



PROSPECTUS



Omagh Academy

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OUR SCHOOL



Ruth Maxwell
Principal

Welcome to Omagh Academy and thank you for your interest in our school. This prospectus provides an overview of our school, a vibrant, successful grammar school where high expectations and high standards pervade every aspect of school life.

Our pupils come from a wide geographical area and from many religious and ethnic backgrounds. Each child is valued as an individual and is encouraged to develop his or her talents to the full within and beyond the classroom. Pupils are nurtured by a highly motivated and dedicated staff, passionate about the pursuit of excellence in a caring, supportive environment.

Children flourish when they are happy and well-motivated, and it is important for each boy and girl to have the freedom to develop as an individual. We therefore ensure that pastoral care has a high priority and our pupils enjoy learning in a friendly, caring and responsive social environment. Special emphasis is placed on fostering a sense of responsibility among pupils and on cultivating leadership skills in combination with an attitude of service to others.

Omagh Academy provides a rich educational experience, including a broad and balanced curriculum and an impressive extra-curricular programme. Innovative approaches to learning and teaching, coupled with technological advances ensure that lessons are interactive, stimulating and engaging.

Our commitment to the development of each young person as a well-rounded individual is reflected in a diverse range of cultural and sporting activities that continue outside the classroom and well beyond the school day. Our pupils have the opportunity to develop to

their potential through our many varied activities and, as a result, leave school with a head start in life.

In Omagh Academy, pupils respond positively to our high expectations. We take pride in the many achievements of our pupils, past and present. Our pupils are among the highest achievers in public examinations in Northern Ireland and are successful in gaining admission to top universities. Former pupils of Omagh Academy play important roles in many countries and settings, making valuable contributions to economies and societies.

We value our relationships with parents and strive to develop a sense of partnership within and beyond the school community. We also value the links we have developed with other schools, locally, nationally and internationally.

At Omagh Academy we want every pupil to believe that they belong here and that they each have a unique contribution to make. We believe passionately that every child can thrive at Omagh Academy and that their personal growth, enhanced by the values of kindness, respect and responsibility, will empower them to be the very best that they can be.

I hope that you find this synopsis of life at Omagh Academy enlightening and I look forward to you meeting you in our school.

Ruth Maxwell
Principal



Luke
HEAD BOY

It was a great privilege to be asked to take on the role of Head Boy at Omagh Academy and I hope to continue to represent the school with pride. My keen interest in sport has afforded me with many opportunities to represent the school through rugby, golf, cross country and athletics at the E Districts. My involvement in music has included playing in the brass band and the orchestra. All these experiences have proved to be invaluable experiences. Next year I hope to go to university to study Medicine.



Nathan
DEPUTY HEAD BOY

During my years at all my Academy I have been given so many opportunities both in and outside the classroom. In Year 8 I was introduced to rugby which I've played at all levels, even captaining the 2nd XV last season. Through studying Mathematics, I have taken part in UK Maths Challenges which I am grateful for as they enhanced the development of my knowledge and skills. Being given the role of Deputy Head Boy was a great honour.



Jason
DEPUTY HEAD BOY

Throughout my time at Omagh Academy I have had so many opportunities. My keen interest in rugby quickly allowed me to create many friendships and develop my team working skills. Being chosen to be Deputy Head Boy has given me great sense of pride as I am representing my school. It is an opportunity for me to give something back to the school for all the support that I have had over the years.



Katie
HEAD GIRL

Omagh Academy has provided me with many opportunities to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. I have had the privilege of representing the school through sport by playing in the 1st XI hockey team. In Year 13 I was a member of the Young Enterprise Company which allowed me to develop my practical business skills. Being selected as Head Girl has given me a great sense of pride and honour and I look forward to representing the school as the year unfolds.



Emma
DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of my seven years at Omagh Academy. I have made lifelong friendships and I have been involved in many areas of school life. This includes participating in the French Exchange, being part of the Young Enterprise Company, an active member of the Scripture Union and the Choirs. My most memorable experiences have been on the hockey pitch. I have been privileged to play for the 1st XI hockey team and represent the school in semi-final of the Schools' Cup.

I am grateful to my teachers and peers for selecting me for the role of Deputy Head Girl.



