



# Castledeberg

## High School



Prospectus 2020

*A High Performing, Non-Selective, Post Primary School*



# Castledearg High School

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# A School With An Established Culture Of Success



## Principal's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Castlederg High School – a school that ensures high academic success, a wide and vibrant extra-curricular provision and a happy school experience. We have become renowned for excellent performance in all examinations at GCSE and A level and have gained a reputation for superb standards of teaching and learning. Castlederg High school has, therefore, become the choice for pupils who want a full academic education in a warm and caring environment, where each young person is valued and supported in their learning. We pride ourselves on meeting the needs of every pupil and challenging them to be the best they can be. Year on year, more pupils are transferring to us with high AQE scores, or none – Castlederg High School was their first choice.

You may be wondering if you are choosing wisely for your child and I can assure you that the high standards the school has reached in recent years mean your child can be in no better place to grow and develop. Castlederg High School was the top controlled non grammar school for GCSE exam performance in Northern Ireland in 2018 and currently holds this position. Indeed, we continued to sustain a high level of achievement this year. With 76% of our pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grades

Principal	Vice-Principal	Chair - Board of Governors
Mrs S Wilson BA Hons, PGCE, PQH(NI)	Mrs S Cashel MA, MEd, BA (Hons), PGCE, PG Dip.	Mr E Stevenson

*My child has settled in because he is happy. Castledearg High School is convenient for travel and has a great reputation.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



(including Maths and English) an incredible 24% above the national average for similar schools in Northern Ireland, you can be assured that you are choosing the best in educational quality. Our A Level performance is equally impressive at 74% 3 A\* - C, 16 % above the national average for similar schools in Northern Ireland, so you can be confident that we can take your child from Year 8 through to University or Higher Level education. We offer a wide range GCSE and A Level subjects, including subjects such as Further Maths that are often only provided in grammar schools.

The staff in Castledearg High School are highly driven and completely focused on providing the best possible learning experience and environment for your child. Our professional teaching staff always go the extra mile to provide exciting and interesting learning experiences and they are ably supported by an equally dedicated non-teaching staff. Good relationships are at the heart of our school. As a staff we are committed to building pupil self-confidence and encouraging our young people to aim for their highest possible achievement. We are focused on our pupils' future from the instance they arrive in school, with a huge emphasis on career planning from Year 8 onwards. We believe that each child can have their chosen career pathway with good curricular choice and strong careers information.

We recognise that young people must feel secure and safe in order to flourish. Our excellent pastoral provision ensures our pupils are motivated and happy and always have someone to support them. All of our pupils feel a strong sense of belonging within a nurturing family environment of which encourages the best possible achievement from each one of them. Our young people are proud to be pupils of Castledearg High School and wear their uniform with pride, knowing they are both challenged and cared for each and every day.

This prospectus gives you an insight into the rich and diverse educational experience of all our pupils. It provides a flavour of the quality educational experience your child will receive if they choose to join our happy school family in September. As with all aspects of our provision, we will ensure that your child's transition experience is smooth and happy. We pride ourselves in being welcoming and responsive so please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any further information. I hope you enjoy reading our prospectus and that it confirms Castledearg High School will be your number 1!

Best wishes

**Mrs Susan J Wilson**  
Principal

***“top controlled, non-grammar school for GCSE exam performance in Northern Ireland”<sup>1</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Most recent available statistics

# A School That Offers A Great Educational Experience

## Mission

Castledegr High School values each pupil as a unique individual endowed with abilities, both academic and non-academic.

The ideal to which we aspire is to develop the confidence and self-esteem of the pupils so that they are motivated to achieve their highest potential within a safe and caring environment.

An understanding of the world and the place of humanity in it will be offered in the context of belief in Christian values whilst respect for other beliefs or none will be fostered.

## Our Aim

The primary aim of Castledegr High School is to provide a well-ordered and caring environment in which all members of the school community can work cooperatively in the pursuit of all aspects of educational excellence.

## Our Core Values

Castledegr High School aims to foster the following core values for all:

- ✓ a strong sense of loyalty to the school and its goals
- ✓ positive, caring relationships through an effective pastoral care system
- ✓ a sense of belonging to the school community
- ✓ a sense of confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ freedom to express views
- ✓ respect for others, their views and their property
- ✓ high expectation of attendance, behaviour and attainment
- ✓ high quality learning and teaching
- ✓ self-evaluation in the pursuit of improvement to achieve quality provision
- ✓ communication among all members of the school community
- ✓ promotion of the high reputation of the school in the community
- ✓ an attractive and stimulating school environment
- ✓ promotion of mutual dignity and respect  
- promoting a dignified workplace.



*I have got to meet lots of amazing new people. Everyone is kind. I can count on these people for anything. I take part in afterschool hockey which is fun. All of the classes are different and it's very easy to get around the school.*

**Chloe Hyndman Year 8 – Ardstraw**

Castledearg High School is a fantastic school. We now have two children at the school and it has been the best decision to send them to CHS.

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



*CHS is a wonderful school with very friendly pupils and staff. Teachers encourage you to get the best exam results you can get. The staff are always willing to give a helping hand to ensure you are never struggling in class. There are plenty of trips such as the ski trip to Bulgaria which I had a lot of fun on.*  
**Marc Funston Year 11 – Killen**

*I truly believe that Castledearg High School is an excellent school. The staff are caring and extremely supportive on a personal and an educational level. I believe the teachers genuinely care and they push you to the best of your ability. With the help of the staff I was very happy with my GCSE results which allowed me to return to Sixth Form. I am really confident that with the help of my teachers, I can succeed in having a great future.*  
**Janet Burke Year 13 - Castledearg**

# A School That Is High Performing



Castledearg High School is renowned within the community as a high performing school. This was consolidated with our recent position as top non-grammar school for GCSE performance in Northern Ireland. We consider it a great privilege to be entrusted with the education of each young person who joins us and as a staff we strive towards excellence in all aspects of our delivery for them.

This atmosphere of motivation pervades the school. Students recognize the drive and commitment of staff for each one of them to do well. This in turn builds confidence in each young person. When they believe in themselves as learners, and know that the staff are there to support them throughout the learning journey they rise to the challenge and achieve results that they, their parents, the school and the wider community can be proud of.

All young people are individuals, and consequently the potential exam performance within each year group varies to some degree. Nonetheless, as a school Castledearg High School has firmly established a trend as a high performing school that delivers excellent exam results. This fact underlines our high reputation as a school within the community.

Our status as a non-selective school is no barrier to the ambition that we hold for each young person who joins us. Our curriculum, teaching approaches, and pastoral systems are designed, and indeed proven, to deliver for all students, irrespective of their ability.

