BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED



ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE





04	W	'el	CC	m	e

- 06 Aims & Mission Statement
- O7 Uniform
- **O8** Pastoral Care
- 10 Child Protection & Safeguarding
- 11 Curriculum
- 15 **Charity Work**
- 16 Extra-Curricular Activities
- 18 Student Leadership
- 22 Careers & Work Experience
- 23 Career Ready
- 24 mTech.Academy
- 25 **Facilities**
- 27 **Support Learning**
- 28 Celebrating Success
- **30 Student Transport**
- 31 **Health & Wellbeing**
- 32 Parental Partnership
- 33 Trips & Visits
- 34 International Dimension
- **36 Student Destinations**
- 37 A School in the Community
- 38 Admission Criteria

WELCOME

As Principal of **Abbey Community College** I am delighted to welcome you to our prospectus. My vision for our school is that all students will have a seven year learning opportunity with a wide variety of academic, vocational and extracurricular experiences available to them.

Our College motto, 'Believe, Achieve, Succeed' is at the heart of all we do. As a child centred school with an ethos of respect for self and others, all students are challenged and supported to achieve their full potential. From Year 8 students have a personalised learning journey ensuring they are well prepared for Higher Education, Further Education or employment in this ever changing world.

I hope you enjoy reading this prospectus and find it insightful and informative. Should your child decide to join Abbey Community College I look forward to meeting you in person and working in partnership with you to ensure that your child has the very best opportunities for success.

Maria Quinn

Principal





Abbey Community College is a controlled, non-selective, co-educational, all-ability 11-19 school with an enrolment of up to 820.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our shared vision for **Abbey Community College** is to work together to build positive relationships and attitudes in a safe and secure environment, where every individual is valued, respected, cared for, supported and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

AIMS

At **Abbey Community College** we aim to:

- Work together to build positive relationships to create a welcoming, secure and caring environment;
- · Be respectful, trustworthy and hardworking;
- \cdot Develop a sense of pride and ownership in all aspects of school life;
- Work with parents to guide, support and facilitate the needs of every student:
- Provide a broad, balanced curriculum, tailored to the abilities and aspirations of all our students;
- · Create opportunities for everyone to fulfil their potential.





PASTORAL CARE

As an inclusive, caring and child centred school **Abbey Community College** enhances and supports the personal, social and academic development of each individual student in all aspects of College life. All staff play an important role, both within and beyond the classroom, ensuring that all students are given every opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of ability or background.

There is an Induction Programme for Year 8 students in the summer term before they enrol at Abbey Community College. This eases the transition from primary school and helps them to begin making friends. This continues with parental interviews in August, to begin building those important home school relationships, and into September, to help students familiarise themselves with facilities on site, staff and their peers. Each student will have a Class Tutor who meets them daily and is the first point of contact for Parents. The Heads of Year 8 monitor and support all aspects of student progress and development.

Post 16 Mentors attached to each class provide valuable support and guidance

for students in the first weeks and months. They meet students regularly and become a friendly face in the corridor, playground, the canteen and on the buses. They help Year 8 students to settle in and answer auestions.

Heads of Year and Class Tutors for each year group provide care and support for students of all ages. Individual students meet their Class Tutor daily, developing positive relationships and establishing a direct contact for Parents / Guardians. The Heads of Year have oversight of all aspects of academic, personal and social development and supports learners towards success. Valuable partnership with a range of external agencies provide support for our young people when needed.





CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

All members of **Abbey Community College**, students, staff and parents have a key role to play in the safeguarding of our students. A senior member of staff, Mrs F. Cromie is the Designated Teacher responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding. She is supported in the role by Deputy Designated Teachers, Mr, D Laney, Mr S Smyth, Mrs C McNaghten and the Principal, Mrs Quinn.

A copy of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the website or on request from the College Office. A Parent / Guardian wishing to discuss a concern about their child's safety should contact the Principal.



quality learning experiences for students of all abilities across the curriculum, which enthuse and motivates them towards success.

By developing a wide range of skills, knowledge and understanding, students are able to make informed decisions about their future. The curriculum offers a broad and balanced experience, to challenge and support all individuals towards achieving their full potential and progressing towards a wide variety of educational and career opportunities.

Students are encouraged to work both independently and with others, to think for themselves, make decisions and develop high levels of skill in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT across a wide variety of subject areas.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Student progress and achievement is formally reported to Parents / Guardians through a Parents Evening for each Year Group and the annual school report. Interim progress reports are also issued throughout the year.

