

Newtownhamilton High School



Prospectus 2012 -2013

F O R E W O R D

by

The Headmaster

Mr G J Mullan BSc MEd

This booklet has been produced
to inform parents about
Newtownhamilton High School.

It outlines briefly what the
school can offer your child.

I invite you to our Open Night
on Wednesday 18th January 2012 from 7.30 - 9.30 pm.
(Talk by Principal in assembly hall at 7.30pm)

You are welcome to tour the school
and view our facilities.

The Staff and I look forward to meeting you on this occasion.





Past Pupil



Louise Henderson was top student in 2007 with 3A* and 5 A grades. After taking 3 A levels in the Southern Regional College Armagh, went on to study for a History & Theology degree in QUB. Louise says:

"Retrospectively my time at Newtownhamilton was very enjoyable; FE college was much different. I appreciated the dedication of the helpful teachers and the friendly, caring environment. It was here that I was given the opportunity to gain a good educational foundation from which to build upon at higher level".



PROSPECTUS

2012 - 2013

by

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

May we extend to everyone a very warm welcome to our school. Newtownhamilton High is a Controlled Co-educational (Group 2) High School for the 11-16 year old pupils of the town and surrounding rural areas.

The school occupies two red-bricked buildings on the north side of the town, with five annexes added to meet the growing requirement for teaching accommodation. All classrooms have been equipped with interactive technology.

The entire school buildings under the control of the High School Board of Governors are designated as a no smoking zone.

In this Prospectus you will find a comprehensive record of the school's activities and what it has to offer. We aim to provide a sound, broad-based education and useful qualifications in a secure, happy, Christian environment. The school, though small, has proved it can deliver parity of educational opportunity with success and provide a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to the age, aptitude and ability of each child. Having kept abreast of all the recent educational changes and with heavy investment in new buildings and computer facilities, we are delivering the Entitlement Framework ahead of schedule.

In our school, you will find an excellent blend of ingredients which ensure success. The close co-operation between parents, children and teachers motivates our pupils to succeed and minimises discipline problems. This is evident by the fact that our attendance rate last year was over 94%. The combination of our excellent academic record, our commitment to those children who have learning difficulties and the friendly family atmosphere which is unique to the smaller school has earned us a special place in the educational world.



TRANSFER FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY EDUCATION

Enrolment number - 175. Admissions number (2011) - 35.

Admissions to Year 8			
	SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010	SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011	SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012
APPLICATIONS	43	28	28
ADMISSIONS	36	28	28

The table above does not include pupils admitted with statements of special education need.

BREAKDOWN OF INTAKE TO YEAR 8 (2008-2011)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011
Aghavilly	1	2	1	0
Cortamlet	4	11	11	7
Drumhillery	5	8	1	7
Keady	4	3	0	1
Kingsmills	5	4	4	1
Lisnadill	2	3	2	2
Newtownhamilton	11	9	6	7
Others	5	1	3	3
Total	35	41	28	28

The table above includes pupils admitted with statements of special education need.

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

The Board of Governors (BoG) draws up the criteria; the Principal, on behalf of the BoG, will apply the criteria in the order indicated to select pupils for admission to Year 8.

ADMISSIONS

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the BoG as an indication that the parents and the child concerned accept and that they are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including any code of conduct or discipline policy of the school. Information in relation to these may be obtained from the school.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEAR 8

The Principal, on behalf of the BoG, will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to select pupils for admission.



ADMISSION TO YEAR 8

(either in September 2012 or during the course of the 2012/2013 school year)

In selecting children for admission, it is a legal requirement that those who reside in Northern Ireland are given preference over those who are not so resident.

Criteria will be applied in the following order:

1. Applicants for whom Newtownhamilton High School is 1st choice.
2. Applicants who have or had a child of the family enrolled at the school.
3. Applicants who are the oldest child transferring or whose older siblings were refused admission due to over-subscription.
4. Applicants who have special circumstances (medical, social or security).
5. Applicants from the following list of schools (all to be treated equally):
Aghavilly, Cortamlet, Drumhillery, Keady, Kingsmills, Lisnadill, Mountnorris, Newtownhamilton PS.
6. Applicants who have had a parent enrolled in the school or who have a parent employed in the school.
7. Those who live closest to the school (as the crow flies).

If when a criterion is applied there are fewer places available than the number of applicants who meet the criterion, the remaining criteria will be applied in the indicated order to the children who meet the over-subscribed criterion.

NOTE 1: The term "child of the family" covers children fostered, adopted etc and avoids having to define all the various permutations of sibling.

NOTE 2: Details of special circumstances must be given on or attached to the Transfer Form. Documentary evidence supporting the special circumstances must be provided by a statutory body.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within deadlines set by the school can result in the withdrawal of a place or the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application form.