*I'm very happy with Castledearg High School. Would highly recommend this school for its teaching and discipline.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



## Headline Statistics

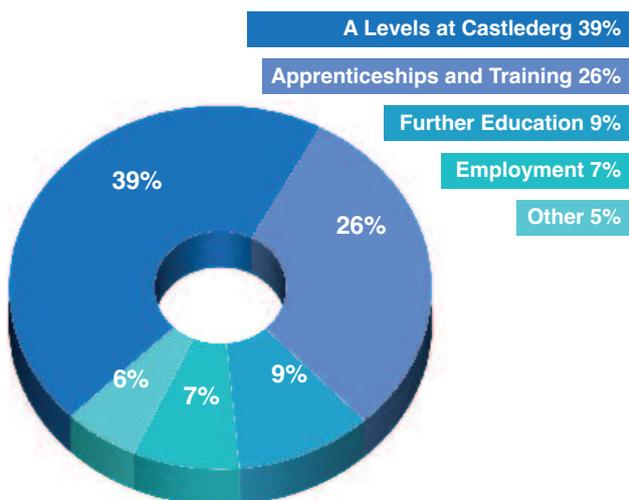
**76%**  
of pupils gained  
**5 or more A\*-C**  
grades at GCSE  
(including Maths and  
English)  
**24% above**  
NI average<sup>1</sup>

**90%**  
of pupils gained  
**5 or more A\*-C**  
grades at GCSE  
**10% above**  
NI average<sup>1</sup>

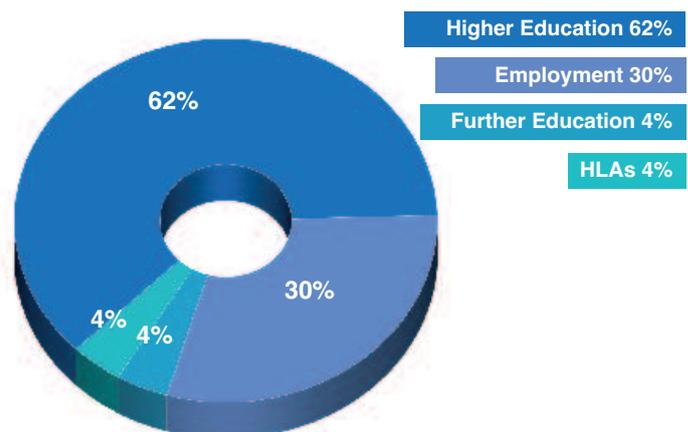
**74%**  
of pupils gained  
**3 A\*-C** grades  
at A-Level  
**16% above**  
NI average<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Most recent statistics for schools of similar type.

## Destination of GCSE Students



## Destination of A Level Students



*My time at Castledearg High School has been unbelievable. At GCSE I was delighted to achieve 5A\* 2A 4B 1C grades. Additionally, I was the top performing candidate in CCEA GCSE Leisure and Tourism in Northern Ireland. This highlights clearly the commitment and hardworking ethic of myself and my teachers. I believe that Castledearg High School supports every pupil and encourages them to reach their goals. Personally, this has contributed to me studying Double Award Health and Social Care and Applied Science. After Sixth Form, through the excellent preparation from my teachers in supporting me, I hope to study Primary Teaching at Stranmillis University College.*  
Taylor Simpson – Year 14 Kesh

*Castledearg High School is full of hardworking and motivational staff. These staff members helped me achieve my GCSE grades of 1A\* 4A 4B grades. There is a very welcoming atmosphere in the school. This school has allowed me to be well on my way to achieving my learning goals and has given me many long lasting memories. I hope to go to university in the future to study Computer Science, and build on this great platform that the school has given me. I am proud to be a pupil of Castledearg High School, and to have been part of the 2017-2018 Year 12 Year group which achieved the No 1 position as the top performing non-grammar school for GCSE results in NI.*  
Alex Chambers Year 14 – Ardstraw

# A School That Welcomes Everyone



## Our Invitation to You

All new pupils, whether a prospective Year 8, an entrant to another year group or Sixth Form, can be assured of a warm welcome at Castlederg High School. In accordance with our core values of mutual dignity and respect, we accept pupils from all sections of the community. Given the excellent performance of our pupils in GCSE and A Levels over the past number of years, it is an exciting time to join us.

### Catchment Area

Ardstraw	Gortin	Lack
Castlederg	Irvinestown	Newtownstewart
Drumquin	Kesh	Sion Mills
	Killen	Strabane

To date we have accepted 100% of applications for Year 8 admission to our school.

## Our Commitment to Supporting Your Transition

We know that changing school can be an anxious prospect for any young person, and their parent(s), but we assure you that you will be fully supported in your transition to us.

- ✓ **For Year 8 pupils** - we have a dedicated Induction Programme which begins with the Year 6 Big School Day and continues right throughout Year 8.
- ✓ **For pupils who transfer to other year groups during the course of the school year** – we will support you on an individual basis to ensure that you become successfully integrated into our school community. We regularly welcome pupils who transfer from other post-primary schools.
- ✓ **For new Sixth Form pupils** – we offer a highly supportive transition experience from Key Stage 4 to 5. As well as providing progression for our current GCSE pupils, we also welcome students who have taken their GCSEs elsewhere. In fact, an increasing number of young people make the transition to Castlederg High School at post 16 level.

*The induction day really helped me feel confident about starting school. Form class also helps me understand new things. I take part in after school football. The school provides a great bus service. It also has great activities and interesting sports and learning areas.*

**Aaron Ellis Year 8 – Kesh**

*From the beginning of my journey at Castlederg High School in September 2019, staff have been very welcoming, encouraging and understanding. Socially, I have made many friends and everyone I've met has been extremely friendly. I am making great progress within my studies.*

**Hollie Younger Year 11 – Drumquin**

*The transition was very well informed between the school, and the parents and children. I'm very happy with our choice of school.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



## Our Confidence in Providing For You

Experience shows that each of our new pupils:

- ✓ settles in quickly
- ✓ feels a sense of belonging to our school community
- ✓ achieves success, often beyond their, and their parents, expectations.

*I find this school very welcoming and friendly. It has good teachers that teach you what you need to know and congratulate you if you do well. It's really easy to make friends.*

Lleyton Beacom Year 10 – Kesh

*I recently transferred to Castlederg High School to complete my A Levels and I was blown away by the support provided to me by the staff, my peers and the entire school. I am studying Maths, TD and Engineering and I couldn't be happier.*

Rory Gailey Year 13 - Castlederg

# A School that Pupils are Proud to Attend



## Our Classes

At Castledegr High School we put great emphasis on planning for learning to maximize the outcomes for each young person. Our timetabling structure ensures a best fit approach for each individual pupil's learning profile, as well as allowing scope for movement in accordance with pupil progress. Continuous monitoring of class placement ensures individual pupils' learning needs are met.

