



Newry High School

BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNUAL REPORT

2019 – 2020



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The Board of Governors for the term 2018 - 2022

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. Its membership includes Education Authority representatives, transfer representatives, elected Parent Governors and two Teacher Governors elected by the teaching staff. The Board therefore represents all the main interest groups concerned with the school. The Governors have particular responsibilities in relation to the curriculum, the appointment and dismissal of staff, admissions to the school, discipline, school funds and building.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Mr F Bell, Mr C Whiteside, Miss S Blair

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES

Mr D Kennedy, Mr S Cooper, Mrs J Clements

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs P Murphy, Mrs C Macleod, Mrs A McCullough

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs C Lutton, Mrs C Dunn

PRINCIPAL

Mr I Brown

Chairman – Mr C Whiteside

Secretary to the Board of Governors – Mr I Brown

The following Board of Governors' meetings were convened during the 2019-2020 academic year:

Full Board meetings:

18 September 2019

27 November 2019

5 February 2020

17 June 2020

Staffing Sub-Committee meetings:

13 December 2019

Aims and Values

Mission statement

Newry High School exists to serve the community of Newry and surrounding district by providing an appropriate and challenging curriculum for all pupils. Providing:

‘Quality Education for All’

Introduction

We believe the success of our students is in part based upon the school aims and shared values. We are committed to providing an excellent standard of education for all students, whatever their ability or background. We aim to foster the all-round development of each individual, so that everyone can make the most of their talents and contribute to the life of the school and the wider community.

Our approach to Teaching and Learning is based upon high expectations and positive relationships which show mutual respect, trust and a desire to achieve the very best. We aim for Newry High School to be a purposeful and happy place where everyone is actively engaged in, and stimulated by, the process of learning. We want to demonstrate awareness that students all learn in a variety of ways and that learning is a lifelong experience.

The aim of the NI Curriculum is to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives. The objectives are to develop the young person as:

- an individual
- a contributor to society and
- a contributor to the economy and environment

Our overarching aim is to provide an inclusive and diverse curriculum which is balanced, broad, relevant and appropriate. The curriculum will:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students
- prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- actively challenge each pupil ensuring all students reach their full potential

School Aims

- To provide a safe, caring, disciplined and stimulating learning environment.
- To maintain an open and honest partnership with students, parents and outside agencies through effective channels of communication.
- To promote the Christian ethos of the school.
- To have high expectations for all students, monitor progress by effective use of data and enhance standards by target setting, tracking and mentoring.
- To encourage a sense of community through the provision of a wide and varied programme of extra-curricular activities.
- To develop students as responsible individuals and effective contributors to society.
- To ensure that the school is an active and vibrant part of the community.
- To celebrate the success and achievement of all students and staff.

School Values

Our Code of Conduct is focused on three key concepts:

Excellence

We expect the highest possible standards in all aspects of school life in partnership with all our stakeholders. We strive for continuous improvement in all that we do through effective self-evaluation.

Responsibility

We encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour and to contribute positively to all aspects of school life.

Respect

We expect all stakeholders to be considerate of other's views and feelings. Trust, courtesy and co-operation are central to this key value. We encourage people to work together and develop positive relationships.

We strive to create an inviting and positive student-centred learning environment where all individuals are valued for their own personal strengths. We expect everyone to take pride in our school, show a 'can-do' attitude and be fully committed to all aspects of school life.

Organisation and Management

The Board has delegated to the Principal the responsibility of ensuring that its wishes are carried out in the day-to-day organisation and administration of the school. To achieve these objectives, the Principal and School Management Teams take specific responsibility for the management of the main areas in the school's development – Curriculum and Pastoral Care.

The school's Senior Leadership Team, comprising of the Principal and Vice Principal plus 3 Senior teachers and 1 SLT member of staff (SENCO) had scheduled meetings each week.

Management of Pastoral Care is under the oversight of the Pastoral Care Team which is composed of six Year Heads under the chairmanship of a Vice-Principal. Five meetings were held during the school year up to March 2020.

