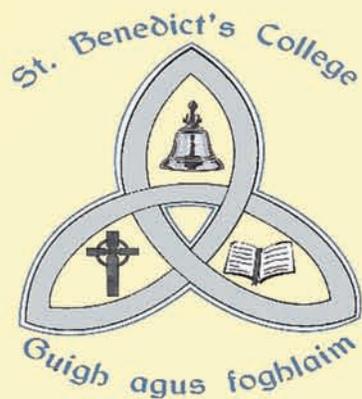


# St. Benedict's College



Prospectus 2020



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*“I decided to come to St Benedict’s because my older siblings came here and they told me lots of wonderful things about it. I’m glad I came as I am having a great time. My favourite subjects are Art & Home Economics.”*

Laura Zdonek 8G – St. Joseph’s Primary School



## **Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,**

I am delighted to welcome you to St Benedict's College. I hope our prospectus will give you an insight in to the excellent educational experience we offer to your child.

St Benedict's is a non-selective, all ability, co-educational Catholic College that welcomes, respects and values all of its students.

We have high standards for all and are committed to the delivery of academic excellence. This can be seen in our excellent examination results at GCSE. We provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which meets the varied needs and aspirations of our students. Through our curriculum delivery we ensure that all our students are positively engaged in their learning and are empowered to reach their full potential. Students are also given the opportunity to develop, deepen and refine their knowledge, skills and personal capabilities. As an 11 to 16 provider we ensure our students are provided with clear curriculum pathways to Post 16 study, training or employment.

We pride ourselves on the excellent Pastoral Care delivered in the College. Our students are at the centre of everything we do. We have high expectations and aspirations for all our students and we challenge, nurture and support our young people to learn and to achieve. We strive to develop our student's self esteem and self belief through the development of positive and respectful relationships. Our dedicated, experienced and hardworking staff work tirelessly to remove any barriers to children's learning and success.

St Benedict's offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities. All of which aim to discover and nurture individual student's talents and abilities. They provide students with opportunities to build friendships and experience new things. Students and their parents also benefit from a diverse and innovative Extended School's Programme.

Like all good schools our best advocates and exponents are our students. They will assure you that our College is a school where everyone is included and valued, where standards and expectations of all are high and where everyone is afforded opportunities to achieve and enjoy success.

St Benedict's College is determined to grow in size and status. As we do so, we will continue to ensure that every student in our care is happy, safe and successful. We also remain committed to delivering high quality Catholic Education to the young people in our local parishes and community.

I hope you will be encouraged by what you already know about the College, by what you will learn from the prospectus and what you will experience when you visit us on Open Night. I look forward to meeting you and to welcoming you to St Benedict's College.

**Catriona Mc Ateer , Principal**



# *Principal's Welcome*



*"When I first got here I was a bit worried, but the teachers helped me to settle in. I love all the different subjects that we get to learn. There are lots of clubs too that we can join at break and lunchtime. A highlight for me was when I was invited to have Hot Chocolate and Christmas Treats with the Principal."*

Dillion Murray 8F – Mount St. Michael's Primary School



# Our Identity

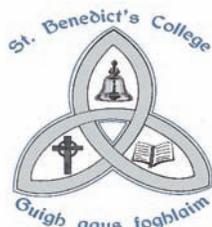
## College History

St. Benedict's College was founded by the Down and Connor Diocesan Trustees in 2006, through the amalgamation of St Olcan's High School and St Malachy's High School. St Benedict's College is a well-established and successful 11-16 Catholic, all ability, co-educational college that mainly serves families from the parishes of Antrim, Duneane and Randalstown.

## College Crest

The Cross represents the High Cross of St Olcan, associated with Cranfield and the former patron of St Olcan's High School; The Bell represents the monastic life of St Malachy, the former patron of St Malachy's High School, and St Benedict, our patron. The Book represents the Bible, the Word of God, and a symbol of Learning.

The design which encloses the three symbols is deeply rooted in Celtic Tradition and represents the Trinity and Eternity.



## College Motto

Our motto is Guigh agus Foghlaim - Pray and Learn

The motto of St Benedict was 'Orare et Labore' - 'To Work and to Pray'.

