DOMINICAN COLLEGE FORTWILLIAM

PROSPECTUS 2025-26














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DOMINICAN COLLEGE FORTWILLIAM

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Welcome *Fáilte*

"Our approach to education ensures the holistic development of each pupil..."





It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Dominican College Fortwilliam. Established in 1930 by the Dominican Sisters from Cabra, our school is rich in history and tradition and is continually growing and transforming to meet the needs, aptitudes, and ambitions of all our pupils.

Our school ethos focuses on treating each pupil as an individual, celebrating their unique talents and developing their full potential across a wide range of academic and extracurricular areas. We promote high aspirations, encouraging our pupils to aim for excellence in all aspects of life.

Based on our distinct Catholic and Dominican ethos, we are an inclusive community and promote values of trust, tolerance, and mutual respect. Our approach to education ensures the holistic development of each pupil, and prepares them to meet the challenges, and embrace all the opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

The educational experience provided by Dominican College, ensures that our pupils grow in confidence, enjoy learning, achieve highly, and are empowered to take their place as leaders in society.

I hope you enjoy your visit to our school and get a flavour of life in Dominican College.

Lynda Catney

Principal

Ethos and Aims of the School

As a Catholic school, the Christian ethos of Dominican College permeates the life and work of the school and is reflected in its aims:

- *We appreciate the fundamental dignity of each person and aim to promote respect for self, for others, the school, the wider community and the environment.*
- *We aim to create a safe, stable and harmonious atmosphere within which the values of truth, freedom, trust and responsibility are honoured.*
- *Within the context of a purposeful learning community, and recognising the uniqueness of each individual, we aim to offer a curriculum which enables every student to reach her full potential: spiritually, academically, morally, socially and aesthetically.*
- *We aim to promote the school's traditional appreciation of culture and the arts.*
- *We endeavour to equip all our pupils with the self-confidence and skills, which will enable them to make informed and responsible choices in life and appreciate the value of the contribution they can make to society.*
- *We encourage parental support in promoting the ethos and aims of the school and in building up the life of the school community.*

The Board of Governors believes that these general aims provide a framework which indicates what the school believes in, what it aims to do for our pupils and the values we hope they will espouse. The whole curriculum taught in the classroom and beyond, is designed to achieve these ends.





Vision Statement

"Inspiring, Motivating and Empowering Learners."

Mission Statement

"Dedicated to Truth and Respect, Committed to Realising the Potential of All."

VERITAS





Our History

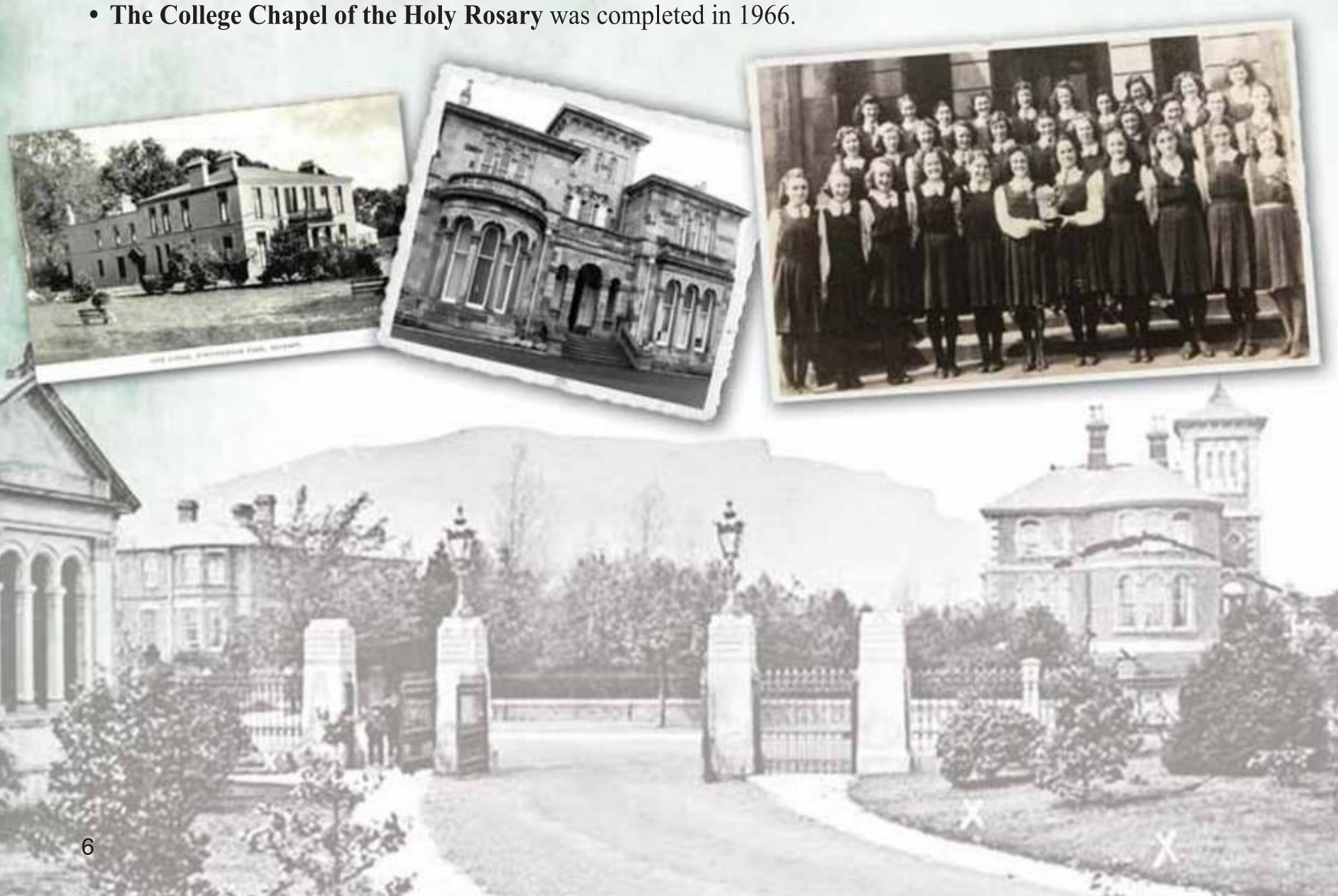
Educating girls in North Belfast since 1930

