



# St Patrick's College

Ballymena



## Post 16 Prospectus 2025

[www.stpatricksballymena.com](http://www.stpatricksballymena.com)





## A Vibrant & Progressive Learning Environment

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## Welcome to St Patrick's College

Dear Student


Thank you for your interest in our Sixth Form Prospectus. Please take the time to read about the curriculum we have on offer, post 16. We have a rich and varied combination of subjects for you to choose from and no matter what your area of interest, I am sure we can facilitate you.

Here in St. Patrick's College, our teachers are experienced, supportive, approachable and friendly. This is an area of strength which many of our past pupils refer. You will find the bond that develops between you and your teachers a major contributor to your success.

Of course, it is your success that concerns us most, and in that regard, our examination results prove that we are both a centre of excellence and a driving force for achievement. Why not become part of our collective success story?

Come, see what we have on offer and make an informed decision. I guarantee that, should you choose to join us, you will enjoy the experience, and succeed in reaching your goals.

Mr P Fitzpatrick



Principal

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 **St Patrick's College**  
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## Full 'A' Level Programme

- Students choose three A levels
- Two-year course
- Entry requirements: five GCSE grades A\*- C preferably including English, Maths and Science)
- Wide range of subject choices – enhanced by Ballymena Learning Together scheme
- Students will have the opportunity to take Enrichment Courses and if necessary – to re-sit GCSE English or Maths
- Careers advice and work experience incorporated into the programme

For all sixth-year study, good attendance in Key Stage 4 is essential. Extenuating health or family circumstances will be taken into consideration if they are deemed relevant. Positive behaviour and attitude will also be a criteria.

**NB:** The Senior Management reserve the right to adjust the criteria in the light of changing school needs.

## Transition Programme of Study

The Transition Programme of Study is designed for students who would benefit from another year studying Level 2 courses. For some students it may prepare them for progress to Level 3 courses whilst for others, it may prepare them for direct placement in the workplace or a more vocational training environment. Its provision has a strong pastoral emphasis as well as academic development. Many students will benefit from the extra year's study in this type of environment to enable successful transition on their career path.

As well as the correct academic criteria, a proven track record of positive attitude and behaviour alongside good attendance at KS4 will be judged as essential criteria for entry to this course.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Year course</li></ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entry requirements: 4 GCSE grades A* - E</li></ul>                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sport - BTEC Level 2</li></ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Careers advice/work experience incorporated into the programme</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diploma in Vocational Skills - OCNNI Level 2</li></ul> |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE English and Maths (if needed)</li></ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One day per week work placement</li></ul>                                |





## Sixth Form pupils have their say



### Erin - Head Girl

I am sincerely grateful to St Patrick's for giving me the safe space I needed to grow and learn. Not only has St Patrick's helped me succeed in my studies but it has also provided friendship that I will value forever. It would feel unfair to express my gratitude without mentioning the amazing staff here at St Patrick's. The diligent and caring staff have boosted my confidence within my studies and day to day life and I cannot thank them enough. I will be sitting my exams in the summer, and I hope to go on to university, but I will be leaving with very happy memories of my seven years in school.



### Korey - Head Boy

My time in St. Patrick's College has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Throughout my seven years at St. Patrick's, I have received a great amount of support and guidance from my teachers which has helped me to achieve my full potential. With the teachers' consistent encouragement, I was able to obtain the grades I wanted at AS which has made me feel confident and prepared for my approach into further education.



### Anna - Deputy Head Girl

My time in sixth year has been a very enjoyable experience. Not only did staying on to sixth year help me gain independence it also helped me grow in confidence within my studies and given me the opportunity to study higher education. The teaching staff in St. Patricks are amazing and know exactly how to work and communicate with each individual student, they are compassionate and support each student to perform their best. These past two years have helped me to finalise my career choice and what I want to do in university, and I hope to achieve the grades I need to fulfil my dream career in August. Lastly, being enrolled as deputy head girl has given me many skills which will benefit me in my career such as teamwork skills, communication skills and leadership skills. This is all down to the staff at St. Patricks for believing in me and presenting me with the opportunity to fulfil this role.