KEY STAGE 3

At Key Stage 3 all students have an equal opportunity to follow a challenging and exciting curriculum which meets the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum,

LIBRARY

Regular access to the Library in timetabled classes fosters an interest in, and love of, reading. Resources in the Library promote independence and the development of valuable research skills to support students with all aspects of their learning across the cirriculum. Homework Club is based in the library every day after school.



ART & DESIGN ENGLISH
GEOGRAPHY HISTORY
HOME ECONOMICS ICT
LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK
MATHEMATICS MODERN
LANGUAGE PERFORMING
ARTS PHYSICAL EDUCATION
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY &
DESIGN

KEY STAGE 4

In striving to comply with the Entitlement Framework at Key Stage 4 we collaborate with Newtownabbey Learning Community. A wide range of academic and vocational subjects are offered to meet the aspirations of all students through a combination of GCSE and Level 2 qualifications. Where appropriate, students can have the opportunity to enter exams in their native language.



ART & DESIGN BUSINESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS BUSINESS STUDIES CAREERS CHILD CARE CREATIVE **IMEDIA ENGINEERING ENGLISH HEALTH & SOCIAL** CARE HISTORY HOSPITALITY **ICT JOURNALISM LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK MATHEMATICS MEDIA STUDIES MODERN** LANGUAGE OCCUPATIONAL **STUDIES PERFORMING ARTS** PHYSICAL EDUCATION **POLITICS PRINCES TRUST PUBLIC SERVICES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RETAIL SCIENCE SPORTS** STUDIES STATISTICS **TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN TRAVEL & TOURISM**

POST 16

Post 16 students have the opportunity to study a variety of academic and vocational courses at A Level and Level 3, linked to their future aspirations and in response to an ever changing society and economy.

A separate prospectus is available for Post 16 students detailing the learning opportunities available.

Copies of statutory documents relating to the curriculum can be inspected or obtained on request through the College Office.

Any complaints regarding the curriculum should be made in writing to the Principal.

ART & DESIGN BUSINESS
STUDIES CREATIVE
iMEDIA ENGLISH
LITERATURE LIFE & HEALTH
SCIENCE HEALTH &
SOCIAL CARE ICT PUBLIC
SERVICES SCIENCE
SPORTS STUDIES TRAVEL
& TOURISM

An Enrichment Programme enables students to develop their skills and interests beyond the classroom and into the community. Activities include:

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD, SURVIVAL COOKERY, SIGN LANGUAGE, LITERACY SUPPORT AND HOLIDAY SPANISH



SOME OF OUR CHARITY WORK...







EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At **Abbey Community College** the educational experience of our young people is not just confined to the classroom or the normal school day. Before school, at lunchtime and after the school day ends, students have the opportunity to become involved in a variety of sporting and other activities which give valuable academic, personal and social development experiences. The range of activities available are:

Abbey Adventurers

a a a

- Basketball
- Badminton
- Cookery
- Debating
- Dodge Ball
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Eco Club
- eSports
- Film Club
- Fit Club

- Football
- Hockey
- Keyboard Club
- Marvel Club
- Netball
- Rugby
- Running Club
- Science Club
- Technology Club
- Ukulele Club
- Vocal Club
- Walking Club

Bridge Youth Club operates for local young people of all ages in the evenings over the course of the week creating additional opportunities for personal and social development and leisure activities.





SOME OF OUR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES...





STUDENT LEADERSHIP

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Prefects are chosen from Sixth Form based on their conduct, work ethic and contribution to school life. From within the Prefects in Year 14 a Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl are selected. They are significant role models for others and play a major part in school events.

LEWIS HILL HEAD BOY

'I put myself forward for the role of Head Boy as I wanted to give back to the school and inspire the younger students. I am proud of how far I have come during my time here. When I started in Year 8, I was a very shy pupil and kept myself to myself. Now, with the help and guidance of my teachers, I have grown in confidence and developed as an individual. This allows me to talk to people, represent the school and deliver speeches at school events, things I would never have thought of when I started in Year 8.

The role of Head Boy is an extremely rewarding one, getting involved in programmes such as mentoring, charity fundraising and organising school events. The experience I have gained is invaluable, and I am looking forward to the many more amazing opportunities that I know will be provided through my position.'

I am grateful to be surrounded by teachers that embrace the school's motto of Believe, Achieve, Succeed.'