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Fortwilliam area was one of the most exclusive areas of the city and had among its residents, numerous wealthy business people involved in Belfast's engineering, candle-making and linen industries. One residence, Walton, was purchased in 1930 and renamed the **Convent of the Holy Rosary**. This became the home of the Dominican Sisters who, at the request of the Bishop of Down and Connor, Reverend Dr Daniel Mageean, came to the area to provide much needed secondary education for young, female Catholics. Under the guidance of Mother Peter Flynn, the foundations of today's school were established, initially with the opening on the 15th September 1930, of a Preparatory School and a Commercial College on the 6th October 1930. The grammar school, officially recognised in 1934, continued to flourish throughout the 1930s.

Post-War Years

In the Post-War years, the implementation of the Education Act (NI) 1947, which provided free education for all children, resulted in an ever increasing enrolment which required further building programmes.

- **Fairbourne**, purchased in 1946, was renamed **St Joseph's** and housed the Preparatory School of 150-200 pupils until it closed in June 1977.
- S**t Mary's** building was opened in 1953.
- **The Lodge** building (previously **Ormisdale**), which was the site of a private school for the daughters of the wealthy, was purchased in 1957 from the Christian Brothers and renamed **St Catherine's**.
- The Assembly Hall **(St Mary's Hall)**, was completed in 1963.
- **St Oran's** House, on Fortwilliam Park, was acquired in 1965 and subsequently two nearby houses were purchased in 1970 and 1991 to accommodate the ever expanding sixth form in what was then known as **St Colmcille's**.
- **The College Chapel of the Holy Rosary** was completed in 1966.



While many improvements had been made over the years, it was apparent that in order to meet the challenges of the new century and the needs of the pupils, a modern, purpose-built school was required. The Walton building has been incorporated into the new school and remains an important link between the past and the present.

A New Millennium, a New School and a New Chapter in the History of Dominican College

The news that the Dominican community had long awaited, came on 9th February 2000 when the Minister for Education granted £13.1 million funding for the new college building programme. On Friday 6th October 2006, the new grammar school was officially opened by Bishop Walsh. In his address, Bishop Walsh noted the special contribution made by the Dominican Sisters to Catholic education in North Belfast. Press coverage of the opening of Dominican College in 1930, described it as **"A Beautifully Situated Establishment with a High Purpose"** - the same statement can be applied to the Dominican College of the 21st century.



Saint John Henry Newman once said, **"to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often"**. Dominican College has changed in many respects since 1930 but the ethos and traditions of the Dominican Sisters prevail.







"the pursuit of Truth in all its forms, intellectual, spiritual and moral"

Our Curriculum

The following information reflects the current curriculum offer, however this is reviewed regularly by the Board of Governors. Detailed information on each academic subject, may be found on the school website at https://www.dominicancollege.org.uk/subjects .

JUNIOR SCHOOL – KEY STAGE 3 (Year 8 – 10)

A broad and balanced curriculum covering all areas of study of the Northern Ireland Curriculum is provided for all pupils. Pupils in Year 8, 9 and 10 study the following subjects:

Art & Design	History	Science
Drama	ICT	Spanish
English	Mathematics	Technology & Design
Food and Nutrition	Music	Citizenship
French or Irish	Physical Education	Careers & Employability
Geography	Religious Education	Personal Development

SENIOR SCHOOL – KEY STAGE 4 (Year 11 and 12)

The school offers 27 subjects at GCSE level. All Year 11 and 12 pupils study 9 GCSE subjects (or 10 subjects if Further Mathematics is taken). Religious Education, English Language, English Literature and Mathematics are all compulsory. Learning for Life and Work is a statutory part of the curriculum, but is not taken for GCSE.

Art & Design	French	Mathematics
Biology	Further Mathematics	Media Studies
Business Studies	Gaeilge	Music
Chemistry	Geography	Physical Education
Design and Technology	Government and Politics	Physics
Digital Technology	Health and Social Care	Religious Education
Drama	History	Science (Double Award)
English Language	Home Economics Food & Nutrition	Science (Single Award)
English Literature	Irish	Spanish





SIXTH FORM (Year 13 and 14)

The school offers 26 subjects at A-level. Sixth-Form pupils follow a two-year course of study taking AS Level examinations at the end of Year 13 and Advanced Level examinations at the end of Year 14. All pupils must study 3 or 4 subjects taken from the following list:

Art & Design	Geography	Moving Image Arts
Biology	Government and Politics	Music
Business Studies	Health and Social Care	Nutrition and Food Science
Chemistry	Health and Social Care (D.A.)	Physics
Design and Technology	History	Religious Education
Digital Technology	Irish	Sociology
Drama Performing Arts	Life and Health Science	Spanish
English Literature	Mathematics	Sports Studies (BTec)
French	Media Studies	

Pupils who do not take A-Level Religious Studies must take a modular course (one period per week) in Religious Education.



















