



Castlederg

High School



Prospectus 2019

A High Performing, Non-Selective, Post Primary School



Castlederg High School

16 Castlegore Road
Castlederg
Co. Tyrone
BT81 7RU

T: (028) 8167 1272
E: castlederghs@gmail.com
www.castlederghighschool.org





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A School With An Established Culture Of Success



Principal's Welcome

Welcome to Castlederg High School, a school with a high reputation for ensuring examination success and a happy school experience. As a result, Castlederg High School has become the school of choice for pupils who want a full academic education in a happy school environment, where each young person is valued and supported in their learning. Year on year, more pupils are transferring to us with high AQE scores, or none, having made Castlederg High School their first choice.

Principal	Vice-Principal	Chair - Board of Governors
Mrs E McKelvey BSc (Hons), PGCE	Mrs S Cashel MA, MEd, BA (Hons), PGCE, PG Dip.	Mr R Montgomery

*Castledearg High School has a great reputation,
and it was always first choice.*

Parental Comment (Year 8 Transition Evaluation 2018)



I am delighted that you are taking an interest in our school, particularly at a time when we at Castledearg High School have celebrated becoming the top controlled non-grammar school for GCSE results in Northern Ireland. With 85% of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grades A* - C, (including Maths and English), a staggering 35% above the Northern Ireland average for similar type schools, you can be assured of a quality educational experience.

Here, at Castledearg High School, such excellence in learning is achieved within a school environment that offers a high level of care and support to all our pupils. Our pupils are motivated and happy. They take pride in their uniform, their behaviour and their work. And because, of the strong sense of belonging and achievement that is nurtured within the 'family' environment of their school, they take pride in being pupils of Castledearg High School.

"top controlled, non-grammar school for GCSE results in Northern Ireland"¹

Our professional, highly driven teaching staff ably supported by an equally motivated and committed non-teaching staff, provide the very best teaching and learning experiences for all our pupils. As a staff, we are highly committed to building pupil self-confidence and supporting our students to aim for their highest possible achievement. We are proud of our pupils' excellent examination results and the exciting opportunities for the future that they create in further or higher education or employment.

I hope you enjoy reading this prospectus, and it gives you a flavour of the unique learning journey that Castledearg High School offers each new pupil. As with all aspects of our provision, we will leave no stone unturned in working to ensure a smooth transition and successful integration into the daily life of our school. As a school we pride ourselves in being responsive, so parents please do not hesitate to contact us, if you wish to find out more. We will be glad to discuss what Castledearg High School can offer your child.

Yours sincerely
Mrs E McKelvey

¹ Most recent available statistics

A School That Offers A Great Educational Experience

Mission

Castleberg 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 Castleberg 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

Castleberg 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.



This is an excellent school because all the staff put effort into being welcoming and helpful. I like all my subjects but I really enjoy PE, Music Art and Drama because I'm creative and sporty. I take part in after school football and can still get the late bus home. I have also made lots of friends here and I'm having an excellent time.

Frankie McKernan Year 8 - Newtownstewart

*We have and will continue to highly recommend CHS to other parents.
This is a fantastic school. We really couldn't praise it highly enough.*

Parental Comment (CHS Self-Evaluation Questionnaire 2018)



In Castlederg High School the teachers are very encouraging and push you to the best of your ability. They are more than helpful to make sure that you are happy and understand your work. I love playing all the different sports. After school, I take part in hockey, football, athletics and drama. I have enjoyed taking part in the shows Nativity News and A Midsummer Night's Dream. We go on trips to help us understand the topics we are learning. Recently, we have been to Queen's University, and the Alley Theatre.
Alana Hunter Year 10 – Killen

My time at Castlederg High School has been great. At GCSE I achieved 1A 6A 2B. My A* was in Maths. This is something I thought I could never achieve. Overall, I couldn't have got these grades without the teachers and their help in keeping me motivated. I have taken part in after school hockey since Year 8 which has placed me now as the captain of the 1st XI hockey squad. I have been on many trips throughout my school years but the one that was the most memorable was the ski trip to Bulgaria in Year 9.*
Hollie Patterson Year 14 - Castlederg

A School That Is High Performing



Castlederg High School is renowned within the community as a high performing school. 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 Castlederg 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.



