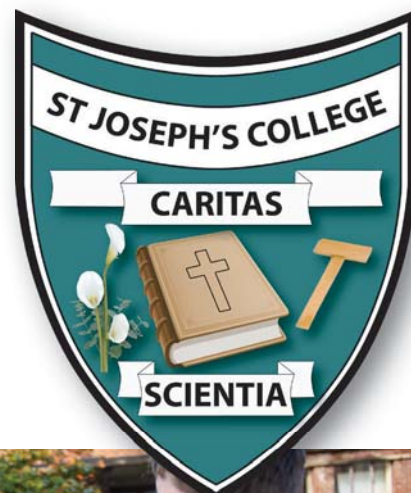


# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE



“ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP”







## WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

On behalf of our Governors, Staff and Pupils, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the families who are considering St. Joseph's as the school of choice for their child's post primary education.

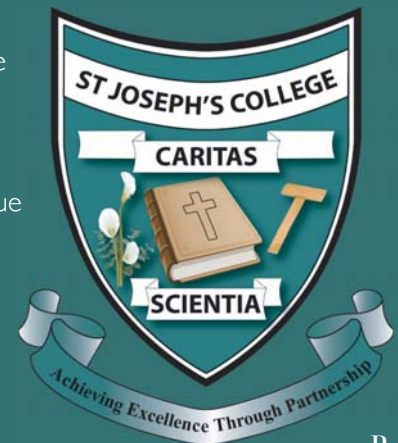
We are an all-ability, inclusive, 11-19, non-selective, co-educational, Catholic College. St Joseph's College opened its doors in September 1992 and we are proud to celebrate over 30 years in Education. The school is going from strength to strength, in terms of our examination performance. Alongside that success, we have been awarded many awards including the Investors in People Health & Wellbeing Award, gained the Green Flag by becoming an eco-friendlier environment, we are now a School of Sanctuary and we were chosen to receive the Down & Connor "Spirit of Catholic Education Award".

St Joseph's has a warm, welcoming ethos and we pride ourselves on the strength of the relationships that exist at all levels throughout the College. You will pick up on the care and compassion the staff have for pupils and their determination and passion to achieve the best possible successes for your child.

We instil in our pupils the self-belief that they can achieve whatever they put their minds to in our school. We reflect the fullness of humanity. We value diversity, we value inclusion, we value achievement but above all we value all the young people of this community.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

**Michele McCormick, Principal**



# ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

## THE VISION

St Joseph's College provides a dynamic and evolving curriculum, set within a well-resourced, welcoming school environment, which meets the academic, spiritual and social needs of all students.

## MISSION STATEMENT

- St Joseph's College offers a safe, positive and caring learning environment to support pupils to reach their potential and where:
- High standards of Learning and Teaching are set and the achievements of each student are celebrated.
- The Catholic values of compassion, inclusion and respect are fostered.
- A partnership approach is taken in the pursuit of excellence.

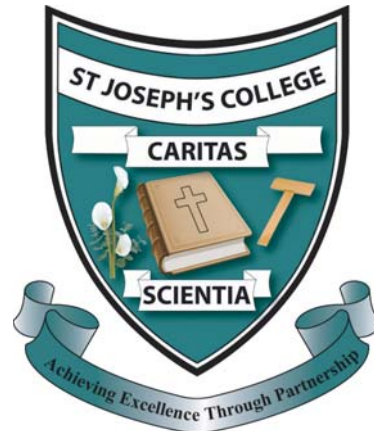
## AIMS:

- To nurture in all members of our school community a full understanding and appreciation of our Catholic faith in Christ.
- To establish a welcoming and caring environment that promotes good relationships, mutual respect and tolerance among all members of the school community.
- To encourage all members of the school community to act with integrity, empathy and compassion at all times and to develop positive relationships at home, in school and in the wider community.
- To ensure that our Pastoral Care system provides for all the needs of all members of our school community.
- To actively promote peace and justice, forgiveness and reconciliation in our divided society .
- To develop in each student an enquiring mind and a desire for knowledge and high personal expectations.
- To provide students with a range of skills that will enable them to respond to the challenges and opportunities of adult life.
- To provide high quality learning and teaching experiences incorporating a variety of methodologies including the use of ICT to support the learning.
- To facilitate the Professional Development of staff so that they can deliver high quality Pastoral Care and high quality learning experiences to the students.
- To foster a creative and dynamic partnership between the school community and wider society that enhances the learning experiences of our students.
- To create opportunities for effective engagement with parents regarding the Pastoral Care and education of their children.



## OUR SCHOOL NAME

St Joseph is the patron saint of workers, and we believe that his ethos is reflected in our work, leading to success for all our students.