This was adapted to create the school motto 'Guigh agus foghlaim' - 'Pray and Learn', to reflect our Catholic ethos, our aims and our Irish identity.

For students in St Benedict's their 'Work' is 'to Pray and Learn'.

## College Mission Statement

St. Benedict's College is a Catholic, all ability inclusive school committed to delivering excellence for all. Together with home and community, we strive to enable our students to be happy, safe and successful.

## College Prayer – St Benedict's Prayer

O Gracious and Holy Father,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
intelligence to understand you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate on you,  
and a life to proclaim you;  
through the power of the  
Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen

# Our Core Values

Staff and students in St Benedict's College will:

-  Respect themselves, others, their school and their community
-  Demonstrate kindness, empathy and concern for others
-  Be inclusive and tolerant of other religions, cultures and traditions
-  Be honest and truthful
-  Be charitable and giving and demonstrate a commitment to service and social justice.

# Our Aims

-  To deliver excellence for all
-  To ensure all our students are happy, safe and successful
-  To ensure all our students are challenged and supported to be the best that they can be
-  To empower all our students to achieve their personal potential
-  To ensure all our students' achievements are celebrated
-  To ensure all our students are included, valued and respected and that religious and cultural differences are celebrated within the school community
-  To develop our students understanding of their catholic faith and to promote Christian values and attitudes within the school community
-  To awaken in our students a sense of their own dignity and self worth and to promote their self confidence
-  To promote student health and well being and develop student resilience
-  To provide enrichment and extra curricular opportunities to enrich student experience
-  To support our students to become independent and life-long learners
-  To prepare our students to meet the challenges of a changing world in the 21st century
-  To work in partnership with parents, parish and community
-  To develop a culture of accountability, responsibility, self evaluation and self improvement.



*"I love our School Library, it's so colourful and welcoming. I enjoy spending time there at both break and lunch. I can read and play games with my friends. I have met lots of lovely people since I came to St Benedict's. All of my teachers are so nice and I have made so many new friends."*

Taillte Mulholland 8G – St. Comgall's Primary School



# Year 8 Transition

St. Benedict's is committed to ensuring that all of our students are happy, safe and successful from their arrival in the College in Year 8 to their departure in Year 12. We recognise the need to effectively guide and support our youngest students as they make the transition from primary to post primary school to ensure that the transition process is a positive experience for all.

To ease the process of transition:

- In June our Head of Year 8 and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) visit our feeder primary schools. They meet P7 teachers who provide us with a profile of our transferring students.
- Year 8 students and their parents are invited to an Induction Meeting with a member of our Year 8 Pastoral Team. This meeting is an opportunity for pastoral and academic information to be shared. Students with additional needs are invited to meet the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.
- A Welcome Pack, containing key information about the school, is provided to students and parents at this meeting.
- An Induction Day is held at the end of August to enable new students to meet and get to know their Form Tutors as well as the layout of the school and daily routines.
- An Induction Programme is developed and delivered to all Year 8 students in August/September.
- Our Year 8 Pastoral Team are highly skilled and experienced in dealing with the challenges of transition.

The first year is a busy and exciting time for Year 8 students. Activities provided include:

- Year 8 Mass of Welcome
- School Ramble
- Little Minds Workshop
- Young Enterprise Workshop
- Shared Education - LLW Programme
- Christmas Pantomime
- Year 8 Retreat (Clonard)
- Rewards Trips – Bowling, Cinema, Portrush

## Year 8 Student Voice

In a Year 8 student voice survey conducted in December 2019, the Year 8s said -

98%

*"I have settled well in to Year 8"*

95%

*"I feel safe when I am at school"*

94%

*"I think St Benedict's is a good school to be a part of"*

93%

*"I feel included and valued in my school"*

100%

*"There is a good reward system in my school"*



# Our Curriculum Offer

## Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 Curriculum is designed to provide opportunities for all students to reach their full potential. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum to cater for the academic, creative, sporting and personal development of all students.

In Key Stage 3 all students study:

- English
- Science
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- French
- Irish
- Geography
- History
- Art
- Home Economics
- I.C.T
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Performing Arts
- Technology and Design
- Personal Development
- Learning for Life and Work
- Physical Education



## Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 the curriculum is designed to meet the needs, abilities and aspirations of all our students. We offer a wide range of academic and vocational subjects so students can choose to study subjects that best fit their educational needs. Students studying GCSE or equivalent subjects are provided with pathways that lead to success at GCSE and progression to employment, regional colleges and partnership schools at Post 16.