Headline Statistics

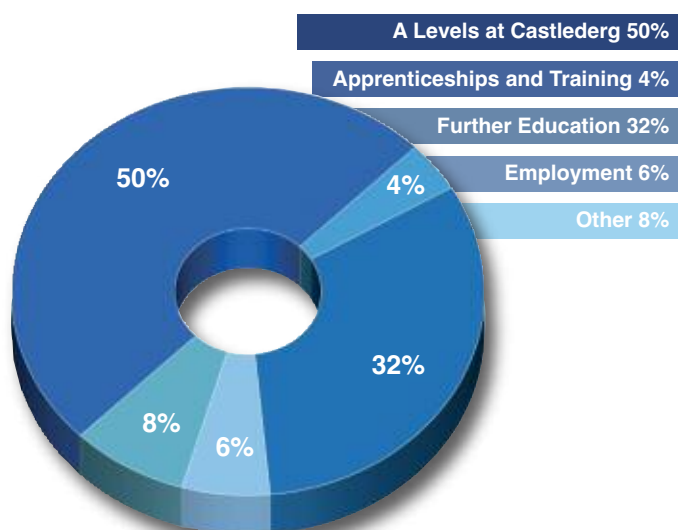
88%
of pupils gained
5 or more A*-C
grades at GCSE
14% above
NI average¹

85%
of pupils gained
5 or more A*-C
grades at GCSE
(including Maths and English)
35% above
NI average¹

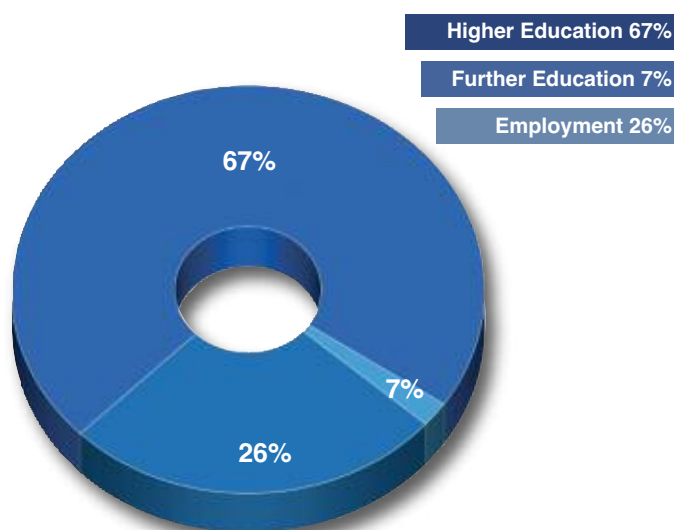
69%
of pupils gained
3 A*-C grades
at A-Level
14% above
NI average¹

¹ Most recent statistics for schools of similar type.

Destination of GCSE Students



Destination of A Level Students



Castlederg High School is where everyone is treated equally, supported and encouraged to achieve exam results to the highest standard. This reflects the extreme hard work and commitment of the teachers in providing for each pupil. I was delighted with my GCSE results of 5A 2A 4B 1C. I greatly appreciate the continuous help from the teachers in supporting me to achieve these grades. My hard work also led me to achieve the accolade of top student in Northern Ireland for Leisure and Tourism at GCSE level which I am extremely proud of.*

Taylor Simpson Year 13 - Kesh



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
Erganagh	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 teachers and my friends helped me settle in to my new school because both groups of people are very supportive. The teachers are very good at teaching because they make you interested so that you understand the work. I take part in after school hockey on a Monday. I really love being at Castlederg High School.
Jodie Muldoon Year 8 - Erganagh

Castlederg High School has expanded my potential to excel by making sure that I can achieve the best I can as an individual. I was welcomed into this school with open arms and that warmth has boosted my academic experience. The atmosphere in school is very positive and welcoming. I can assure you that anyone joining this school will be supported to achieve their greatest potential.
Mollie Rankin Year 12 – Castlederg

My daughter has made friends and the teachers are so helpful. She was anxious about getting lost but staff and pupils guide Year 8 to classes. She has settled very well and made a smooth transition.

