



BLACKWATER
INTEGRATED COLLEGE



2021
PROSPECTUS

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



As Principal of Blackwater Integrated College, I am delighted you have taken the time to read our College Prospectus. I believe that Blackwater Integrated College truly offers an education that caters for students of all academic abilities. Our school motto is Building, Inspiring, Caring and these three words show clearly why Blackwater is an excellent choice for post primary education.

Building for the future:

As an integrated College we are very proud of the fact that we accept students from the two main religions of Catholic and Protestant in Northern Ireland as well as other religions and none. Integration to us means respecting yourself and others, even when they have different beliefs from yours.

We have high standards, asking that everyone works and learns to their full potential, helps those around them to do their best, and develops into thoughtful, caring members of their community.

Inspiring success:

Our accelerated learning groups are aimed at students who are more academically able, so they can be encouraged to progress with both stimulation and pace. The intention is to make sure that they are happy, that they are stretched and that they fulfil their potential. Our current Year 8 accelerated group consists of many students who narrowly missed out on grammar school places and I am very confident that the environment we provide will allow those students to excel in their studies over the next five years.

We are very proud of the fact that we cater for the needs of all of our students. We have an excellent Learning Support Centre for Stage 5 students who join mainstream classes for some lessons. We also provide vocational options at Key Stage 4 for students who are looking for a more practical pathway.

Caring for all:

Children will naturally achieve more and be successful if they are happy in their studies. Our pastoral team, from form tutors to Head of Junior and Senior School to Pastoral Coordinator, provides an environment and structure that allows students to be safe, very well cared for and happy. Small class sizes and the relationship developed with the form tutor allow each child to receive the care and attention they need to enable them to achieve their best throughout their time in the College.

As an Integrated College parental involvement is very important. We have regular parental consultations and we welcome contact with home. The College has an active Parents' Association which contributes to the life of the College and holds a number of successful events throughout the college year.

I would like to thank you for considering Blackwater Integrated College as your choice of school for this coming September. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the College or refer to our website at www.blackwateric.org for up to date news and information on College life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Stephen Taylor'.

Mr Stephen Taylor, Principal

COMMENTS FROM OUR NEW YEAR 8 STUDENTS ON LIFE AT BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE:

Nicole Richardson
Killinchy PS

When I first came to visit Blackwater on the P7 Taster Day I thought it was massive, I was a bit nervous but then everyone showed us around and I knew I wanted to go to this school. I thought all of the teachers and students were really nice. I have made loads of new friends from different primary schools. I have heard a lot about the Ski Trip and the Watersports Trip and I can't wait to go on these!



Katie Morrow
Killinchy PS

I have enjoyed my first term and made lots of new friends. I especially like Art because we get to use lots of different materials and learn about new drawing styles, I have really improved. I also love Science because we have been able to create explosions! When I moved to Blackwater I was shy and scared but now I have made lots of good friends, I feel safe in Blackwater and my form teacher and head of year are both very friendly.



Tierna Morrison
St Joseph's PS, Killough

When I was in P7 I was really excited to visit BIC and I couldn't wait to start first year. My favourite subjects are Art, Science and Technology because I really like to draw, do experiments and create things. I think that all the teachers are really nice. I can't wait to start using the iPad Pros and iMacs to create digital Art!

Ryan Johnston
St Patrick's PS, Legamaddy

I came with my old primary school to do coding on the school computers when I was in P7, so I had been to Blackwater before and knew this was the school I wanted to go to. Also my dad came to this school and some of the teachers still remember him! Blackwater is a kind and caring school and if you have any worries the teachers will help you sort them out. It is also really good because it is Integrated, and everyone is accepted for who they are.



Leah Cash
Killyleagh Integrated PS

I had visited Blackwater with Killyleagh Integrated PS in P6 and P7 and loved it. My favourite subjects are HE, English, French and History as I like the way these classes are taught and teachers make it fun. All the teachers are friendly but favourite teachers are Mrs Mallon, Mrs Ward and Mrs Love as they are easy to talk to and are nice and encouraging. I have made new friends from other primary schools but also have loads of my primary school friends at Blackwater with me. I can't wait to go on some of the school trips with my friends.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM PARENTS



• We transferred our son from a grammar school to Blackwater Integrated College. Within a short period of time, a young man who believed himself to be a failure and unlikely to achieve, was transformed into a confident student. The credit for this lay with the staff of Blackwater, all of whom went well above and beyond the call of duty to help a young man reach his potential.

• I am glad that I chose Blackwater IC for both of my children. Both have been encouraged and nurtured at the school and the pastoral care has also been second to none. A great school all round.