In Key Stage 4 students study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Science - Single Award
- Science - Double Award
- Art and Design
- Construction
- Geography
- Statistics
- History
- Home Economics/Food
- Child Development
- Learning for Life and Work
- Irish
- Media Studies
- First Certificate in Information & Creative Technology
- First Award in Physical Education
- First Award in Performing Arts
- Prince's Trust Achieve Programme
- Technology and Innovation Pathway
- Construction Pathway
- Environment and Society and Business and Services Pathway
- Design and Creativity Pathway
- OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Essential Skills - Communication
- OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Essential Skills - Application of Number
- OCN NI Level 2 Certificate – ICT
- OCN NI Level 2 Certificate – Religious Studies
- OCN NI Level 2 Certificate – Science
- OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Personal Success and Well-Being

# GCSE - Exam Success

The key performance indicator at GCSE is the number of students achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade C or above. The tables below show the results achieved in the last 3 years.

## GCSE's 5+ A\* - C

Year	5+A* - C	NI Average Similar schools
2016-17	55.7%	68.5%
2017-18	69.2%	75.3%
2018-19	68%	N/A

## GCSEs 5+ A\* - C including English and Mathematics

Year	5+A* - C	NI Average Similar schools
2016-17	42.9%	44.3%
2017-18	46.2%	52.2%
2018-19	58.67%	N/A



# Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG)- Planning for the future

Careers Education, Information and Guidance is at the heart of the curriculum in St. Benedict's College.

Students are guided to make well informed and positive choices regarding their education and future careers. In our College students are encouraged to build upon their existing skills and to understand the wide range of transferrable skills required for employment. Labour Market Information is a key focus in Careers Education and Skills in Demand are used to highlight skills shortages and areas for employment growth.

All students at Key Stage 3 receive careers guidance as part of the Employability strand of Learning for Life and Work. At Key Stage 4 all students receive timetabled careers lessons to ensure that they are well prepared for their Post 16 Pathways.

Our students have access to

- A range of software packages and web based careers resources.
- Careers advice and guidance from a Careers Advisor in Year 10 and one to one interviews in Year 12 with follow up sessions if required.
- Careers Advisors are made available to students and parents at Year 10 and 12 Parents' Meetings.
- All Year 11's participate in a one week work related learning programme.
- Year 12 students have the opportunity to experience an Interview Skills Day. This involves completing application forms, aptitude tests and engaging in one on one interviews with business advisors.
- Key Stage 3 and 4 students participate in Young Enterprise workshops throughout the year.
- Key Stage 4 students attend Careers Fairs, Open Days and benefit from attendance at a variety of presentations from Post 16 providers with which the College has maintained excellent links.



# Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life in St Benedict's College where the care and welfare of all students is of paramount importance. Fundamental to our pastoral approach is the promotion of a caring ethos and family atmosphere and the development of positive and respectful relationships throughout the school community.

Our aim is to develop students spiritually, academically, emotionally, culturally, and socially and to produce well rounded and well equipped young people, who have the skills to meet the challenges of the 21st century world.

## The Pastoral Care Team

The Form Tutor interacts with students in their form class on a daily basis. They monitor their attendance, behaviour, academic progress and endeavour to ensure their well-being.

The Head of Year liaises with Form Tutors to facilitate tracking academic progress, pastoral concerns and disciplinary issues.

In addition to leading the Pastoral Care Team, the Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator has responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection and liaises with parents and external agencies.

The Pastoral Team work together to provide a network of support for all of our students and maintain close links with parents and home. The College works in partnership with a variety of statutory and voluntary support agencies to deal with personal or social issues that students and families present with. Students can avail of one to one support from a Family Works Counsellor. We are delighted that EA Youth Services are also on site. They deliver the Learning Together Programme and provide needs led small group support at Key Stage 3 and are currently piloting the co delivery of a Level 2 OCN Certificate in Personal Success and Well Being to two targeted groups of Key Stage 4 students.