**At Key Stage 3, in Years 8-10, pupils are assigned to a combination of the following types of classes:**

- ✓ Form Class - mixed ability thus giving the maximum opportunity for inclusion and wider social interaction within the year group. This benefits all pupils.
- ✓ General Streamed class based on ability determines your child's class placing for the majority of subjects, including English
- ✓ Maths streamed class is set separately to ensure the most appropriate provision for each pupil, given that a child's ability in Maths and English can often vary.

**At Key Stage 4, in Years 11 and 12, pupils are assigned to the classes according to:**

- ✓ Mixed ability form class
- ✓ Their choice of subject options
- ✓ Streamed classes for Maths and English.

**In Sixth Form, Years 13 and 14, pupils are assigned to:**

- ✓ Mixed ability form class
- ✓ Their choice of subject options
- ✓ Study Periods
- ✓ Research Periods
- ✓ Recreation Periods.

## Our Focus on Punctuality and Attendance

Attending school regularly, and on time, is vital to ensure each pupil has the best possible educational experience. We work closely with parents and carers to ensure that each pupil has the highest possible attendance rate. Absences are monitored closely by Form Teachers and Year Heads to:

- ✓ minimize the impact of absence on learning
- ✓ ensure support is in place, where needed.

*I like the fact that my child is transported directly to the school  
and that he has the opportunity to stay for after school clubs.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



### Our School Day - A Typical Year 8 Timetable

Time	Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8.15 – 8.40	Breakfast Club						
8.40 – 9.00	Assembly/Registration						
9.00 – 9.40	1	English	IT	Maths	Geography	History	
9.40 – 10.15	2	Science	History	Science	RE	English	
10.15 – 10.50	3	Art	Science	Music	Modern Languages	Personal Development	
10.50 – 11.05	Break						
11.05 – 11.40	4	Art	Geography	PE	Science	TD	
11.40 – 12.15	5	Maths	Maths	PE	Science	TD	
12.15 – 12.50	6	Lunch					
12.50 – 1.25	7	English	Music	Geography	Maths	Modern Languages	
1.25 – 2.00	8	History	RE	Maths	English	Drama	
2.00 – 2.35	9	Employability	HE	English	PE	Drama	
2.35 – 3.10	10	Modern Languages	HE	Library	PE	Maths	
3.10 – 4.15		After School Clubs		After School Clubs			

# A School That Cares About Each Pupil



## Our Pastoral Commitment

At Castledegr High School we place great emphasis on care and support. We pride ourselves on getting to know each young person as an individual and are committed to ensuring they reach their full potential within a caring and supportive learning environment.

### Our Pupils are:

- ✓ recognized as individuals
- ✓ valued and respected
- ✓ given a voice and listened to
- ✓ treated fairly
- ✓ encouraged to reach their full potential
- ✓ rewarded for their achievements.

### Key Memebers of our Safeguarding Team

- ✓ Designated Teacher Mrs Cashel
- ✓ Deputy Designated Teacher Mrs Spratt

### Duty of Care

We have a great sense of responsibility to each young person in order to:

- ✓ ensure their safety
- ✓ safeguard their welfare
- ✓ offer personal, social and emotional support
- ✓ support them as learners
- ✓ guide them towards their future.

### The Form Teacher

The Form Teacher plays a key role in the pastoral care of each pupil by:

- ✓ meeting with them each morning
- ✓ offering help and encouragement
- ✓ monitoring punctuality and attendance
- ✓ reviewing completion of homework and progress
- ✓ assisting with individual target setting
- ✓ delivering their Personal Development Programme.

### Health and Wellbeing

We place a strong emphasis on pupil health and wellbeing by:

- ✓ having a dedicated Pupil Welfare Officer, who will contact parents if a pupil is ill
- ✓ having a strong team of First Aiders on the staff
- ✓ working in partnership with parents and medical professionals
- ✓ arranging staff training to meet pupils' individual medical needs
- ✓ being vigilant of pupils' emotional state
- ✓ offering counselling, should a pupil and their parents wish them wish to avail of it.

*The support and pastoral care in this school is outstanding,  
not to mention their excellent results.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



*At Castlederg High School I have always felt welcome. The pupils and teachers are very friendly and always there when we need to talk. I enjoy all of my subjects but prefer PE, Science and History. The teachers are always encouraging us to do our best. I really enjoy school.*  
Mia Milligan Year 9 – Irvinestown

*I am really happy that I chose to come to this wonderful school where you get lots of support through your GCSEs and there are friendly people to talk to if you have a problem or query. I really couldn't be happier to attend Castlederg High School.*  
Yasmin Graham Year 12 – Sion Mills

# A School That Builds Self Esteem and Confidence

## Our Emphasis on Promoting the Individual Pupil

As a school we place a strong emphasis on building the self esteem and confidence of each young person. It is important to us that each pupil feels recognized as an individual within the wider school community. We build confidence and self-esteem by:

- ✓ actively offering praise and reward
- ✓ acknowledging achievements in lessons, assemblies, school events, and on promotional media, where possible
- ✓ providing opportunities to develop leadership skills
- ✓ encouraging pupils that they have a right to their voice being heard
- ✓ mentoring individual pupils, as necessary, to promote motivation, self-image and self regard as learners.

## Our Approach to Positive Behaviour

The school takes a positive approach to behaviour management encouraging, and rewarding, good behaviour and respect for self and others. Each pupil is taught to be responsible for their actions so as to:

- ✓ ensure their safety, and the safety of others
- ✓ create an ordered learning environment
- ✓ develop the skills of self-management required in adulthood.

## Our Pastoral House System

Each pupil is allocated to one of three houses in our pastoral house system: Derg, Mournie and Strule. Pupils gain achievement points for their house for:

- ✓ conforming to the correct school routines
- ✓ effort and excellence in their work
- ✓ participation in various aspects of school life.