TRANSFER BETWEEN SCHOOLS FOR YEARS 9 - 12

The Board of Governors (BoG) will apply the criteria. In this sense, the term "BoG" includes any committee or sub-committee appointed by the BoG for the purposes of applying the admission criteria set out herein. The lodging of an application is interpreted by the BoG as indicating that the parents and the child concerned accept and are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school, including any code or discipline policy of the school. Information on these may be obtained from the school.

If the school is over subscribed, pupils will be considered for transfer:

1. Whose parents are past pupils of the school
2. From traditional contributory primary schools
3. Whose brother or sister are past or present pupils
4. Who have special circumstances eg medical/social
5. Who are from an area from which pupils traditionally transfer

A pupil will be accepted from another secondary school provided that the enrolment would not prejudice the efficient use of resources in the school.

Past Pupils



Top students at Prize Night in 2008 were Laura Nesbitt and Lauren Henry. Both girls gained straight A* and A grades in their GCSEs, with a combined total of 14A* and 6A grades. This is a magnificent achievement.

Laura commented:-

"I really enjoyed my time at this school. The staff are excellent, the opportunities fantastic and the atmosphere is always friendly. I would highly recommend this homely school to any pupil thinking of their future High School plans. Newtownhamilton High School is a wonderful place to learn."

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

Within a Christian, caring environment, the school aims:

- 1 To prepare pupils to become mature, responsible, self-sufficient adults and contributors to society.
- 2 To broaden horizons through a variety of experiences within the school and further afield in order to foster and encourage an appreciation of the benefits, challenges and difficulties of living in this isolated area that is part of the Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community.
- 3 To provide a curriculum suited to the intellectual, aesthetic, spiritual, practical and physical needs of each individual child - a curriculum designed to allow each child to fulfil his maximum academic potential. This will include the use of ICT, where appropriate and may include provision of courses outside the confines of the school in collaboration with other educational providers in Newry & Mourne ALC, including Southern Regional College (Newry campus) and St Paul's High School, Bessbrook.
- 4 To provide a caring environment - this promotes confidence and self-esteem and therefore a heightened awareness of the need for tolerance and sensitivity towards others.
- 5 To develop good relationships and closer links between school and home, community and the outside world.



THE PEOPLE INVOLVED

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Transferors' Representatives

Rev B Wilson
Rev Canon C F Moore
Mr T H Reddick
Rev K Graham

SELB Representatives

Cllr. Mrs S McRoberts
Mr I Bingham

Parents' Representatives

Mrs J Nicholson
Mrs A Geary

Teachers' Representative

Mr D Sloan

The Headmaster

Mr G Mullan (Secretary)

THE TEACHING STAFF (2011/2012)

Mr G J Mullan
Mr N Megaw
Mrs C Alexander
Ms L Anderson
Miss M Baird
Mrs B Beattie
Mr J Black
Mr A Chambers
Miss E Devlin
Mrs J Ferris
Miss L Graham
Miss V Hadden
Miss K Johnston
Mrs A Lavery
Mrs O Reid/Mr G Burnett
Mrs K Robinson
Mr D Sloan

Principal
Vice-Principal

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Mrs S Coyle
Mrs B McNiece
Mrs B Nelson
Mrs D Shields
Mrs C Simms

THE ANCILLARY STAFF

Mrs S Boyle
Mrs E Henderson
Mr D Riddle
Mr R Gibson
Mrs C Anderson
Mrs P Gibson
Mrs P Knight

Secretary
Clerical Officer
ICT Technician
Caretaker
Cleaner
Cleaner
Cleaner



OUR FACILITIES

INDOOR

Numerous improvements have been made in recent years. Every teaching classroom has now been provided with an interactive whiteboard.

Art and Design Rooms

A ceramics area and kiln has been incorporated in the Art and Design suite. Digital imaging computer hardware and software have been installed in 2007 and upgraded in 2009.

Assembly Hall/PE Facilities

Changing rooms and showers were built in 1999 and have been repainted in 2008. A new PE annexe with computer access was added in June 2011.

Computer Suite

(completely refurbished in 2007) with facilities for Business Studies, Information Technology and Word Processing. Computers were replaced in 2009.

French and Music annexes (French annexe replaced new in 2002; Music in 2004)

History and Geography Classrooms (both replaced new in 2004)

Home Economics Suite (extended and refurbished in 2002)

English classroom and library (relocated and refurbished in 2002).

Mathematics Classroom (M3 additional classroom added in 2010)

General Classroom with mini-ICT suite (E3 additional classroom added in 2011)

Science and Technology

This purpose built suite incorporates the most modern equipment and was opened in 2001. Computers in the resource area were replaced in 2009.

OUTDOOR

Grass Playing Field (A new sand carpet pitch was constructed in 2003 and was used for the first time in 2004).

Paved outdoor play area

Tennis Courts (resurfaced in 2003).

Area for teaching of Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies



OUR SUBJECTS

All schools are required to provide instruction in a broad range of Areas of Learning.