### Joel - Deputy Head Boy

The decision I made to continue my A level education in St Patrick's after GCSEs has been the right choice for me. It's been an amazing experience being a part of the Sixth Form team. It has taught me many values, such as teamwork skills, resilience and self-determination to name a few. Even though my stammer had reduced my confidence at the start of my sixth form journey, teachers and friends have given me hope and encouragement to fight through the tough times and shine brightly. It has been a great journey in St. Patrick's College and the highlight for me would be my role as Deputy Head Boy as this affords me the platform to be an ambassador for my school.

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Year 14 Leaver's Event, June 2024





## Art & Design

As part of the Art and Design course you will have the opportunity to explore materials, techniques and technology in both 2D and 3D disciplines. As art students you will gain insight into professional practice through studio, gallery and museum visits as well as through artist workshops and artist and designer case studies. We have a very successful track record as a department in preparing our students for higher education and employment and place a number of our students on Art and Design courses at university as well as other related fields.



### Career Pathway:

Applied A-Level in Art and Design can lead to the following exciting and varied careers: Architecture, Animator, Art Therapist, Fashion Designer, Product Designer, Graphic Designer, Interactive Multimedia Designer, Illustrator, Photographer, Advertising and Interior Designer, to name but a few.



## Construction and the Built Environment

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the construction sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, within and beyond construction related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

**Year 1 Units:** - Unit 1 Construction Principles (external assessment)  
- Unit 4 Construction Technology (internal assessment)

**Year 2 Units:** - Unit 2 Construction Design (external assessment)  
- Unit 5 Health and Safety in Construction (internal assessment)

### Career Pathway:

On completion of the Extended Certificate, pupils are ideally positioned to continue on a career path in the construction industry. Exciting careers that can be undertaken after completing this course include, civil engineering, architecture, site management, quantity surveying and many more.

The Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment is equivalent to one A-Level.





## English Literature

CCEA GCE English Literature

### AS1: The Study of Poetry (1900 – Present) and Drama (1900 – Present)

External written examination

Students answer two questions, one from section A and one from section B.

Section A is open book. Section B is closed book.

### AS2: The Study of Prose (Pre 1900)

External written examination

Students answer one question. Closed book.

### A2 1: Shakespeare Genres

External written examination

Students answer one question. Closed book.

### A2 2: The Study of Poetry (Pre 1900) and Unseen Poetry

External written examination

Students answer two questions, one from section A and the question set in Section B.

### A2 3: Internal Assessment

Internal assessment: Students complete a 2500-word essay



#### Career Pathway:

English Literature leads to third level education courses in English, Journalism and Media Studies. It is well regarded by third level Higher Education establishments.



## CCEA AS Health and Social Care

### Single Award units

- Promoting Quality Care (Portfolio)
- Communication in Health, Social Care and Early Years settings (Portfolio)
- Health and Wellbeing (Exam)

### Double award units

- Safeguarding Children (Portfolio)
- Adult Service Users (Exam)
- Holistic Therapies (Portfolio)

### Career Pathway:

The A level in Health and Social Care has been designed for students who want a broad background in the area of caring for others across a range of ages and circumstances.

Students who achieve these qualifications will be fully prepared to enter a variety of HND or degree level courses in Health and Social care related courses.





## Life and Health Sciences

The content of this qualification has been developed with a strong careers link which focuses students on sectors with realistic prospects of jobs in with Northern Ireland, the UK and internationally.

It also provides students with the skills and relevant knowledge necessary to access a broad range of Higher Education courses and industry employment.

This course is a two year course which consists of six units.

**AS-level**      Experimental Techniques  
                    Human Body Systems  
                    Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes

**A2-level**      Scientific Method, Investigation, Analysis and Evaluation  
                    Organic Chemistry  
                    Medical Physics

In each year, one unit is portfolio based while the remaining two units are externally assessed through examination.

### Career Pathway:

This course allows students to develop their subject knowledge, understanding and skills. It provides a firm grounding for students wishing to progress to higher education in Life and Health Sciences such as nursing, midwifery, biomedical sciences or psychology, or related subjects such as engineering, environmental science, electronics or sports studies.



## Information Technology

We offer a single advanced level equivalent-qualification in IT. It is an up-to-date level three subject that mixes external assessment (50%) with centre assessed coursework (50%). It is provided within the OCR Cambridge Technicals suite of qualifications. This qualification in IT allows students to gain an insight into IT and cybersecurity – a current growth sector within IT industry.