Additional Educational Needs

School procedures are in place to identify students with additional educational needs. The school's approach for addressing this is embedded within existing good classroom practice and the pastoral care dimension of the school. It is the aim of the school to identify students with additional educational needs as early as possible, providing full access to a broad curriculum and ensuring that all students feel valued and have a positive self-image.

There is a Learning Support Co-Ordinator, Learning Support Teacher and Classroom Assistants in the department. We are committed to Continuing Professional Development for all staff with a strong focus on Autism and Dyslexia. It is a central focus of the SEN department to develop an Autism and Dyslexic friendly school by providing quiet spaces, Support Hub, adjustments to the curriculum, lunchtime clubs and friendship groups. Where appropriate, access arrangements are provided in both internal and external examinations for those pupils on the register.

Assessment and Reporting

There is regular assessment of pupils' progress and attainment throughout the academic year, with all pupils sitting formal school examinations at least once a year. Each year group has an annual parent teacher meeting and parents receive a full written report once a year. In addition, Years 8 – 10 receive a short report once a year and Years 11-14 are issued with grade reports mid-way through each term. Pupil progress is closely monitored and the pastoral team work closely with pupils and parents to support pupils in fulfilling their individual potential.





Careers

We endeavour to equip all of our pupils with the self-confidence and skills, which will enable them to make informed and responsible choices in life and appreciate the value of the contribution they can make to society. A well-established Careers programme for Year 8 – 14 pupils, encourages Career awareness and the development of a Personal Career Plan from an early age. The school hosts a bi-annual Careers Convention and has established strong links with local and international employers and academic institutions. These are utilised to ensure worthwhile work experience and reflect current labour market information.









"If you are what you should be you will set the world on fire".

St. Catherine of Siena

Extra Curricular Activities

We believe that participation in extra-curricular activities is crucial to the all-round education of each pupil. It develops self-esteem and interpersonal skills as well as forging friendships and a sense of belonging. We offer a varied programme of extra-curricular activities and encourage all pupils to get involved.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Dominican College has a strong tradition of promoting culture and the arts and we offer a wide range of Music and Drama groups. In addition to participating in school liturgies, concerts and musical theatre, our pupils have performed at a variety of venues and competitions.
Activities include:

Chamber Choir	Concert Band	Drama Club
Guitar Groups	Junior Choir	Senior Traditional Group
Junior Traditional Group	Music Theory	Musical Theatre Club
Orchestra	Senior Choir	Wind Band

SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

Our most recent school productions include:

Oliver	Mary Poppins	The Greatest Show
Sound of Music	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat	

SPORT

Pupils can access a wide variety of physical activities including:

Athletics	Gymnastics
Badminton	Netball
Basketball	Recreational Netball Club
Camogie	Soccer
Fitness Training	Trampoline
Gaelic Football	Waterpolo









OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art & Design Club
Bar Mock Trial
Believers (Faith Development)
Biology Support
Booster Maths
Business Studies Club
Chemistry Olympiad
Chemistry Support
Chess Club
Cyberstart for Girls - Coding
Debating Club
Environmental Club
Film Club
Francofest at QUB
Gaeilge Club
GCSE Gaeilge
Hispanofest at QUB
History Club
House of History (Debating Society)
GCSE Italian
Junior St Vincent de Paul Society
Junior Maths Challenge
Junior Library
ICT Club
Liturgy Group
Lunch Club
Magazine Editorial Group
Maths Mentoring
Medical Society
Physics Clinic
Politics in Action
President's Award (GAISCE)/ Duke of Edinburgh Award
Robotics Club
Science Club
Scribbles Creative Writing Club
Senior St Vincent de Paul Society
Sign Language Club
Sociology Club
Soroptimist Public Speaking competition
The St. Dominic Community Service Award
Veritas-ty Mini Company







Educational Visits

There is a wide variety of Educational Visits and Trips available, which enhance our pupils' learning and give them a broader life experience.











Recent examples include:

Business Studies Trip to Paris, London & Dublin
China Tour
Drama trip to London
French Trip
English & Drama Theatre trips
Iceland Trip
Field Trips for Geography and Science
Gaeltacht
Geography trip to Marble Arch Caves
Ski Trip to Andalo, Italy
Politics trips to London and USA
Poland Trip
Seamus Heaney Homeplace
Spanish Trip to Salamanca
Spanish Trip Malaga
Work Experience placements



Pastoral Care

The welfare of each pupil in Dominican College is paramount. We have a well embedded pastoral system where pupils are genuinely cared for, supported and encouraged to develop care and respect for all members of the school community. Relationships for learning are characterised by mutual respect, openness and trust. High expectations are set for pupils in terms of performance, discipline, uniform and attendance. The Year Head has overall responsibility for all pupils in the Year Group and is the first point of contact for parents and guardians. Class Tutors take a very supportive approach towards pupils in their care and monitor each pupil's progress academically and pastorally. The Class Tutor is the first point of contact for pupils at morning registration and all pupils meet with their tutor at the end of the school day, at afternoon registration. Counselling services are available to pupils in school when required. We can offer the support of two outside counsellors and a fully trained Teacher Counsellor. Pupils attend weekly Tutor class and also follow a structured programme of personal development. The school's main pastoral policies, including the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy are available to view on the school website at https://www.dominicancollege.org.uk/pastoral-policies