Area of Learning	Contributory Subjects	Additional Extras We Offer
Religious Studies	Religious Studies	
1. Language and Literacy	English Language English Literature Essential Skills in Communication	Special Needs English
2. Maths and Numeracy	Mathematics Additional Mathematics Essential Skills in Application of Number	Special Needs Mathematics
3. Modern Languages	French	
4. The Arts	Art and Design Music	Drama
5. Science and Technology	Science Science: Double Award Science: Single Award Technology and Design B.Tech Construction B.Tech E-Media B.Tech Engineering Occ. Studies Construction Occ. Studies Engineering Services Occ. Studies Technology & Innovation	Word processing Text processing Keyboarding Applications ICT
6. Environment and Society	History Geography Business Studies MVRUS B.Tech Children's Care & Dev B. Tech Creative Media Production B Tech Engineering B.Tech Health & Social Care B.Tech Travel & Tourism Occ. Studies Business & Services Occ. Studies Construction Occ. Studies Creative Media Occ. Studies Environment & Society Occ Studies Technology & Innovation	Emergency Aid (St John's Ambulance) Child Care
7. Learning for Life and Work	Learning for Life & Work Personal Development Home Economics	Employability Careers Education Essential Food Hygiene Local & Global Citizenship Personal Development

NEWRY & MOURNE AREA LEARNING COMMUNITY

Newtownhamilton High School is a committed member of the Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community. Membership of this community consists of the following schools:

- Abbey Grammar School Newry
- EOTAS Learning Centre Newry
- Kilkeel High School
- Newry High School
- **Newtownhamilton High School**
- Our Lady's Grammar School Newry
- Rathore School Newry
- Sacred Heart Grammar School Newry
- St. Colman's College Newry
- St. Columban's College Kilkeel
- St. Joseph's Boys School Newry
- St. Joseph's High School Crossmaglen
- St. Louis Grammar School Kilkeel
- St. Mark's High School Warrenpoint
- St. Mary's High School Newry
- St. Paul's High School Bessbrook
- Southern Regional College Newry



The main aim of the Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community is to develop further post primary education provision in the area it serves, in a manner which promotes a culture of collaboration and respect for cultural diversity.

Newtownhamilton High School currently collaborates with Southern Regional College every Thursday when a number of pupils from Years 11 and 12 travel to the Newry campus to study for an Occupational Studies or B.Tech qualification. It is anticipated that collaboration with St. Paul's High School Bessbrook for GCSE option choices will commence in September 2012.



VOCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (VEP)

Since 2005/6, a VEP in partnership with the Southern Regional College (Newry) has been developed and extended. Within Newry & Mourne ALC, pupils are given the opportunity to study for a wide range of B. Tech and Occupational Studies qualifications. The Occupational Studies course offers the following wide range of individual modules:

Brickwork, Building a Website, Carpentry & Joinery, Children to Participate in Play, Creating Up-styles on Long Hair, Digital Imaging, Electrical Wiring Practices, Facial Skincare, Floristry, Food Preparation & Cooking Patisseries, Food Preparation & Cooking (Kitchen & Larder), Growing Plants (Propagation), Styling Hair by Blow Drying, Manicure, Manufacturing Techniques - Assembly, Painting & Decorating, Plant Care, Plastering, Plumbing, Running a Leisure Centre, Safe Tractor Operations, Shampooing & Conditioning Hair, Sound Production, Sports Leadership, The Physical Care and Development of Children, Understanding the Retail Industry, Using Office Equipment, Vehicle Servicing & Valeting Operations & Wall Tiling.

In addition to the above, students have the option of taking a wide range of vocational and general subjects in collaboration with St Paul's High School, Bessbrook one day per week.

Past Pupil

Top VEP student last year was **Jonathan Leyburn** (pictured right), who received a cheque for £50 from the school. Jonathan has now moved to SRC (Armagh) to further his education.



Jonathan stated *"I was very grateful of the opportunity to attend the SRC with the Vocational Enhancement Programme. I thoroughly enjoyed my two years and found them beneficial in helping me make my career choice. I appreciate the support given and the willing and friendly staff - I would highly recommend this programme"*.



CLASS ORGANISATION

Each year group is split into 2 classes, designated X and A, each with their own form teacher. Classes follow a broad curriculum in preparation for external exams (GCSE etc).

SPORTS

As part of a broad balanced curriculum, Newtownhamilton High School aims to provide pupils with opportunities to:

- * experience a range of sports and sports activities as part of the curriculum for Physical Education and as extra-curricular activities;
- * be aware of the benefits of sport and sports activities in terms of healthy life-styles and physical well-being;
- * develop sports skills;
- * create an awareness of the benefits of team work etc.

To this end, pupils in Years 8 and 9 are timetabled for 1.67 hours per week and have the opportunity to participate in after school team games.