Heads of Department meet under the chairmanship of the Principal. Heads of Department are responsible for the organisation and management of their subject areas and present their Departmental Policy and Development Plans to the Principal and their Line Manager for annual review. Two formal HOD meetings were held during the school year. One scheduled HOD meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Departmental meetings were held on a regular basis throughout the year and minutes are submitted to the Principal/Line Manager.

STAFFING

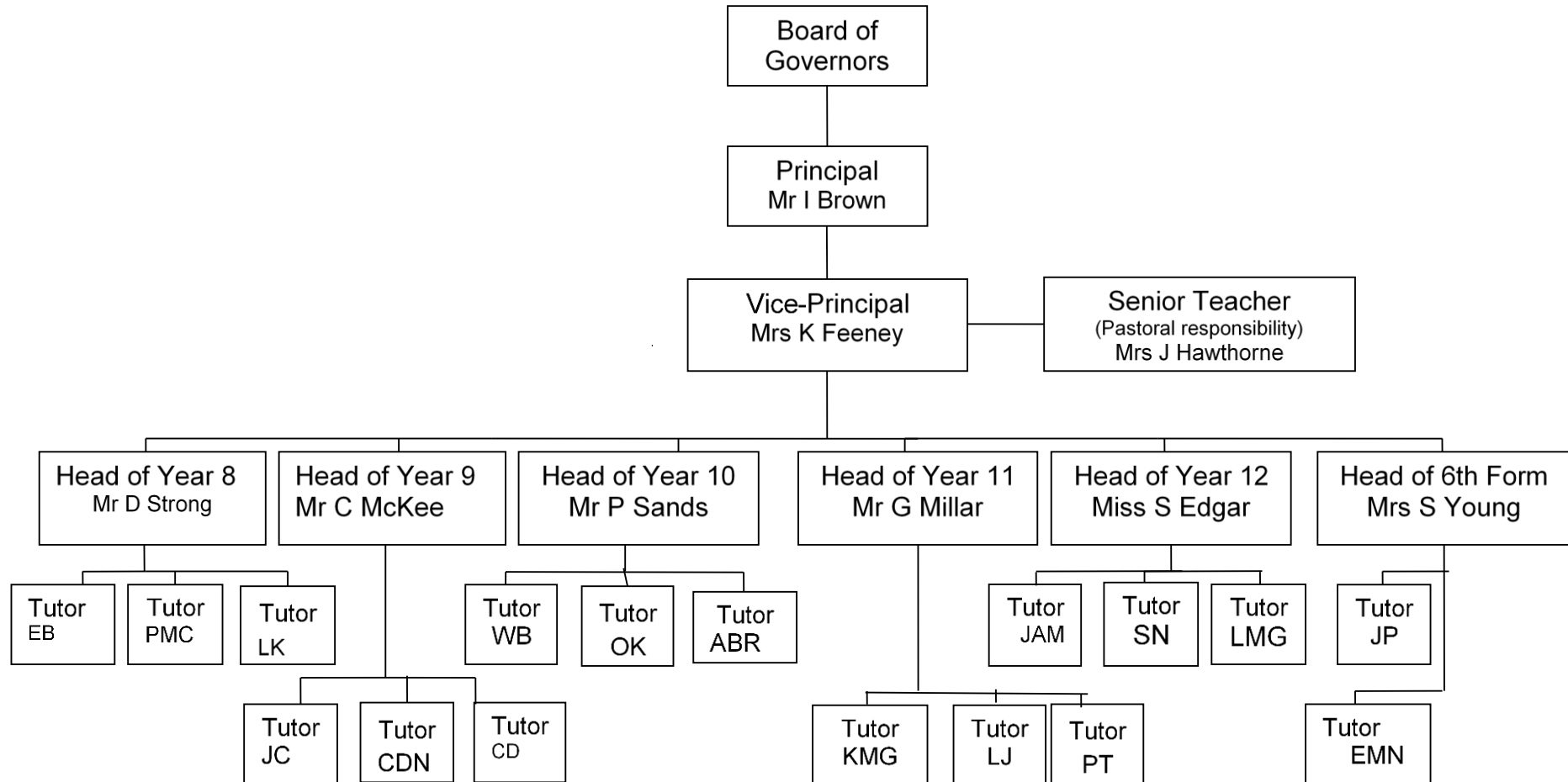
The Staffing for 2019-2020 was as follows:

