



Nendrum College Comber School Prospectus





Principal's Introduction

Welcome to Nendrum College, Comber.

We hope that you enjoy reading this prospectus and it gives you a sense of what life is like as part of the Nendrum family.

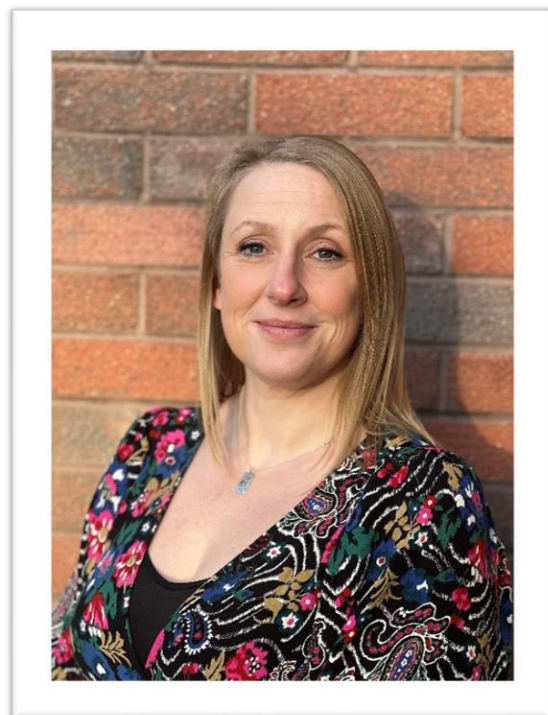
Nendrum College takes its name from the ancient monastic site just outside Comber on the shores of Strangford Lough. The site was an historic centre of learning, and it is from here that we take our inspiration.

Our College motto is "Always Aim High"; as a Rights Respecting School, our College is a learning community founded on values of human rights, respect and hard work. Every pupil is valued as part of our family and all students are encouraged and supported to aim high and to achieve to the best of their ability.

We recognise the individual talents and uniqueness of each child and it is a privilege to play our part in the personal, social, emotional and academic development of all pupils at Nendrum College.

V Thompson

Acting Principal





College Aim

The aim of Nendrum College is to provide a disciplined yet caring and supportive environment in which each pupil is encouraged to attain their true potential both academically and personally.





Objectives

To achieve our main aim we seek:

- To ensure that each pupil has access to a broad and balanced range of learning experiences throughout their post primary education;
- To provide a coherent and relevant programme for each pupil to gain knowledge, skills and understanding, coupled with a sense of personal achievement;
- To regard each pupil as an individual with different needs and expectations who develop a sense of personal worth and respect for others;
- To encourage each pupil to accept and appreciate the need for rules and moral standards of behaviour, in order to develop a personal code of self-discipline; and
- To develop an on-going educational partnership between the College, parents, local employers, the local, national and global community.

We firmly believe that our pupils have a much better opportunity of reaching their full potential and developing their many talents in a caring and supportive environment, where they are able to look forward to coming into school and where expectations are not only high but achievable for each individual.



Pastoral Care

In Nendrum College, we are a Rights Respecting School and as such maintain a warm, friendly, and supportive environment for all our pupils, often referred to as the "Nendrum family". We share the responsibility of celebrating, supporting, and encouraging each other.

Each class in the school is the responsibility of a Form Teacher who registers the pupils in the morning and cares for their immediate and pastoral needs. The Form Teacher monitors each pupil's welfare, academic progress, punctuality, and behaviour, and they are the main point of contact between home and the College.

Form Teachers are supported in their roles by a Year Head and Head of Junior/Senior School. Our pastoral structure has been designed so that both teachers and pupils can clearly identify the appropriate support when the occasion arises. An independent counselling service provides pupils with an opportunity to talk in confidence to a qualified counsellor on a weekly basis, Youth Workers from The Net offer tailored support programmes.

The work of the Form Teacher is supplemented by the 'Learning for Life and Work' programme of Personal Development, Citizenship and Employability, which is delivered in a way that helps strengthen the ethos of the College and is underpinned by the United Nations' Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Our mentoring programme encourages GCSE pupils who benefit from academic and pastoral support to ensure they achieve their full potential.