Holly
DEPUTY HEAD GIRL

My time at Omagh Academy has given me amazing opportunities such as being appointed Deputy Head Girl. Throughout my school life I have been an active member of the Choir and the Psychology Society. Omagh Academy has a great sporting community with everyone having the opportunity to try different sports. Since I have joined this school, I have been given the captancy for the 2nd XI hockey team. One of my favourite memories must be the ski trip to Pinzolo in Italy when I was in Year 10.

SCHOOL AIMS

We aim to →

- Educate and develop pupils to the highest standards according to their ability, providing equal opportunity for all, and promoting the fulfilment of each pupil's academic, cultural and sporting potential;
- Provide an orderly and caring learning environment which combines high expectations with the necessary support to challenge and fully develop pupils intellectually, morally and socially;
- Engender a sense of community, loyalty and mutual respect within the school, and promote a partnership between pupils, staff and parents;
- Encourage positive engagement with the community;
- Foster initiative and independent judgement, and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their conduct, learning and future plans;
- Promote the development of self-discipline, confidence, knowledge and skills that are required to progress in modern society and the world of work, including entrepreneurial skills and those related to the use of new technologies;
- Provide appropriate information to allow pupils to make informed decisions on personal, social and environmental issues;
- Cultivate an attitude of service to others.

ESSENTIALLY WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTERESTS OF PUPILS ARE BEST SERVED BY A BALANCED EDUCATION BASED ON CHRISTIAN VALUES, TRADITION AND TOLERANCE.



ACADEMIC ETHOS

The Academy Experience

The Academy endeavours to provide for the holistic development of our pupils within and beyond the classroom. Pupils are encouraged to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life, thereby developing the attributes and qualities of character needed for life.

Our Academic Ethos

The Academy has a long tradition of academic achievement.

Subjects are taught with enthusiasm and expertise, and we expect our pupils to respond by working to the best of their ability. Classroom activities are planned to give pupils access to a wide range of learning experiences, promoting the development of skills as well as the acquisition of knowledge.

The individual needs of pupils are addressed in a supportive, caring learning environment, with extra support provided for pupils who would benefit from additional help in core subjects. As an innovative school we seek to combine the best of new educational and technological advances while emphasising the importance of a commitment to study and a quest for personal improvement.

Our pupils are annually among the top performers in Northern Ireland at both GCSE and A Level, and most continue their studies at university.

Ranked in the Top 20 schools in NI by the Sunday Times Parent Power Survey 2020



TOP ACHIEVERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

2018

→ **Armour Young**
A Level
History
First place

→ **Cara McQuaid**
A Level
Health & Social Care
Second place

→ **Naomi Orr**
GCSE
Religious Studies (Full course)
First place

→ **Lois Johnston**
GCSE
Religious Studies (Full course)
Second place

→ **Tyler Buchanan**
GCSE
Mathematics
Second Place

2019

→ **Nicole Catterson**
A Level
Digital Technology
Second place

→ **Nicole Catterson**
A Level
Health and Social Care
Second place

→ **James Hawkes**
GCSE
Agriculture
First place



PASTORAL CARE



PASTORAL CARE AND SAFEGUARDING

Designated teacher in charge of child protection:



Mrs Gervais

Deputy teachers in charge of child protection:



Mr Bingham
Mrs Davidson
Mr Hamilton

Counsellor:



Seana
Familyworks

We endeavour to provide a warm, caring and stimulating environment in which pupils feel supported and secure. Each class has a Form Teacher who meets with his/her class every morning. The Form Teacher takes the class for Personal Development and, as far as possible, will teach a further curriculum subject to the group. This close association enables the Form Teacher to develop a detailed knowledge of the academic and emotional needs of each pupil in his/her care.

A Head of Year, assisted by the Form Teachers, is responsible for overseeing matters relating to the year group. The Head of Year

monitors the attendance, behaviour and academic progress of pupils and may request meetings with parents to discuss matters of concern. The Head of Year continues to give pastoral support to their assigned year group throughout their time at school.

The school has a suite of pastoral policies which regulate practice. The names of the designated teacher for child protection and her deputies are known to pupils and they work with external agencies on matters relating to safeguarding. Pupils can also make appointments to see the school counsellor who is present in school one day a week.

PASTORAL CARE IS EXERCISED BY ALL OUR TEACHERS AND IS LED BY THE PASTORAL TEAM COMPRISING THE HEADS OF YEAR AND SENIOR TEACHERS.