## OUR SCHOOL CREST

“Caritas Scientia” is a Latin phrase which means *“Charity and Knowledge”*

Our school motto is *“Achieving Excellence Through Partnership”* and we believe that all aspects of school life in St Joseph’s are enshrined in both those phrases.

## CHALLENGE & ASPIRATION WITH CONFIDENCE & HAPPINESS

We are extremely proud of the academic success of our pupils with consistently high levels of achievement. However, we realise that there is more to the life of a school than examinations and study.

St Joseph’s College offers a wide range of activities and experiences for our young people. We understand that children should be fully engaged and motivated while at school. They should be happy in their school life and we wish to develop in them the attitudes and skills which will help them succeed in their future lives.





# THE CURRICULUM

St. Joseph's College provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils. We create the learning conditions in which pupils can achieve their maximum potential; maturing to become confident, skilled and responsible individuals, able to succeed in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world.

## **KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 8, 9 & 10)**

**ART | DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY | DRAMA | ENGLISH | GEOGRAPHY | HISTORY  
HOME ECONOMICS | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK  
MATHEMATICS | MUSIC | PE | RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | SCIENCE | SPANISH**

## **KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 11 & 12), COMPULSORY:**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE | MATHEMATICS | RELIGIOUS STUDIES | SCIENCE**

All pupils have timetabled classes for PE.

## **Optional Subjects :**

**ART AND DESIGN | BUSINESS STUDIES | DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY | DRAMA  
ENGLISH LITERATURE | GEOGRAPHY | GOVERNMENT & POLITICS | HISTORY  
HOME ECONOMICS | HOSPITALITY | LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK |  
MEDIA STUDIES | MUSIC | OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES | PE | SPANISH |  
SPORTS STUDIES | TECHNOLOGY CRAFT | TECHNOLOGY PRODUCT DESIGN**





## **POST 16 (YEARS 13 & 14)**

Students in St. Joseph's Sixth Form College in collaboration with Aquinas Grammar School, may avail of a range of both Applied and General A Levels and other Level 3 courses including:

**ART AND DESIGN | BIOLOGY | BUSINESS STUDIES | CHEMISTRY  
ENGLISH LITERATURE | GEOGRAPHY | GOVERNMENT & POLITICS  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE | HISTORY | HOME ECONOMICS  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | LANGUAGES | LIFE & HEALTH SCIENCE | MATHEMATICS  
MEDIA STUDIES | MOVING IMAGE ARTS | NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE  
PERFORMING ARTS | PHYSICAL EDUCATION | PHYSICS | PSYCHOLOGY  
RELIGIOUS STUDIES | SOCIOLOGY | SPANISH | SPORT STUDIES | TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN  
TRAVEL & TOURISM**

All sixth form students follow a structured enrichment programme.

Our sixth form students make a significant contribution to the life of the school, as senior prefects and mentors, fund raising for charities as well as working in a range of areas such as pupil mentoring.







# PASTORAL PROVISION

The pastoral philosophy of the College is to provide a happy, caring and safe environment where our pupils are encouraged to succeed and achieve their full potential.

The Pastoral Care System in St. Joseph's College helps to promote a sense of community, raises self-esteem, recognises effort and achievement and maintains good discipline throughout the College.

The Form Teacher has a detailed knowledge of the many individual needs, aspirations, interests and academic progress of each pupil in their class and will work with teachers, parents and others in supporting the learning and development of each pupil.

The Head of Year supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, oversees the general welfare of all pupils in the year group. We make available to pupils, the help and support of a number of services to meet the varied and often complex needs of pupils. We also provide a Peer Mentoring scheme which provides additional support for pupils making the transition from primary to post primary education.

## SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

The aim of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school - teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers - has clear guidance on the detection and management of situations where mistreatment or neglect of a child is suspected. The central principle our staff support is that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and to have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and adheres to the requirements of the Addressing Bullying in School Act (NI) 2016. St. Joseph's College is an Operation Encompass School.

## ANTI-BULLYING

St Joseph's College is completely opposed to bullying and will not tolerate any form of bullying behaviour. It is entirely contrary to our values and ethos as a caring community and is unequivocally rejected by all members of our staff. Our Anti-Bullying Policy is integral to our policy of Pastoral Care and it is firmly embedded in our School Mission Statement and School Aims and Objectives.



# STUDENT COUNCIL & PUPIL VOICE

Student Council work is important in St Joseph's College as it provides opportunities for pupils to take on roles of responsibility and to become involved in real decision making. The Student Council also provides opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills, becoming confident and active participants in the life of the college. Pupils and staff work together, to develop positive working relationships which improves the college as a learning community.