• My child has enjoyed her time in the College so far and there is a great relationship between teachers and students. My child has come on leaps and bounds since she started the College. As a parent I am delighted with her progress and am very happy we chose Blackwater Integrated College and have recommended it to many people

• My son really loves Blackwater. He is very happy at school and is determined not to miss any days. I know that the staff have helped to mould my son into a balanced young man with great respect for everyone. He aims to deliver his best and he has the utmost respect for all the staff. Blackwater is an excellent school and my son has thrived both educationally and as an individual and I am really glad that he has the opportunity to attend this brilliant school.

• Great school. My son loves it. Keep doing what you're doing. Thank you.

• Keep up the good work as kids love going every day and I have another child looking to join next year.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM FORMER STUDENTS



"All the teachers are so nice and they always helped when you needed extra assistance. My form tutor was the best and we raised lots of money for different charities. My trip to Paris in Year 8 was great as I got to know everyone really well. I achieved 9 excellent GCSE grades giving me lots of options for my 'A' levels. My time at Blackwater prepared me really well for my current studies in Moving Image Arts, Health and Social Care and Business Studies at Down High."

"I really enjoyed my time at Blackwater and it prepared me really well for the 'A' levels I am close to completing. I have just sent off my UCAS forms for University and it's thanks to the staff at Blackwater that I have this opportunity after getting great GCSE results and being able to attend Lagan College to do my 'A' levels."



"My favourite things at Blackwater were the school trips to Bulgaria and Italy. I loved all of my teachers and they really helped me get excellent GCSE grades. I enjoyed how the college was so friendly and I didn't mind getting up every morning to come! I have really good memories and made good friends and it was a pleasure to attend Blackwater for 5 years. I am now at Down High doing 'A' level Sociology, Health and Social Care, Moving Image Arts and BTEC Business Studies after getting 9 GCSEs at grade C or better."

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BLACKWATER?

Year 8 induction programme including parental interviews and residential | Youth Initiatives in the College
PSNI Community talks | Overseas trips (eg. Paris Trip - June 2019, Water Sports Trip Spain - June 2019) | Student Council
Prince's Trust programme | North Down League football | Visit to Tayto Factory | Charity work | Community volunteering
Shared Education trips | Music tuition | Year 11 and 12 work placements | Coding workshops | Parents' Association
After school revision classes | Youth Club | STEM Career Events | Parental study skills evenings | Credit trips
North Down League netball | Blackwater's Got Talent | Cinema trips | Careers talks | Art competitions
Visits to St George's and Christmas Markets | History trip to Carrickfergus Castle | Links with local schools and SERC
International Integrated Education Week | European Day of Languages
Extended Schools activities including dance, ceramics, sewing | Full Time Youth Worker





PASTORAL CARE

At Blackwater Integrated College, we understand that it can be quite difficult for young people to make the change from primary to post-primary education so care is taken to ensure that the transition goes as smoothly as possible. A structured induction programme is in place to enable students to settle quickly and feel part of the College.

We place great emphasis on the pastoral care of our students. The basic pastoral unit is the tutor group which consists of approximately 20 students. A tutor is assigned to each class and usually remains with the group as they move through the College.

Tutor groups meet each morning before class for registration and announcements and again in the afternoon. These tutorials ensure that a student who may be worried about any aspect of College life has daily access to his or her tutor who works closely with all staff to monitor each student's academic performance and personal development.

Tutor groups also follow a Preventative Curriculum during which students cover a wide range of relevant issues. Our pastoral system is a caring system that aims to put the children at ease right from the first day, free from worries and concerns, allowing them to feel safe and secure in their environment and to grow in confidence. There is also a real focus on promoting positive behaviour throughout all year groups.

As part of the induction programme for our new intake the first day of term in 2021 will be set aside for Year 8 only. This allows the children to settle and form relationships with their teachers and peers; they will spend lots of time exploring their new surroundings. The induction process will continue through the early weeks of your child's time at the College within our Personal Development programme and will be reinforced by the Year 8 residential, the purpose of which is twofold: to strengthen friendships and build confidence.

During the first term you will be invited to the College to meet with your child's form tutor. This will be an opportunity for you to find out how well your child has settled into the College and to discuss with his or her form tutor any concerns you might have.

Pastoral policies for Anti-Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Child Protection, Drugs and Digital Media are available on request from the College office.

The curriculum in Blackwater Integrated College is delivered by subject specialist teachers who regularly update their knowledge and skills through training and sharing of practice.