Positive Behaviour



The aim of the College is 'to provide a disciplined, yet caring and supportive environment' and for this reason our pastoral care structures are an integral part of positive behaviour in the College.

All pupils at Nendrum College are expected to behave to a high standard as outlined in our School Rules. Pupils are encouraged to always take responsibility for their own behaviour and display good manners, consideration and respect for their peers, College staff, visitors and the wider community.

Positive behaviour and achievement are rewarded throughout the College via our Merit, Pupil of the Month and House systems.

Behaviour is monitored through the pastoral care structure of the College and we actively seek parental participation working in partnership to provide the best for our pupils.

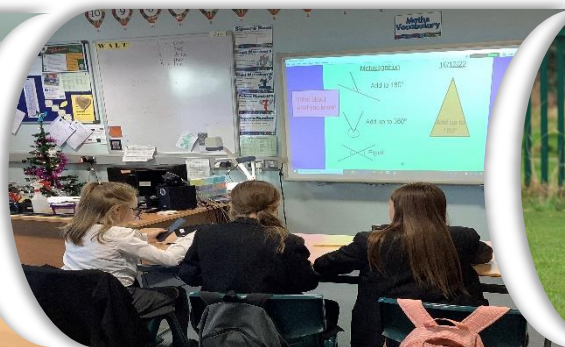
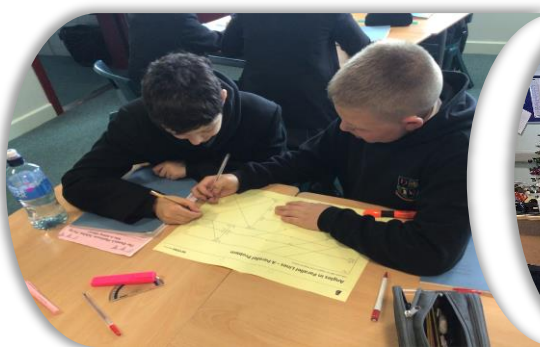


Curriculum

We aim to ensure that each pupil within our school has access to a broad range of learning experiences regardless of their ability level or background. We provide a relevant programme of study which allows pupils to gain knowledge, understanding and skills coupled with a sense of personal achievement and enhanced self-esteem.

At KS3, pupils are organised into four/five classes, and all follow the same programme of study. This programme reflects the requirements of the NI Curriculum, falling into nine areas of learning:

- English and Literacy
- Mathematics and Financial Capabilities
- The Arts (Art and Design, Music and Drama)
- Environment and Society (History and Geography)
- Learning for Life and Work (Personal Development, Local and Global Citizenship, Employability and Home Economics)
- Modern Languages (French)
- Physical Education
- Science and Technology
- Religious Education





The KS3 curriculum is delivered using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which employ independent, paired and group work. Across all learning areas, pupils are encouraged to develop their skills in problem solving, self-management, being creative, managing information and working with others.

The KS4 curriculum exceeds current statutory Entitlement Framework requirements and has been developed within the College to ensure it best meets the individual needs, abilities and interests of all pupils. This affords pupils the opportunity to study subjects relevant to their individual career pathways whether through traditional academic subjects or vocational qualifications. The College offers an excellent range of vocational options, including Occupational Studies delivered within the College and through our partnership with SERC.

At all levels and through all areas of study, pupils are encouraged to develop their skills in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.