SUPPORTING LEARNERS IN OMAGH ACADEMY

In Omagh Academy we aim to provide support to all pupils to ensure that they reach their potential. Sources of support include:

Senior Leadership Team

Heads of Year

Form Teachers

Subject Teachers

SENCO

Classroom Assistants

School Librarian

Support Staff

SUPPORTING LEARNING



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Our pupils are encouraged to achieve to the best of their abilities and, if necessary, are given additional support to overcome any barriers that might otherwise restrict their performance. The school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) works in collaboration with pupils, staff, parents and professionals, such as educational psychologists, to identify and assess the special needs of pupils. Effective intervention strategies to aid learning are then devised, agreed and shared through the pupil's Individual Educational Plan (IEP). These IEPs are regularly reviewed in order to monitor both the pupil's progress and improve the effectiveness of the support provided.

Mentoring

As a school we recognise the central importance of good literacy and numeracy skills. Year 8 pupils with additional literacy needs are identified early in the year and are able to follow a tailor-made programme of study which aims to improve literacy and promote interest in reading. Similarly, pupils who would

benefit from additional support with numeracy are invited to participate in our mathematics mentoring scheme. This programme, led by the Head of Mathematics, provides Key Stage 3 pupils with one-to-one support as they work through a basic mathematics course with a Sixth Former. Both schemes have proved to be very effective methods of addressing difficulties in literacy and numeracy, and are supplemented by additional scheduled classes at Key Stage 4 for those pupils who continue to require special assistance.

Other support programmes

Pupils continue to receive support appropriate to their needs throughout their time at the Academy. Additional support can range from short term revision programmes to longer term strategic initiatives. These include the introduction of extra timetabled classes or the organisation of smaller classes to ensure increased individualised attention. This approach has proved to be a great success with GCSE pass rates (A* to C) over the past three years of 99% in each of English, Mathematics and Science.

"I LIKE MY CLASSROOM ASSISTANT. SHE HELPS ME TO CONCENTRATE ON MY WORK IN CLASS AND TO KEEP MY BOOKS ORGANISED."



LISTENING TO PUPILS

Omagh Academy School Council

Omagh Academy School Council is an elected group of pupils whose purpose is to represent their classes and provide an active pupil input into the life of the school community.

The School Council meets once a month during the academic year and is made up of representatives elected from all twenty-eight form classes across the school.

Representatives from the School Council are also members of the Strule Shared Education Student Council which meets termly. In 2019, Omagh Academy hosted a meeting of the Strule Council.

Our School Council has played and will continue to play a role in shaping new school policies. They have also lobbied for improvements to school, such as the provision of extra benches for seating at break and lunch times. Fundraising for charity is also an important part of the work of the Council.

The School Council seeks to build partnerships with Staff and the Governors. In 2019 and in 2020, representatives from the School Council met with the Board of Governors. These were successful events and it is anticipated that the Council will continue to build on this partnership in 2021.



YEAR 8 SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH THE PRINCIPAL TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON SCHOOL LIFE.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS



We recognise the crucial role played by parents in the education of their children and are committed to working in partnership with them to achieve the best outcomes for all of our pupils.

Promoting links with parents

- Communication on matters relating to pupil's academic progress through reports at regular intervals.
- Annual parent/teacher meetings are held for each year group.
- The use of home-school communication methods such as the text messaging service.

Communicating with parents

The following modes of communication are used to promote home-school links:

- Pupil diary
- School newsletter
- School website and social media
- School text message system
- Careers advice and guidance meetings for parents
- Pastoral meetings for parents on issues such as e-safety

Involving parents in school life

The support of parents at major school events such as School Plays and Musicals, the Spring Concert and the Christmas Carol Service, as well as our many sporting fixtures, is valued and appreciated.



YEAR 8 TRANSITION SUPPORT

THE PROSPECT OF STARTING A NEW SCHOOL CAN BE EXCITING AND DAUNTING. WE AIM TO ENSURE THAT EACH PUPIL MAKES A SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL TO OMAGH ACADEMY AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING PUPILS THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.



YEAR 8 PASTORAL TEAM



Year Head: Mr Bingham
Year 8 Form Teachers

PEER SUPPORT



Senior Pupil Leadership Team
Maths mentoring
Homework Club
Year 8 Prefects

EVENTS:

In addition to a Year Head and Form Teachers who have a special focus on Year 8, we organise several events to familiarise new pupils with the school setting and to facilitate the development of strong and supportive relationships.

