

Newtownhamilton High School



Prospectus

2018 - 2019

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

As Principal of Newtownhamilton High, I thank you for your interest in our school. As a parent of 2 primary school children, I know that selecting a post-primary school is a very important decision and therefore I hope that this prospectus will answer some of the many questions that you have. Further information on school life can also be obtained from our popular school website.



First and foremost, **every child is an important child** to our committed and caring staff and therefore pupils will be encouraged to develop Christian principles so that they can become mature, responsible, self-sufficient adults that will leave them equipped with the skills and values to support them for the rest of their lives. We take great pride in the fact that every pupil in our school is known individually by all our staff.

Our curriculum (including our rich and diverse extra-curricular programme) is also designed to support this aim and allows each pupil to fulfil their maximum potential. This includes the provision of a much wider curriculum offered at Key Stage 4 which explores many different career paths and is delivered in partnership with other schools/colleges within the Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community. Furthermore, the EA Area Based Plan Proposals acknowledge the development of these collaborative arrangements in South Armagh and therefore predict a bright and secure future for our school.

I believe that our smaller class sizes have contributed significantly to the high quality teaching and learning which is provided by our enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Our excellent GCSE statistics over recent years prove that Newtownhamilton High School can compete with the very best non-selective schools in the province and were pleasingly acknowledged in our 2012 "Very Good" inspection report.

I hope that you enjoy reading this prospectus and that it gives you a taste of the unique educational experience that we strive to offer pupils aged 11-16 in our small, but yet successful, country school. Prospective pupils and parents are invited to attend our annual **Open Night on Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7.30pm**. This will provide an opportunity to tour the school and view our facilities. The staff and I look forward to meeting you on this occasion. Alternatively, parents who are unable to attend are welcome to contact me in order to arrange an appointment.

Neil Megaw
Principal

Newtownhamilton High School



SCHOOL



LIFE





PROSPECTUS

2018-2019

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. More recently, we have benefited from a new canteen, a second generation pitch and a state of the art fitness suite. 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 in collaboration with other schools in the area.

Area Planning means that important changes are imminent for many schools. Since Newtownhamilton High is a member of Newry & Mourne District Council Area, prospective parents should be assured that a secure future exists within Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community.

In Newtownhamilton High, you will find an excellent blend of ingredients which ensure success. The close collaboration with neighbouring schools combined with the co-operation between parents, pupils 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 95%. 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 POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Enrolment number - 175. Admissions number (2018/19) - 35.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8			
	SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016	SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017	SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018
APPLICATIONS	40	41	39
ADMISSIONS	40	39	39

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

BREAKDOWN OF INTAKE TO YEAR 8 (2014-2017)				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cortamlet	9	8	12	14
Drumhillery	5	7	1	5
Kingsmills	3	4	6	2
Lisnadill	3	3	4	1
Newtownhamilton	5	11	9	9
Others	3	7	7	8
Total	28	40	39	39

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

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 the Code of Conduct and Positive Behaviour 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 2018 or during the course of the 2018/2019 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 preference.
2. Applicants who have or had a child of the family enrolled at the school.
3. Applicants from the following list of contributory primary schools (all to be treated equally): Cortamlet, Drumhillery, Kingsmills, Lisnadill, Mountnorris and Newtownhamilton
4. Applicants who are the oldest children transferring or whose older siblings were refused admission due to over-subscription.
5. Applicants who have Special Circumstances (medical, social or security).
6. Applicants who have had a parent enrolled or have a parent who is a current permanent employee of Newtownhamilton High 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.

WAITING LIST

Details of the school's procedures for operating a waiting list can be obtained upon request from the school office.

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 any Transfer Form. 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 Form.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the Transfer 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 Code of Conduct and Positive Behaviour 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 were enrolled in the school.
2. From traditional contributory primary schools.
3. Whose siblings are past or present pupils.
4. Who have Special Circumstances e.g. 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 Pupil

Top vocational student in 2017 was Ethan Whyte.

"During my final two years at Newtownhamilton High School, I took the vocational route. This meant travelling one day per week to Greenbank, Newry where I studied four different trades. My first year included two of my four trades, which were bricklaying and plastering. I developed the basic skills of each of the trades and had the opportunity to participate in the Skillbuild Competition, achieving 1st place in plastering.