## Rewards System

We expect all of our students to have excellent attendance, a high standard of behaviour and a strong work ethic. We actively promote these through our positive reward system. Our students are regularly recognised and rewarded for progress and achievement in these areas.

## Personal Development Programme

Our Personal Development Programme is delivered by our Form Tutors in a timetabled class delivered weekly. It is designed to ensure that our students grow in confidence, resilience and independence of thought. The programme addresses issues such as bullying, drugs and alcohol, e safety, relationships and sexuality and road safety in an age appropriate manner. A variety of speakers and outside agencies support us in the delivery of the programme by addressing assemblies and facilitating student workshops.



# Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

The approach to education in St. Benedict's College is holistic. We endeavour to ensure that all our students achieve their full and true potential. St. Benedict's College embraces inclusion, striving to ensure that all students are fully included in the life of the school and have full access to the curriculum and all facilities.

The SEN Department is equipped to support students on a one to one basis or in small groups. Support is provided internally and in partnership with a range of external support agencies.

In keeping with the Code of Practice for Northern Ireland, a Policy for Special Educational Needs (SEN) is in place. The SEN Co-ordinator leads a team of professional and diligent learning support assistants and behaviour support assistants

Subject teachers are provided with details of student needs through the SEN register. On entry to St. Benedict's College students' skills are assessed through standardised testing. Information and concern from parents are also central to the process. Where a student has a statement of special educational needs, this information and arrangements to address their needs are communicated to all staff, teaching and ancillary, with whom that student has contact.

Students with specific learning difficulties are supported by the Learning/Behaviour Support Assistants. Students experiencing general difficulty are assisted by each Head of Department, working with class teachers, developing learning approaches to take account of the range of ability within each class. Individual Education Plans are created, monitored and reviewed by staff, students and parents in partnership. Targets are set to help students acquire a range of skills across the curriculum. In addition, the school liaises with a variety of external agencies to assist students who require academic, emotional or physical support. In this way the school supports students who are at risk of marginalisation and ensures their inclusion and attendance in school.

# Student Leadership and Student Voice

## Student Leadership

Students are given leadership opportunities throughout their school career.

In Key Stage 3 students can be appointed as class prefects or library mentors. In Year 12 students are given the chance to take on the prestigious role of Prefect, Mentor or Head Boy/Head Girl. Year 12 Mentors actively support Year 8 at the point of transition, attending morning registrations and assemblies with their assigned tutor groups. They are also actively involved as Leaders in the Shared Education Programme delivered to Year 8 students. Year 12 Mentors and Prefects have a supervisory role at break and lunch and are available to provide advice, guidance and support to our Year 8 children. Students in Year 12 have been trained as Anti Bullying Ambassadors through the Diana Awards. They have addressed Year 8 assemblies and have been actively involved in developing and delivering a peer led anti bullying campaign across the school. Our Senior Prefects further support Year 8s in their role as Reading Buddies.

## Student Voice

In St Benedict's College we recognise the importance of Student Voice. We are fully committed to ensuring that our students are given a voice and that their voice is heard and valued. We have an active Student Council with elected representatives from all year groups. The Council meets with the Principal regularly to update her on student concerns and to share their views on whole school issues. Student Voice Surveys are completed on an annual basis. Student returns allow us to evaluate our practice and provision and to identify areas for improvement and development.



# Admissions Criteria for entry into Year 8

The Board of Governors of St. Benedict's College has determined that, in the event of over-subscription, children will be selected on the basis of application of the following admissions criteria which will be applied in the order of priority set out below.

Within each criterion priority will firstly be given to children normally resident in Northern Ireland and then to those children regarded by the Board of Governors, on the basis of supporting evidence provided by parents and/or statutory agencies, as having special circumstances e.g. medical, social or security factors.