Our pastoral house system is also effective because it:

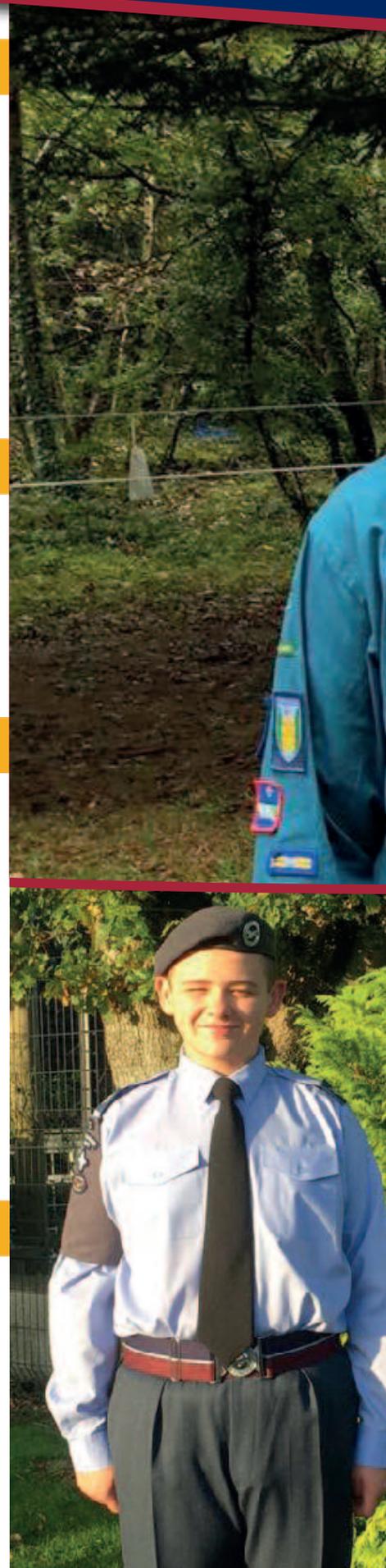
- ✓ helps integrate pupils further, as they belong to a house as well as a form class, streamed classes and a year group
- ✓ helps junior pupils become familiar with senior role models
- ✓ provides opportunities for pupils to develop teamwork and leadership skills
- ✓ promotes motivation and a competitive spirit to achieve.

## Our Personal Development Programme

We recognize our duty to prepare young people to cope responsibly with the various pressures of 21st century society. We safeguard our pupils by developing their ability to make informed choices on personal, emotional and social issues that could otherwise leave them at risk.

Our Personal Development Programme, delivered at an age appropriate level to all pupils, raises their awareness of responsible decision-making about important issues, such as:

- ✓ e-Safety
- ✓ anti-bullying
- ✓ stress management
- ✓ relationship issues
- ✓ alcohol and substance abuse
- ✓ eating disorders
- ✓ road safety.



*My child is more confident and happier since starting CHS.  
Getting away from bullying has helped so much.*  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



# A School that Promotes Achievement of all Pupils



## Our Learning Support Provision

At Castledegr High School we actively promote the achievement of all pupils. We see each pupil as an individual learner and provide additional support when needed. This approach is most effective when we as a school work in partnership with parent(s) and pupils. Our belief in inclusion for all pupils across all aspects of school life leads to each young person reaching their full individual potential.

All pupils are supported in their learning through:

- ✓ being set in streamed classes
- ✓ additional setting for Maths
- ✓ differentiated lessons that cater for the ability of each individual child
- ✓ guidance on revision topics and skills before examinations
- ✓ mixed ability form classes.

## Recognising Pupils Who Need Additional Support

We offer a high level of support to pupils with Special Educational Needs. Where appropriate additional provision is offered in the form of:

- ✓ in-class support, provided by highly committed Learning Support Assistants
- ✓ an Individual Education Plan
- ✓ mentoring
- ✓ Reading Partnership, which consists of one-to-one reading assistance
- ✓ the provision of a reader and extra time or other relevant concessions in examinations
- ✓ Literacy club
- ✓ Numeracy club.

## Our Dyslexia Friendly Approach

All classrooms offer a dyslexia friendly approach which benefits pupils who have dyslexia, but others too. Teachers use a range of dyslexia friendly strategies in their teaching which enables pupils with dyslexia to access the curriculum more easily, and supports them in processing and expressing their ideas.

*If I went back to Year 8 I wouldn't change coming here for the world. I absolutely fell in love with the school due to it being welcoming and so friendly. I am very confident that I will do well in my GCSEs due to the teachers. They have a big involvement when it comes to learning and want you to do your very best.*

**Tiah Reaney Year 12 –  
Newtownstewart**

*My child is very happy. The teachers seem to be supportive in all classes. Good to see test results and class averages shown to see how my child is progressing.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



## Our Gifted and Talented Provision

We recognize each pupil as a unique individual with their own particular gifts and talents and are committed to developing their full potential. Whilst all pupils are equally valued for their gifts and talents, we at Castlederg High School aim to recognize and develop those pupils who have the potential to achieve to a level beyond their peer group.

*Castlederg High School is an amazing school with a safe and friendly environment. There is great medical attention. My favourite aspect is the delicious food. I enjoy the great range of after school activities, especially rugby. The student council have a great voice and make a difference.*

**Blake Liggett Year 12 - Drumquin**

## Recognising Pupils who Excel

Gifted and talented pupils are identified as those who excel in one or more of the following areas:

- ✓ academic achievement
- ✓ music
- ✓ performing arts
- ✓ leadership
- ✓ creative thinking or expression
- ✓ sport.

As a school we promote the interests of gifted and talented pupils through:

- ✓ a strong emphasis on personalised learning
- ✓ high quality learning and teaching,
- ✓ an emphasis on differentiation upwards
- ✓ a culture of high expectation and aspiration
- ✓ separate streaming for the core subjects of Maths and English
- ✓ offering extension subjects, like English Literature and Further Maths
- ✓ extending the curriculum to cater for individual pupil interests
- ✓ participation in community music events
- ✓ opportunities to mentor other pupils
- ✓ membership of sports' teams and participation in sporting competitions
- ✓ selection for regional sporting trials
- ✓ participation in recognised award schemes - Duke of Edinburgh and Volunteer Now
- ✓ opportunities to promote leadership skills.

# A School That Works In Partnership With You

As a school we work in close partnership with pupils and parents, believing that this approach ensures the best possible school experience. Tailoring our provision to the needs of each individual pupil entrusted to us lies at the heart of our success as a school. This pupil-centred commitment requires that we:

- ✓ listen to pupils' views
- ✓ have strong links with their parents.

## Our Students' Council

Our Students' Council is made up of elected representatives from all form classes from Year 8 to 14. It also includes the Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies. Elections are held every two years.

This forum allows pupils to meet regularly as an elected body and:

- ✓ express their views
- ✓ influence decision making
- ✓ impact positively on school improvement.

## Promoting Links With Parents

As a school we value the parents of our pupils as key partners in ensuring their child's success. We believe that parents have a key role to play in:

- ✓ encouraging their child as a learner
- ✓ promoting the value of what the school can do for their child.