'I applied for the Head Girl role in Abbey Community College as I felt it would give me the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and qualities, I had to offer in a position like this. In Year 12, coming back to Sixth Form was never a consideration for me, but halfway through the year I decided to work even harder for my exams and really show what I was capable of. I achieved my goal and returned to school to continue my studies.

Since becoming Head Girl my confidence has developed greatly and I am proud to be a positive role model for students. I enjoy helping and motivating others to 'Believe, Achieve and Succeed'.

The responsibilities I have as Head Girl include chairing the Sixth Form Formal Committee, organising fundraisers, representing the school at different events and public speaking.

I take pride in my role as Head Girl and appreciate the challenges and opportunities it has given me. I enjoy helping other students in school and will take the skills I have developed in this role with me into my future career.'

PREFECTS

Senior Prefects and Prefects fulfill a valuable role in school as a link between the students and staff, by modelling expected standards of conduct and in promoting the school to the local community. The roles significantly enhance a student's CV and are particularly sought after by Universities, third level institutions and employers.

Students have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through being a Mentor or involvement with the Student Council. They also help with lunch and break-time supervision, assemblies and other school events.

MENTORING

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to support and mentor Junior School students on a regular basis through a variety of activities.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is central to the student voice at Abbey Community College and gives all students the opportunity to be consulted on a variety of issues. Sixth Form members are given the opportunity to lead the Student Council having received training on how to conduct elections and lead meetings. Each Year Group is represented at meetings bringing ideas and suggestions from the respective Year Council.





CAREERS EDUCATION & WORK EXPERIENCE

Careers education is an intergral part of the college curriculum offering experiences for students to explore job opportunities and make informed decisions for the future. A range of events inside and outside the classroom give students insight into a variety of potential job and career routes. This is delivered through a taught programme and supplemented by organised events and visits.

In Year 10, Careers Education begins to play a bigger role before students make Key Stage 4 choices. They are encouraged to assess themselves in terms of their strengths, skills and qualities. This is followed up by interviews involving students, parents and teachers so they can make informed choices.

Year 12 and Year 13 students undertake a week's Work Experience. This is a valuable opportunity to experience the world of work and is often influential in decision making for the future. Careers Education continues to be increasingly significant for Post 16 students as they explore University and Further Education options alongside those for Apprenticeships and employment. They attend university Open Days and Higher Education Conventions and are given comprehensive guidance with application procedures and support for employment. Post 16 students are also given the opportunity to have an individual careers interview (with the DfE advisor) which helps them make key decisions about the future.



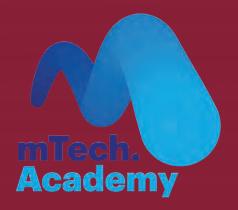
CAREER READY

In 2018/19 Abbey Community College joined the UK wide 'Career Ready' programme for the first time. This gave six Year 13 students the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive mentoring programme with key local business representatives. Students engaged in a variety of individual and group activities which supported the development of skills for the workplace. They also visited their mentors at work, gaining a unique and invaluable insight into their work environment and key responsibilities. The highlight of the year was a six week paid internship with Citibank for our Head Girl, Alex Downing. This exciting programme is continuing into a second year and has huge potential to support student learning and aspiration.



In 2018/19, we were invited to join the prestigious mTech. Academy. This enabled a group of Year 10 students to work on a digital technology project focussing on Smart Cities and culminated in 10 students and 2 staff visiting the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. This exciting opportunity supports the development of a wide range of digital and work related skills for the future.

The project is continuing for a second year and we are looking forward to students and staff visiting Ericsson in Sweden in March 2020.



FACILITIES

Abbey Community College students and staff work together in a modern building which has been well maintained and regularly updated in recent years.









Access to a 3G pitch nearby supports the delivery of the Physical Education and sports programme.

Whilst these things are all very important we believe that a successful school is about much more than buildings and equipment. It is about people; students and staff who treat each other with respect, support and encourage each other to be the best they can be at all times.



SUPPORTING LEARNING

Our child centred approach ensures that all students have the opportunity to be both challenged and supported to achieve their full potential during their seven years at Abbey Community College.

Should the need arise students can have access to our Learning Support Centre, through the allocation of a Statement of Special Educational Needs by the Education Authority. A team of highly skilled and experienced staff put a range of support strategies in place to ensure that each individual is given every opportunity to progress and learn.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

All students are expected to come to school on time each day and strive to have full attendance. This ensures that valuable learning opportunities are not missed and each individual can make maximum progress.