Principal	1
Vice-principal	1
Teachers	30
Caretakers	2
Technicians	4
Classroom/Domestic Assistants	10
Clerical Staff	3

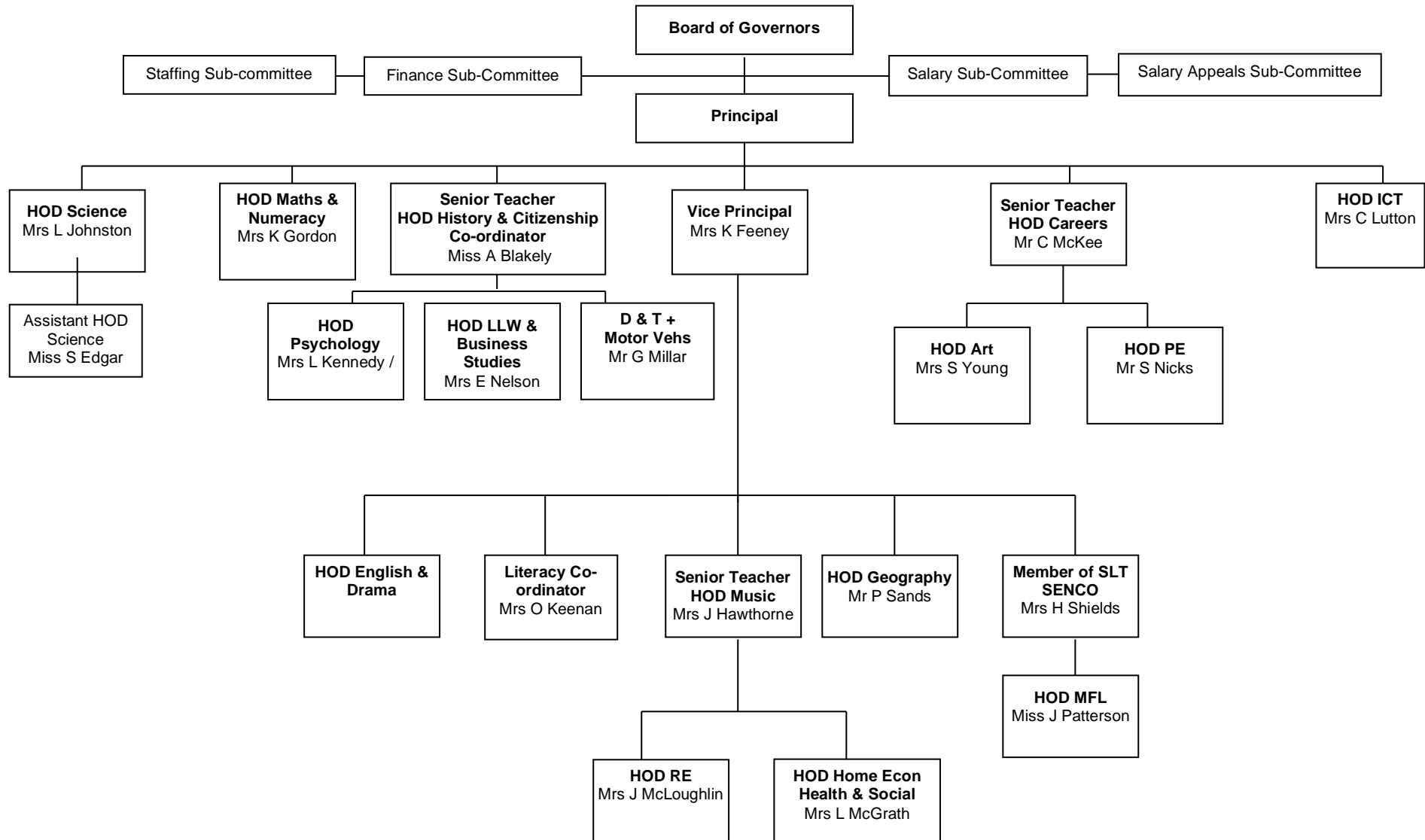
The total number of teachers employed in the school was the Principal and 31 teachers, comprised as follows:

	(equivalent)
• 26 full-time	(26.0)
• 6 part-time	(3.7)
• Total 32 teachers	(29.7)

PASTORAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



Curriculum Line Management Structure 2019 - 2020



General Information

Newry High School is a medium sized 11-18 all ability co-educational school. It has a maximum capacity of 580 and draws pupils from all sections of the community. The school prides itself on its academic achievements, not only from top academic stream pupils, but also from those pupils of lower academic ability who are taught in smaller classes where they can receive more individual attention.

Newry High School is a uniquely inclusive school in terms of ability, religion and ethnic diversity. The school has a good reputation for its academic achievement, sporting success and pastoral care and it offers a wide range of extra-curricular experiences to its pupils. Situated on the outskirts of the resurgent new City of Newry the school is well equipped and maintained and well placed to meet the challenges of the future.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school day for pupils commenced with Registration at 8.35 a.m. followed by Assembly at 8.45 am. Classes began at 9.00 am. There were 8 teaching periods of 35 or 40 minutes in each school day, Monday – Wednesday and 9 teaching periods of 35 minutes on Thursday & Friday.

Morning break: 10.55 am - 11.10 am

Lunch break: 1.05 pm - 1.40 pm

The school day ends at 3.00 pm.

ADMISSIONS

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Applications	57	66	73	77	80
Admissions	57	66	73	77	80

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for the 2019-2020 school year was 91.9%.

PRIZE GIVING

The Annual Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, 26th September, 2019. Our Guest of Honour was Reverend Ivan Steen.

15 pupils received Full Attendance Certificates

36 pupils received Class Prizes (Years 8-11)

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

The New School of Motoring Cup for Academic Achievement
Abbey Hanna

The Angela Livingston Cup for
Outstanding Contribution to Art & Design at Key Stage 3
Aimee MacLeod

VOCATIONAL AWARDS

Year 11: Tristan Kubeczka
Year 12: Aleksandar Aleksiev

The Pat Major Cup for Home Economics
Lily Birch

The Janine A. Hanna Cup for GCSE English
Mark Agirin and Erikas Staugas

The J.H. Reid Cup for Science
Erikas Staugas

Newry Heritage Cup for Learning for Life and Work
Joel Routledge

The Newry High School Cup for History at GCSE
Erikas Staugas and Oliver Welsh

The Thompson Cup for GCSE Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies
Jim Edgar