Homework

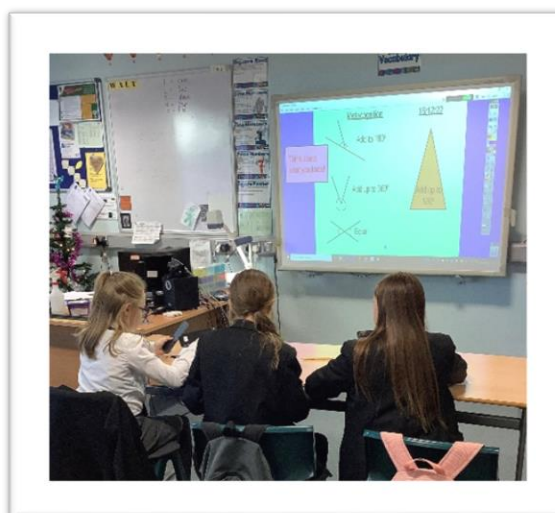
In Nendrum College we believe that homework plays an important role in each pupil's learning and development. The establishment of self-discipline and good working habits ensures steady progress is made and improves retention and understanding. Homework is set on a regular basis and is quality assured across the school. The frequency and nature of tasks vary between practical and more literary subjects. A homework club runs at lunchtime daily for Junior pupils in the library and an after school club runs twice weekly for all pupils.

A homework diary is provided for all pupils to help them manage their time and workload. This is checked by Form Teachers on a weekly basis. The diary is a useful communication tool between school and home, and parents are encouraged to take an active interest in the work their child completes at home, as well as signing the diary weekly.



Special Educational Needs

Nendrum College is a child-centred school, and as such, recognises that some pupils have special educational needs and will benefit from additional support to achieve their true potential. The College provides for all the needs of the child, whilst encouraging inclusion in class and school activities for every pupil regardless of ability or background. In order to facilitate access to the curriculum for all pupils with SEN, individual needs are identified as soon as possible.





CEIAG

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance begins in Year 8 and continues throughout your child's time at the College. We host workshops which encourage pupils to consider their future career pathways and the steps they need to take while at school to achieve those goals. CEIAG is embedded throughout all the subjects, and is a core component of the Learning for Life and Work programme of study in Years 8 to 12. Pupils in years 11 & 12 have weekly lessons based on Careers and pathway progression. The Careers department regularly reviews Labour Market Information to ensure our pupils are equipped for the future. In Year 12 pupils have an interview with the Careers Guidance Officer. They also complete mock interviews with outside organisations to hone the skills they have studied.

Pupil Voice

Senior pupils are elected as prefects who are encouraged to assume roles of responsibility and represent the entire student body not only with reference to pupil voice in school but also with regard to community events.

Prefects also undertake leadership roles when it comes to planning internal and external events. This allows pupils to see the process of planning from the ground up, whether it be a bun sale or coffee morning, a car wash or sporting event.

Pupils across the College are also involved in charities and School Council.



Extra-Curricular Activities

A strong feature of our College is the wide range of extra-curricular activities available to all pupils. We believe this is important to develop social skills and self-esteem. We are proud of all our pupils' achievements, whether in the classroom, on the sports' field or on the stage. We promote and encourage involvement in extra-curricular activities for all pupils and reward regular participation each month with additional Merit points.

Pupils can enjoy

- Hockey
- Football
- Badminton
- Netball
- Circuit training and gym
- Rugby
- Cross country running
- Golf
- Table tennis
- Dance and gymnastics
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Homework club
- Computer Club
- Coding Club
- Drama club
- Choir
- Band
- Scripture Union

In addition to these activities, fieldwork and out-of-school learning opportunities are organised for students, alongside a wide range of optional visits each year within Northern Ireland and further afield. This includes the ski trip, football trip and other subject related educational visits.





Home-School Partnership

We believe in a strong partnership between parents/guardians and the College, to ensure that together we work in the best interests of all our pupils, towards their complete education.

As a parent/guardian; you can expect:

- An extensive programme of Induction for your child in Year 8
- An information session for parents
- Immediate contact should any concerns arise
- Comprehensive reporting on your child's progress
- Opportunities to meet with class teachers to discuss your child's progress
- Comprehensive information and opportunities to discuss subject choices for GCSE in Year 10
- An invitation to meet with senior staff at the Learning Guidance Forum to renew GCSE progress and discuss career pathways (Years 11 and 12)
- Approachable staff who are always ready to listen to your concerns and worries; and
- Opportunities to be involved in College events and our Parent Teacher Association

Parents are encouraged to play a positive role at home by assisting with homework and taking an active interest in their child's schoolwork and progression. This helps to identify any areas of concern at an early stage and enable appropriate action to be taken.





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