In second year I took on plumbing and electrical trades, which I enjoyed. I picked up skills that I could use around home and the farm and that would benefit me in years to come. I also took part in the Skillbuild Competition, achieving 2nd in plumbing.

I decided to choose plumbing as my career and have went back to do my apprenticeship at Greenbank, Newry.

I would recommend Greenbank SRC to anyone looking to choose a trade as a career".



AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

Within a Christian, caring environment, the school aims:

- 1 To provide a welcoming atmosphere where pupils are prepared 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/her 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.
- 4 To provide a caring environment which 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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Transferors' Representatives	Mrs L Livingstone Rev K Graham VACANT VACANT
EA Representatives	Mrs S McRoberts Mr I Bingham (Chairman)
Parents' Representatives	Mr J Harrison Mrs J Preston
Teachers' Representative Principal	VACANT Mr N Megaw (Secretary)

TEACHING STAFF

Mr N Megaw	Principal
Mr A Cousins	Vice-Principal
Mrs C Alexander	
Miss L Anderson	
Miss M Baird	
Mr J Black	
Mr A Chambers/Mr C Coils	
Mrs J Ferris	
Mrs E Flanagan	
Mrs L Graham	
Miss K Johnston	
Mrs A Laverty	
Mrs O Reid	
Mrs K Robinson	
Mr D Sloan	
Mrs V Taylor	

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

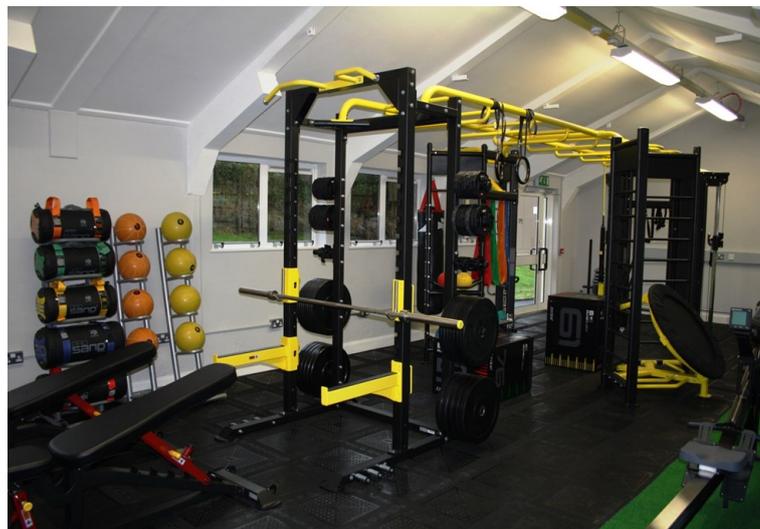
Mrs J Hadden
Mrs E Hendren
Mrs B McNiece
Mrs B Nelson
Mrs R Patterson
Mrs D Shields
Mrs C Simms

ANCILLARY STAFF

Mrs S Boyle	Secretary
Mrs A Johnston	Clerical Officer
Mr D Riddle	ICT Technician
Mr R Gibson	Caretaker
Mrs C Anderson	Cleaner
Mrs P Gibson	Cleaner
Mrs P Knight	Cleaner

OUR FACILITIES

The EA has demonstrated their commitment to the secure future of Newtownhamilton High School with significant financial investment in the premises over recent years.





OUR SUBJECTS

All schools are required to provide instruction in a broad range of Areas of Learning. Courses for Years 11-12 in 2017-18 include:

Area of Learning	Contributory Subjects	Additional Extras We Offer
1. Language and Literacy	English Language English Literature Essential Skills in Communication	Literacy Support
2. Maths and Numeracy	Mathematics Further Mathematics Essential Skills in Application of Number	Numeracy Support
3. Modern Languages	French	
4. The Arts	Art and Design Music	Drama
5. Science and Technology	Agriculture & Land Use Science: Double Award Science: Single Award Technology and Design B. Tech Sport Occ. Studies Construction Occ. Studies Design & Creativity Occ. Studies Engineering & Engineering Services Occ. Studies Technology & Innovation	Word Processing ICT
6. Environment and Society	History Geography Business Studies Religious Education MVRUS B.Tech Children's Play & Dev Occ. Studies Business & Services Occ. Studies Environment & Society	Child Care
7. Learning for Life and Work	Learning for Life & Work Personal Development Home Economics	Essential Food Hygiene Careers Education Employability Local & Global Citizenship Personal Development
8. Physical Education	Physical Education	After-school sports