*I think that Castlederg High School is an amazing school because the teachers are kind and friendly. They explain everything very clearly and if you are stuck all you need to do is ask. Castlederg High School is an anti-bullying school and we do not tolerate bullying. Staff also work closely with the Student Council. Being a member of the student' council for three years we have made lots of changes such as introducing quarter zip tops and trying to make our school more eco-friendly. It has helped me develop my leadership skills and my confidence has greatly improved. Our student council motto 'Each Different, Each Talented, All Valued' couldn't sum up Castlederg High School any more.*

**Sam Spear Year 10 - Lack**





## Communicating With Parents

Good communication is vital between home and school in order to maximize the positive benefits of this partnership. Parents are encouraged to contact the school regarding any relevant matter relating to their child. In addition, formal home-school links are established through:

- ✓ pupil organizer, which may include teacher and parent comments, as necessary
- ✓ annual parent-teacher meetings for each year group
- ✓ annual pupil progress reports
- ✓ tracking reports to monitor pupil progress towards external exams
- ✓ parent information evenings at key transition points – Year 8, Year 10, Year 12
- ✓ prompt communication on significant pupil issues like well being
- ✓ individual pupil review meetings, as necessary, with the Year head
- ✓ SEN annual review and transition review meetings
- ✓ regular updates to all parents by letter or parent text service
- ✓ school newsletter
- ✓ school Facebook page, school App and website.

## Welcoming Parents' Support

At Castledearg High School we warmly encourage parents to be part of our school community by:

- ✓ attending school events
- ✓ becoming involved in the parent-teacher association
- ✓ providing feedback during the review and development of school policies
- ✓ responding to parental surveys of school performance.

# A School That Offers A Stimulating Curriculum



## Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum allows students to avail of a wide range of learning experiences. It is our aim to encourage and nurture the development of each child's individual talents to prepare them for the world beyond school. We offer a multitude of subjects which actively promote key skills such as managing information and personal capabilities while improving Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills in all subject areas.

The following subjects are offered at Key Stage 3:

Art and Design	ICT
Citizenship	Maths
Drama	Music
Employability	Physical Education
English	Religious Education
Geography	Science
History	Spanish
Home Economics	Technology and Design

*The school has a very friendly vibe and the teachers make every lesson enjoyable. I know my timetable and everyone is very friendly and helps me if I have a problem. I take part in in hockey training on a Monday and the Art club on Wednesday. There are always new experiences and you never find yourself bored.*

Nicole Surplis Year 8 – Castleberg

## Homework

We view homework of the upmost importance in each child's learning as it:

- ✓ provides opportunities to reinforce class work
- ✓ allows pupils to develop as independent learners
- ✓ instils the responsibility of meeting deadlines, a useful attribute for achievement in school work and beyond.

Pupils receive homework in a variety of different formats. New pupils are supported in the use of their pupil organizer to record and manage homework.

Parental support is also crucial in assisting pupils with the completion of homework. We actively encourage parents to sign their child's pupil organizer each week so that they too are informed of their child's progress in learning.

## Homework Club

Homework club is available every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 3.10pm to 4.10pm. It is supervised by a teacher with full access to internet and printing facilities. Pupils are encouraged to use their best endeavours to complete their own work but can avail of teacher support, if required.

*My son loves his new school. He loves the classes and subjects that are on offer. He has made new friends which is great.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



# A School That Offers Curriculum Choice



## Key Stage 4

The fact that we are equipped as a school to promote the achievement of all pupils, irrespective of ability, is due in part to careful curriculum planning. With the extensive range of subjects on offer at KS4 there is undoubtedly something to cater for each child's individual needs.

## Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways

At Key Stage 4 we offer a choice of three curriculum pathways as follows:

- ✓ the traditional academic route
- ✓ a combination of academic and vocational subjects
- ✓ the alternative education programme, which includes the Prince's Trust qualification.

Pupils, and their parents, are supported to make an informed choice of pathway best suited to the individual's abilities and interests. Whatever route is chosen, it is our aim to maximise a pupil's academic and creative potential so that they are equipped to both integrate and contribute positively to society.

## Subjects Offered at Key Stage 4

BTEC Agriculture	Hospitality
Art and Design	Digital Technologies
BTEC Business	Learning for Life and Work
Business Studies	Leisure, Travel and Tourism
Child Development	Mathematics
English	Music
English Literature	Physical Education
Further Mathematics	Religious Education
Geography	Science - Single Award
Health and Social Care	Science - Double Award
History	Spanish
Home Economics	Technology and Design

## Derg Mourne Learning Community Collaboration

Through our involvement in the Derg Mourne Learning Community we have established strong links with other education providers in the local area to assist in delivering additional subjects that further expand our curriculum offering. These include:

<b>BTECs</b>	Engineering and Construction
<b>Occupational Studies</b>	Vehicle Studies, Joinery, Hair and Beauty, Electrician, Childcare and Brickwork

*I am very pleased with Castlederg High School. In my opinion it was the best choice and my daughter has already progressed well.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



*Throughout my four years at Castlederg High School I have had lots of great experiences. I love it here. I am currently studying GCSE Maths, English Language and Literature, LLW, Geography, Business and Further Maths. I am so glad to have the opportunity to study Further Maths as I want to try and pursue a career in this area.*

Alana Hunter Year 11 - Killen

*I am in the last year of my GCSEs. The teachers are friendly and very supportive to motivate me into getting good exam results. I am studying a variety of subjects including Agriculture, TD, and Business Studies. My favourite subject is Agriculture because farming has always been a massive interest for me.*

Jack Hayes Year 12 - Gortin



# A School With A Successful Sixth Form



## High Quality Learning and Teaching

Students are supported in their learning through high quality learning and teaching experiences both in and outside the classroom. Our supervised Sixth Form Study Centre provides a quiet and central area for students to complete work outside timetabled lessons. Students also avail of an age appropriate Personal Development and Enrichment Programme as well as numerous opportunities within school life to develop leadership capability.

We provide our Sixth Form students with access to a wide range of subjects. The pathways available include either discrete or combination choices of:

- ✓ academic A levels
- ✓ applied A levels
- ✓ BTEC options.

Our sixth form offering is further enhanced through our involvement with the Derg Mourne Learning Community, South West College and North West College. Pupils in Years 13 and 14 have increased access to subjects in our neighbouring schools and colleges.

## Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Art & Design	Geography
Biology	Government & Politics
BTEC Agriculture	Health & Social Care
BTEC Applied Science	(SA & DA)
BTEC Children's Care, Learning & Development	History
BTEC Engineering	Irish
BTEC Hospitality	Mathematics
BTEC in I.T.	Music
BTEC Media	Physics
BTEC Sport	Professional Business Services
Chemistry	Religious Education
Drama	Software Systems Development
English Language	Spanish
English Literature	Technology & Design
French	

## Our Tailored Sixth Form Option

We also offer a highly successful Tailored Sixth Form pathway (subject to numbers). This one year course allows pupils to increase their GCSE profile through completion of BTEC subjects, along with repeating English and Maths. Work Experience is organised once a week to allow pupil's to develop their employability skills.

*My child has settled well into her new school. She has made new friends and everyone seems to be very supportive.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



## Preparation for Post 18 Options

Post 18 Options are an integral part of the Sixth Form curriculum, with pupils being provided with opportunities to increase their work experience profile through:

- ✓ block or day release periods,
- ✓ visiting local FE colleges and HE institutions,
- ✓ listening to guest speakers from business and industry
- ✓ being provided with on-going support and guidance through the pastoral and careers structures.
- ✓ UCAS application process
- ✓ CAO application process

Sixth Form students' progress to a range of employment opportunities, higher level apprenticeships, further education and higher education courses.

*Castledearg High School offers many excellent opportunities for pupils to thrive. At GCSE I obtained 5A and 4B grades due in no short part from the unending support of my teachers. It is such an honour, as Head Boy, to be able to represent a school with such a friendly and inviting environment. When I leave, I intend to study Computing Science at Ulster University.*

**Sam Watson Year 14 – Ardstraw**

*I have been studying at Castledearg High School for 6 Years. Through my own hard work and dedication, and all my teachers' help and guidance, I achieved 4A\* 5A 2B 1C\* GCSE grades. I am now studying A Level Biology, Health and Social Care and BTEC Sport. I hope to achieve high grades in my exams again this year, and undoubtedly I will through the help of the excellent teachers and staff of Castledearg High School.*

**Alannah Roulston Year 13 - Drumquin**

# A School That Personalises Learning

## Our Commitment to Each Pupil

In Castlederg High School we recognise that all pupils are individuals with their own aspirations and learning styles.

In order to help each of our pupils attain their full potential we encourage them to:

- ✓ set personal targets with short and long-term goals
- ✓ engage in regular self-evaluation of their progress
- ✓ identify personal strengths and areas for improvement
- ✓ review their personal targets with their Form Teacher
- ✓ engage positively with the Mentoring Process
- ✓ attend Literacy and/or Numeracy Club, if invited.

As a school we make effective use of a range of data to:

- ✓ identify a pupil's level of attainment at the beginning of each year
- ✓ predict a pupil's potential level of achievement at the end of each Key Stage
- ✓ track each pupil's level of progress within Key Stage 4 and 5
- ✓ identify pupils to participate in our Mentoring Programme which involves the pupil, parents and a Teacher Mentor working together to help the pupil maximize their achievement
- ✓ stream pupils in classes according to their level of achievement in English
- ✓ set pupils in classes for Mathematics according to their individual progress
- ✓ write Literacy Education Plans or Numeracy Education Plans for individual pupils who might otherwise underachieve in English or Maths. This involves setting targets and working with the pupils to achieve them
- ✓ invite Key Stage 3 pupils who require additional teaching support to Literacy Club after school
- ✓ invite Key Stage 3 pupils who require additional teaching support to Numeracy Club after school.



*Castlederg High School is a great school because all of our subject teachers make sure we are prepared fully for exams. Also, because they have excellent sports facilities including a rugby pitch, football pitch, 3G pitch and a hockey pitch. Overall, it is a brilliant school to attend offering students amazing opportunities.*

**Jack Young Year 11 - Killen**

CHS is an amazing school that goes above and beyond for their students.

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



*I believe that Castleberg High School is a great school because the teachers want you to do well. The atmosphere in school is really positive. The teachers want you to do the best that you can do. I find that inspiring for me to do well in school. Overall, I think that this school is one of the best and there is so much fun with your friends as well.*

**Eva Young Year 11 – Castleberg**

# A School That Encourages Creativity

At Castledegr High School we recognise the importance of creativity within a young person's education. We nurture a positive 'can do' attitude within our learners impressing upon them the value of a risk taking mind set as a key part of the learning experience. Lessons are interesting and interactive. Our pupils are encouraged to be inquisitive and experimental in their learning.

## Our Belief in the Value of Creativity

We promote creative activities so that our young people experience:

- ✓ fun learning
- ✓ freedom to express their views
- ✓ further development of thinking skills and personal capabilities
- ✓ opportunities to develop individual creative talent
- ✓ reduced stress and anxiety.

*The school is great. The staff are nice and welcoming. I am a musician and this school has helped me develop the skill even more. I have also had the opportunity to accompany other musicians at school events which has been a great experience.*  
**Harrison Fallis Year 9 – Irvinestown**

*I really enjoy the Music Department. It has a wide variety of instruments and devices like guitars, synthesizers and DJ decks. The teacher is very helpful in giving me advice on what instruments to learn. I have performed at a wide variety of events form Remembrance Day to Christmas Services and Open Nights. I am a singer in the school and I enjoy it because it gives me freedom and enjoyment. The teacher supports you and gives you confidence.*

**Lewis Finlay Year 9 - Ardstraw**

*Castledegr High School is a good school as you fell very supported with learning. When you walk down the corridor teachers always smile at you. This is the first year of GCSE Drama which is really fun. I am very interested in fashion and costumes. We get to go on great school trips, like our class got to go to Queens' University. I am also part of SU.*

**Kirsty Greer Year 11 – Newtownstewart**



*Very impressed with communication and organisation so far. My son has been made to feel very welcome and is content.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



# A School That Promotes Learning For The Future

As a school we seek to ensure that each of our young people receives an education that equips them to find their place in 21st century society. We place a strong emphasis on ensuring that our pupils have access to innovative approaches and resources for learning. These include:

- ✓ access to the most up-to-date subject specific software
- ✓ interactive white boards in each classroom
- ✓ access to the internet via WIFI across the school
- ✓ iPad technology in each subject department
- ✓ three ICT suites
- ✓ a Design Technology Department equipped with two ICT suites and the latest 3D printers.

## Our Commitment to STEM

Castledearg High School is actively involved in the promotion of STEM related subjects. These include:

- ✓ Science
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ ICT
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Maths.

We recognise the growing need for skills in these subject areas within the Northern Ireland Economy. STEM industries are at the heart of current economic growth, and we are encouraging all our pupils to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge necessary to obtain meaningful employment in these sectors of industry.