Attendance and punctuality are monitored closely and parents/guardians are contacted should a student arrive late or be absent without explanation.

A designated phone line is available daily to report attendance and punctuality issues to a member of the office staff. The whole school level of attendance for 2018/19 was 91%.

HOMEWORK

We believe that homework is a valuable means of supporting and enhancing learning beyond the confines of the school day. This enables students to develop good study habits, independence and take responsibility for their own learning.

The student planner helps students develop the organisational skills to plan their work and meet deadlines. Teaching staff use the SIMS Parent App to record homework tasks, this enables parents to see what has to be done and monitor its completion.



Through our assemblies and rewards system we take every opportunity to acknowledge academic achievement and highlight the many successes of our students in sport and other extra-curricular activities. Our Annual Prize Giving is a significant event which enables families and members of the community to celebrate with us.

ASSEMBLIES

Our school community comes together regularly in:

- Year Assemblies
- · Junior, Senior and Upper School Assemblies
- · Whole School Assemblies

These events give us the opportunity to develop our school ethos, celebrate success and pray together.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All students in Years 8-12 study Religious Education as part of their core curriculum and have the opportunity to achieve a formal qualification at GCSE level.

Parents who wish to withdraw their child from Religious Education or assemblies should consult the Principal to make alternative arrangements.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Copies of all college policies including Charging and Remission, Special Educational Needs & Inclusion and Anti Bullying are available on request through the Office or can be downloaded from the website.





An extensive transport network serves Abbey Community College on Bridge Road. A designated school bus service is provided for students to travel to and from school. Each morning buses come from Rathcoole directly to the front door. At the end of the day buses take students on the return journey to the following destinations:

RATHCOOLE RATHFERN CARNMONEY MOSSLEY GREENISLAND BELFAST

The Metro Bus service also covers an extensive area including:

SHORE ROAD RATHCOOLE WHITEABBEY VILLAGE DOAGH ROAD CIRCULAR / JORDANSTOWN ROAD CARNMONEY OLD CARRICK ROAD MOSSLEY UPPER & LOWER STATION ROAD GREENISLAND



To promote health and wellbeing, students are encouraged to make healthy decisions in all aspects of their lives both in and outside school. Our catering facilities provide students and staff with a range of healthy hot and cold food and drink choices during the school day. The consumption of fizzy and high energy drinks during the school day is <u>not</u> permitted.

The Learning for Life and Work and Class Tutor programmes aim to holistically develop the skills which will enable every student to make appropriate, healthy lifelong decisions and become responsible contributors to our evolving society. Drugs Education and RSE policies ensure that all students have the knowledge and skills to enable them to make safe and healthy lifestyle choices both during their time at school and into the future.

Effective partnerships with a variety of professional agencies and services support all aspects of student health and wellbeing.

Our School Nurse project, in partnership with the NHSCT, supports the health and wellbeing of everyone in our school community. A variety of groups and activities promote positive health messages and experiences. We also have a team of qualified First Aiders on site each day.

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

The role of parents/guardians in supporting our students towards success cannot be underestimated. Our partnership is key to ensuring that each individual student achieves their full potential. We ask for your support in the following ways:

- Encourage your child to attend regularly and on time
- Ensure that your child wears their uniform and takes pride in their appearance
- Attend meetings and Parent Evenings to discuss your child's progress
- Contact us if there are issues or concerns that may affect your child
- Support the completion of homework and sign the Student Planner each week

College staff are welcoming and approachable. Through our 'Open Door' policy you can make contact with us by telephone or in person should the need arise. We maintain strong communication links with our families through the use of the SIMS Parent App, our website, Facebook and Twitter.

The Friends of Abbey group brings together parents, friends and staff to raise funds for the College and will also become an important consultation group in the future.

Prospective parents are welcome to visit during the school day. Should you wish to do so please make an appointment by contacting the College Office.





TRIPS & VISITS

A variety of trips and visits are organised by staff throughout the year to support key aspects of learning and create opportunities for students to have new experiences and enhance their personal development. Recent schools trips include the ski trip to Austria, football trip to Liverpool and the Health & Social Care visit to Prague.