Parents

We believe that key to our success is the effective partnership between school and parents and guardians. In line with the Dominican Ethos, we recognise parents and guardians as the primary educators of our pupils and aim to promote a positive relationship with them to ensure the very best outcomes and educational experience for all of our pupils. We actively encourage parental engagement and liaise regularly with parents to seek their views on school planning and development. Parents and guardians are made very welcome in school, at concerts and productions, Masses and other social events. We hold regular curriculum information sessions for parents as well as annual parent teacher meetings and communicate regularly using a variety of online methods, including school email, ParentMail, SIMS ParentApp, Microsoft Teams and SchoolCloud.


VERITAS

Leadership and Mentoring

Our pupils are encouraged to assume leadership roles and we provide many opportunities for developing leadership skills throughout their school career. Sixth-form pupils are strong role models for the younger pupils and act as mentors in both pastoral issues and in providing peer support with academic work. Recently our prefects and mentors have undergone training in mentoring and peer mediation. In addition, they have been involved in the Barnardo's Leadership programme and a group of pupils have been trained as TAMHI Mental Health Ambassadors. We are delighted that a large group of our sixth-form pupils are currently involved in the 'SistersIn' Leadership Programme, where they are being mentored by inspirational leaders from the business world.





Community and Charities

As a Catholic school, the Christian ethos of Dominican College permeates the life and work of the school and pupils are encouraged to become active contributors to the local and global community. All pupils are actively involved in charity campaigns, including the Trocaire campaign during Lent, St Vincent de Paul Hamper and Toy appeal at Christmas, as well as the Shoebox appeal. In recent years, our pupils have participated in the Saphara project. This involves whole school fundraising for a group of sixth year pupils who travel to India to teach children and promote the education of girls.


VERITAS

Celebrating Outstanding Examination Results





































Transition to Year 8

In Dominican College, we recognise the importance and complexities of the transition from Primary to Grammar School. Our induction programme is specifically purposed to enable our Year 8 pupils to adjust to their new school surroundings, new routines and new aspects of learning. The Year 8 pastoral team play a key role in the delivery of our induction programme and strive to ensure that the induction process is a warm, supportive and motivating experience for our new Dominican pupils.

Year 8 Induction Programme

Year 8 Induction Programme

JUNE

- Information presentation for parents and pupils followed by a one-to-one Welcome Interview with a member of the Year 8 pastoral team.
- Parental resources on supporting successful post-primary transition distributed.

AUGUST

- Year 8 Summer Camp
  Two days of activities and workshops focusing on forming new friendships.
- Year 8 Induction and Familarisation Day.
  Theme: *"Our New School"*

SEPTEMBER

- Welcome Assembly.
- Year 8 TransitionWorkshops (Routines, Responsibilities and Relationships.
- Parent Induction Evening and Presentation from Year 8 Induction Team.

OCTOBER

- Year 8 Thanksgiving Mass in our College Chapel.

Year 8 Pastoral Care

Our commitment to the holistic development of our pupils is demonstrated through the range and variety of specific pastoral support initiatives we offer throughout Year 8 outlined below. Our pupils enjoy many opportunities to make new friends and form close relationships with their tutors, subject teachers and sixth form pupils as mentors and prefects. We remain adaptable and responsive to the needs of our pupils and hope that Year 8 is a memorable year in Dominican College, laying the necessary foundations that will enable each pupil to fulfill their full potential over the years spent with us.

Year 8 Pastoral Initiatives

Year 8 Mentoring	Year 8 Preventative Curriculum	Year 8 Peer Medidation and Friendship Support
Year 8 Weekly Assemblies	Year 8 Internal Events Translink Safety Bus/Hallowe'en Fancy Dress/ Christmas/ Prize-Giving Ceremony	Sixth Year TAMHi Mental Health Ambassadors
Learning Support, Subject Mentoring & Study Buddy Scheme	Extra-Curricular Clubs and Societies	Chocolate and Chat Sessions with HOY


DOMINICAN COLLEGE
VERITAS

Some of our Year 14 pupils who left

Mia McCabe



University : Queen's University Belfast

Subject: English

What did you study for A-level?
English, Sociology, and Health and Social Care.

Why did you choose the course/pathway you are on?
Throughout my time in Dominican College, English was a subject that always felt natural and meaningful to me, so choosing it at university was about trusting my instincts and following what I love. I knew I wanted to study something that inspired me every day, and so English felt like the right path for me, and committing to it has helped me grow in confidence, creativity, and direction.

What advice would you give to pupils who are thinking of following in your footsteps?
My advice would be to follow the path you are genuinely passionate about, never settle for something that does not excite or inspire you. When you are deciding on a course and where you want to study it, make sure you can really picture yourself there. Make sure it feels right for you, not just for anyone else. Most importantly, do not give up when things get tough. A-levels can seem overwhelming at times, but they are a small sacrifice for the opportunities and independence that come afterwards. All that hard work will lead to a rewarding outcome!

Joud Ahmed



University: University of St Andrews

Subject: Medicine

What did you study for A-level?
Biology, Chemistry and Health and Social Care.