We look forward to six new Year 8 pupils representing their Form Classes next year, taking on roles of responsibility and becoming involved in the work of the Student Council.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Sixth Form is a community of young adults. The freedoms that come with Sixth Form study accompany an ethos of ownership and shared responsibility. Students in Year 13 and Year 14 apply for positions of leadership that help shape life in the Sixth Form. The students meet regularly with the Head of Sixth Form and the Principal. They organise charitable activities and work in the local community. They also lead Pupil Voice, briefing SLT on their responses to learning and act as ambassadors for the College.







# OPPORTUNITY AND ENRICHMENT

In St. Joseph's we believe in offering pupils opportunities to extend their learning far beyond the classroom.

To assist in this aspect of our pupils' development:

- Pupils are actively encouraged to take part in a range of extracurricular sporting activities. Coaching is provided by qualified coaches who specialise in working with children. Strong partnerships have also been developed with local sporting clubs.
- The programme is diverse in nature to benefit as many pupils as possible.
- This programme is run alongside school teams who compete in inter school competitions.

A rich sporting culture exists in St Joseph's College with our school teams competing and achieving at the highest level.

## ***Sporting Activities include:***

**ATHLETICS | BASKETBALL | COUCH TO 5K | CROSS COUNTRY  
GAELIC FOOTBALL | HURLING | NETBALL | RUGBY | SOCCER**



## ***Breakfast, Lunchtime and After School Activities include:***

**ART | BASKETBALL | CHOIR | CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING | COUCH TO 5K |  
CREATIVE WRITING | GAELIC | HOMEWORK CLUB | IT E-SPORTS | NETBALL |  
KNIT N' NATTER | PERFORMING ARTS | PHOTOGRAPHY | READ IT AND EAT | SOCCER |  
SPIKE LEGO CLUB | STEM STUDY | TRADITIONAL GROUP | UNWIND YOUR MIND**

There is a biennial Ski Trip and several other trips and residentials organised each year by our subject teachers. Pupils take part in Science, History, Geography and Performing Arts field trips at home and abroad, as well as visits to museums, theatres and art galleries.

We run leagues, competitions, fundraising events, citizenship programmes, Shared Education projects, work experience, business/enterprise project, visits to industry, and environmental projects through the school.

We welcome representatives from industry and commerce to our Annual Celebration of Achievement.









## **SCIENTIA- Celebrating Success**

Celebrating and rewarding success are the cornerstones of the education system we provide in St. Joseph's College. Pupil achievement is recognised in a formal way through monthly, termly and annual award ceremonies.

Pupils are regularly rewarded for their performance in College assessments, formal and informal; sporting and cultural activities; for excellent attendance records, and for their help, courtesy and cooperation around the school. We believe in the school being part of the community and the community being part of the school. We have strong links with many organisations within the community, including Bredagh GAC, Rosario FC, Rosario YC, Ulster Rugby, Vincent's and Gaelfast



# CARITAS – SERVICE TO OTHERS

In St. Joseph's College we recognise that children spend only a fraction of their life-time in school, and that good habits of responsible lifestyles and commitment to being a good citizen must also be developed through our links with the wider community.

Examples of our links include:

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** Our pupils engage in charitable works both inside and outside school, raising money and preparing Christmas hampers during Advent.

**TROCAIRE:** Annual fund raising during Lent.

**ST. BERNADETTE'S CHILDREN'S CENTRE, PERU:** We provide financial assistance to this important project.

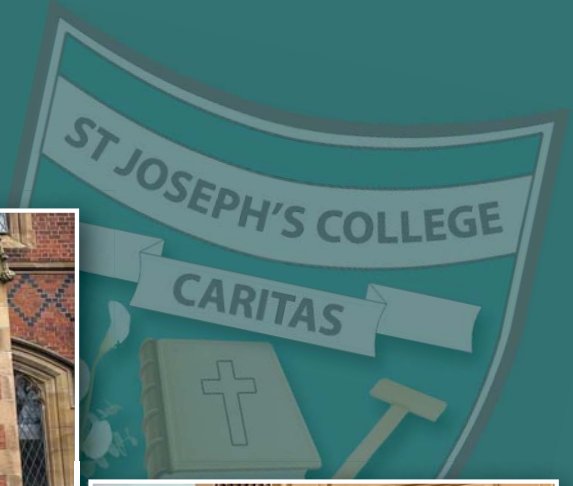
**FRIENDS OF THE CANCER CENTRE :** Annual Coffee Morning.

**THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN:** Annual fund raising Slieve Donard Climb by Post 16 students.