The Technology and Engineering Cup
Joshua Wilson

The McBlain Memorial Scholarship for GCSE (Boys)
Erikas Staugas

The Strahan Memorial Scholarship for GCSE (Girls)
Jasmin McParland

The Warnock Bequest for English Literature
Jessica Riddle

The Elaine McClure Cup for English
Beth Doherty

Bank of Ireland Cup for Business Studies
Zoe Orr

Judith Lockhart Trophy for A Level Art
Kellie Taylor

The W.B. Neill Cup for Biology
Timmy McCammon

The J.M. Clements Prize for Chemistry
Amber Kinnan

The Lorna D. Clements Prize for Physics
Erikas Staugas

The McMinn Award for Geography
Tom Welsh

The Altnaveigh House Cup for History
Melissa Johnston

The Psychology Cup
Nicole Magowan

Applied Health & Social Care Prize
Zoe Orr

A Level ICT Prize
Jan Chudoba

The Applied Travel & Tourism Cup
Amber Kinnin

Key Stage 3 P.E. Cup (Boys)
Jack Magill

Key Stage 3 P.E. Cup (Girls)
Amy McNeill and Megan Halliday

The Browne Cup for Hockey
Amy Niblock

The Michael Preston Award for Sporting Achievement
Oisin Nicks

Newry Heritage Shield for Services to the Community
Zoe Orr

The Dorothy Cox Cup for French
Agniete Jonaityte

The GCSE Award for Mathematics
Joshua Wilson

CONCLUDING AWARDS

The Gertrude Ross Memorial Cup for Resilience
Tom Welsh

The Newry High School Cup for Endeavour
Igor Deska

The R.M. McVeigh Cup for Academic Achievement at A Level
Amber Kinnin

GOVERNORS' AWARDS

Tom Welsh and Carla Jones

DESTINATION OF SCHOOL LEAVERS (Years 12-14) in 2019-2020

	<u>2019-20</u>
Number of pupils	80 pupils
Transferred	1%
Job skills/Training/Apprenticeship	16%
Higher Education (Degree / Foundation Degree)	35%
Further Education (non-degree)	27%
Employment	6%
Emigrated	8%
Other (LT sick / Pregnancy / Unemployed)	6%
Unknown	1%

STAFFING UPDATE

The end of every school year is always tinged with sadness when we say goodbye to Year 14 and to some of Year 12. During the year we also said goodbye to Mr S Nicks (Head of PE) and Ms P McEaney (EAL support teacher)

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT DAYS PROGRAMME

Staff Baker Days 2019 - 2020

Friday 23rd August 2019, Assessment/Examination results

Tuesday 27th August 2019, Learning and Teaching

Wednesday 28th August 2019, Pastoral care and welfare

Thursday 29th August 2019, Assessment & pastoral care

Friday 30st August 2019, Learning & teaching

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2019-2020

27th September 2019, Teaching and Learning

21st November 2019, SEN

6th January 2020, Pastoral Care

20th March 2020, SEN

8th April 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19

26th May 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19

The Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teams are comprised of 9 staff from across the subject areas- Mr McKee (HOD), Mr Brown (Principal), Mrs Young (Head of Sixth Form), Mrs Lutton (Head of ICT), Mrs Nelson (Head of LLW), Mrs Johnson (Science), Mrs Gordon (Head of Maths) and Mr Millar (Head of Technology/Engineering).

Key Stage 3

Year 8

- Young Enterprise- 'Your School, Your Business' workshop- cancelled due to Covid
- Prospects 'Steps for Year 8' Careers booklet completed in Term 2
- Pupil and teacher online evaluation of booklet (ICT)- not completed due to Covid
- CEIAG across the curriculum (see CATC curriculum mapping document)

Year 9

- Young Enterprise- 'Explore' workshop- Cancelled due to Covid
- Prospects 'Steps for Year 9' Careers booklet completed in Term 2
- Pupil and teacher online evaluation of booklet (ICT)- did not take place due to Covid
- CEIAG across the curriculum (see CATC curriculum mapping document)

Year 10

- Year 10 'Day of Ambition' STEM event- cancelled due to Covid
- Young Enterprise- 'Learn to Earn' workshop- Cancelled due to Covid
- 'Education to Employment' presentation (Term 1)
- Prospects 'Steps for Year 10' Careers booklet completed in Term 1
- Pupil and teacher online evaluation of booklet (Term 3)- did not take place due to Covid
- Pupils complete 'Career Starter' on My School (ICT) web area (Term 1)
- Year 10 presentation to pupils delivered by Mr McKee on GCSE options choices (completed in PSE).
- Pupil work booklet on making GCSE options choices completed in PSE
- Parent/Pupil careers interview with a member of the Careers Team- these interviews took place via telephone due to Covid
- Optional pupil careers interview with Mr Gallagher (Careers Advisor)
- Year 10 parental presentation by Mrs Nelson and Mr Brown
- Year 10 Parent/Teacher meeting
- 'Career Planning' workshop delivered to Year 10 pupils- did not take place due to Covid
- WAPP workshop- STEM workshop to encourage pupils from less well-off areas to aspire to HE courses in the future- did not take place due to Covid
- Pupils decide GCSE option choices for Year 11
- Year 10 pupil online survey/questionnaire on CEIAG provision at KS3- did not take place due to Covid
- Year 10 parental online survey/questionnaire on CEIAG provision at KS3- did not take place due to Covid
- CEIAG across the curriculum (see CATC curriculum mapping document)