1. Children living in the parishes of Antrim, Duneane and Randalstown, not listed in any order of preference.
2. Children attending: Creggan, Millquarter, Moneynick, Mount St. Michael's, St. Comgall's, St. Joseph's, St. MacNissis' and St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary Schools, not listed in any order of preference.
3. Children who are first children or who have brothers/sisters, half-brothers/half-sisters, presently enrolled in the school.
4. Children whose parent/guardian is presently a permanent member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff (or who have been appointed to take up imminent employment in the school).  
*This information must be stated on the green Transfer Form.*
5. Children whose parent/guardian, brother/sister, half-brother/half-sister are past pupils and are residing listed in (1).  
*Dates of attendance and other names (if appropriate) should be stated on the green Transfer Form.*
6. Children whose parent/guardian, brother/sister, half-brother/half-sister are past pupils.  
*Dates of attendance and other names (if appropriate) should be stated on the green Transfer Form.*

In the event of places being available after the application of the above criteria, final selection will be made on the basis of preference being given to the older pupil.

## Admissions to Year 8 after 1st September 2020

Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September 2020 should write to the Principal clearly stating this. In the event of such a vacancy arising the above criteria will be applied to these applications only.



# Sport

Physical Education is compulsory for all students at Key Stage 3 and 4 and is available as a GCSE option. It aims to encourage students to engage in sporting activities to improve their physical fitness and to maintain positive mental health and well being. In a society where obesity levels are on the rise and lifestyles are becoming more sedentary, the PE Department strives to instil in our students a commitment to exercise and healthy living. All sporting activities are designed to enhance our students' communication, teamwork and leadership skills while developing self discipline, confidence and resilience.

## Sports available to our students include:

- Camogie
- Rounders
- Athletics
- Netball
- Basketball
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Badminton
- Volleyball
- Boxing
- Girls Gaelic Football
- Cross Country
- Hurling
- Boys Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Table Tennis
- Swimming
- Indoor Games
- Rugby



*“I enjoy coming to St Benedict’s every day. I love the sports we get to play in PE. I have really enjoyed Rugby and was delighted when I got to go on a Rugby Tour to the Kingspan Stadium. Just before Christmas, the PE department rewarded some of their KS3 pupils with a trip to see the Belfast Giants. I was lucky enough to be picked to go and I had a fantastic time.”*

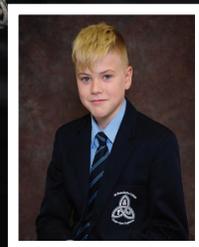
Shea McCann 8F – Creggan Primary School

# Extra-Curricular Activities



*“My favourite memory this term was going down to Shane’s Castle for our Annual School Ramble. It was a really fun activity. We got to chat and it was a great opportunity to get to know the people in my class better. We raised £4693.00 which was amazing.”*

Ewan McGrath 8F – St. Oliver Plunkett’s Primary School



We offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, all designed to develop our students’ skills, talents and capabilities. Clubs and Societies facilitated by our dedicated staff are offered before school, during lunchtime and after school. They offer our students opportunities to experience new things and to build new friendships.

## Extra curricular activities available to our students include:

- Annual School Ramble
- Coding Club
- Traditional Music Group
- Band Club
- Uplift Performing Arts Programme
- Credit Union Art Competition
- Gaeltacht
- Cookery Club (pupil and parent)
- Book Club
- Literacy/Numeracy Clubs
- Young Enterprise
- Eco Club
- Homework Club
- School Choir
- School Show
- Art Club
- Pottery Class (pupil and parent)
- Feis na nGleann
- Breakfast Club
- Library Club
- Games Club
- Accelerated Reader
- Rotary Youth Leadership Programme



## School Trips

Our students learning experiences are enriched through a variety of school trips including Aid Trips to Romania, History Trips to Krakow and Ski Trips.



# *Our Partners*

## Parents

Parents are the prime educators of their children so we work hard to develop and sustain positive and respectful partnerships between school and home. We are accessible to parents at all times and operate an open door policy. We communicate with parents on an ongoing basis through phone calls, texts, letters and flyers. Parents are invited to school to attend Induction Meetings, Parents' Meetings, SEN Information Evenings, Careers Events and Parent Workshops. Through our Extended School Programme we offer Parent/Child cookery and pottery classes. As valued stakeholders we invite parents to comment on and evaluate our provision through discussions and the completion of evaluative questionnaires. In 2017 we established a new PTA, Friends of St Benedict's.

