

BALLYMONEY
HIGH SCHOOL

Post-16 Prospectus



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Giving you the opportunity
to **REACH** your potential.

Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Ballymoney High School. This document is intended to provide a flavour of the diversity that makes our school a unique place to study. We are a student centred school in that we believe academic success requires both the expert teacher guidance you would associate with demanding advanced level courses, and a large emphasis on emotional health and wellbeing.

At BHS we believe that to be truly successful at advanced level it is necessary to cater for all student needs including those that exist outside of the classroom. We work hard to get to know our students, to develop positive and honest relationships based on mutual trust and respect. We maintain that academic success in the long term is dependent on high standards and expectations in the short term and so we have very clear structures in which staff and students cooperate to achieve common objectives.

As a Sixth Form student at Ballymoney High you will lead by example. As role models to our younger pupils, this is a responsibility that you will take very seriously.

If you choose Ballymoney High School as your school of choice for Post-16 study, we can guarantee a happy, thriving environment and a place of real learning.

If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to contact me directly. We look forward to welcoming you.



Mr B Donaghy

Assistant Principal - Curriculum
Head of Careers (CEIAG)
Head of Sixth Form



Making the Right Choice

Life as a Sixth Form student at Ballymoney High School

The biggest difference between a pupil and a student is independence. As a Sixth Form student you are expected to be self motivated and self directed. Your approach must be professional and your studies should be your main priority if you are to achieve your best.

This independence extends to all aspects of your Sixth Form experience, from your academic subjects to your extra curricular activities. We offer a range of courses and learning experiences that will provide you with opportunities to enhance your career progression beyond Ballymoney High.

Post-16 is very different from GCSE and it is important that you make the right choice before you start. There are some things you can do to help you make an informed decision about the right choice for you.

What YOU can expect

- high quality teaching using a variety of teaching strategies and methods;
- careers advice and guidance that is personalised to you;
- support to enable you to learn independently outside of the classroom;
- regular assessment of learning and for learning;
- effective and regular target setting and self evaluation;
- a wide range of extra-curricular activities;
- timetabled study periods in the dedicated sixth form centre to reinforce class room learning; and
- opportunities for work placements,

What WE will expect

- for you to commit to your personal curriculum and learn to the best of your ability;
- you will act as role models for our younger pupils at all times and in all places;
- you will attend school regularly and punctually;
- to wear the uniform with pride and to understand that the tie comes with responsibility;
- to involve yourself in the wider life of the school and take on leadership opportunities as required; and
- you will respect your fellow students, staff and the sixth form centre facilities.



*A school that
develops leaders*

Your pathway... our priority



Your questions answered!

1. What is the difference between A-Levels and equivalent/applied courses?

In general terms, A-levels are academic, and L3 BTEC/CTEC courses are their vocational equivalents. This means that applied courses are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills required in a particular area of employment, such as health care, information technology, business and so on.

Both qualifications will require you to complete coursework and external exams but there tends to be a greater emphasis on coursework in applied A-levels. Coursework tasks generally during Post-16 study are much more time consuming and completed to a higher standard than at GCSE. It often requires you to do your own research and you will be expected to spend your study periods completing coursework.

2. Which subjects should I choose?

Choose subjects you like and are good at. Subjects at Post-16 are studied in much greater depth than at GCSE and there is a greater emphasis on personal study. It is therefore important that you have a genuine interest in the subject, so that you will be motivated in the subject and find it easier to study. If you have a good record in a subject in Year 12, it might be sensible to choose that subject in sixth form.

Choose subjects you will need for your career. It is important at this stage that you plan ahead and choose subjects that are needed for entry into university or college, or are needed for employment. Your Post-16 study should be a means to an end and you will be far more motivated to succeed if you know what that end is. So before making your final choice you should find out what subjects are required for your chosen career.



3. What if I have no idea what career I want?

Choose subjects that keep your options open. Don't limit your options to the extent that you can only choose from a very narrow range of subjects at further and higher education. This will require research and patience on your part but will be worth it when you begin looking at courses at university.

4. I don't know where to start! Who can help?

Relax ... lots of people are only too willing to assist you.

Firstly, talk to your subject teachers

Secondly, talk to your careers teacher

Your GCSE teachers will be able to advise you on the requirements for study at Post-16. They will also be able to guide you on the suitability of a particular subject for you personally.

Mr. Donaghy and Mrs. Cooke can provide you with the information you need. They have a good overview of the different types of courses and the relevant information from the universities and colleges. You can use this information to help you choose what subjects to study.