Parental Comment (Year 8 Transition Evaluation 2018)



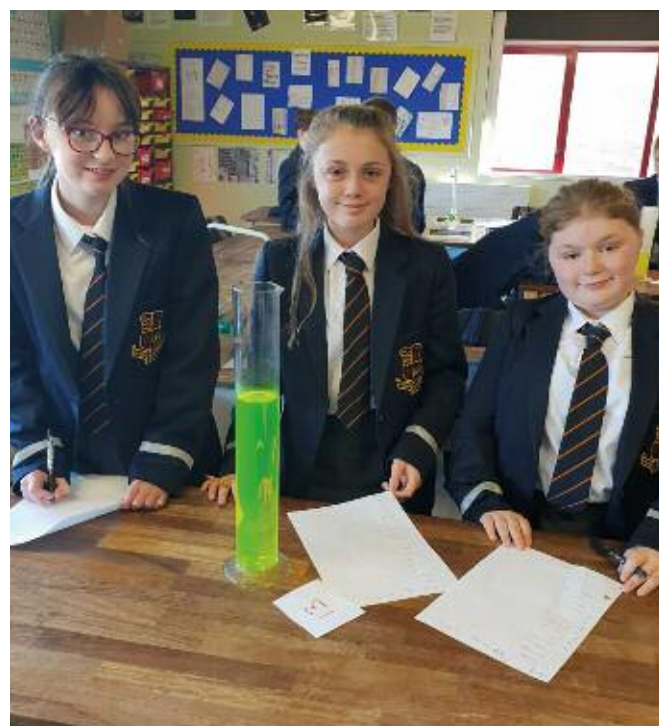
Our Confidence in Providing For You

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 transferred to Castlederg High School at the end of Year 8 and had a very smooth transition. Everyone made me feel welcome and it was always very reassuring to know that the teachers and other pupils would help me if I needed to know where to go. The food in the canteen is delicious and has great variety. I love it here as I am very sporty and there are many clubs to join inside the school. The teachers are very encouraging and make me determined to do my best in life.

Emmy Hyndman Year 10 - Ardstraw



A School that Pupils are Proud to Attend



Our Classes

At Castlederg 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 couldn't ask for my children to attend a better school.
They come home happy. The teachers are phenomenal.*

Parental Comment (CHS Self-Evaluation Questionnaire 2018)



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 Castlederg 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.

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.



One of my favourite things about Castlederg High School is the staff. I feel that a caring and supportive environment is a key part of education. The teachers highlight the importance of mental health alongside learning. They acknowledge the various stresses of teenage life and offer advice and encouragement. I think that having teachers who genuinely care has a huge impact on each one of us achieving our very best.

Hannah Hemphill Year 12 - Drumquin

A School That Builds Self Esteem and Confidence

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, Mourne 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:

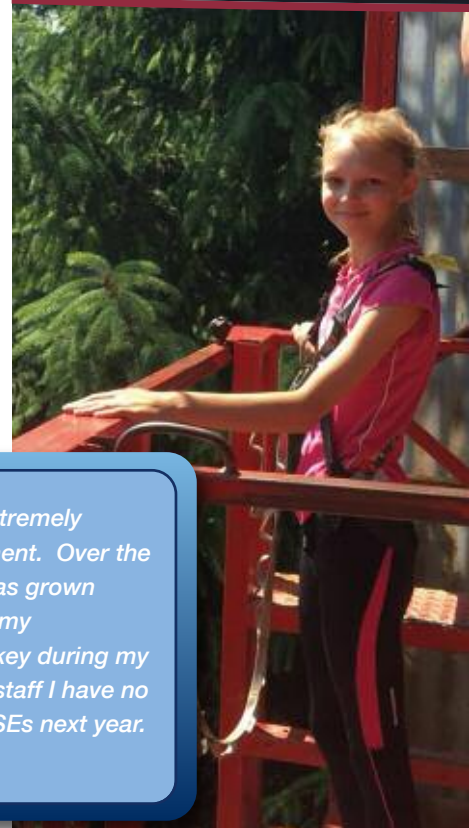
- ✓ helps integrate pupils further, as they belong to a house as well as a form class, streamed classes and a year group
- ✓ helps junior pupils become familiar with senior role models
- ✓ provides opportunities for pupils to develop teamwork and leadership skills
- ✓ promotes motivation and a competitive 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 | ✓ alcohol and substance abuse |
| ✓ anti-bullying | ✓ eating disorders |
| ✓ stress management | ✓ road safety. |
| ✓ relationship issues | |