Athletics	Hiking (Duke of Edinburgh)	Table Tennis
Badminton	Mourne Ramble	Tennis
Basketball	Netball	Tug of War
Dance	Rugby	Uni-Hoc
Gymnastics	Soccer	Volleyball
Hockey	Swimming (Outside school groups)	

For a number of years, pupils have made use of swimming facilities (Newry). Throughout the year, other matches may be arranged with local schools in various sports. In previous years, boys have been finalists in the Mid-Ulster U16 football cup competition in Armagh.

Throughout the year, the pupils' general levels of fitness are monitored at regular intervals. Scores are recorded by the pupils and this means that they can assess their own personal levels of fitness throughout the year. Pupils are tested in a range of ways:

- Cardiovascular endurance
- Muscular endurance
- Flexibility
- Muscular strength

An annual Sports' Day is held and House Competitions take place.



SPECIAL NEEDS

The aim of the school's SEN department is to offer the best possible education to all pupils, differentiated to suit their level of ability. The latter is achieved by testing every pupil transferring to the school and collating the results to identify individual areas needing extra support. Special attention is given to those pupils with identified learning difficulties and whose name appears on the Code of Practice. The aim is that those requiring additional assistance with literacy and numeracy may join a smaller class for their year group or have the opportunity to benefit from withdrawal work in a favourable teacher:pupil ratio setting; this extra attention, combined with classroom assistance (if allocated by SELB) helps individual pupils to progress steadily. If academic progression is significant, pupils from the smaller group have the opportunity to transfer into the larger more-abled class. As indicated above, those requiring further literacy support can now avail of the Reading Partnership Programme (introduced in 2008) and the new assistive technologies of Lexia and Textile Gold (introduced in 2009).

The school has a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) Miss Graham who is on hand to help, to advise and liaise with other colleagues, parents and appropriate outside agencies. Teachers are very experienced in dealing with special educational needs pupils and have received training on how to differentiate and adapt work to facilitate the needs of each pupil. Teachers set educational targets and create Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for each student which are reviewed twice yearly to assess their progression. The outcome of these reviews are shared with the students and parents.



Past Pupil

Top student in 2011 was Alison J Hamilton with grades of 4 A*, 4 A, 1 B and 1 C.

Alison says:

"I have definitely benefited from the many great experiences during my time at Newtownhamilton High School. I feel that the little community I entered in Year 8 allowed me to grow in both spirit and knowledge. I had the opportunity to be taught by some wonderful teachers during my five years at Newtownhamilton, and I am very grateful for all they have done for me"





WHAT MORE DO WE OFFER?

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Educational Day Trips are made regularly while field trips (Geography and Science) are undertaken as part of the course. Additionally, sporting, vocational and educational whole-day trips have been made to the Ulster American Folk Park, Carrickfergus Castle, Palace Stables Armagh etc.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

School Choir groups perform regularly at events throughout the year such as Prize Night and Open Night. An annual Carol Service in St John's Parish Church, Newtownhamilton (kindly granted) is held in December and the school appreciates the attendance and input from local primary schools.

All junior pupils have the opportunity to learn to play the keyboard and to use other instruments. String tuition is also provided by SELB and is available for interested pupils and tin whistles are being introduced to the musical experience of pupils in Year 8. Dramatic activities are a regular part of English classes and Drama is a timetabled Key Stage 3 subject.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Scripture Union meets once a week during break time. Activities include Bible study, prayer, quizzes, drama by senior pupils and singing choruses. There are talks by SU teachers and we occasionally have visiting speakers. There is a Christmas party for SU members. In June there is an outing for pupils who have attended well during the year.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The school's philosophy and ethos are genuinely and strongly based on Christian principles.

Through Religious Education, by example, by morning assemblies and in many other ways, the school aims to make the teaching of the Bible and its principles relevant to modern day living and encourage pupils to develop into moral and well-balanced individuals.

Religious Studies are included on the timetable for all pupils. The school day begins with an Act of Worship conducted by the Principal or Vice-Principal on 1/2 mornings; the pupils themselves conduct morning assembly once per week. Pupils have an extended assembly conducted by their form teacher on 2 mornings and we are indebted to the 7 local ministers who address the school assembly regularly on a rota basis.

It is hoped that all parents would wish their children to attend assembly and RE classes. If there is any problem with this, it can be discussed with the Principal.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

The DofE Award Scheme offers young people a personal challenge to endeavour and achieve through a balanced programme of activities, in which they are encouraged to serve others, acquire new skills and experience adventure. The scheme runs to three levels, bronze, silver and gold.

CHARITY WORK

Many examples of charity work occur throughout the year and details of these can be viewed on the Charity Board in the main school corridor.