To date, a significant number of our young people have secured places on a range of undergraduate courses such as Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Science, Computer Science Business Management, Criminology with Forensic Science, Digital Media, Early Childhood Studies, Art, Hospitality Management and Tourism, Nursing, Physical Education and Sport. They began their studies at various Higher Education institutions such as Queen's University, Ulster University, University of Cumbria, Liverpool John Moores, Stranmillis University College, Belfast Metropolitan College and Northern Regional College.

Others progressed to a variety of Further Education courses at Belfast Metropolitan College, Northern Regional College, secured an apprenticeship, took up training opportunities or made the transition directly into employment in their chosen field.



As 'a school at the heart of the community with the community at the heart of the school' Abbey Community College works in partnership with parents, local education providers, business and community based groups to build opportunities for community education, sports participation and family support.

As an active member of Newtownabbey Learning Community, collaboration with other local schools and Northern Regional College enhances the curriculum by providing students with access to a wide range of academic and vocational courses at Key Stage 4 and Post 16.

Positive relationships with local primary schools through THRiVE Rathcoole and Monkstown, have created opportunities for collaboration, staff development and shared learning experiences. Strategic partnerships have been developed with a variety of local business and community groups to support learning, achievement and personal development in variety of ways.

ARMY CADETS BARNARDOS CAREER READY CITIBANK DANSKE BANK HENDERSON GROUP HMRC IFA IRFU MONKSTOWN BOXING CLUB MONKSTOWN VILLAGE CENTRE MTECH.ACADEMY NACN NETBALL NI PRINCES TRUST PSNI PWC QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ROYAL MARINES SENSATA SPORT CHANGES LIFE START 360 STEM AMBASSADORS STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY THRIVE ULSTER UNIVERSITY UNION COLOURS W5

ADMISSION INTO YEAR 8

Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to Abbey Community College.

The Admissions Criteria for Abbey Community College have been agreed by the Board of Governors. The application of the criteria has been delegated to the Admissions Sub Committee which includes the Principal. When considering students for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

- 1. Applicants resident in Northern Ireland, at the time of their proposed admission, will be selected for admission before any applicant not so resident may be selected.
- 2. Applicants who have indicated a first or second preference for Abbey Community College.
- 3. Applicants who, at the date of their application, have a child of the family currently enrolled at the school.
- 4. Applicants who, at the date of their application, are the eldest in their family to apply to a mainstream post primary school.
- 5. Applicants for whom Abbey Community College is their nearest non-selective school as decided by digital measurement of a straight line from the front door of their home to the front door of the school using the map on www.spatialni.gov.uk and an Ordnance Survey Spreadsheet to calculate distance in metres. All addresses must be verified by proof of address e.g. Utility Bill.
- 6. In the event of oversubscription students will be admitted by a criterion that prioritises applicants where the letters of their surname (as entered on a Birth Certificate) places them on a rank established by the random selection of letters in the order set out below:

COUWVSFQMTYKJGEBLNHAPIDZRX

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surname 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. Applicants should note that they may be required to produce documents to verify information pertinent to the school's admission criteria. Original documents will be required – fax or photocopies will not be accepted. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide verifying documents by the required deadline may result in the withdrawal of a place.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

Parents wishing to have their child considered for admission after 1 September 2020 should write to the Principal clearly stating this. In the event of a vacancy the above criteria will be applied to these applications.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Applications for Year 8	118	150	169
Admissions into Year 8	118	138	140

The above figures do not include those students admitted with a statement of Special Educational Needs.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION OTHER THAN YEAR 8

When applications are received for year groups 9-14, the enrolment numbers in each year group will be considered alongside student numbers in practical groups. If these numbers are at maximum levels, a waiting list will be compiled.

Each application will be considered by the Admissions Committee of the Board of Governors.

In the event of there being no places available, Parents! Guardians will be asked in writing if they wish their child's name to be added to the waiting list. The list will expire at the end of the academic year on 31 August 2021.

In the event that there are more applications than places available the following criteria will be applied -

'Applicants for whom Abbey Community College is their nearest non-selective school as decided by digital measurement of a straight line from the front door of their home to the front door of the school using the map on www.spatialni.gov.uk and an Ordnance Survey Spreadsheet to calculate distance in metres. All addresses must be verified by proof of address e.g. Utility Bill'.



ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

100 Bridge Road Newtownabbey, BT37 0EA

Tel: **028 9086 7431** Fax: **028 9085 4945**

info@abbeycommunitycollege.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk www.abbeycommunitycollege.co.uk