*We encourage pupils
to aspire higher*

The Post-16 Curriculum

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The Post-16 curriculum allows student to study:

- Advanced levels (modules taken in June of Years 13 (AS) & 14 (A2))
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 courses (at both single and double award)
- OCR CTEC Level 3 courses

In addition to the academic subjects, students are time-tabled for:

- Private Study
- Careers (CEIAG)
- Curriculum Enrichment Activities
- Resit Maths/English (if necessary)

Collaboration within Ballymoney Learning Community (BLC)

In order to provide a wide choice of subjects at Post-16 we work closely with partner schools within the Ballymoney Learning Community (BLC) and Northern Regional College (NRC). The course list will include courses available through Ballymoney High School but where the teaching centre will either be Northern Regional College or Dalriada School.

These are highlighted within the course information opposite, as we aim to build a personally bespoke timetable for all Post-16 students to meet their individual needs. We do this through an effective collaborative arrangement which has been successfully established over a number of years at Key Stage 4.

GCE A-Level Qualifications

The advanced level qualification now consists of modular examinations. Most subjects examine at the end of each year of study (May/June) and can be a combination of formal examinations and/or coursework. The separate course profile booklet stipulates how many modules each subject is made up of and what assessment is involved.

It is important to understand that advanced levels are two year courses and no qualifications will be awarded for completing the first year. Both years must now be completed to achieve an advanced level award. Hence we advise all of our students to select three subjects carefully and stick to them. Assessment of advanced level courses is in the traditional grade format from A* - E.

BTEC / OCR Qualifications

The school offers advanced level equivalent courses in Pearson BTEC and OCR CTEC in a range of subjects at both extended certificate and diploma awards. The extended certificate carries the same weight as one A-level and the diploma as two A-level qualifications, but, while some of these subjects do examine, there is more emphasis and weighting toward coursework. Final grades are in the format, Distinction* (A* grade), Distinction (A grade), Merit (C grade), and Pass (E grade).

Our current Post-16 curriculum offer includes:

* course delivered through BLC

A-Level	
	English Literature *
	Performing Arts
	Psychology
	Mathematics *
	Life & Health Sciences (S/A)
	Life & Health Sciences (D/A)
	History
	Art & Design
	French *
	Music *
	Individual Sciences (Biology/Chemistry/Physics) *

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate (1 x A-Level)	
	Construction & The Built Environment
	Engineering *
	Environmental Technology *
	Health & Social Care
	Travel & Tourism
	ICT

Cambridge Technical CTEC L3 (1 x A-Level)	
	Business

BTEC L3 Diploma (2 x A-Levels)	
	Sport
	Health & Social Care

BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (3 x A-Levels)	
	Sport

Enrichment & Careers

Enriching the Curriculum... putting learners first



Today university admissions tutors and indeed employers are demanding more from our young people. It is our responsibility to provide opportunities to develop skills that will enhance their development without adding significantly to their already large workloads. We try to provide a range of opportunities that are challenging but rewarding, that require commitment but are fun and that ultimately make a difference to their educational experience and future aspirations.

Often, the skills and experiences gained through this scheme are what catch the eye of an admissions tutor and/or employer and make the difference. Our advice to students is to get involved. Enrichment is part of every student's timetable, and is an opportunity for students to develop new skills and interests. Each student will be expected to make full use of their time by participating in enrichment activities. These include:

- Mentoring
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award
- First Aid
- Driving Lessons
- Work Experience
- School Council
- Reading Buddies
- Private Study
- Survival Cookery
- University Ready





Careers Provision... aspiring people

During your time in the Sixth Form you must begin to make some decisions about your future. Being well informed and up-to-date with Higher Education and employment trends is crucial and so careers guidance is a vital part of the Sixth Form life. We are very proud of the guidance and the facilities that we offer our students. We have a well resourced careers library and a dedicated and experienced careers advisor who helps students achieve their long term aspirations, Below are just some of the services our outstanding careers department offers to our young people:

- Careers Interviews
- Academic Mock interviews
- Work-Ready Interview Techniques
- UCAS Workshops and Seminars
- UCAS Careers Convention
- Work Experience
- Student Finance Workshop
- Industry expert guest speakers
- Gap Year opportunities
- University Open Days (QUB and UU)
- Exploring Higher Level Apprenticeship routes
- A personalised approach to careers guidance.

During Year 13 & 14, all students follow a detailed Careers Education and Guidance Programme which is part of their timetable and provides an opportunity to talk individually with their form teacher/careers teacher. During CEIAG lessons, students are encouraged to think about their career goals, and how to achieve their goals. In particular they are encouraged to research a variety of Post-18 options including university courses, and gap year programmes.