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
- Killeel 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 Killeel
- St. Joseph's Boys School Newry
- St. Joseph's High School Crossmaglen
- St. Louis Grammar School Killeel
- 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, St. Paul's High School Bessbrook, St. Joseph's High School Crossmaglen and Newry High School every Thursday when a number of pupils from Years 11 and 12 travel to and from the different schools to study Occupational Studies or B.Tech qualifications.



VOCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (VEP)

Since 2005/06, 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:

Brick/Block Work, CAD, Carpentry & Joinery, Child Care: The Play Environment, Contemporary Cuisine, Creating Styling/Blow Drying, Creating Up-styles on Long Hair, Digital Imaging, Electrical Wiring Installation, Facial Skincare, Graphic Design, Growing Plants in a Sustainable Way, Hard Landscaping, Horticulture: Caring for Plants, Manicure, Maintenance of Land-based Machinery, Painting & Decorating, Patisserie & Baking, Plastering, Plumbing, Reminiscence with Individuals in a Care Environment, Running a Leisure Event, Sports Leadership, The Physical Care of Babies, Tiling, Vehicle Servicing & Valeting Operations, Website Development and Working in a Care Environment.

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, St. Joseph's High School Crossmaglen and Newry High School one day per week.

Past Pupil

Top vocational pupil in 2015 was Peter Falloon (pictured right). Peter was selected as the Southern Regional College Student of the Year at the School Partnership Awards in May 2015. Peter excelled in all of his 4 modules covered and also picked up the Best in Subject Award for both Electrical Wiring and Land Based Machinery. Peter achieved even more success as he also collected the Best in School Award and the 100% Attendance Award.

Peter moved on to studying Tractor Mechanic-ing at the SRC Portadown campus. During this time, he won the CCEA Learner of the Year Award.



CLASS ORGANISATION

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

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 2013, the U15 Boys' Football Team won the Mid-Ulster League.

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.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS

Games and sports such as hockey, football, netball, volleyball and rugby are organised for girls and boys after school.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL 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 who have a Statement of Educational Needs. 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 adult:pupil ratio setting; this extra attention, combined with classroom assistance (if allocated by EA) helps individual pupils to progress steadily. If academic progression is significant, pupils from the smaller group have the opportunity to transfer into the larger class. As indicated above, those requiring further literacy support can now avail of the Reading Partnership Programme and the use of differentiated resources from the Literacy co-ordinator. New diagnostic tests have been purchased to ensure the needs of every child are being met. The latter includes WRAT-5, Dash Test and TOWRE-2.

The school has a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) Mrs Flanagan 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. The SENCO along with pupils set educational targets and create Individual Education Plans (IEPs). These are reviewed twice yearly to assess their progression. The outcome of these reviews are shared with the students and parents.

Past Pupil

Top pupil in 2016 was Glen McBride as he recorded grades of 4A*, 5A and 1B. Reflecting on his time at Newtownhamilton High, Glen states,



"It is hard to believe that my five years at Newtownhamilton High School have come and gone so fast. Looking back I have no regrets about choosing this school as I believe it has shaped me as a person, from taking part in sporting activities, to completing Duke of Edinburgh and even doing a bit of acting in the school plays, with great friendships formed! The experience in the Newtown family is truly unique and I realise this now even more as I have moved on. Newtownhamilton High School is a very special place.

Not to mention the actual purpose of going to school, to get educated. At Newtown this is done exceptionally with the combination of small classes and caring teachers, pupils at all levels are catered for. And I know I can never thank the teachers enough for helping me achieve my goals.

Overall I believe that Newtownhamilton is an excellent school and I would encourage anyone at this stage to choose it because I know I will never have any regrets".

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, Somme Heritage Centre Newtownards, 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 is held every December with contributions from contributory primary schools and community members.