Why did you choose the course/pathway you are on?
I study Medicine at the University of St Andrews. I chose this course because I am deeply interested in the mechanisms of disease and how the human body functions in health and illness. I also have a strong desire to care for others, and Medicine gives me the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on people's lives.
I chose St Andrews specifically because of its unique course structure, which allows me to gain clinical experience in both a small-town and a city environment. Additionally, the built-in research component, including the dissertation, offers valuable experience that will help me develop as a well-rounded clinician.

What advice would you give to pupils who are thinking of following in your footsteps?
Build strong study habits early, stay grounded in your motivation to help people, and seek out caring experiences that show you what medicine is about.

recently?

Teagan Rice



University: Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge

Subject: English

What did you study for A-level?
English Literature, Politics, Media Studies & Moving Image Arts.

Why did you choose the course/pathway you are on?
I wanted to continue to be challenged in a subject I'm passionate about. The course is really flexible and allows me to creatively explore my own unique ideas in the areas of literature that interest me.

What advice would you give to pupils who are thinking of following in your footsteps?
Don't be afraid to take risks with your application and trust in your abilities.

Anna Privilege



University: St Mary's University College Belfast

Subject: B.ed Primary Physical Education

What did you study for A-level?
Drama, Media Studies, Sport and Exercise Science.

Why did you choose the course/pathway you are on?
I have always had a passion for helping others, and when looking at my options, teaching with PE stood out to me as I have a sporting background.

What advice would you give to pupils who are thinking of following in your footsteps?
Joining St Mary's has been an amazing journey, yet it hasn't been an easy one. My biggest advice would be to work as hard as you can and be patient with yourself. Despite the challenging moments, teaching has been so rewarding and fulfilling.

Holly McLaughlin



University: University of Cambridge

Subject: Human, Social, and Political Sciences (HSPS)

What did you study for A-level?
Politics, History, English Literature, Religion.

Why did you choose the course/pathway you are on?
I enjoyed how broad the scope of what was covered on the course was as well as the fact that you can't study this degree at any other university.

What advice would you give to pupils who are thinking of following in your footsteps?
My biggest piece of advice would simply be to go for it! If you're passionate and work hard then you're already nearly there.

The Siena Restaurant

Siena Restaurant provides a relaxed, comfortable and friendly environment where pupils and staff can enjoy healthy, nutritious food. The Restaurant holds a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 from Belfast City Council and operates a cashless system of payment. Cards are issued to each pupil and these are used to make payment for any purchase in the restaurant..

Breakfast	8.10am – 8.50am
Morning Break	10.50am – 11.10am
Senior Lunch	12.00pm – 12.40pm
Junior Lunch	12.50pm – 13.30pm

Daily Timetable

TIME	PERIOD
09:00 - 09:15	Morning Registration
09:15 - 10:05	Period 1
10:05 - 10:55	Period 2
10:55 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - 12:10	Period 3
12:10 - 13:00	Period 4
13:00 - 13:40	Junior Lunch
13:40 - 14:30	Period 5
14:30 - 15:20	Period 6

College Regulation Uniform

Regulation school blazer with school crest.

Regulation school tunic (knee length) with school crest.

Green regulation sweater with school crest.

White blouse and regulation tie or Regulation striped blouse.

Black tights.

Flat Black shoes.

P.E. Uniform

Regulation O'Neill's Dominican College Training or Ruby top or white polo shirt.

Regulation O'Neill's Dominican College Shorts or Skort or Regulation green shorts or Dominican College black leggings.

White sports socks.

Non-marking sports trainers.

Optional: Regulation O'Neill's Dominican College HZ squad top or Regulation O'Neill's Dominican College Hoodie (no other plain or branded sweatshirts, hoodies or tops are permitted).

**Please note: regulation black leggings can only be purchased in school*

Access To Dominican College

The pupils attending Dominican College come from a very wide area. The school benefits from being on a number of major bus routes. Buses from Randalstown and Antrim leave pupils adjacent to the school, while the Antrim Road has a substantial bus service in both directions. The Downview bus route which originates at the City Hall leaves students at the school gates.

A number of dedicated buses leave the school in the afternoons. The collection points for pupils are within the school grounds with the exception of the Crumlin and Glenavy buses which leave from Fortwilliam Park.

The routes for these dedicated buses are:

1. **Glengormley (Sandyknowes)**
   Antrim Road, Sandyknowes Roundabout, Ballyhenry Road, Beverley Shops, Carnmoney Village, Prince Charles Way, Abbey Centre.

2. **Glengormley (Hightown)**
   Antrim Road, Glengormley, Hightown Road (Turning Circle), Mallusk Road, Blackrock Square.

3. **Ligoniel**
   Antrim Road, Salisbury Avenue, Westland Road, Cliftonville Circus, Alliance Avenue, Ardoyne Road, Crumlin Road, Ligoniel (Mountainhill).

4. **Ardoyne**
   Antrim Road, Salisbury Avenue, Westland Road, Cliftonville Circus, Alliance Avenue, Ardoyne Shops.

5. **Whiteabbey/Whitehead**
   Antrim Road, Floral Road, Whitewell Road, Shore Road, Whiteabbey Village, Greenisland, Carrickfergus, Whitehead.

6. **Crumlin**
   Fortwilliam Park, Antrim Road, Carlisle Circus, Crumlin Road, Horseshoe Bend, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, Aldergrove Crossroads, The Diamond, Ardmore Road, Largy Road.