- Feeder Primary School visits
- Year 8 Induction Evening (June)
- Year 8 Games Night (August)
- Year 8 Induction Days (August)
- Year 8 Trip (September)
- Parent/Teacher Meeting (First term)
- Tracking reports (Three times a year)
- Study Skills event

OUR TEACHING



Science

'I HAVE RECENTLY MOVED TO OMAGH ACADEMY FROM ANOTHER SECONDARY SCHOOL. I CAN ALREADY SAY THAT THIS IS AN AMAZING SCHOOL. THE TEACHERS ARE VERY UNDERSTANDING.'

KEY STAGE 3

Subjects available at Key Stage 3

Art & Design

Drama

English

French

Geography

History

Home Economics

ICT

Learning for Life & Work

Mathematics

Music

Physical Education

Religious Education

Science

Spanish

Technology & Design

Key Stage 3

Years 8-10

Pupils in Years 8 – 10 follow a broad curriculum which aims to develop a wide range of skills as well as laying a firm foundation of knowledge within each subject. Our Key Stage 3 programme encourages pupils to enjoy learning as they participate in an extensive range of activities.

Throughout the three years, pupils take timetabled lessons in ICT, ensuring that they are expertly introduced to all the major software packages. The skills base is then harnessed within subjects as part of our planned cross-curricular ICT programme. Similarly, pupils are given the opportunity to demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum in varying contexts.

Within the Modern Languages Department, all pupils take lessons in French in Year 8. In Years 9 and 10 this provision is widened to include the study of Spanish. Beyond these timetabled lessons there is also opportunity to study Mandarin and gain qualifications as part of our extracurricular provision.

Pupils in Year 8 and 9 are timetabled for Science lessons. This broad course places an emphasis on the exploratory nature of Science and the development of scientific methods as well as introducing basic scientific knowledge. In Year 10, Science is timetabled as the separate subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This allows for specialist teaching as well as giving pupils an insight and early introduction to the distinctive nature of each subject.

The school provides a balance between skills gained through the study of the Arts and those acquired through STEM subjects. Our pupils are fortunate to experience a wide range of subjects.

Pupils are always encouraged to work to the best of their ability and their efforts are rewarded by our merit system. Merits, awarded at the discretion of the teacher, are a constant incentive for pupils to give of their best and are acknowledged by certificates and school trips.

“SETTLING IN AT OMAGH ACADEMY DIDN’T TAKE LONG. THE TEACHERS ARE KIND AND UNDERSTANDING. IT’S ALSO REALLY EASY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS. IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL I ALREADY FELT LIKE I BELONGED.”

KEY STAGE 4

Subjects available at Key Stage 4

Agriculture & Land Use	Geography
Art & Design	History
Biology	Mathematics
Business Studies	Music
Chemistry	Performing Arts
Computer Science	Physical Education
Digital Technology	Physics
English Language	Religious Studies
English Literature	Science (Double Award)
Food & Nutrition	Spanish
French	Technology & Design
Further Mathematics	

Key Stage 4

Years 11-12

Pupils in Years 11 and 12 follow a two-year programme of study leading to a GCSE qualification. Each pupil will select a range of subjects which will continue to give a broad, balanced and coherent programme of study. There is sufficient flexibility in the system to allow for a degree of specialisation that takes account of each pupil's aptitudes and interests.

It is normal practice for students to select at least nine GCSE subjects.

All pupils take a core programme of:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science (*Double Award or Biology, Chemistry and Physics*)

Modern Language
(*French or Spanish*)

Pupils also follow courses in:

Careers

Learning for Life and Work

Physical Education/Games

Religious Education

"GOING TO OMAGH ACADEMY WAS THE BEST DECISION I EVER MADE. EVERYONE IS SO FRIENDLY AND THE LESSONS ARE ALWAYS FUN."

SIXTH FORM

Subjects available for Sixth Form Study

Agriculture	Hospitality
Art & Design	Information Technology
Applied Science	Mathematics
Biology	Media – Games Development
Business Studies	Music
Chemistry	Nutrition & Food Science
Child Development	Physics
Construction	Politics
Digital Technology	Psychology
Engineering	Religious Studies
English Literature	Spanish
French	Sport
Geography	Technology & Design
Health & Social Care	
History	

Some subjects are offered through collaboration within Omagh Learning Community

The Sixth Form

Years 13-14

In the Sixth Form we encourage our pupils to further develop the skills and attributes needed for adult life by playing a more significant part in the day to day running of the school. Our Sixth Form pupils play leading roles in the annual musical and dramatic productions and work alongside their peers and teachers in diverse activities, ranging from editing the school magazine to organising house sports or giving technical support at public events.