The teachers at Castlederg High School have developed my confidence greatly. I was even given the opportunity to interact with the guest speaker on prize night. When there are exams coming up the teachers help you by telling you what, and how, you should revise. Castlederg High School is a brilliant school.
Tiah Reaney Year 11 - Plumbridge

Castlederg High School is an extremely welcoming and caring environment. Over the last four years my confidence has grown massively. I have really enjoyed my involvement in football and hockey during my time here. With the help of the staff I have no doubt that I will excel in my GCSEs next year.
Kelli Nesbitt Year 12 - Killen

My child has grown in confidence since beginning Year 8 and continues to do so. It's great to see her happy and getting on so well.

Parental Comment (Year 8 Transition Evaluation 2018)



A School that Promotes Achievement of all Pupils



Our Learning Support Provision

At Castlederg 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.

Staff are committed to provide pupils with the best education. Revision help from subject teachers helped me achieve my GCSE results of 4A 4B 1C. Extra time for my dyslexia in exams helped me perform to the best of my ability. In Sixth Form quiet study periods are invaluable. This school has zero tolerance for bullying. There are clear rules and issues are dealt with immediately.
Leah Roulston Year 14 - Drumquin

My child is very happy at Castlederg High School. He has made lots of new friends and his work is also improving which is great to see.

Parental Comment (Year 8 Transition Evaluation 2018)



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 has played an important part in helping me excel at sport. I started playing football for the school team when I arrived in Year 8. Since then I have played in the McKee Cup in both Year 11 and Year 12. I play for Ballinamallard United Under 16s and my highlight was being selected to play for the County Tyrone Super Cup team of 2018. The school has supported me all the way through my football, as well as providing me with other opportunities in sport, including athletics.

Dean Sproule Year 11 - 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.



Personally, I feel Castlederg High School is a very good school because all the subject teachers explain things really well and help when necessary. There are strong anti-bullying rules and the staff work closely with the pupils to make sure they are confident in expressing themselves. Staff also work closely with the Students' Council to make sure the school is the best it can be for us. Being chairperson of the Students' Council has helped me develop my leadership skills and my confidence has greatly improved. Our Students' Council motto 'Each Different, Each Talented, All Valued' perfectly sums up Castlederg High School.

Tom Loughlin Year 10 – Castlederg



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 Castlederg 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

I love the way this school is so organised in class and at break and lunchtime. All of the subjects are interesting but my favourites would be PE, Drama Art and English. The food in the canteen is so nice and there is a huge variety to pick from. I've been making lots of new friends since I've started this school and we all love it. Castlederg High School is a great school.

Morgan Patterson Year 8 – Sion Mills

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.

*CHS offers a great education within a friendly and positive atmosphere
where we know our child will be valued and nurtured.*

Parental Comment (Year 8 Transition Evaluation 2018)



Castlederg High School provides an extremely safe and friendly environment in which to learn. I am excelling everyday here and know that in this school I will achieve the best grades possible. The teachers are really encouraging and help you to keep a positive mindset. I love going on all the school trips. School is such a safe place. The food in the canteen is also very good. There is a great variety and the cooks are also very nice and friendly.

Zara Reid Year 10 - Kesh

At Castlederg High School I am aiming for the highest possible success. The teachers push me to be at the top of each class and reach my learning goals. Like all pupils I am focused on achieving my personal targets. I particularly enjoy PE and the way I am taught so many sports and I also really like learning lots of new practical skills in HE. All my teachers are so encouraging and helpful but I am performing particularly well in Maths, RE and History.

Anna Keatley Year 9 – Castlederg

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:

BTECs Occupational Studies	Engineering and Construction Vehicle Studies, Joinery, Hair and Beauty, Electrician, Childcare and Brickwork
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Castledearg High School is a fantastic school and I highly recommend it to other parents. Even if my child got a place for a grammar I would not change.