We recommend you explore: www.ucas.com

Student Support

Welcoming New Students

Ballymoney High School is particularly pleased to welcome new students. We appreciate that it is a difficult decision to change schools at sixteen and that the prospect of making new friends can seem daunting.

As with students who have transferred into other year groups, we have worked hard to try and make this transition as smooth as possible and it is a feature of our service of which we are very proud. Much of what we do has been suggested by students who were themselves new to Ballymoney High School.

If you are thinking of applying to Ballymoney High School for the first time, please be assured that we will do everything we can to ensure you feel welcome and that the start of your new career is focused on the most important issue ... your personal success. Copies of our pastoral policies are available on the school website or by contacting the school office (028) 2766 2361.





Student Support Programme at Post-16

The pastoral care for every Sixth Former offers personalised advice for both students' academic and pastoral growth. We adopt a holistic approach to ensure each student's all-round progress. Our sixth form pastoral programme provides students with the chance to focus on issues acutely related to their stage of growth.

Students who need extra support are quickly identified by our pastoral team and all staff members take responsibility for the well-being of every student. For more specific needs, the Head of Student Support will liaise with the Form Tutor and the Head of Sixth Form to help sustain student's happiness and progress. There are a number of different components:

The Form Tutor

Each student is allocated to a form teacher who will have personal responsibility for the progress of each student. Each form teacher has time built into his or her timetable specifically for student contact. In this way, the service we provide to our students is individualised and personal.

Head of Sixth Form

The head of sixth form will work alongside the senior leader in charge of student support to ensure students are supported personally and given quality learning experiences as they develop as young people. They help co-ordinate the study area, careers and UCAS work or be a point of contact for an curricular related issues

Head of Careers / CEIAG Committee

The head of careers through an engaging programme of study will prepare students for Post 18 options, co-ordinate work experience opportunities, university visits.

Study Supervisor

The Sixth Form study supervisor will ensure that pupils are engaged in learning during their non-contact time. They will work closely with the Head of Sixth Form and Head of Student Support to assist pupils academically and pastorally.

Admissions Criteria

Post-16 Applications & Admissions

Students wishing to transfer from the school's own Year 12 into the sixth form, will be admitted in preference to external applicants.

Applicants will only be admitted to the sixth form where they meet the basic entry requirements of:

(i) 5 x A* - C grades

(preferably including GCSE English and Mathematics) in order to study three A-Level subjects (or equivalent) only.

(ii) Re-sit GCSE English OR Mathematics

(but not both) is available to prospective Post-16 students who have achieved a minimum of a grade D at GCSE and courses will be built into their timetable allocation.

Please note that individual subject criteria apply in addition to those outlined above; refer to the curriculum information booklet for details. Also, please note that the school reserves the privilege to make exceptions where extenuating circumstances exist.

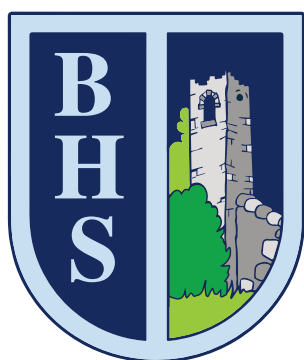
Applicants must have demonstrated through their preparation for their Key Stage 4 assessments, their commitment to achieving their best. This will include attendance, punctuality, the meeting of deadlines and behaviour. In the case of attendance, the school's expectation is at least 90% except where there are documented extenuating circumstances. To assess the meeting of deadlines, the student's record of submitting coursework on time will be consulted.

External applicants who have previously attended the school and wish to return, and who satisfy the above criteria, will normally be given priority over other external candidates.

Where previous criteria cannot resolve the order of priority, external applicants will be prioritised according to their GCSE results, with the highest being placed first.

Where the school is fully subscribed in any of the above criterion groupings, and applicants satisfy the other entry requirements, the Department of Education is the decision making body. The DENI may, on request, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for sixth form study (as above) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down:

- (i) pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 at Ballymoney High School, and
- (ii) pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Ballymoney High School has been agreed by the Department of Education.





*A school that
develops leaders*

Ballymoney High School



Keep an eye on our social media channels for up-to-date information on school events and key dates.

Ballymoney High School

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The information in this prospectus is correct at the time of going to print. The progressive nature of the school may mean that aspects of policy and practice may change or be adapted to meet the needs of the pupils and life and work of the school.