7. **Glenavy**
   Fortwilliam Park, Antrim Road, Carlisle Circus, Crumlin Road, Horseshoe Bend, Nutts Corner, Glenavy, Crumlin.

Service Buses:

- We have the facility of sharing a service bus for pupils travelling from **Crumlin** in the mornings. The bus drops our pupils off on the Antrim Road.
- We have the facility of sharing a service bus for pupils travelling from **Whiteabbey** in the mornings. The bus picks up pupils at Whiteabbey Village and along the route to the school. The bus drops off the pupils in the school grounds.
- We have the facility of sharing a service bus for pupils travelling from **Whitewell** in the mornings. The bus picks up pupils at Mill Road (Bawnmore Park), Arthur Road, Whitewell Road and Shore Road. The bus drops off the pupils on the Somerton Road.


VERITAS

Admissions Criteria

DOMINICAN COLLEGE
38 Fortwilliam Park
Belfast BT15 4AQ
Telephone No: 028 9037 0298
Fax No: 028 9077 3661
E-mail: info@dominican.belfast.ni.sch.uk
Web-site: www.dominicancollege.org.uk

Voluntary Grammar School
Girls' Grammar
Denominational
Age Range: 11-18

Admissions No: 150
Enrolment No: 1050

Principal: Mrs L Catney BSc PGCE PQH (NI)
Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mrs Sheila Crea

OPEN DAY

Open Day will be on Saturday 17th January 2026 from 9.30am – 1.00pm.
Principal's address at 9.30am and 11.00am.
A prospectus and further information will also be available on our website. www.dominicancollege.org.uk

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To PARENTS/GUARDIANS naming Dominican College as a preference on your child's Transfer Application.

SEAG ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

In assessing academic ability, Dominican College will use the **BAND** awarded to pupils completing the SEAG Entrance Assessment on **Saturday 15th November 2025** and **Saturday 22nd November 2025**, as specified by the school. Parents/Guardians must state the **BAND** achieved on the online Transfer Application and must upload a copy of the statement of results which they will receive on **Saturday 24th January 2026**, to the Portal on the EA website..

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Any parent/guardian claiming Special Circumstances must complete the **SC Form** in the Special Circumstances Pack, available from Dominican College or on our school website. The **SC Form**, together with the independent documentary evidence which corroborates the claim for Special Circumstances, must be uploaded with the Transfer Application to the Portal on the EA website, by **Thursday 19th February 2025**. Please refer to the **"Claiming Special Circumstances - A Guide for Parents and Guardians"** document which is available from Dominican College or on our school website.

SPECIAL PROVISION

For those currently in P7 in primary schools in Northern Ireland, claims for Special Provisions should be made on the SP Form and uploaded with the Transfer Application to the Portal on the EA website, along with independent, verifiable documentary evidence, as appropriate, by **Thursday 19th February 2026**. The SP Form is available from Dominican College or on our school website. After this date, claims for Special Provisions should be made directly to Dominican College and the Admissions Office of the Education Authority, no later than **4pm on Tuesday 24th February 2026**. Please refer to the **"Claiming Special Provisions - A Guide for Parents and Guardians"** document which is available from Dominican College or on our school website..

Further details on Special Circumstances and Special Provision are outlined in the Admissions Policy.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The Board of Governors draws up the Admissions Criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out herein.

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure that they supply, on/with the Transfer Application, all the information required to enable the Board of Governors to apply the admissions criteria.

NOTES ON SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Please read the "Claiming Special Circumstances - A Guide for Parents and Guardians" document, available from Dominican College or on our school website, before completing an application for Special Circumstances.

Details of Medical or Other Problems

Where it is claimed that an applicant's performance in the SEAG Assessment has been affected by a medical or other problem, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to set out in the online Transfer Application, using the SC Form, the precise details of the problem and append/upload independent evidence to corroborate its existence.

Where the problem is a medical one of short term duration which affected the applicant only at the time of the assessment, the school will require the production of evidence that the applicant was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness, at the time of the assessment.

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature the Parents/Guardians should append/upload appropriate independent evidence.

If a claim for special circumstances is made in respect of matters for which access arrangements were granted, or could have been granted had they been made known to the assessment centre, the Board of Governors may take into account the fact that the child was granted access arrangements or could have been granted access arrangements for these matters.

Educational Evidence

Sufficient objective documentary evidence must be provided by the Parents/Guardians applying for Special Circumstances and be uploaded with the online transfer application, to enable the Board of Governors to reach a decision. The following **must** be provided:

1. **Results of all standardised tests in English/Literacy and Mathematics/Numeracy taken by the applicant in Key Stage 2. These should be CAT4 (Verbal and Quantitative) and/or PTE and PTM Standardised Age Scores (SAS).**
2. **All test results must be accompanied by the name of the standardised test supplier and verified by the Primary School Principal (ie signature, School stamp/school headed notepaper)**

Parents may provide any other relevant educational evidence from the Primary School.

Applicants considered under Special Circumstances will be judged on evidence made available to the school and awarded a Band accordingly. The Board of Governors, applying the College's Special Circumstances Protocol, will convert the standardised test results supplied by the applicant and provide a Band equivalent for the applicant. (Special Circumstances Protocol available on request)

These Bands will be considered with those of all other applicants who received a Band and the admissions criteria applied.

NB: TThe existence of special circumstances DOES NOT in itself lead to automatic admission to Dominican College, or an adjustment to the Band attained. Each case is considered on its own merit by the Board of Governors.