Parental Comment (Year 8 Transition Evaluation 2018)



Castledearg High School is an excellent school that gets amazing exam results so obviously the teaching is excellent and the pupils work really well. There were a lot of subjects to choose from for GCSE which is great. I really enjoy having the opportunity to do BTEC Construction and Engineering as I find these subjects particularly interesting.

Jack Muir Year 11 – Sion Mills

Castledearg High School is an excellent school. The teachers will always help you and push you on to do your best. In Key Stage 4, I enjoy new subjects like Agriculture which are interesting and you get to go on farm visits. I have had many opportunities to be part of football and rugby teams. It is great to have such a good school close at hand because I get home in good time in the evenings.

Kyle Young Year 11 - Castledearg

My time at Castledearg High School has been great so far. I passed all my GCSE modules last year with ease. I am confident that I will achieve excellent final grades. I then hope to come back and do my A levels. The level of sport in this school is very high and there are a wide range of sports to choose from. I enjoy playing with the school 1st XI hockey team. The teachers support me in getting the balance between keeping up with important school work and taking part in sport.

Alana Roulston Year 12 - Drumquin



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.

The school staff provide exceptional support for pupils. I would not consider any other school for my children.

Parental Comment (CHS Self-Evaluation Questionnaire 2018)



I transferred to Castlederg High School for Sixth Form as it allowed me the opportunity to study Double Award Health and Social Care along with Applied Science. This has been a successful move because the students and teachers are so friendly and welcoming. Sixth Form study can be quite challenging at times, however, we are really well supported by the staff which is great. As part of my Health and Social care course I had the opportunity to go on work placement to a nursery setting, which I really enjoyed and hope to develop as a career in the future.
Lindsey Hall Year 13– Irvinestown

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.

At Castlederg High School through my own hard work and the teachers' help I achieved the following grades at GCSE - 1A 4A 4B. Not only do the staff support you to get results but everyone is friendly and will give you a welcoming feeling. I have now progressed to sixth form where I'm studying A Level Maths and History and BTEC ICT. I hope to do well in these subjects because this is such a successful school.*

Alex Chambers Year 13 - Ardstraw

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.



I believe Castlederg High School is a school that encourages pupils throughout their learning. With each teacher's support pupils can achieve their true potential and ability to aim high for exam results that are important in later life. The teachers of Castlederg High School are very helpful and the Careers Department assists us in choosing career pathways that are best suited to each student when they leave school.

Mollie Faulkner Year 12 – Castlederg

*My child is very happy at school and has made
excellent progress this year.*

Parental Comment (CHS Self-Evaluation Questionnaire 2018)



Castlederg High School is a great school because all subject teachers will make sure that you are well prepared for exams. The school helps us achieve the best grades possible in GCSE exams and A Levels through excellent teaching, hard work and setting targets. Overall, if you want a brilliant education and to also have fun this would be the school for you.

Ethan Stronge Year 12 – Castlederg

A School That Encourages Creativity

At Castlederg 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.

In Castlederg High School we get so many opportunities to go to after school subjects and my advice is to take all the opportunities you get. In after school Music I learned how to play the guitar so that I can play tab, rhythm and riffs. Now I am in a band in school. I joined after school Drama at the end of last year. I was Hippolyta, Theseus' bride to be in A Midsummer Night's Dream. We practised so much that in the end we did three performances. It was so much fun.

Megan Stewart Year 10 - Killen

I think Castlederg High School is a very good school as it gave me a good support system to begin my GCSEs. The teachers use various interesting methods of learning which are a lot more than pen on paper. Practicals in Music are my favourite. In both the junior and senior school I was given opportunities to perform in singing at events both in school and in the community. I have also enjoyed Drama throughout school which gave me the chance to produce a film, develop my acting skills and even perform in a play. Drama is a subject in which you learn but also have a lot of fun.

Zara Morrow Year 12 – Newtownstewart





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

Castlederg 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 and 8
- ✓ 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
- ✓ careers education, advice and guidance.