## Moving Forward Together

We are proud to be a member of the Moving Forward Together Partnership within the Antrim/Newtownabbey Borough Council. It sees twenty one nursery, primary and post primary schools working together collaboratively. Our school choir has sung with the MFT choir who perform in a variety of concerts annually. Our staff have engaged in cross sector working parties which have focused on sharing good practice and resources in the areas of SEN, Literacy and Numeracy and have also received training on promoting Positive Mental Health through the partnership. Our parents have been offered the opportunity to attend ASD support workshops. We value highly MFT as it is a key vehicle for important collaborative work with ourselves and students and staff in our key feeder primary schools.



## Shared Education

St Benedict's College has been actively involved in the Shared Education Signature Project since its inception in 2016. Our Shared Education Partnership sees us work collaboratively with Antrim Grammar School and Parkhall Integrated College. All KS3 pupils in the College have had the opportunity to participate in joint LLW lessons co-developed and co-delivered by teachers from all three schools in the partnership. The schools established a Joint Student Council in 2017 and members of our School Council are actively involved in it. In May 2018 our students and staff visited Westminster with the Joint Council. We are fully committed to Shared Education as it allows our students to learn more about other cultures and religions and challenges them to welcome, include, respect and value everyone. Our staff have benefited too from their participation in a joint staff development programme delivered across the Shared Education Partnership.

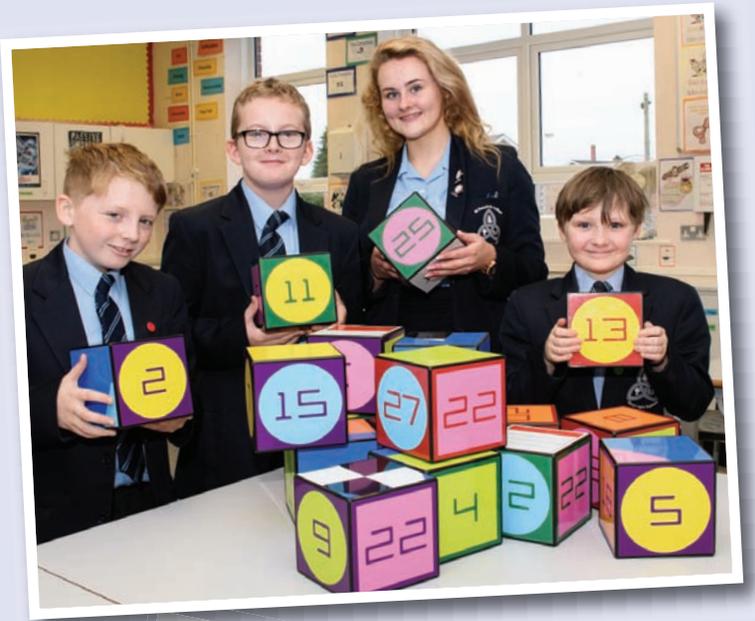
## Post 16 Partners

St Benedict's College is currently an 11 to 16 College. As such we are fully aware of the need to have clear pathways in place for our students post 16. We have developed strong links with local businesses and employers, the Northern Regional College and of course our partner post primary schools within the wider family of Catholic Schools in the area.

*"The best thing about St. Benedict's is the activities and the reward trips we get. All of Year 8 went to the Cinema at Halloween and to the Pantomime at Christmas. I have met lots of new friends, not just in school but from other schools too. I really enjoy taking part in the Shared Education Programme as we get to take part in fun games."*



Adam Eichman 8G – Six Mile Integrated Primary School



*“My first term in St. Benedict’s has been great! I love History and Art. I attend Art Club and Minecraft Club at lunchtime. Every week I go to the Homework Club after school in the library. I find it very helpful as there are teachers there to help me with my homework and I can use the computers if I need them.”*

Charli Timperley 8F- Round Tower Integrated Primary School



*“I really like St. Benedict’s because I have made lots of friends and all of my teachers are really nice. I am kept very busy as there are so many great things to do in school. I am a member of the Year 8 netball team and I attend a T&D class after school. My greatest achievement to date was being awarded the position of Class Captain.”*

Orlaith McAteer 8G – Millquarter Primary School





## **School Management Information**

Principal: Mrs Catriona Mc Ateer

Chairman of the  
Board of Governors:  
Very Rev Fr Forsythe, PP

School Type: Catholic Maintained  
Secondary School

Age Range: 11-16 years

Approved Enrolment: 500

Year 8 Admissions Number: 100

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