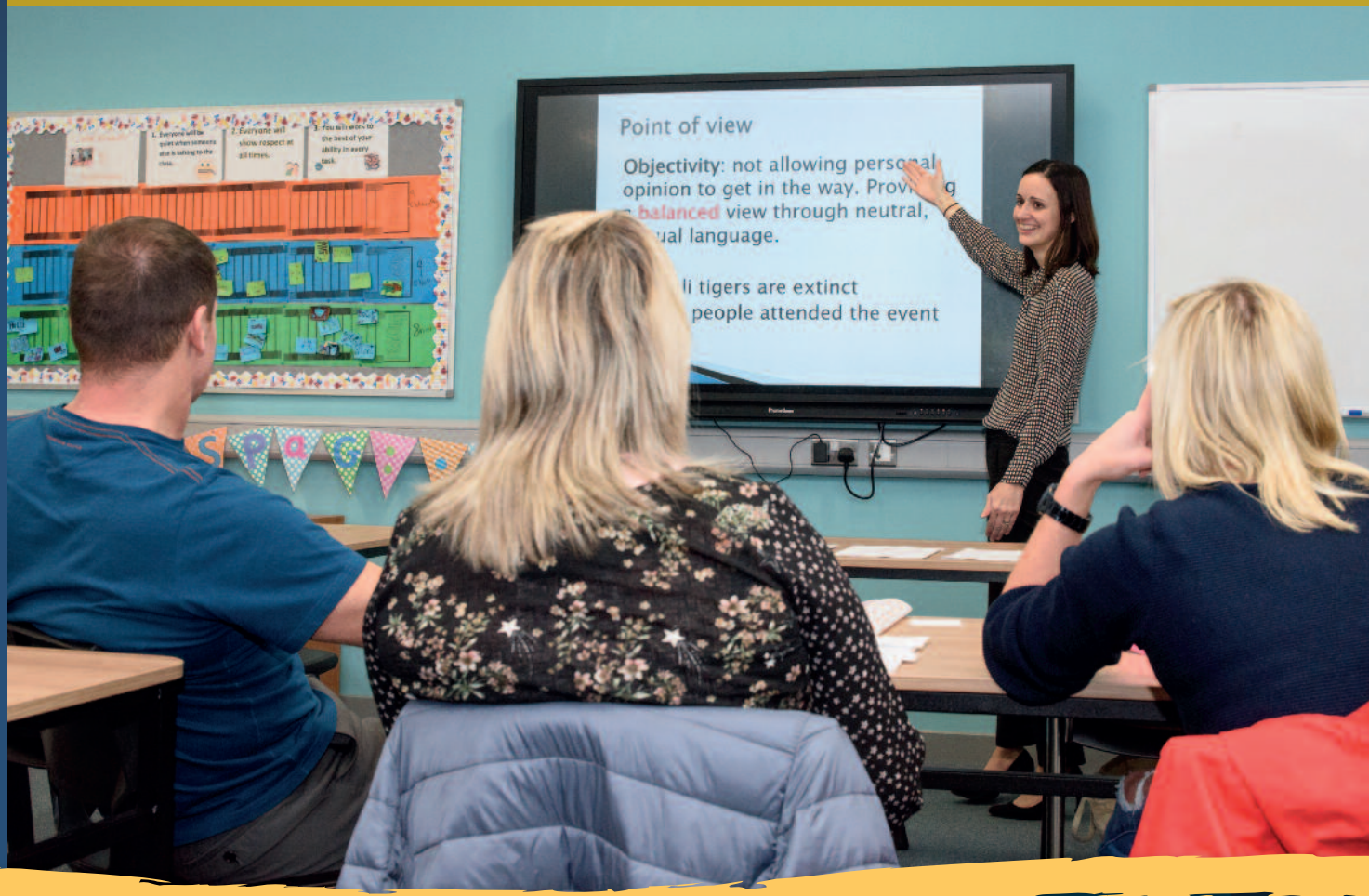
The indoor sporting facilities including the sports hall, with its cricket practice nets, and the fitness suite continue to be very popular with a range of local sports clubs and this has been supplemented by the floodlit AstroTurf pitch, which is currently being used by hockey and football teams.

Following the closure of the local NRC campus, the adult education community provision has been hosted in the college, offering courses in GCSE English and Maths, ICT courses, word-processing , ESOL courses and Essential Skills in English and Maths and counselling courses. In addition to these courses, the Extended Schools Programme has also allowed courses in cooking, fitness-training, salsa dancing and ICT to take place.

The college also enjoys good relationships with a range of local businesses through the rewards programme and the work experience programme.

"The school's excellent links with the wider community, including the provision for adult classes within the school, the tangible support from local businesses, and work with agencies to enhance formal and non-formal learning, are key strengths of the school"

ETI Report 2012



Extra-curricular Activities

Many aspects of school life such as residentials, clubs, societies and youth club membership contribute further to our pupils' personal growth. Participation in the above assists in the overall development of our young people.

Pupils can choose from a vast array of activities to suit their individual interests and skills, including STEM Club, Drama Club, Scripture Union, ICT Club, Cookery Club, choir, orchestra, Lego Challenge and a wide range of sports including cricket, rugby, boys and girls' football, Gaelic football, netball, hockey, tennis and athletics.

There are educational visits to the UK, Europe and the USA as well as to many places of interest locally and in our own province.

Parkhall Integrated College pupils have many opportunities to participate in musical and dramatic activities including Transfer Evening, Prize Distribution and the carol service. Individual instrumental tuition is available through the peripatetic staff and a large number of pupils achieve recognition from external awarding bodies.

Parkhall has a fine tradition of sporting success in an array of different sports for both boys and girls at local, regional and national level.

Parkhal
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WELCOME TO
PARKHALL

Parkhall
Integrated College
Ms Sharon O'Connor
Chairperson, Education Authority

RECEPTION

PARKHALL
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PARKHALL
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