I am studying Maths, Physics and Business Studies at A Level, having achieved AAB at AS level and 3A 5A 1B at GCSE. The Careers Department has given me clarity in setting the right career path for my future. Next year I plan to study Chemical Engineering at Queen's University, where the skills in STEM that I have learned here at Castlederg High School will be invaluable.*

Andrew Hemphill Year 14 - Drumquin

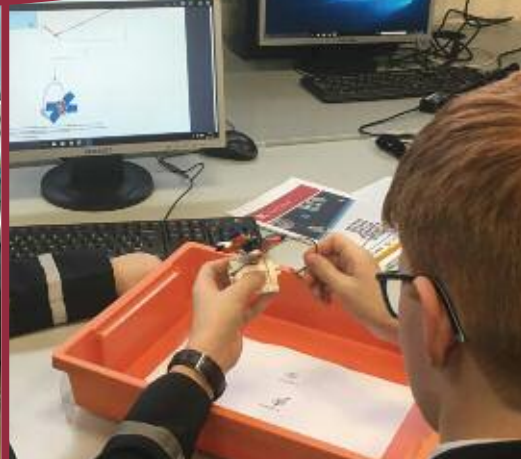
I have a strong interest in Maths and Physics as my teachers helped me to progress significantly so that I achieved an A in Maths and AA grades in Double Award Science at GCSE. I now study these subjects at A level along with Professional Business Services having achieved ABC grades at AS level. I am working hard with the support of my teachers to build on this at A level. With the guidance of the Careers staff I hope to choose a pathway for myself that will provide a strong foundation for my future after Castlederg High School.*

Alice Maxwell Year 14 - Castlederg



Castlederg High School was most definitely the right choice of school for our child. It was 100% the best decision.

Parental Comment (Year 8 Transition Evaluation 2018)



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.



Castlederg High School is an excellent school as it supports every pupil significantly. I was delighted with my GCSE results as I gained 4A 4B 1C. The teachers in this school strive to encourage all pupils to reach their personal and educational goals in life. For me this has led to the study of A Levels in Applied Science and Double Award Health and Social Care so that I can pursue a career in midwifery. Castlederg High School gains excellent results for its pupils because of the outstanding amount of one-to-one support pupils are provided with.
Hannah Millar Year 14 - Kesh

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

Throughout my time at CHS I have learned just what a great school I attend. From my first day onwards I have been supported and motivated to do my best academically. The Careers Department is very informative and steers me in the right direction for my future. At the moment I am interested in pursuing an apprenticeship in the Engineering sector as it is what most appeals to me. I know with the help of the school I can achieve this goal.

Tyler Miller Year 14 - Ardstraw

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.

*My children have settled really well. They are happy and
I would highly recommend the school to anyone.*

Parental Comment (CHS Self-Evaluation Questionnaire 2018)



Castlederg High School is such a great school because the teachers and pupils are so nice and kind as soon as you walk through the door. If you need help in class it is okay. The teachers will help you. It is a great school because they get great results all the time. I love staying for after schools because they make it so much fun. At the Arts and Crafts club we are making pom-poms for the Christmas Market. I also stay over for hockey where we learn different skills. The matches are fun and it's great to get out of class sometimes too!

Amanda Buchanan Year 8 - Castlederg

Castlederg High School is an excellent school because the opportunities you get are outstanding. I often get away for rugby matches and the after school activities you can do are amazing. At the moment as well as rugby training I stay over for after school Robotics. I love the challenge of learning coding and building the programmed robot out of Lego. The school will push you as much with your curriculum as they will with your sports and other activities.

Matthew Hunter Year 9 - Irvinestown



A School Where All Pupils Enjoy Educational Trips



Castleberg High School values each pupil as an individual. I believe this is reflected through our top exam results and the high quality of education we receive. There are amazing opportunities on offer for each pupil. For example, I signed up to go on several school trips to areas such as Poland and Bulgaria which enriched my knowledge while providing me with many new skills. These trips have been made extremely enjoyable experiences through the warm nature of the staff and the constant support provided to everyone.

Jack Lecky Year 14 - Castleberg

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

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

- ✓ field trips
- ✓ cultural outings
- ✓ industrial visits
- ✓ 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 highly recommend your school to anyone. Children get great encouragement. It was the best decision for my child.