It is emphasised that the onus is on the Parents/Guardians to ensure that the above information is provided by the Primary School. Failure to provide such information may result in the school being unable to consider the application for Special Circumstances.

Parents should be aware that they have a statutory right to obtain information on their own child from their Primary School. Further information on parents' rights can be obtained from the Information Commissioners Office (www.ico.org.uk).

NOTES ON SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Please read the "Claiming Special Provisions - A Guide for Parents and Guardians" document, available from Dominican College or on our school website, before completing an application for Special Provisions.

Special Provision will be made by the Board of Governors for applicants:

1. who have received more than half of their primary education outside Northern Ireland (based on the time from the start of Primary 1, 1st September 2019, to 28th February 2026, i.e. more than 3 years and 3 months); or
2. wishing to transfer to a post-primary school that uses the SEAG Entrance Assessment, from a school outside Northern Ireland; or
3. who, due to serious medical or other problems, which are supported by appropriate documentary evidence or for a demonstrably valid reason, also supported by documentary evidence, was EITHER unable to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment OR has an estimated outcome because they only sat one of the two Entrance Assessment papers
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Applicants in categories 1 & 2, who wish to apply under Special Provisions do not need to take the SEAG Entrance Assessment or the supplementary assessment unless their parents/guardians so wish, in which case the SEAG Entrance Assessment Band obtained would also be considered.

The Board of Governors will consider all the verifiable educational evidence supplied with the SP Form and may require an assessment of an applicant's abilities to be carried out by a suitably qualified person or body approved by the school. (The school will make direct contact with parents to make arrangements for an assessment where required.) Where Dominican College is not your first preference school and you have sat an acceptable Special Provisions test in another school, Dominican College reserves the right to use the results from that Special Provisions test to assess the applicant's abilities.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide precise reasons why the applicant did not take part in one or both of the SEAG Entrance Assessment tests and to submit appropriate documentary evidence which must be uploaded with the online Transfer Application.

The Board of Governors will consider each application for Special Provision. Where this is granted, the Board of Governors, applying the College's Special Provisions Protocol, will determine, on the basis of the information available, an appropriate Band equivalent for the applicant. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a SEAG Assessment Band and the Admissions Criteria applied. (Special Provisions Protocol available on request)

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEAR 8 IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Applicants resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected for admission before any child not so resident can be selected.

The Board of Governors of Dominican College will consider all claims for Special Provisions and Special Circumstances. Where a claim is accepted, the Board of Governors will assign a Band to the applicant. Those applicants will then be considered along with all other applicants who have received a Band through SEAG Assessment, and the admissions criteria applied.

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria for admissions in September 2026, in order of priority as set down below. If after the application of a criterion, there remain more applicants than places available, the next criterion is applied.

ADMISSIONS

Applicants will be ranked in order of the Band attained in the SEAG Assessment, the Band awarded under Special Provisions, or the Band awarded under Special Circumstances, namely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

A First preference will be given to those applicants who have attained Band 1 in the SEAG Assessment or have been awarded Band 1 under Special Provisions or have been awarded Band 1 under Special Circumstances.

B If places rremain after all Band 1 applicants have been admitted, priority will be given to those applicants who have attained Band 2 in the SEAG Assessment or have been awarded Band 2 under Special Provisions or have been awarded Band 2 under Special Circumstances.

C If places remain after all Band 2 applicants have been admitted, priority will be given to those applicants who have attained Band 3 in the SEAG Assessment or have been awarded Band 3 under Special Provisions or have been awarded Band 3 under Special Circumstances.

D If places remain after all Band 3 applicants have been admitted, priority will be given to those applicants who have attained Band 4 in the SEAG Assessment or have been awarded Band 4 under Special Provisions or have been awarded Band 4 under Special Circumstances.

E If places remain after all Band 4 applicants have been admitted, priority will be given to those applicants who have attained Band 5 in the SEAG Assessment or have been awarded Band 5 under Special Provisions or have been awarded Band 5 under Special Circumstances.

F If places remain after all Band 5 applicants have been admitted, applicants who have attained Band 6 in the SEAG Assessment or have been awarded Band 6 under Special Provisions or have been awarded Band 6 under Special Circumstances will be admitted.

If there are more applicants in any Band under consideration (i.e. Bands 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) than there are number of places available, such places will be allocated in accordance with the consecutive application of the following subsidiary criteria (1) to (8) in the order set down below. In the event that there are more applicants complying with a subsidiary criterion than there are places available or remaining, those candidates complying with that subsidiary criterion will go forward to be considered under the next subsidiary criterion in order (1) to (8) and those not complying with that subsidiary criterion will be eliminated.

SUB CRITERIA

1 Applicants who have a sibling* (see note below) currently enrolled at Dominican College, or a sibling who has already been selected under the current transfer procedure. (Please state the name, year group and years attended of the sibling(s)).
If after consideration of this criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of Criteria 2.

2 Applicants who had a sibling* (see note below) previously enrolled at Dominican College. (Please state the name, year group and years attended of the sibling(s)).
If after consideration of this criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of Criteria 3.

3 Applicants who are the eldest girl of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to Dominican College. This criterion covers only children, and the Board of Governors will treat twins or other multiples as joint eldest.
Applicants who consider that this criterion applies to them (as the 'eldest' girl of the family), must provide a verifying letter written on headed notepaper, and signed by one of the following, who is not a member of the child's family:

- Primary school principal
- Family doctor
- Parish priest/member of clergy known to the family

If an applicant has an elder sibling who did not gain entry to Dominican College in previous years due to applying to Dominican College and not gaining entry, she shall be considered with all eldest girls (evidence must be provided).
If after consideration of this criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of Criteria 4.