**CANCER FOCUS NI:** Members of staff and post 16 pupils competed in the Belfast City Marathon.

**NI CHILDREN'S HOSPICE:** Annual 'Kindness Counts' campaign and fundraising event.







# CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE (CEIAG)

*All pupils follow a structured careers education programme and are provided with opportunities to:*

- Research and follow their career goals
- Discuss their career aspirations with Careers staff, Careers Service NI and external agencies
- Recognise their abilities and strengths and plan for careers that will enrich and reward them.
- Be prepared for further and higher education
- Experience the World of Work
- Participate in mock interviews with a range of professionals from across Northern Ireland
- Visit different industries and develop links with employers
- Use Unifrog, a specific careers education support programme that helps students to make the best choices, and submit the strongest applications to further and higher education.

The College ensures that sixth form students have opportunities to attend Queen's Senior Academy, Queen's Pathway Programme; University Open Days, etc.

Key Stage Three pupils avail of many career opportunities including:

- Queen's University, Belfast Junior Academy
- Queen's University, Belfast Widening Participation Programme



*We work in partnership with many external organisations including:*

**BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST | BELFAST MET | CAFRE | CAREERS SERVICE NI | DELOITTE | DUNDALK INSTITUTION OF TECHNOLOGY | GENERATION INNOVATION | HMRC | JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY | KAINOS | LIBERTY IT | LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY | PINSENT AND MASONS | PRICE WATERHOUSE COOPERS | QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST | RUTLEDGE GROUP | SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES | SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST | ULSTER UNIVERSITY | UNIFROG | WORKPLUS | WREXHAM UNIVERSITY | YOUNG ENTERPRISE**

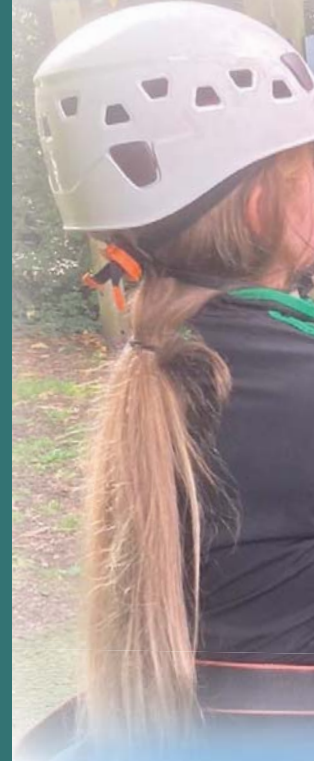
# ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

## ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

St Joseph's College accepts those pupils whose parents demonstrate confidence in the College and who support the ethos of this Catholic school.

***In the event of a number of applications exceeding the College's admission number, the Board of Governors will apply the following criteria in the order stated below:***

1. Applicants enrolled in the following Primary Schools in the Parishes of;  
*Drumbo & Carryduff (St Joseph's PS, St Ita's PS), Holy Rosary (Holy Rosary PS, St Michael's PS), St Bernadette's (St Bernard's PS), St Brigid's (St Bride's PS), St Colmcille's (St Joseph's PS), St Malachy's (St Malachy's PS) and St Matthew's (St Matthew's PS).*
2. Applicants who have a sister or a brother already enrolled in the school.
3. Applicants who are the eldest child in their family.
4. Pupils who are deemed by the Board of Governors, on the basis of the supporting evidence from parents and/or medical personnel and/or statutory agencies and/or other sources, to have special circumstances e.g. medical, social, pastoral or other. All supporting evidence must be submitted with the Transfer Form. Parents/Guardians should note that not every special circumstances applicant will be automatically deemed by the Board of Governors to have special circumstances.
5. Applicants whose Transfer Form expresses a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc. preference for St Joseph's College, with admission being granted in that order, after the above criteria have been applied. Having applied the above criteria in the order stated, where places still remain, final selection will be made by lot.
6. Final placement will be determined on distance by foot from home to College as measured using [maps.google.co.uk](https://maps.google.co.uk).





## SCHOOL POLICIES

Copies of the following policies are available from the school office:

Anti Bullying Policy, Assessment Policy, Drug & Substance Misuse Policy, Homework Policy, ICT Policy, Learning Support Policy, Learning & Teaching Policy, Literacy and Numeracy Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Safeguarding Policy.







The school welcomes visits from prospective pupils and their parents. Enquiries should be marked for the attention of 'The Principal' and addressed to:

## ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

518 RAVENHILL ROAD,

BELFAST, BT6 0BY

TELEPHONE: (028) 90491280 / 90491474

EMAIL: [info@stjosephs.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stjosephs.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

Chair of the Board of Governors: **Pauline Leeson**

 **stjosephs1992**

 **@stjosephs1992**

[www.stjosephscollegebelfast.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscollegebelfast.org.uk)