Parental Comment (CHS Self-Evaluation Questionnaire 2018)



Castlederg High School has a very supportive staff and a strong anti-bullying policy which makes it a safe and caring place. I enjoy school because of the friendly atmosphere and the input I have as secretary to the Students' Council. The support of teachers and LSAs, and the fun activities we do in class help us learn. I have enjoyed trips to the Ulster American Folk Park, the Share Centre, the Argory, Gortin Glens and the Kingspan Stadium as well as taking part in many sports matches at other venues, in addition to our own.
Matthew Spratt Year 9 – Strabane

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

Castlederg 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.

I think this is a brilliant school because all the teachers are very nice and treat everyone the same. Sport in this school is excellent. So far I have played in the Under 12 and Under 13 hockey teams as well as the Under 12 football team. The sports facilities are really good. I have settled in really well at Castlederg High School and love my interest in sport. It is really handy getting picked up in the morning and having transport straight home from after school sport.

Zara Johnston Year 8 - Irvinestown

Delighted at the quality of the standards expected and also the many sporting activities. I would highly recommend this school to anyone.

Parental Comment (CHS Self-Evaluation Questionnaire 2018)



School is good because of all the different subjects. The teachers explain the work well and we get to do lots of practical work. I have taken part in Under 12 and Under 14 rugby so far. I enjoy staying after school for rugby training and taking part in the competitive matches. Athletics is my other sport. I train for this after school in the spring to get ready for sport's day and the athletics championships.

Andrew Keys Year 10 - Erganagh



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.



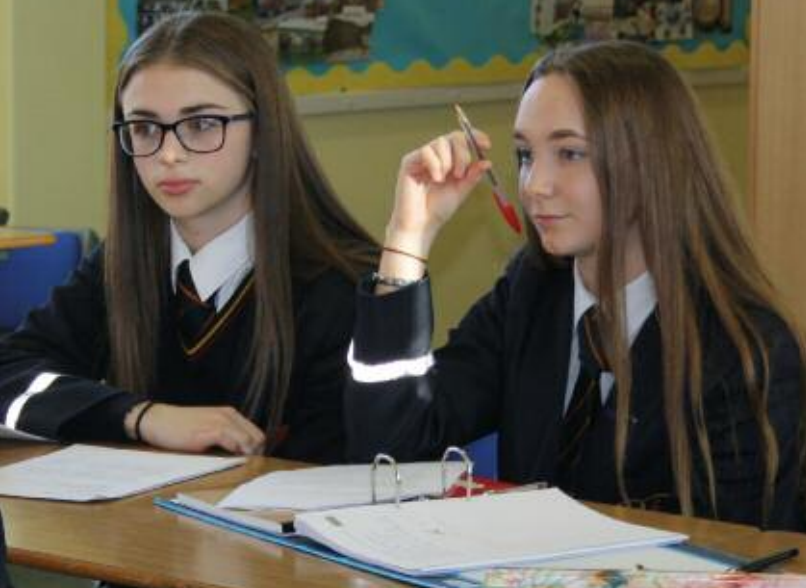


I believe Castlederg High School is an excellent school which offers many opportunities both academically and outside the classroom. All the teachers are motivating and want their pupils to do the best they can. In my GCSEs I obtained 4A 2A 6B grades. I am currently studying A levels in Maths and Professional Business Services as well as a BTEC in Applied Science. I achieved an A and B grades in my As subjects, and I am working at Distinction* level in Applied Science, due to my own efforts and the help and commitment of my teachers. After sixth form, I hope to study for a degree in Maths at Queen's University.*

Stephanie Catterson Year 14 - Castlederg

*The hard work and motivation of the staff here at Castlederg High School helped me to obtain my GCSE grades of 2A*4A 3B at GCSE. The staff are committed to teach pupils so that they are fully prepared to sit their exams. However, they do so much more to make sure each one of us can better ourselves emotionally and physically. I have greatly enjoyed sport at school. In athletics I gained lasting memories and achievements by participating in high jump, javelin, shot and the relay. As a member of the hockey team right through from Year 8, I was proud to be a part of the 1st XI squad who won the Ulster McDowell Shield.*

Jessie Moore Year 14 - Ardstraw



Castlederg High School

16 Castlegore Road
Castlederg
Co.Tyrone
BT81 7RU

T: (028) 8167 1272
E: castlederghs@gmail.com
www.castlederghighschool.org

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