ROAD SAFETY

The Governors and staff of our school believe that we have an important role to play in helping to reduce the number of young people killed or injured on our roads; this is a tragic and unnecessary waste of human life and one of the greatest social problems of our society today. We believe in educating for life in a very real sense and see Road Safety as a basic skill for survival. Our intention is to promote this idea, using both cross curricular and subject specific approaches. We encourage the promotion of Road Safety Education across the school, we continue to use funding made available from SELB's Road Safety Branch and we offer Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies as a GCSE option within the curriculum.



Past Pupil



Top student in 2005 was Stuart Henderson, who achieved 7A*, 3A and 1B grade in GCSE. He is now a finance student at Queen's University Belfast and says:

"I greatly appreciate the three happy and enjoyable years I spent at Newtownhamilton High School. The teaching standard within a caring but disciplined environment meant that I left with not only good grades but with good manners which I hope will benefit me in the future".

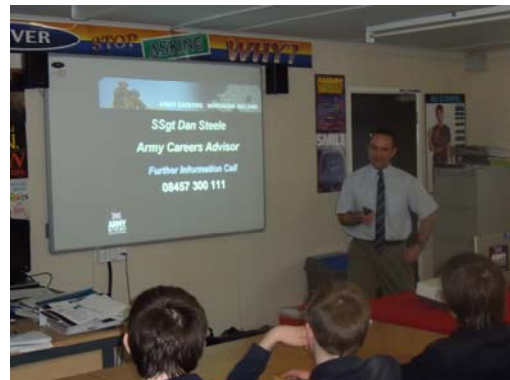
CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE (CEIAG)

CEIAG at Newtownhamilton High School is seen as part of the whole programme of preparing pupils for the choices, changes and transitions affecting their future education, training and life as adult members of society. In Key Stage 3, under the revised curriculum, it is taught mainly through Education for Employability within Learning for Life and Work (LLW). At Key Stage 4, Careers Education is a discrete subject (1 period per week), however all pupils in Key Stage 4 also study Education for Employability as a strand of LLW. Additionally all subject teachers have a role to play in helping pupils to make informed and realistic decisions about their future.

There is close liaison with the Careers Adviser from the Training and Employment Agency, who interviews all Year 11 and 12 pupils. Parents may also choose to be present at these interviews.

A Work Experience scheme is completed by pupils in Year 11. All pupils are visited by a member of staff during their Work Experience. Placements are arranged to suit the requirements of each individual pupil. Pupils involved in the work experience programme will study towards the British Safety Council Level 1 Certificate in Health & Safety at Work - this course teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe within the workplace and it should prove to be a useful qualification to include in their CV. It is delivered and examined before pupils go on their work experience.

All Year 12 pupils participate in an Interview Skills Day which is delivered by the outside career training organisation Sentinus. This event gives pupils the opportunity to prepare for and attend a mock interview that is conducted by leading individuals in the local business and educational community. The aim of this highly popular event is to give pupils experience for performing at real interviews.



EXAMINATIONS - EXTERNAL

Pupils have the opportunity to enter examinations in the following:

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (GCSE)

Art and Design	Additional Mathematics	Business Studies
English Language	English Literature	French
Geography	History	Home Economics
ICT	Learning for Life & Work	Mathematics
Music	MV&RUS	Religious Studies
Physical Education	Science: Double Award	Science: Single Award
T&D Resistant Materials		

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Communication Levels 1 & 2
Application of Number Levels 1 & 2

OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

Business & Services	Construction
Design & Creativity	Engineering & Engineering Services
Environment & Society	Technology & Innovation

B.TECH FIRST CERTIFICATES

Construction	Engineering
E-Media	Health & Social Care
Travel & Tourism	

BSC - LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK

CCEA CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN IT AT KEY STAGE 3

OCR - OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Text Production

ROYAL SOCIETY OF HEALTH

Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering

SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

Certificate Course in Child Care

ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Life Saver Certificate



KEY STAGE 3 RESULTS

	En	Ma
% pupils achieving level 5 or above (Teacher Assessed Level)	64	68
% N I school pupils achieving level 5 or above (median) - includes grammar	78	76
% pupils achieving level 6 or above (Teacher Assessed Level)	33	30
% N I Secondary School pupils achieving level 6 or above (median)	51	50

Note: The figures quoted for % NI Secondary pupils achieving particular levels are for all schools in 2010-2011.

GCSE RESULTS

GCSE results this year were once again excellent, with 83% of pupils receiving grades A* - C in five or more GCSEs or equivalent. Every pupil gained at least one grade (A*-C) in GCSE. Newtownhamilton High was statistically in the top 10 non-selective schools in Northern Ireland again in 2010.