Learners will be able to develop the core knowledge, skills and understanding required in the IT sector, and develop further skills by completing a range of units through a choice of four specialist pathways:

- IT Infrastructure Technician
- Emerging Digital Technology Practitioner (Currently followed by St Patrick's)
- Application Developer
- Data Analyst

All students study two mandatory externally examined units in Year 13, which represents 50% towards the final grade. They complete three further centre assessed units in Year 14 which represents the remaining 50%. Points are awarded for each unit and contribute to the final grade. Final grades range from Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass.



### Career Pathway:

Learners use this qualification to gain entry to a range of Computer/IT courses at institutions of Higher and Further Education at UU and QUB. The pathway chosen has a particular focus on Virtual and Augmented Reality but also gives the learner a broad knowledge and understanding that they can employ across a range of courses.





## Performing Arts

Performing Arts gives students the opportunity to explore the industry either as a performer (actor, musician or dancer) or production worker (set designer, costume designer, stage manager, sound technician or lighting technician). Through individual preparation and group performances, the course will develop your self-confidence, self-awareness, personal discipline and creativity.

Performing Arts is a collaborative discipline, involving teamwork and self-management. Employers look for these qualities in prospective employees.

There are four units in this course, two at AS and two at A2:

- **Developing Skills and Repertoire** (60% of AS Level)
- **Planning and Realising a Performing Arts Event** (40% of AS Level)
- **Planning for Employment** (60% of A2 Level)
- **Performing to a Commission Brief** (40% of A2 Level)



### Career Pathway:

Throughout the course students prepare for working in the Performing Arts industry by developing skills in one discipline.

They leave with a professional promotional portfolio and two fully prepared audition pieces.



## Polish

A-level Polish helps students develop confident, effective reading and writing skills in Polish. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of Poland and learn about the issues and influences which have shaped the country. Students will study texts and films and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

Assessment tasks will be varied and cover listening, reading, and writing skills.

- **Paper 1: Reading and writing.** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. (42.5% of A-level)
- **Paper 2: Writing.** Written exam: 2 hours. (20% of A-level)
- **Paper 3: Listening, reading and writing.** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. (37.5% of A-level)

### Career Pathway:

This course is particularly suitable for students who would like to improve their employability prospects by adding a language to their CV. Future employers often watch out for employees with an individual and distinct profile. Polish may be precisely that component which draws attention to your CV in the job market. There is a wide range of possible career paths for employees with Polish, including journalism, gaming, insurance, accounting, translation/interpreting, customer service, call centres, international organisations, business and finance.





## Religious Education

In A Level RE, two units are studied. The two units we study here in St Patrick's are AS2 An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles and A22 Themes in Selected Letters of St Paul and AS7 Ethics with Special Reference to Issues in Medical Ethics and A27 Global Ethics.

Acts of the Apostles explores the beginnings of the Church. Students trace the journey of the Gospel and identify the role and importance of key individuals focusing on Peter, Stephen and Philip. They study Paul's work as a missionary and evangelist and assess the importance of Paul's teaching.

Ethics explores a number of themes such as moral theories. They apply these approaches to key issues in medical ethics such as IVF and Surrogacy. Students explore the relationship between science, technology and ethics and the implications for society. In the study of life and death we focus on abortion and euthanasia. The study of global ethics focuses on human rights, justice and punishment and contemporary warfare.

Through studying GCE Religious Studies, students have opportunities to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion; and reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes.

Candidates will be expected to relate knowledge of the two areas of study to human experience.

The AS units make up 40% of the full A level, and the A2 units make up 60%.

RE is a fascinating subject which allows pupils to reflect on and develop their own opinions. All universities recognise A Level RE and it can lead into professions including Social Work, Teaching, Counselling, Health Care and Law among others.



### Career Pathway:

RE is a fascinating subject which allows pupils to reflect on and develop their own opinions. All universities recognise A Level RE and it can lead into professions including Social Work, Teaching, Counselling, Health Care and Law, among others.



## Sport

Throughout this two-year course the students will study four specialist units:

- Unit 1:** Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2:** Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3:** Professional development in the sports industry
- Unit 5:** Application of fitness testing

Unit 1 and unit 2 are examined while the remaining two units are assessed through portfolios of evidence.

You will gain knowledge about the Sports industry, health and wellbeing, coaching techniques, training methods and learn how to plan and lead coaching sessions.

### Career Pathway:

On completion of the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport, students will hold the equivalent of one A Level. In combination with their other A level courses, students will have the opportunity to access higher education to study sports related courses, to teach or to progress into a career in sports development or sports coaching.