All junior pupils have the opportunity to learn to play the keyboard and to use other instruments. String tuition is also provided by EA and is available for interested pupils. Dramatic activities are a regular part of English classes and Drama is a timetabled Key Stage 3 subject.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Scripture Union meets every other week during lunch break. 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 are outings for SU Members in December and June.

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 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.

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 EA's Road Safety Branch and we offer Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies as a GCSE option within the curriculum.

Past Pupil

Ruth Ferris was top student in 2017 with 8 A* and 3 A grades.



"When I first started at Newtownhamilton High School, I thought five years would be a very long time. But honestly the five years have flown by. They have been the best 5 years of my life; Newtown has given me so many opportunities that I may not have had at another school. From my first arrival at Newtown I was selected for my first performance in 'Sister, Sister' taking on the very active role of Sister Mary Lazarus. This was followed by a part in 'Hairstyle'. All pupils are encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and to 'have a go' especially during auditions. My two performances certainly developed my confidence and team work.

Music forms an important part of my life and I was able to continue Board tuition for the clarinet at Newtownhamilton High School. Mrs Graham was always encouraging me to participate in school events from Open Night to Prize Night. I also had the amazing opportunity to play with the RAF band in school and to also spend the day with the Ulster Orchestra in the Ulster Hall, Belfast which culminated in a concert in the evening. These opportunities are there for the taking and staff in our school always encourage you to reach your full potential and to demonstrate your skills. At the end of year 11 I was chosen as prefect and then had the great honour of being selected as Head Girl in Year 12.

Newtownhamilton hasn't only given me great experiences, but the actual teaching is exceptional. Moving on from Newtownhamilton opened my eyes to how all the staff go above and beyond their call of duty to help every one of us. Every single teacher cares and wants to see us all achieve our full potential. I can never thank my teachers enough for all they have done for me in my time at Newtownhamilton.

I would encourage anyone who is choosing their secondary school to go to Newtownhamilton High School. I know that I certainly enjoyed every minute of my time there and I have formed great life-time friendships".

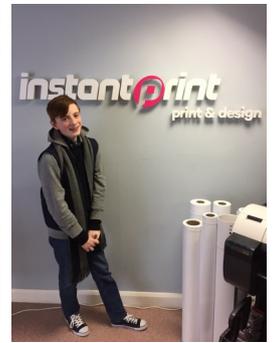
CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE (CEIAG)

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 DEL Careers Adviser 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.

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.



KEY STAGE 3 RESULTS 2016-2017

	En	Ma	ICT
% NHS pupils achieving level 5 or above (Teacher Assessed Level)	77	70	70
% N I school pupils achieving level 5 or above (median)	TBC	TBC	TBC
% NHS pupils achieving level 6 or above (Teacher Assessed Level)	50	37	0
% N I school pupils achieving level 6 or above (median)	TBC	TBC	TBC

Please note that from 2012-13, all schools assess pupils using more challenging Levels of Progression. Due to the demanding nature of these, the outcomes for some pupils are likely to seem to be lower than might have been the case previously. Results are therefore not directly comparable with previous years.

GCSE RESULTS 2016-2017

GCSE results this year were once again impressive, with 81% of pupils receiving grades A* - C in five or more GCSEs or equivalent and 72% achieving 5 GCSE grades at A*-C including the all-important GCSE English and GCSE Maths. For the latter statistic, Newtownhamilton High was the top controlled non-selective school in Northern Ireland in both 2011 and 2012 and more recently in 2016.

GCSE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
% entered for 5+ GCSEs	100	100	100	96	100
% entered for 1-4 GCSEs	0	0	0	4	0
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	74	90	88	93	81
NI average achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	67	70	72	TBC	TBC
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including En and Ma	40	66	65	79	72
NI average achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C inc En + Ma	38	44	47	TBC	TBC
% gaining 1-4 GCSEs at grades A*-C	27	7	8	4	19
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G	100	100	100	100	100
% gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-E	97	98	96	96	100
% gaining 1-4 GCSEs at grades A*-G	0	0	0	0	0
% entered for GCSE but gaining no grades at grades A*-G	0	0	0	0	0

Comparative figures quoted in the table above refer to NI averages for non-grammar schools. Statistics for 2017 have not been released at the time of going to print.