GCSE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
% entered for 5+ GCSEs	97	100	100	100	97
% entered for 1-4 GCSEs	3	0	0	0	3
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	63	71	88	88	83
NI average achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	40	59	53	59	
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including En and Ma			64	50	61
NI average achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C inc En+Ma		30	33	35	
% gaining 1-4 GCSEs at grades A*-C	23	18	0	-	11
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G	97	100	100	91	97
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-E			100	-	94
% gaining 1-4 GCSEs at grades A*-G	3	0	0	9	3
% entered for GCSE but gaining no grades at grades A*-G	0	0	0	0	0

*Benchmarking data from DE for 2010-2011 has still not been published at the time of going to press.



GCSE RESULTS 2011 (YEAR 12)

NUMBER OF SCHOOL LEAVERS = 40 (plus one pupils to EOTAS)

SUBJECTS	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	No of entries
Art and Design	3	1	1	2						7
Business Studies		2	2	3	2	1	1			11
English	1	8	8	10	5					32
English Literature	1	3	2							6
Ess Skills in Communication			4			3				7
Ess Skills Applic of Number			4			4				8
French		1	2	8	8		1			20
Geography		2	3	3	1	1				10
History			3	2	2	1				8
Home Economics		2	6	4	2	1	1			16
ICT	2	10	3	1	5					21
LLW	2	7	11	5	8	5				38
Maths	1	2	10	12	4					29
M.V. & R.U.S.		3	2		2	1	1			9
Music		1	3	1	1					6
Occupational Studies				34	5					39
Physical Education		1	2	2	1	1	1			8
Resistant Materials	1	3	6	2	1	1			1	15
Science: Double Award		12	20	8	2					40
Science: Single Award			13	3	1	2		1		20

LEAVERS DESTINATIONS (YEAR 12) FOR 2010/11

Total number of Leavers:	41
% transferring to another school	10%
SRC (Newry & Armagh)	78%
Jobskills	7%
EOTAS	2%
Full time employment	2%
Unknown	0%

(% figures are rounded to the nearest whole number)



DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Newtownhamilton High is a school which aims to provide a strong health education programme within a supportive environment to help all pupils to lead healthy lifestyles.

As part of this, the Board of Governors recognise the problem of increased use of drugs in today's society.

Definition

A drug is any substance which when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees, or thinks. It includes:-

Everyday substances - e.g. tea, coffee, alcohol and tobacco;

Prescribed drugs - e.g. antibiotics

Volatile substances e.g. glue, solvents;

Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, ecstasy.

Our school's comprehensive Personal Development curriculum includes a drug education programme which aims to equip young people to face this issue, and to make informed and responsible decisions.

Parents are encouraged to keep the school informed of any information on medication or course of antibiotics which their children may have been prescribed.

If there is any evidence of illegal drug misuse, the parents/guardians, Chairman of the Board of Governors and SELB will be informed as soon as possible. In accordance with legal requirements, the police will be notified.

Past Pupil



Top student in 2004 was Judith Barbour, who achieved 5A* and 5A grades in GCSE. Judith completed a degree in Quantity Surveying at Jordanstown and is now employed in Republic of Ireland. She commented:

"My time in Newtownhamilton High School was not only educational, but enjoyable. I found all the teachers, office and kitchen staff to be extremely helpful and friendly. Looking back, I now realise that I've left Newtownhamilton High School, not only with a good education, but with the skills and values that will benefit me in the future".

In our opinion there is nowhere quite like Newtownhamilton High School. We can remember our last day as pupils of the school and were devastated that we had to leave. We are fairly positive that there are few people who can say that!

Newtownhamilton is different; it is special in that it is a place where pupils are people not numbers. The staff do their utmost to help each individual. We could not have asked for a better school and we will always be proud to admit that we were part of the family there. It is petrifying making that final decision as to which school you wish to attend for the next 5 years. However, one thing we can guarantee you is that if you do decide to attend Newtownhamilton you will not be disappointed. We most certainly weren't!

Past Pupils



Top 2 students in 2009 were Amy Taylor and Esther Patterson. Between them, they achieved 20 grades at GCSE, including 6 A* and 12A grades.

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

INTERNAL

Pupils' academic performances in all subjects are monitored using continuous assessment and end of term examinations held in December and June.

Mock papers are given, when appropriate, in preparation for external examinations.

REPORTS

Reports are issued after term examinations and aim to give a complete assessment of a pupil's personal and academic progress during the year. Participation in school life outside the classroom is also recorded.

NATIONAL RECORDS OF ACHIEVEMENT / PROGRESS FILES

A Record of Achievement / Progress File for each pupil is compiled covering the entire period spent in the school. This provides a comprehensive account of ALL aspects of the pupil's character, behaviour, development and attainments, including academic achievements.

This is specially designed for the information of prospective employers - it is given to the pupil on leaving school.