The College has recently invested in developing e-learning and is now well equipped with class sets of Chromebooks. These are available for use in lessons, and homework is also set on Google Classroom. All students are trained in how to use this and are developing confidence and competence in the wide range of ICT skills required for 21st century life and workplaces.

In recent years Blackwater Integrated College has offered an accelerated learning class in each year at Key Stage 3, enabling students to access a tailored curriculum and this has enhanced outcomes for all at Key Stage 4. A recent inspection by ETI in October 2019 confirmed that **“The outcomes attained by the pupils in most of the subjects at GCSE grades A* to C are in line with, or above, the corresponding NI subject averages.”**

As the College has developed and the range of both academic and vocational subjects has expanded at Key Stage 4 there has been a rise in standards: the majority of those following the Vocational Programme now achieve five or more GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. ETI confirmed that **“pupils attain good standards in a wide range of vocational subjects.”**

Excellent pastoral systems support the students in their learning, and guidance on how to study effectively is delivered in the Personal Development programme and supplemented by enjoyable practical workshops at appropriate times.

Progress is tracked throughout a student's time at the College: targets are shared and students have access to further interventions as required.

In 2019/20 GCSE results 90% of Blackwater students achieved 5+ GCSE grades at A*- C and 60% including English and Mathematics. Both of these figures are above the NI average for similar schools and show the curriculum offer at Blackwater is clearly tailored to meet student needs.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Special Education is the education of students with special needs which may be learning, physical, social or emotional difficulties. Our policies are designed to ensure that all students, irrespective of ability, gender, race or social grouping, are enabled to work to their full potential. This was recognised in the last ETI inspection which stated **“Over the past three years, the pupils who require additional support with aspects of their learning have attained well at GCSE (including equivalents).”**


All students, including those identified as having special educational needs, experience a curriculum relevant to their needs and ability which fulfils the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum while having regard to the Code of Practice.

We do this by:

- the early identification of SEN
- one to one or small group interventions by a Support Teacher
- actively involving parents
- maintaining a special educational needs register and record keeping system
- providing training for staff, including a team of teaching assistants
- liaising closely with appropriate services to support our young people, for example the ASD Advisory Service
- providing a complementary programme for students who need an alternative to the GCSE curriculum which enables them to achieve results equivalent to five or more GCSEs

Blackwater Integrated College provides support for students with Additional and Special Needs in accordance with SENDO legislation. The College supports the principle of inclusion of students with moderate learning difficulties within the student body and across a range of curriculum subjects.





CAREERS EDUCATION INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in the college is very important for all students and is covered in a range of ways.

Careers Education and Learning for Life and Work complement each other to create a cohesive programme which meets the statutory requirement and provides the students with a realistic understanding of the world of employment.

Timetabled careers lessons introduce students to new concepts and give opportunities to explore new skills. The focus through Years 8 - 12 includes employment within the local and global economy, career planning, enterprise and entrepreneurship. In addition to this, Careers is incorporated into all other subjects across the curriculum.

To assist with subject choices in Year 10, students and their parents are invited to the College. This allows for discussion with staff which enables the students to make informed decisions about Key Stage 4 study.

During Key Stage 4, students are made aware of post-16 options and are provided with impartial careers advice from the Careers Service.

Students are also given the opportunity to undertake work experience to provide an insight into a career of their choice.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Blackwater Integrated College provides a Christian rather than a secular approach and context although students of all faiths and none are welcomed. The young people are nurtured in the values of their own ethnic, religious and cultural background and develop a respect for the different values of the other students.

Like any other school in Northern Ireland, Blackwater Integrated College has an obligation to deliver the statutory curriculum which, in the case of Religious Education, has been agreed by the main churches. Students also study world religions as part of the Religious Education programme as this broadens students' knowledge and understanding while encouraging tolerance and awareness of other religions and cultures in our community.

Alternative arrangements can be made for students whose parents do not wish them to participate in Religious Education.

BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE - TEACHING STAFF

Principal

Mr S Taylor BA(Hons) PGCE PQH (NI)

Senior Leadership Team

Vice Principal

Ms P Gilmore

Pastoral Coordinator

Mrs J Millington

Acting SENCO

Mrs K Mallon

Assessment and Reporting

Mrs L McVeigh

C2K Coordinator

Mr D McAlorum

Bursar

Mrs S Telford

Art & Design

Miss L Jones BDes (Hons) PGCE

ICT

Mr D McAlorum BSc (Hons) PGCE

English

Mrs E Killen BA (Hons) PGCE
Ms P Gilmore BA (Hons) PGCTEFL PQH (NI)