Senior pupils exercise responsibility, assisting with the pastoral care of younger pupils and providing support through our mentoring programme. There are opportunities for all to contribute to the school community, whatever their interest.

Our Sixth Form pupils, as young adults, are expected to take increased responsibility for their own learning and career development. Independent study is facilitated in the Sixth Form study room as well as other designated study areas such as the library and ICT suite.

A comprehensive Careers programme, including interview skills and work experience, supports pupils as they make decisions for the future. Pupils are given individual advice and guidance as they complete applications and prepare for interviews. Nearly all our Sixth Form pupils choose to continue with their studies at university.

Sixth Form students are encouraged to choose 4 AS subjects to study in Year 13, continuing with at least three of these in Year 14. Pupils can choose from a wide range of in-house A Level courses and can additionally elect to take the equivalent of one A Level subject off-site.

Enhancement Options

- Young Enterprise
- AILO Linguistics
- Community Care
- Mentoring Programme
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Primary school curriculum support

PUPILS CAN TAILOR THEIR LEARNING PATHWAY TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND INTERESTS BY CHOOSING SUBJECTS FROM AN ARRAY OF COURSES OFFERED, THUS ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL.





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE IS ENRICHED BY TRIPS TO PLACES OF INTEREST AND BY PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIONS AND PRESTIGIOUS EVENTS.

Memorable activities throughout the school year include:

- Investigating river features at Gortatole;
- Learning about sites associated with Irish History by going on a residential trip to Dublin;
- Appreciating Musical Theatre in London with the Music Department;
- Taking part in the UK Maths Challenge;
- Attending Ulster Orchestra concerts;
- Exploring our place in the universe at Armagh Planetarium;
- Studying sand dunes through fieldwork at Magilligan;
- Acting in a school production;
- Submitting a design for the school Christmas card;
- Presenting research at the British Psychological Society Annual Conference;
- Exhibiting Art work at the CCEA True Colours Exhibition;
- Entering written work into the UK Schools Bible Competition;
- Debating a motion in a foreign language at the NICILT Debating Competition;
- Addressing an audience as part of a public speaking competition;
- Creating a digital story board;
- Marketing a new product with Young Enterprise.



MUSIC



Our vibrant music department gives pupils the opportunity to develop their talents in singing and in the playing of instruments. Pupils can avail of tuition in brass, string, percussion and woodwind instruments as well as voice, guitar, piping, drumming and piano. The Spring Concert, hosted in the Strule Arts Centre, is a sell-out event supported by the school and wider Omagh community. The school choirs, ensembles, bands and orchestra are regularly invited to play at civic and cultural events within the community and to perform at major school functions. We are proud of the diverse musical experiences we offer to our pupils.

Extra Curricular Music

- Junior Choir
- String Orchestra
- Pipes & Drums
- Senior Choir
- Percussion Ensemble
- Guitar Group
- Orchestra
- Woodwind Ensemble
- Ukulele Orchestra
- Samba Band
- Senior Brass Band
- Jazz Band

DRAMA



Whether it is 'Omagh Academy Players' for our senior pupils or the 'Drama Club' for junior pupils, there are many opportunities for aspiring actors.

In November 2016 we staged the musical 'Our House' at the Strule Arts Centre following the success of our previous musical endeavours with 'Oklahoma!' in 2013. Appreciative audiences were treated to a witty and brilliantly- crafted romantic tale set to the energetic and memorable songs of 'Madness'. Our production of the classic tale 'My Fair Lady' in November 2018 will live long in our memories – clever songs, sparkling dialogue and energetic choreography produced performances worthy of the West End! The musical celebrated the wealth and quality of acting, singing and dancing talent within the cast.

Supporting roles in stage design and management, costumes, make-up, sound and lighting enabled many from the Omagh Academy community to be part of the action, alongside those who had desires to 'tread the board's. In 2019, the play 'Blithe's Spirit' was staged by the Academy Players. Previous drama performances include 'Pygmalion' and 'Blood Brothers'.