ALLOCATION OF P7 PUPILS TO CLASSES

A number of years ago, it had been the case that tests in English and Maths were completed in school during the first week of September to provide information on which class (8X or 8A) was the most suitable for each child. Unfortunately, this meant that some pupils had to be moved to a different grouping after about 2 weeks, just when new friendships were forming. In an attempt to create more stability for all pupils in their first term, we would like all P7 pupils who are successful in gaining a place to come to school on Friday 8th June 2012 at 1.20pm (please note that this date is subject to change). We will use this opportunity to give a short test in English and Maths, the outcome of which will help us to determine the most suitable class for educating your child in the first term. We will, of course, review the class structures after more formal tests in all subjects at Christmas. We stress that these tests are administered after pupils have been assigned to their post-primary schools and have nothing whatsoever to do with the transfer process.



Top Student in 2010 was Matthew Coyle, he says: *My five years at Newtownhamilton High School were very enjoyable. I would like to say a very big thank you to Mr Mullan who created a very caring environment within the school and also to the amazing teachers there who are so dedicated and encourage everyone to do their best. I am grateful to have had the opportunity of meeting great friends within my time at Newtownhamilton High School.*

Past Pupil





PASTORAL CARE

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PUPIL HAS A PROBLEM?

Each pupil is in daily contact with his/her Form Tutor before morning assembly, and therefore has an opportunity to build a special relationship with an individual teacher. Pupils generally stay with the same tutor for their five years at school. The tutor takes a special interest in all aspects of the individual pupil's welfare and behaviour.

As well, all pupils have one period a week during which they explore topics such as study skills, decision making, personal hygiene and responsibility. A structured Personal and Social Development Programme is delivered throughout Key Stages 3 and 4.

The Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) visits the school every week. He provides support for pupils and their families; and if school related problems arise, he can act as mediator between teacher, pupil and family. The EWO can inform parents regarding entitlement to benefits.

Independent counselling is also provided every Friday morning through the services of "Counselling 4 Youth". Pupils can be referred by parents, teachers or they can also refer themselves for this service.

DISCIPLINE

At Newtownhamilton High School great emphasis is placed on the positive side of discipline. Every endeavour is made to create success in the curriculum offered, as this contributes substantially to good behaviour.

This normal good discipline in school life works well for the vast majority of pupils, but from time to time a minority may require firmer remedial treatment. In the first instance these pupils will be referred to the form teacher, then the Vice-Principal and finally the Principal. The approved disciplinary procedures will be followed and parents kept informed. Copies of the school's Discipline Policy are provided to the homes of all pupils and are available on request.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Parents and pupils should note that anonymous complaints will not be dealt with, unless they refer to Child Protection. Complaints relating to any aspect of school life should in the first instance be addressed directly to the Principal and should be in written form (paper or email). An appointment can be made by contacting the School Secretary. On no account should a parent approach any member of staff without permission from the Principal.

Should there be matters of a serious nature which continue to be unresolved satisfactorily by the verbal informal route, a formal written complaint should be made to the Principal. He will acknowledge receipt within 10 working days, investigate, implement any changes and confirm outcome in writing within 20 working days.

If the matter is not resolved at this stage, a formal complaint should be made to the Chairman of the Board of Governors. If requested, the matter will be referred to a sub-committee and the letter will be acknowledged within 10 working days. Following investigation and an offer to meet with the complainant, any changes deemed necessary will be implemented and the outcome confirmed within 25 working days.

If the matter continues to be unresolved, a written request to the Chairperson to have the case heard by an appeals sub-committee of the Board of Governors will result in the letter being acknowledged within 10 working days, an offer to meet with the complainant within 30 working days will be made and any changes implemented and report of the outcomes will be produced in writing by the 40th working day.

SCHOOL RULES

A set of school rules has been drawn up for the efficient running of the school. A copy of these rules may be obtained from the school office.

Top student in 2006 was Christine Foster, who is pictured on 28th September 2006 receiving the Teachers' Cup for Academic excellence from guest speaker Dr Gail Nicholson, also a past pupil of Newtownhamilton High.



Past Pupil

Christine, who went on to study Maths and Science at Stranmillis College, says:

"I found the 5 years I spent in Newtownhamilton High School to be very enjoyable and rewarding. The friendly environment and extremely helpful staff was greatly appreciated. I believe all the experiences I gained from this school will benefit me greatly in my future".





SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is compulsory for all pupils.

The appearance and general conduct of pupils make an impression on the community. Parents are asked to co-operate by ensuring that this impression is a favourable one.

Many people now receive a grant towards the purchase of uniform; information and application forms are available from the school office.

GIRLS

For school wear

Newtownhamilton High School blazer
White blouse
School tie
White socks
Black soft-soled shoes (no high heels)
Harrow light grey pleated school skirt (this should be no shorter than just above the knee)
Black woollen tights in winter (optional)
Newtownhamilton High School scarf (cold weather)
Grey V-necked long sleeved pullover (cold weather)

For PE wear:

White T shirt
Navy shorts or navy skirt
White gym shoes
Short white socks
Towel

BOYS

For school wear:

Newtownhamilton High School blazer
Harrow grey trousers (light grey)
White shirt
School tie
Black soft-soled shoes
Grey V-necked long-sleeved pullover (cold weather)
Newtownhamilton High School scarf (cold weather)

For PE wear:

NHS rugby top
Navy rugby shorts
Red socks
White gym shoes
Football boots, socks and shin guards
Towel

All uniform must be clearly marked with the pupil's name.