We promote STEM through:

- ✓ the Derg Valley Shared Education Partnership which focuses, with our partner primary schools, on the delivery of STEM to Years 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10
- ✓ offering a wide selection of STEM subjects at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5
- ✓ giving pupils the opportunity to experience STEM for themselves in many ways including through use of the visiting STEM module bus and Connected Learning STEM days in school, industrial visits, STEM Ambassadors and STEM Fairs
- ✓ careers education, advice and guidance.

*I am studying Maths, Technology and Design and BTEC Engineering as I have achieved 6A\* 5B 1C in my GCSEs. I have a strong interest in Maths and I hope to pursue a career in the future with something that involves Maths. The Maths Department at Castledearg High School is fantastic. I was so pleased to achieve an A\* grade in both Maths and Further Maths at GCSE.*  
Andrew Young Year 13 – Castledearg

*I am studying Health and Social Care, Applied Science and Agriculture at A Level and have a strong interest in veterinary nursing. Castledearg is helping me pursue this dream. I was so pleased with my GCSE results of 4A\* 2A 2B 4C\* 1C. These have allowed me to study at A Level and aim to follow the career pathway of my choice. When I joined in Year 8 I never imagined that I would have been so successful at GCSE. I am confident now that I can succeed in A levels too. CHS has been great for me!*  
Charlene Campbell Year 13 – Irvinestown



*We are extremely happy with our choice of school. Our child is very happy at Castlederg High School. Her positive schoolwork would reflect this. We would highly recommend CHS to others.*  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



# A School That Enhances Employability Skills



We recognize that Careers Education and Guidance has a key part to play in:

- ✓ promoting curriculum and organisational change
- ✓ enhancing student self-esteem and motivation
- ✓ reducing course switching and drop-out
- ✓ creating curriculum relevance
- ✓ promoting lifelong learning.

*In my experience the support from the Careers Department has been brilliant as they help you find a career suited to you. During my time here, Careers classes have played a vital part in my grades at GCSE. From Year 8 we were supported to look into all job pathways. This really helped motivate me through my exams as I knew from early on the career I wanted to pursue. Now in Year 13, I am being supported in the build up to filling in my UCAS form, by researching course options and the grades needed.*

**Jessica Torrens Year 13 – Killen.**

## Individual Career Planning

The goal of Careers delivery within the school is to provide each pupil with the opportunity, skills and knowledge necessary to make reasoned and informed decisions about the kind of career that is best suited to their personality and talents. Pupils are encouraged to:

- ✓ identify their own individual strengths and abilities
- ✓ develop knowledge, understanding and experience of opportunities in education, training and employment
- ✓ accept responsibility for the research and analysis required in the decision-making process
- ✓ link their skills and qualities to a range of employment opportunities
- ✓ develop their ability to apply relevant knowledge, understanding and skills to their own individual circumstances when choices have to be made.

The school avails of the services of outside agencies and individuals who can contribute to Careers work within the school e.g. Department of Employment and Learning, universities, and individual speakers. Pupils will also attend a range of careers events to enhance their understanding of courses in Further and Higher Education.



## Work Experience

Five days of work experience is mandatory for each Year 11 pupil and takes place at the end of the academic year. Year 12 AEP pupils attend work experience one day per week and Year 13 pupils in the Tailored Sixth Form also attend work experience one day per week. The remainder of Year 13 pupils are offered a further opportunity for a week of work experience at the end of the year. This is optional. These pupils are visited by a member of staff each term and updates on their progress are updated through employer evaluation forms.

## KS3 Employability

Pupils have one period of Employability each week and study the following key topics:

- ✓ personal career planning
- ✓ skills and qualities
- ✓ job information
- ✓ labour market information
- ✓ enterprise and entrepreneurship.

## Year 10

This is an important transition year for Year 10 pupils progressing to GCSE and BTEC pathways in Year 11. All pupils are supported and guided in the following ways:

- ✓ taught Careers programme
- ✓ STEM Day – promoting careers in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths
- ✓ personal career plan to identify skills, attributes and learning styles
- ✓ options booklet and associated resources
- ✓ parents' information evening
- ✓ group interviews with the Careers Advisor
- ✓ options afternoon – all GCSE/BTEC subjects represented by Year 12 GCSE pupils
- ✓ options choices.

## KS4 Careers Education

A number of key areas are covered through Careers lessons:

- ✓ labour market information
- ✓ personal career planning
- ✓ preparation for work experience
- ✓ Earn to Learn workshop delivered by Young Enterprise
- ✓ recruitment and selection: online recruitment, CVs, application forms
- ✓ interview skills day
- ✓ individual interviews with the careers advisor (DEL)
- ✓ applications for local FE colleges and training organisations
- ✓ annual careers fair
- ✓ post 16 options
- ✓ sixth form at Castlederg High School – options booklet, options afternoon and information evening for parents and other prospective students
- ✓ progress file
- ✓ EMA eligibility and application.

## Sixth Form

- ✓ university open days
- ✓ higher education convention
- ✓ health related workshops delivered through Altnagelvin Hospital
- ✓ UCAS planning, preparation and application
- ✓ applications for local FE colleges, employment and other higher level apprenticeships
- ✓ work experience at the end of Year 13
- ✓ taster placements with local employers
- ✓ interview skills
- ✓ enrichment through role as a prefect, organisation of sixth form events, involvement in Volunteer Now, role as a mentor, providing in class support in junior classes.
- ✓ Higher Education Roadshow

*The teachers push you on towards your goals and try to help you out as best they can. In Careers classes we were supported really well in learning about different job opportunities and how they can be matched to our personal strengths. I like the way that the school offers a variety of trips all over the country to help your understanding of the subjects. I also enjoy after school sports and having fun with friends.*

**Christopher Hunter Year 11 - Irvinestown**

# A School That Offers Extra-Curricular Activities For All



Our extra-curricular programme provides each of our pupils with many opportunities to further develop their personal, social, emotional and academic potential. The range of activities on offer ensures provision both during the school day and after school.

We encourage our pupils to avail of the extra-curricular activities on offer as they form an important part in creating a more rounded individual. Participation in extra-curricular activities helps our pupils to:

- ✓ broaden their skills and interests
- ✓ develop their sporting interest and capability
- ✓ maintain good health and fitness
- ✓ understand the importance of teamwork and commitment
- ✓ develop friendships
- ✓ build confidence and self-esteem, and manage stress
- ✓ lay a strong foundation for the quality of their personal statement when making college, university or employment applications.