In Spring, Junior Drama pupils participate in the West Tyrone Feis, performing monologues, duologues, poetry recitals and scripted performances. In recent years we have enjoyed much success and continue to encourage pupils to compete in a host of other competitions and attend productions to enhance their love and enjoyment of all things theatrical!

"BEING INVOLVED IN DRAMA HAS REALLY ALLOWED ME TO EXPRESS MYSELF IN SUCH A POSITIVE WAY. THE SCHOOL MUSICALS HAVE ENABLED ME TO DISCOVER A LOVE OF PERFORMING AND I'VE MADE SO MANY FANTASTIC FRIENDS."

SPORT

The Academy regards participation in sport as an important part of school life. Within P.E. and extracurricular sport, we aim to promote exercise, fitness and healthy living through physical activity.

Nine hockey teams and six rugby teams compete throughout the seasons, with many pupils being selected for regional and Provincial competitions. All pupils, from beginner to proficient, are encouraged to participate in a sport after school. We also have a successful athletics tradition, with pupils recently winning Ulster and Ireland medals as well as competing internationally.

Our fitness centre offers state-of-the-art training facilities to all our senior pupils ranging from those interested in maintaining a healthy lifestyle to the dedicated athlete

The school boasts excellent facilities including:

- An All Weather hockey pitch
- Rugby pitches
- Cricket pitch
- Purpose built Sports Hall
- Athletics grounds
- Gymnasium
- State-of-the-art Fitness Suite
- Access to the local leisure facilities

We are committed to catering for every pupil, through an exciting and varied extra-curricular sports programme. Activities during and after school include:

- Aerobics
 - Athletics
 - Badminton
 - Basketball
 - Cricket
 - Cross-country
 - Fitness training
 - Football
- Golf
 - Gymnastics
 - Health Related Physical Education
 - Hockey - girls and boys
 - Netball
 - Rounders / Softball
- Rugby - girls and boys
 - Tag Rugby
 - Table Tennis
 - Tennis
 - Volleyball



ALL PUPILS, FROM BEGINNER TO PROFICIENT, ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPORT AFTER SCHOOL.





Home Economics —



INFORMATION



THE ASPIRATION TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS POSSIBLE PERVADES ALL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



AT OMAGH ACADEMY WE OFFER AN UNRIVALLED VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. THIS RICH AND VARIED EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME IS OFFERED TO GIVE OUR PUPILS AS MANY OPPORTUNITIES AS POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR GIFTS AND TALENTS TO THE FULL. WE BELIEVE THAT INVOLVEMENT AND ENJOYMENT OF LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM IS IMPORTANT.

Junior school clubs and activities include:

- **AILO Club** – a problem solving club that aims to crack challenging puzzles in little known languages;
- **Byte This** – an ICT club where pupils use Raspberry Pi and programme using scratch software;
- **Eco-Schools** – a group who manage and improve our school environment for the good of all;
- **French Club** – where Year 8 pupils enjoy expanding their spoken French vocabulary;
- **NSPCC Number Day** – when pupils compete, relishing the challenges of crunching numbers;

Senior pupils can participate or help with the clubs and activities listed above. They also can take part in:

- **Community Care**
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**
- **Training a choir in a local primary school**
- **French debating competitions**
- **History & Politics Society**
- **Psychology Society**
- **Agriculture Club**
- **Young Enterprise**
- **Senior Scripture Union**

Please check our website and school Facebook page to see lots more involvement in extra-curricular activities.

BROADENING HORIZONS

Supporting Others

Omagh Academy pupils generously support others throughout the school year. Events such as non-uniform days, readathons, mathionaires and the much anticipated 'Christmas Fun' event give financial support to local and national charities selected as beneficiaries by our Student Council.

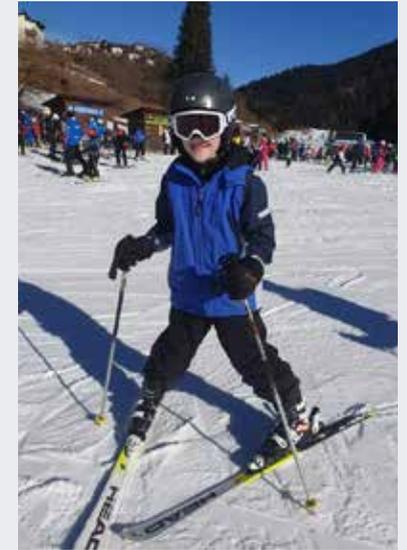
Whether running the Sport Relief mile, throwing sponges at obliging teachers or solving puzzles, there is always a fun way in which our pupils can support those less fortunate than themselves. Third world projects are supported through weekly collections, while the proceeds of major musical productions benefit more local projects.