GCSE RESULTS 2016-2017 (YEAR 12)

Number of school leavers = 38

SUBJECTS	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	No of entries
Agriculture			1	1						1
Art and Design	1	3	4							8
B.Tech CPLD		7	2							9
B.Tech Sports			4	5						9
Business Studies			3	4	3	1				11
Engineering Materials	1	2	4	2						9
English Language		5	10	17	2					34
English Literature		3	2	1						6
Ess Skills App. of Number				5						5
Ess Skills Communication				4						4
French		1	3	5	5	2				16
Further Maths		3								3
Geography				1	3	6	1	1		12
History	2	3	1							6
Home Economics			3	3	3	4				13
ICT	1	2	6	7						16
LLW	2	4	11	6	11	1	2			37
Maths	2	4	6	16	4	1				33
Music				3	1					4
M.V.R.U.S.			2	7	3					12
Occupational Studies		11	14	5						30
Physical Education		1	2	7	3	1	1			15
Religious Studies	2	1	4	3	1					11
Religious Studies (short)			1	4		1				6
Science: Double Award		6	14	8	4					32
Science: Single Award			3	15	4					22

**LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS
(YEAR 12) FOR 2016-2017**

Total number of Leavers:	38
% transferring to another school	10.5%
Entering Training - Job Skills/Apprenticeships	29%
Further Education	58%
CAFRE	0%
Full-time employment	2.5%
Unknown	0%

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 EA will be informed as soon as possible. In accordance with legal requirements, the police will be notified.

Past Pupil



Top student in 2013 was Victoria Gray, who achieved 1 A*, 4 A and 5 B grades in her GCSE exams. Victoria has very fond memories of her 5 years at Newtownhamilton High:

"I can honestly say that I loved every minute of my time in Newtownhamilton High School. There is always a caring family atmosphere and I have made so many life-long friends there! All of the teachers are approachable and I enjoyed going to my classes each day. I was given so many great opportunities and definitely recommend this wonderful school to anyone".

Past Pupil

"During my last two years at Newtownhamilton High School, I attended Southern Regional College in Newry. For the first year, I participated in a brickwork skills course and the skills I learnt are still used, by me, on my father's farm. I also use my brickwork knowledge to build walls for Estate skills at Greenmount College. I also completed a tiling course that year which I enjoyed greatly as I learnt many new skills that may be used in the future.

In my second year, I attended an electrical installation and wiring course which I extremely enjoyed and use on the farm when wiring different pieces of equipment. During the last semester in my second year, I participated in a Land Based Machinery course. I already had a keen interest in this topic and found that the class furthered my knowledge and skills, enabling me to complete small jobs around the farm, like changing oil.

Due to the exceptional skills and knowledge I gained from attending SRC, I would recommend the college to any student who prefers practical based work to book work".

Top vocational student in 2016 was Jack McKnight. Jack spent 2 years studying at Southern Regional College (Newry).



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.

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 an afternoon in June 2018.** 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 in December. We stress that these tests are administered after pupils have been assigned to their post-primary schools and are therefore not linked with the transfer process.

Top Student in 2015 was Alexandra Smyth, who achieved an outstanding 9 A* and 2 A grades in her GCSE exams. Alex, who is now studying A Levels at Royal School Armagh states:

"Newtownhamilton High School is a school with a warming, welcoming ambience like no other. The friendly demeanour of pupils, staff and teachers alike made me feel like I was part of a family.

Newtown presented me with so many invaluable opportunities and experiences, ranging from the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, to participating in school plays; all of which contributed to developing me as a well-rounded person.

One of the best things about Newtown was the people I met; I made lifelong friends at Newtown. Not only that, but the teachers are so dedicated and are willing to go above and beyond what is required of them to help each and every individual pupil. I deeply appreciate the help and encouragement of my teachers, who were vital in helping me fulfil my potential. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Newtown and I would highly recommend the school to anyone considering it - I guarantee you won't regret attending Newtown".