## Programme of Extra-Curricular Activities

Sport	Other	
Athletics	Arts and Crafts	Homework Club
Basket ball	Baking	ICT
Boys' Football	Board Games	Literacy Club
Fitness/High Intensity Interval Training	Coding and Robotics	Music
Girls' Football	Derg Valley Youth Club	Numeracy Club
Hockey	Drama	Scripture Union
Rugby	Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme	STEM Club
Netball	Equestrian Team	Volunteer Now Award Scheme
Table Tennis	GCSE/A Level Revision Classes	

## After School Transport

We believe in the importance of all pupils having access to our extra-curricular provision. Therefore, after school transport is available on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 4.15pm to the areas below as follows:

- ✓ Killen, Ederney, Lack, Kesh, Irvinestown.
- ✓ Killeter, Kilclean.
- ✓ Drumquin, Drumlegagh, Ardstraw, Newtownstewart, Sion Mills, Victoria Bridge, Erganagh, Castlederg.

*I like the fact that the bus leaves my child at the school and that there is transport for pupils doing after school activities.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



*The teachers have been very helpful and friendly. I take part in hockey, saxophone lessons and I've joined the show jumping team. The school is easy to find your way around and it has great sports facilities. I'm really enjoying it so far.*

**Emma Bratton Year 8 – Sion Mills**

*Castledearg High School offers you a lot of extra activities. I do after school rugby on a Monday. The student council is really good as it offers you a voice. It is a privilege to be at a great school like this.*

**Joshua Wilkinson Year 9 - Ardstraw**



# A School Where All Pupils Enjoy Educational Trips



*The Principal, Vice-Principal and staff are really welcoming and friendly. The school is really easy to get around. There are loads of different trips and activities. I take part in Hockey after school.*

**Tyler Anderson Year 8 - Irvinestown**

*The wonderful staff helped me greatly to settle in. I take part in hockey after school and have already been on a trip to the Argory. There is a lot of support and there is always someone to talk to. The food is amazing. Everything is excellent in my time so far.*

**Lucy Smyth Year 8 – Killen**

All pupils have the opportunity to participate in trips and visits, across a range of subject areas, during their time here at Castledearg High School.

The wide variety of trips and visits organized by our staff include:

- ✓ field trips
- ✓ industrial visits
- ✓ cultural outings
- ✓ sporting events.

Additional opportunities are provided through Derg Valley Youth Club. To date these have included trips to see the Ulster Rugby Team or Belfast Giants' Ice Hockey in action, as well as stock car racing at Ballymena. A junior and senior ski trip to Bulgaria, and a sixth form trip to Poland have also been on offer to our pupils each year.

*I'm very happy with our choice of school. Our son is enjoying school and has made loads of new friends. He is happy to go to school every day.*

Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



These educational trips and visits provide important learning opportunities outside of the classroom. They offer a valuable way of enhancing pupils' learning by engaging with the wider world to:

- ✓ reinforce or develop prior learning
- ✓ broaden pupils' cultural experience
- ✓ strengthen pupils' social, emotional and personal development.

The variety of trips experienced by each individual pupil will ultimately be determined by their chosen curriculum pathway in the senior school.



# A School That Promotes Performance In Sport



Sporting activities form an important part of school life in which we aim to:

- ✓ improve pupils' general levels of fitness, skill and enjoyment of a wide range of physical activities
- ✓ enhance personal and social development through sport
- ✓ prepare pupils to make positive and healthy use of their leisure time.

## Sporting Activities Offered

Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Cricket  
Cross Country  
Dance  
Football  
(both Boys' and Girls')  
Gymnastics  
Health Related PE  
Hockey  
Netball  
Orienteering  
Rounders'  
Rugby  
Softball  
Table tennis  
Tennis  
Volleyball

## Our Excellent Sporting Facilities

Castledearg High School boasts a wide range of sporting facilities including a fully equipped sports hall and gym, tennis court, astro pitch, 3G pitch, soccer and rugby pitches.

## Sporting Competition Success

The school has enjoyed great success in recent years across all areas of sporting competition. Sports teams represent the school in local and national competitions. These include cross country and athletics, in addition to league and cup matches in hockey, boys' and girls' football, and rugby.

## Identifying Elite Sporting Performance

All pupils, including beginners, are encouraged to develop their sporting ability. Beyond this, pupils who show exceptional skill are nurtured to develop their sporting talent and given opportunities to participate in sporting trials and high level competition.

*The teachers are very helpful. I take part in after school football and rugby. The passion the school has for sport is great. I also think the buses that bring you home from after school clubs are good.*

**Nathan Humes Year 8 - Lack**

*My child is doing really well so far.  
I am extremely happy with Castlederg High School.*  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



*This is my last year of GCSE and I am confident that I will achieve my target grades. My teachers and the confidence I get from knowing past results really motivates me to try my absolute best. The school also encourages me to use my ability in all the sports teams I participate in. Although I am involved in a lot of competitive sport, I am still supported and encouraged to keep up with my school work.*  
**Abbie Watson Year 12 - Ardstraw**



# A School That Celebrates Success



## Recognising Pupil Achievement

At Castlederg High School we believe in the importance of recognising our pupils' achievements on an on-going basis throughout the school year. The full breadth of pupil achievement is recognised including individual attainment, sporting success and community or charity involvement. Such recognition enhances pupils' self-esteem and promotes further success. This culminates in our annual presentation of awards and certificates 'Celebrating Success.' The school, then, proudly recognises the following achievements:

- ✓ form class prize for progress, effort and attainment
- ✓ attendance (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum)
- ✓ GCSE and A level achievement
- ✓ special awards for top achievement in a variety of subjects at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level
- ✓ other special awards for outstanding achievement.

*I would recommend Castlederg High School as it gives plenty of opportunities and helps you to achieve the grades you want. I was thrilled with my GCSE results. At Castlederg High School they encourage sport and reward for it. I have been a part of the hockey squad for 5 years and am still playing. For this I was awarded team captain. As well as this achievement, I was awarded the Andy Griffin trophy for outdoor pursuits at prize night. We are encouraged to reach our highest in everything we do.*  
Kacey Reid Year 13 – Castlederg

Castledearg High School is a very good school  
achieving high GCSE and A Level results.  
Parental Comment (CHS Year 8 Evaluation Transition 2019)



*I believe that Castledearg High School is a great school and has given me a wide variety of opportunities both in the classroom and out. They have recognized my achievements and I have been commended on them throughout. For example, I achieved an A grade in my GCSE TD and was presented with a prize for it. In my GCSE's I have achieved 4A 3B 1C\* 1C. I am currently studying A Levels in Maths and TD, and BTEC Agriculture. I am enjoying the challenge of sixth form.*

**Robert Waugh Year 13 - Castledearg**



# Castleberg High School

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All the information in this book is accurate at the time of printing, some details may be subject to change.