Our community service volunteers give freely of their time to brighten the lives of others by weekly visits to the elderly in local residential homes, while others participate in volunteer programmes which support young people with learning disabilities. The senior school provides further support to charities by assisting with street collections and bag packs in local supermarkets.

Building Links

As an integral part of the Omagh community, we support local primary schools and play our part in civic events.

Our senior pupils run clubs in French, Spanish and ICT, attend fairs and provide musical support at several primary schools. Our Samba Band annually takes part in the local council's mid-summer carnival, while our musicians are again in demand for Culture Night at the Strule Arts Centre and at many other community events.



Exploring Cultures

We encourage and challenge our pupils to understand the importance of looking outwards to the wider world. In an effort to do this, our pupils enjoy visits to other countries.

In the Modern Languages Department, right from Year 8, all pupils enjoy contact with an e-pal from the target country as well as contact in class with a Foreign Language Assistant. This authentic e-pal link is developed further during the exchange programme in Year 10 with our partner school in Montpellier. In Years 11 and 12, students have the opportunity to go on the school trip to Paris or a region of Spain.

Year 13 French students also benefit from two weeks work experience organised in Omagh's twin town, L'Hay les-Roses, outside Paris where they teach English to primary school children.

These invaluable opportunities allow our students to experience European culture at a personal level whilst being immersed in the language.

Other opportunities to travel with the school include both hockey and rugby tours where pupils are able to display their sporting prowess at venues from Barcelona to Edinburgh. Each year, a further 40 pupils spend an eventful and exhilarating week developing their skiing ability on the piste at an Alpine ski resort such as Andalo, Italy.





LOOKING FORWARD

At the Academy we recognise the importance of equipping our pupils with the skills and knowledge needed to compete in a highly competitive local and global labour market.

Our carefully prepared Careers Education, Information and Guidance Programme (CEIAG) starts in Year 8 where pupils are introduced to the concepts of employability and entrepreneurship. The development of a Personal Career Plan enables pupils to research and evaluate their options and to plan for their future. At key transition points, pupils are fully informed of their options and have access to impartial careers advice and guidance. The insight of parents is always welcomed, and they are formally invited to attend a Post 16 Information Evening and a career interview when considering pathways at Post 16 level. In Sixth Form, pupils undertake work experience, hone their interview techniques during an interview skills training day and receive individual, personalised guidance and support when making applications to UCAS or employment. The work of the Careers Department is enriched by presentations from university representatives at school as well as through the attendance of our pupils at local university Open Days, conferences and workshops in areas of interest such as Computing, Engineering, Law or the Healthcare Professions.

Guided by an expert and very experienced Careers Department, our pupils continue to be successful in securing school leaver apprenticeships with prestigious companies such as PwC and Deloitte or, in the case of the majority, gaining admission to top Russell Group universities to study a degree of their choice.

REAPING THE REWARDS

AT THE ACADEMY, WE ARE ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO SHARE IN THE SUCCESS OF ALL OUR PUPILS.

Within sport, our pupils continue to excel. In athletics, new school records have been set and pupils have gone on to enjoy good success in their individual pursuits at both Ulster and Irish competitions. The sporting prowess of our pupils in team sports has also been demonstrated by the inclusion of our pupils in Ulster hockey and rugby teams and in the Irish hockey squad. We are delighted to recognise the achievements of past pupil Shirley McCay, a member of Ireland hockey team, who is the most capped Irish female athlete.

Making their voice heard, our pupils have been awarded podium places across several events at the West Tyrone Feis, while the linguistic ability of others was recognised by the presentation of prizes for the most promising students in Mandarin by South West College. The business acumen of our Young Enterprise group was recognised at a recent provincial event, and in music our Brass Band continues to compete at the highest level, while other talented pupils find their niche in the EA Western Region Youth Orchestra.



Photographs throughout taken by Alan Neil, Tyrone Constitution & Jude Browne Photography



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