## Transition Programme of Study

The Post 16 Transition Programme of Study is aimed at students who would like to enhance their qualifications for further study at Post 16 level. It is tailored to equip learners with the essential life skills needed for adulthood whatever their choices.

### Work experience

The placement will be:

- chosen to enhance your studies endorsed and monitored by the College
- Support will be given to seek a relevant work placement.

### Courses

Students will study the following in one year:

- **Level 2 Diploma Vocational Skills**  
Pupils' complete units in ICT, Art, Health and Social Care, Hospitality, and Personal Development
- **BTEC Level 2 sport**  
Students study units including Fitness for Sport and Exercise, Practical Sports Performance, Training for Personal Fitness and Leading Sports Activities
- **GCSE English**  
Student have to opportunity to repeat or improve their GCSE maths grade
- **GCSE Maths**  
Student have to opportunity to repeat or improve their GCSE maths grade
- **Work experience**  
Students spend one day each week on a work placement of their choice.



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## Ballymena Learning Together

Along with the other post-primary schools in the Ballymena area, St Patrick's College is a member of the local area learning community, Ballymena Learning Together. Membership of the learning community enables students to access courses in other schools and in the Northern Regional College, in addition to those available in their own school. Students from other schools have therefore been able to access courses in St Patrick's College, while St Patrick's students have also been able to study courses in other schools.

In recent years St Patrick's students have studied the following A Level courses through our collaboration with other schools and NRC:

- Applied Business
- Biology
- Engineering
- Environmental Technology
- History
- Mathematics
- Professional Business Services
- Travel and Tourism



## Careers Programme for years 13 and 14

All our Year 13 & 14 pupils study careers a part of their course.

### Year 13

Pupils in the Transition group are given support when applying for Post 16 opportunities which includes an interview with the DE Careers Advisor in preparation for their future.

Pupils in Year 13 and 14 explore post-18 options which include University, Higher Education, Higher Level Apprenticeships and employment.

Year 13 pupils plan how to structure and write an effective personal statement, which is needed for the UCAS process.

Work experience is a very important part of year 13 careers. It provides many benefits, giving pupils the skills and experience that will allow them to stand out to potential employers and university admission selectors as well as helping pupils choose the right sector to work in whilst gaining employability skills.

### Year 14

In Year 14, pupils have regular visiting speakers and talks and attend QUB and UU Open Days. The University Roadshow allows pupils the opportunity to speak to universities in England, Scotland and Wales. Pupils then focus on their UCAS applications.

The Careers Department gives support and guidance regarding personal statements and choices and each pupil will have at least one interview with a member of the department.





## School Committee

As a member of the School Committee, pupils have the opportunity to develop their personal skills and qualities such as leadership, interpersonal skills and self-confidence.

The School Committee contribute positively to the school community and work as part of a team to be role models for all pupils in St Patrick's College.



**School Committee members have numerous responsibilities throughout the academic year:**

- Assist at whole school events such as Prize Day and Open Night.
- Mentor Year 8 pupils as they enter the school community.
- Undertake weekly duties alongside staff to provide additional support and ensure the safe running of the school at lunchtime.
- Set a positive example for everyone within the school community by setting high standards in terms of behaviour and commitment to their studies.

As a member of the School Committee you are not only 'giving back' to your school and the younger pupils, you are also gaining valuable experience, building essential skills and showing that you can be a leader of your peers. These are all very important characteristics that will make you stand out to future employers or universities.

## Student Mentoring Programme

Year 13 pupils are offered the opportunity to volunteer to become a mentor to our new Year 8 pupils. This is a valuable experience for both Year 8 and Year 13 pupils.

Year 13 Mentors offer individual help:

- to provide a support system for pupils
- to raise pupils' aspirations and teachers' expectations
- to encourage pupils to monitor their own progress and identify strengths and areas for development.
- to increase the self-esteem and confidence of the pupils by giving regular feedback on targets and achievements in relation to their personal ability.

### Mentors meet regularly with pupils to...

- Listen
- Encourage
- Share experiences
- Give help, advice and guidance, where appropriate
- Point to other sources of support or referral

### Student Mentors will agree to...

- Undertake initial training and attend support sessions
- Have regular meetings with their mentee and keep records
- Complete a development log





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*"To nurture and value each person's worth through living  
and practising our faith and our commitment to one another"*

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