Geography

Miss A McCammon BSc (Hons) MEd PG
Cert Special Needs PG Cert Dyslexia PQH (NI)

History

Mrs A Ward BA (Hons) PGCE

Home Economics

Mrs H McBrearty BEd (Hons)

Languages

Mrs K Love BA (Hons) PGCE

Technology and Design

Miss K Herpe BA (Hons) PGCE

Learning Support Centre

Mr C McClean BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE
Miss E Hilman BEd

Mathematics

Mrs L McVeigh BSc (Hons) PGCE PQH (NI)
Mr J Killen BEd

Music

Mrs E Stott BMus (Hons) PGDip MTh PGCE

Physical Education

Mrs J Millington BSc (Hons) PGCE
Mr M Sunerton BSc (Hons) PGCE

Additional Teaching Support

Mrs A Reynolds BA (Hons)

Religious Education

Miss E Hilman BEd

Science

Mrs A Cockfield BSc (Hons) MEd PGCE
Miss J Conaty BSc (Hons) PGCE

COLLEGE DAY

Students should be on the College premises by 08:40 at the latest.

Times	Period
08.45 - 08.55	AM Registration
08.55 - 09.40	1
09.40 - 10.25	2
10.25 - 10.45	Break
10.45 - 11.30	3
11.30 - 12.15	4
12.15 - 12.55	5/Junior Lunch
12.55 - 13.35	6/Senior Lunch
13.35 - 14.20	7
14.20 - 15.00	8
15.00 - 15.10	PM Registration



BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE - BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is comprised of up to 16 members. The Principal attends all Board meetings and many sub-committees in a non-voting capacity. The Board of Governors meets on a monthly basis.

Much of the College’s business is handled by sub-committees, established to address various areas of policy. They meet as often as required and report back to the full Board of Governors. Any recommendations made by the Committees must be ratified by the full Board before they become policy.

Governors also attend meetings of groups which have close links with the school e.g. various meetings of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education. All Governors are offered a programme of training to assist them in their role. The Board of Governors and the various constituencies of Foundation Governors, Department of Education Nominees, Parent Governors and Teacher Governors must be balanced in terms of religious tradition.

Board Of Governors

Mrs A Toman

Chair (DE Representative)

Mrs D McBay

Foundation Governor

Mrs F Lowry

Foundation Parent Governor

Mrs S Trainor

Foundation Parent Governor

Mrs J Millington

Teacher Representative

Mrs L McVeigh

Teacher Representative

Awaiting Appointment

Department of Education Representative

Awaiting Appointment

Department of Education Representative

Awaiting Appointment

Department of Education Representative

Mrs T Dougan

Parent Governor

Mr M Coburn

Parent Governor

Mrs C Irvine

Parent Governor

Mrs M McKervey

Parent Governor



PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In recent years Blackwater Integrated College has enrolled pupils from a wide area, including pupils from the schools listed below:

**Academy PS | Alexander Dickson PS
Ballynahinch PS | Belvoir Park PS | Cairnshill PS
Carryduff PS | Carrickmannon PS | Castlewellan PS
Cedar IPS | Cumran PS | Derryboy PS | Downpatrick PS
Dromara PS | Drumlins IPS | Glasswater PS | Killinchy PS
Killyleagh IPS | Killard House PS | Kircubbin IPS | Knockbreda PS
Lisnasharragh PS | Loughries IPS | Loughview IPS | Millennium IPS
Moneyrea PS | Our Lady and St Patrick's PS | Portaferry CIPS | Rosetta PS
St Brigid's PS | St Colmcille's PS | St Malachy's PS | St Mary's PS, Comber
St Mary's PS, Dunsford | St Mary's PS, Killyleagh | St Mary's PS, Saintfield
St McCartan's PS, Loughinisland | St Nicholas' PS, Ardglass
St Patrick's PS, Ballynahinch | St Patrick's PS, Saul | St Patricks PS, Legamaddy**

Many of these schools are involved in Blackwater's Primary Links Programme which allows students to make a smooth transition from primary to post primary school.



BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE UNIFORM

College uniform is compulsory for all students and must be worn at all times, including to and from school. Names should be clearly marked on all items of uniform and equipment. The College uniform is as follows:

Girls

Navy blazer polyester mix with embroidered badge
Blue and white striped blouse with revere collar
School grey pleated skirt or school grey trousers
College v-neck jumper (compulsory October to Easter)
College grey socks or black tights
Black leather school shoes (heel height must be less than 5cm)

Girls (Optional)

Navy college coat with embroidered badge
(Only the college coat is acceptable as an outdoor coat)
College scarf (Only the college scarf is acceptable)

Girls (PE)

College PE shorts , College polo shirt, College PE socks
Trainers, College tracksuit

Boys

Navy blazer polyester mix with embroidered badge
White school shirt which should be tucked in
School grey trousers
College v-neck jumper (compulsory October to Easter)
Black socks
Black leather school shoes
College tie

Boys (Optional)

Navy college coat with embroidered badge
(Only the college coat is acceptable as an outdoor coat)
College scarf

Boys (PE)

College PE shorts , College polo shirt, College PE socks
Trainers, College tracksuit

Students will require the college tracksuit for PE and on days when a less formal uniform is appropriate, for example educational visits.

Jewellery: A wristwatch may be worn and a pair of stud earrings may be worn. No other visible piercings will be permitted.

Make- up: Make-up, if worn, should be subtle. Nail polish and extensions are not permitted.

Schoolbags: Plain schoolbag, large enough to hold A4 size books and folders – no football emblems please

Official Uniform stockists – Marshall's of Saintfield / Minders, Downpatrick
(College PE kit only available in Marshall's of Saintfield)





ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 2021/2022

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

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria set out herein.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 2021/2022

Our aim is to achieve as even a balance as possible in the intake with regard to religious denomination, gender and academic ability. The College will reserve a maximum of 20% of places for students from 'other traditions'. 'Other traditions', for the purposes of these Admissions Criteria, is defined as a tradition other than the Catholic or Protestant traditions. The criteria as set out below will first be applied to members of 'other traditions'; the additional places will be allocated to the main tradition having the fewer applicants. The criteria set out below will be applied separately to

Protestant and Roman Catholic applicants. In the event of there being fewer applicants from either tradition than there are places available for that tradition, the balance of places will be firstly available to the "other traditions" and secondly to the remaining tradition.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will take into account information supplied on the Transfer Application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to request such supplementary evidence as it may require in order to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the College's admissions criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or attached/uploaded with it. Examples of such information should include whether the child has siblings who attend the College.

Supplementary information and advice on the transfer and admissions process can be found on the College website www.blackwateric.org

In the event that there are more applicants than places available, the Board of Governors has determined that the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down:

1. SIBLINGS

Applicants who have a brother(s) or sister(s) or half-brother or half-sister enrolled in the College.

2. ELDEST CHILD

Applicants who are the first child in the family to transfer from primary education or, in the case of a family recently arrived in the area, the first to reach transfer age since arrival.

3. INTEGRATION

Applicants who are transferring from a controlled integrated or a grant-maintained integrated primary school, as defined in the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 2021/2022

4. MIXED RELATIONSHIPS

Applicants from a mixed relationship, which is here defined as one parent being Catholic and the other parent being Protestant or one parent being of any other religion outside the main traditions in Northern Ireland.

5. CIRCUMSTANCES

Children who have compelling individual circumstances – social, medical or other reasons, approved by the Board of Governors and whose application is supported by documentation from the relevant authority.

6. OTHER APPLICANTS

If following the application of the above criteria in order there comes a point where there are more pupils who meet a particular criterion than there are places then selection will be on the basis of initial letter of the surname in the order set out below:

A I M V E U W T H F J Mac Z O B D Mc S R X N K C Q Y L P G

The order was determined by a randomised selection of the letters of the alphabet and will be changed each year. In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used. The religious affiliation of an applicant will be determined by reference to the following in the order given:

- 1) Information supplied on the Transfer Application.
- 2) The type of primary school which the pupil attended (ie controlled or maintained) will be used to determine the religious affiliation.
- 3) In the case of students transferring from an integrated primary school or the preparatory department of a voluntary grammar school, the school may be asked to supply such information as it can concerning the religious affiliation of the applicant

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the Transfer Application. Applicants should note that the provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Transfer Application



WAITING LIST POLICY

The criteria relating to the initial admission of students into Year 8 before the commencement of the 2021 academic year will also be used for entry into Year 8 should admission become possible after the commencement of the 2021 academic year.

Applications and Admissions to Year 8	Admissions No	Total Application (ie. All preferences)	Total Admissions
2018/19	80	34*	34*
2019/20	80	65*	65*
2020/21	80	53*	53*

* including SEN

Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

1. Their admission will not cause the school to exceed its enrolment number;
2. Their admission will not cause the particular year group to exceed the admissions number set for it, at its time of entry.
3. In the opinion of the Board of Governors, their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

Applications for admission during the school year will be considered as soon as possible after the application is received







BLACKWATER
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Blackwater Integrated College

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www.blackwateric.org

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