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 through "Familyworks Schools Counselling Service". Pupils can be referred by parents, teachers or they can also refer themselves for this service.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

At Newtownhamilton High School great emphasis is placed on promoting positive behaviour. The Positive Behaviour Policy provides an agreed course of action amongst teachers, pupils and parents, which promotes effective teaching and learning, and respects the rights of all members of the school community. We believe a healthy balance between sanction and rewards is fundamental and encourage everyone to implement the school Code of Conduct fairly and consistently.

Our Positive Behaviour Policy encourages positive behaviour through a Merit System. Pupils will earn merits through good behaviour, which they can cash in to receive various privileges or rewards. These merits also contribute points to our House System where our 3 houses of Dorsey, Fane and Whitewater compete in various sporting competitions throughout the year and the winning house captains are awarded with trophies on Prize Night.

Copies of our current Positive Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct are available to view on the school website and hard copies are available on request.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

A Complaints Procedure is in place with information on the various steps available from the Principal. Parents and pupils should note that anonymous complaints will not be dealt with, unless they refer to Child Protection.

Newtownhamilton High School





SCHOOL UNIFORM

The appearance and general conduct of pupils make an impression on the community therefore **school uniform is compulsory for all pupils**. 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.

	School Wear	PE Wear*
Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newtownhamilton High School blazer • White blouse fully buttoned • School tie (clip-on style) • White socks • Black woollen tights in winter (optional) • Grey V-necked long sleeved pullover (optional) • Harrow grey school pleated skirt no shorter than just above the knee • Black soft-soled shoes (no high heels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS PE top • NHS navy skort • White socks • Laced training shoes • Shin pads & gum shield • Towel
Boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newtownhamilton High School blazer • White shirt fully buttoned • School tie (clip-on style) • Grey V-necked long sleeved pullover (optional) • Harrow grey trousers (light grey) • Black soft-soled shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS rugby shirt • Plain white shirt (optional) • NHS navy shorts • Red socks • Laced training shoes/ football boots • Shin pads & gum shield • Towel

**In unfavourable weather conditions, PE pupils are permitted to wear additional garments (eg leggings, thermals) however these should be plain black or plain navy.*

All above uniform can be purchased from **Lila's, 31 Scotch Street, Armagh, BT61 7BY**. It is advised that parents go to Lila's in early July for fitting/purchase in the event that a particular size needs to be ordered.

School hoodies with pupil's name are optional and can be ordered from the school office with effect from 1st September.

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

TIMETABLE

8.40		School Opens	
8.50	-	9.10	Registration and Assembly
9.10	-	9.40	Period 1
9.40	-	10.15	Period 2
10.15	-	10.50	Period 3
10.50	-	11.05	BREAK
11.05	-	11.40	Period 4
11.40	-	12.15	Period 5
12.15	-	12.50	Period 6
12.50	-	1.20	Period 7
1.20	-	1.50	LUNCH
1.50	-	2.25	Period 8
2.25	-	3.00	Period 9

Although senior teachers are usually on school premises from at least 8.00am, 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 planner. Parents are strongly encouraged to ensure each night that the set homework recorded in this planner is completed by the due date.





GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL MEALS

The school operates a very popular cafeteria system in the state of the art canteen which opened in November 2013. 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 £2.80 (at the time of going to print) per day in the canteen.

Packed lunches may be brought and eaten in the spacious canteen, 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 electronic games 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 Education Welfare Officer.

Guidance issued to schools states 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.

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 School Association

WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD COME HERE?

- The school is exceptionally well-equipped and very generously staffed
- It has a friendly, caring atmosphere
- Classes are small, giving your child maximum individual attention
- Examination results in recent years have consistently been "Very Good" or "Outstanding"
- 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 ATTEND OPEN NIGHT

on Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7.30pm

or telephone 028 30878246

or visit us at www.newtownhamiltonhigh.org.uk

or email nmegaw549@c2kni.net

to make an appointment with the Principal.





Newtownhamilton High School

"Every Child An Important Child"

www.newtownhamiltonhigh.org.uk



*"In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is **very good**"*
(Education and Training Inspectorate Report May 2012)

9 Armagh Road
Newtownhamilton
Newry
Co. Down
BT35 0DG

PRINCIPAL : Mr N Megaw M.Ed, MSc, PQH
TELEPHONE : (028) 30 878246
FAX : (028) 30 878192
E-MAIL : nmegaw549@c2kni.net