4 Applicants who are entitled to Free School Meals**(see note below)
If after consideration of this criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of Criteria 5.

5 Applicants who are a Child Looked After.*** (see note below)
If after consideration of this criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of Criteria 6.

6 Applicants who are enrolled at the following feeder primary schools (no priority will be given to any particular school);

Abbots Cross P.S., Acorn Integrated P.S, Antrim P.S., Ashgrove P.S., Ballyhenry P.S., Ballyholme P.S., Ballymacrickett P.S., Ballymacward P.S., Ballysillan P.S., Ben Madigan Prep, Bunscoil an Tsleibhe Dhuibh (Belfast), Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, Bunscoil Phobal Feirste, Carr's Glen P.S., Cavehill P.S., Christ the Redeemer P.S., Cliftonville Integrated P.S., Crumlin Integrated P.S., Elmgrove P.S. (Belfast), Euston Street P.S., Fairview P.S., Gaelscoil Eanna, Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach Crumlin), Gaelscoil Na Bhfal, Glengormley Integrated P.S., Greenisland P.S., Hazelwood Integrated P.S., Holy Child P.S., Holy Cross Girls' P.S., Holy Family P.S., Holy Rosary P.S., Holy Trinity P.S., John Paul II P.S. (Belfast), Ligoniel P.S., Lowwood P.S., Mallusk Integrated, Mercy P.S., Mossgrove P.S., Mount St Michael P.S., Oakwood Integrated P.S., Our Lady of Lourdes P.S., Our Lady Queen of Peace P.S., Our Lady's Girls (St Columban's) P.S., Scoil An Droichid, Scoil Na Fuiseoige, Seaview P.S., Springfield P.S. (Belfast), St Anne's P.S., St Bernard's P.S. (Belfast), St Bernard's P.S. (Glengormley), St Bride's P.S., St Clare's P.S., St Colman's P.S. (Lambeg), St Colman's P.S (Dromore), St Comgall's P.S., St James' P.S., St John the Baptist P.S., St Joseph's Holland Drive, St Joseph's P.S. (Antrim), St Joseph's P.S. (Belfast), St Joseph's P.S. (Crumlin), St Joseph's P.S.(Lisburn), St Kevin's P.S., St MacNissi's P.S., St Malachy's P.S., St Mary's On The Hill P.S., St Mary's P.S.(Belfast), St Mary's P.S. (Kircubbin), St Mary's Star of the Sea, St Matthew's P.S., St Michael's P.S., St Nicholas' P.S., St Oliver Plunkett P.S., St Patrick's P.S., St Patrick's P.S. (Ballynahinch), St Paul's P.S., St Peter's P.S., St Teresa's P.S., St Therese of Lisieux P.S., St Vincent de Paul P.S., Templepatrick P.S., Whiteabbey P.S., Whitehead P.S.

If after consideration of this criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of Criteria 7.

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7 If after consideration of the above criteria there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated by date of birth as identified on the applicant's birth certificate, supplied along with the online application. Priority will be given to the oldest applicant.
If after consideration of this criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of Criteria 8.

8 If after consideration of the above criteria, there remain more applicants than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of the initial and subsequent letters of the applicant's surname followed by the initial and subsequent letters of the applicant's forename(s) (as entered on the birth certificate). This letter order was determined by random computerised selection and verified by the Board of Governors.

T H Q L W E U I J B G N S F Z D K C A P M R X O Y V

*A A **"sibling"** is regarded as a "child of the family", as defined by DE in circular 2016/15.
** *"entitled to Free School Meals" will mean applicants who are listed on the Education Authority register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their Parent or Guardian has submitted their post-primary Transfer Application, or any date up to and including 4th February 2026.*
*** A Child Looked After is defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995 as children 'who are in the care of a Trust or who are provided with accommodation by a Trust.' (Accommodation may be in a residential home, residential school, foster placement or in a family placement with a relative or occasionally at home.)

PLEASE NOTE:

When considering which applicants should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that **all** information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admission criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or uploaded with it. An example of such information includes: whether the child has a sibling currently enrolled at Dominican College or is the eldest girl of the family eligible to transfer to mainstream post- primary education.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application. If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST POLICY

The names of all unsuccessful applicants will be automatically placed on the waiting list. Parents/Guardians should contact the school in writing if they wish their daughter's name to be removed from the waiting list.

Should a vacancy arise after 9th May 2026, all applications, on the waiting list, for admission to Year 8 including: applications that were initially refused; new applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 30th June 2027.

The school will contact parents in writing if their child gains a place in the school by this method.

Applications and Admissions

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admission
2023/24	**160****	**185**	**162***
2024/25	**150**	**217**	**156***
2025/26	**150**	**171**	**154***

*includes children who were admitted to the School with a statement of special educational needs and children admitted on appeal.
** temporary variation granted for admission of an additional 10 places..

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

There is no Capital Fee payable, but we ask parents/guardians for a voluntary contribution of £120 per annum (payable at £10 per month if desired) to assist with the provision of additional facilities and equipment

Admission criteria for Years 9 to 13 is available on the school website, or by contacting the school directly.










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GD
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FOOD & DRINK



VERITAS

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