Mrs G Donaldson (Newtownhamilton Post Office)
is the local supplier of school uniform and is the only source
of the rugby shirt, navy shorts and red socks.



TIMETABLE

8.40		School opens.	
8.55	-	9.15	Registration and Assembly
9.15	-	9.45	First Period
9.45	-	10.20	Second Period
10.20	-	10.55	Third Period
10.55	-	11.05	BREAK
11.05	-	11.40	Fourth Period
11.40	-	12.15	Fifth Period
12.15	-	12.50	Sixth Period
12.50	-	1.20	Seventh Period
1.20	-	1.50	LUNCH
1.50	-	2.25	Eighth Period
2.25	-	3.00	Ninth Period

Although senior teachers are usually on school premises from at least 8.15am, please note that no supervision of pupils can be guaranteed before 8.40am.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a key factor in pupils' academic progress. All pupils are given regular homework in each subject.

Homeworks may take the form of:

Reading
Learning

Research
Revision

Written work
Practical work

Each pupil has a Homework Diary.

Parents are strongly encouraged to ensure each night that the set homework is done. Homework diaries may be used by parents to check when a homework is due to be handed in.





GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL MEALS

The school operates a very popular cafeteria system incorporating a salad bar as an option in the canteen. School meals are excellent and offer exceptional value for money. Application forms for free school meals (FSM) are available in the school office and pupils are urged to make use of the most nutritious food provided. Pupils receiving FSM are entitled to spend up to £2.40 per day in the canteen.

Packed lunches may be brought and eaten in the assembly hall, which is supervised; pupils within easy walking distance may go home only by arrangement with the Principal. No other pupils may leave school premises without permission.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pupils are responsible for their own property, and should not bring articles of value such as jewellery or large amounts of money for purposes other than school trips etc. Items such as Nintendo DS Lite, PSPs, ipods etc should be left at home. Mobile phones are allowed in school, but must be switched off on arrival and only turned on at break time and during lunch. The school cannot accept responsibility if these expensive items are lost or go missing.

Money must not be left in cloakrooms or changing rooms and all kit should be clearly labelled with the student's name.

If a situation cannot be avoided where a child must carry a large sum of money, it must be left with the secretary for safe keeping.

ABSENCE NOTES

On the day when a pupil returns to school after being absent, a note must be brought from a parent or guardian explaining the absence. It is by strict adherence to this rule that the school can discharge its pastoral responsibilities and ensure that any pupils absent from the school have the consent of the home. Documented reasons for absence are also required by the EWO.

New guidelines issued to schools in 2006 means that the school is not allowed to authorise absence from school for the purposes of family holidays during termtime, unless in exceptional circumstances such as terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic event.

HOSPITAL/MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

These should be arranged outside school hours. Where this is not possible, pupils must bring a note signed by a parent to the Principal, requesting permission for them to leave school. Parents are requested to report to the school office to collect their children and provide transport from the school gates. All pupils leaving school premises must sign the "signing out book" in the school office before leaving and again on their return to school.



PARENTS

PARENTAL SUPPORT IS VITAL IF PUPILS ARE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

You can support your children and their teachers by:

- keeping in constant touch with the school;
- attending school functions such as Parents' Evenings;
- ensuring that homework is properly completed;
- helping your child to do his/her best;
- encouraging your child to play a full part in school life
- joining in the activities of the Parent/Teachers' Association

WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD COME HERE?

- The school is exceptionally well-equipped and generously staffed;
- It has a friendly, caring atmosphere;
- Classes are small, giving your child maximum individual attention;
- Examination results are better than any comparable school - we were in the top 10 of non-selective schools in Northern Ireland in 2009 and 2010.
- eg 23 of our students last year passed their GCSE examinations with grades which included A* and A; this represents 58% of the entire year group.
- Those with special needs are given extra help in small groups; individual help may be given, where necessary;
- In collaboration with other educational organisations in Newry & Mourne ALC, we cover the full range of subjects required in the Learning Areas and Entitlement Framework Curriculum.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE OPEN NIGHT

Wednesday 18th January 2012 AT 7.30 PM

or telephone Newtownhamilton 028 30878246

or visit us at www.newtownhamiltonhigh.org.uk

or email to gmullan521@c2kni.net

to make an appointment with the Principal.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CHOOSE TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO
NEWTOWNHAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

(THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS)



NOTES



Newtownhamilton High School

"Serving the community for over 50 years...."

www.newtownhamiltonhigh.org.uk

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BT35 0DG

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