Key Stage 4

Year 11

- Young Enterprise- 'Digital Masterclass' workshop (Term 1)- did not take place due to Covid
- Prospects 'Steps for Year 11' Careers booklet completed in Term 2
- Pupil and teacher online evaluation of booklet (Term 3)- did not take place due to Covid
- Term 2- Pupils attend 'Alternative Careers' Exhibition organised by W4UP
- 'Experience of Work' workshop delivered by Sentinus
- DEL Work booklet- did not take place due to Covid
- Barclays Life Skills- Did not go ahead due to Covid
- Year 11 work experience week (June)- This includes a teacher visit with pupil/employer evaluation forms to be completed- this did not take place due to Covid

Year 12

Term 1

- HOY/Tutor interviews for underachieving pupils (August)- telephone calls made due to Covid
- Applications for W4UP programme
- Careers Service presentation (September)- this was completed via Zoom due to Covid
- PSE or Year 12 Assemblies- Preparation for 'Skills NI' trip
- Presentation 1- Post 16 Options / Careers Service Skills to Succeed website and accompanying video (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/skills-succeed>) / Skills in Demand Presentation (Skills NI folder)
- PSE ICT Activities- Pupils complete 'Career Ideas' (ages 14-19) (My School online resource) / Research Skills to Succeed website / 'Skills NI'- Career match card
- Presentation 2- PPT on 'Skills NI' Exhibition (Skills NI folder)
- Pupils complete student work booklet prior, during and after the event.
- Pupils did not attend "Skills NI" due to Covid
- Education to Employment' presentation (Term 1)- did not take place due to Covid
- Year 12 'Skills NI' Careers Exhibition trip (October) - did not take place due to Covid
- Year 12 careers interviews and career planning with Mrs Sands (DEL Careers Advisor) begin. Each pupil has option of further interview. These interviews took place via telephone due to Covid
- Year 12 Parent-Teacher Meetings (November)- these interviews took place via telephone due to Covid
- In-School Careers Talks- post-16 talks from SRC, People First, CAFRE and Wade Training. These to take place online in Term 2 (2021)

Term 2

- Newry High School Open Night (January)
- Careers presentation by Mr McKee
- Year 12 Parent /Pupil Evening (presentations on careers, revision and self-care)- did not happen due to Covid
- Post-16 Option talk by Sentinus- did not happen due to Covid
- SRC and other FE Colleges release application forms for courses beginning 2018-19 (February)
- SRC Open Days (March)
- SRC 'The Big Apprenticeship' Event (March)-
- Year 12 Parent/Pupil Careers Interview with member of CEIAG team- did not happen due to Covid
- Newry High School Sixth Form Information Evening (March)- did not happen due to Covid

Term 3

- Awarding of Work4UPlus Certificates
- Option for further Careers Interview with DEL Careers Advisor and/or Mr McKee (Head of Careers).
- Parents complete Year 12 Careers questionnaire – did not happen due to Covid
- Awarding of Year 12 Progress Files, CEIAG Award and W4UP
- GCSE Examinations- did not happen due to Covid

Term 1-3

- Prospects 'Steps for Year 12' Careers booklet completed in PSE (successful completion leads to CEIAG Award)
- Pupil and teacher online evaluation of booklet (Term 3)
- Work4UPlus (10 pupils)
- Year 12 Work Experience option block

Key Stage 5

Year 13

- Year 13 Careers interview (August)
- Prospects 'Steps for Post-16' Careers booklet completed in PSE
- Rotary Leadership Competition
- Health and Social Care careers presentation (Term 1)
- Education to Employment' presentation (Term 1)
- Year 13 work experience (3 days in January)
- In-School Careers Talks- FE/HE talks from SRC, UU, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Scottish Universities, 'The University Roadshow' and Cafre. This includes a presentation from Student Finance and CAO.
- Nuffield Research Placement information talk

Year 14

- University Visits to QUB and University of Ulster (September)
- Year 14 Careers Interviews with Mr Gallagher (Term 1)
- CAO Presentation
- Pupil visit to Dundalk Institute of Technology (November)
- Education to Employment' presentation (Term 1)
- Health and Social Care careers presentation (Term 1)
- UCAS application process (Term 1 PSE lessons)
- Pupils continue to work on Prospects 'Steps for Post-16' Careers booklet completed in PSE
- Option to re-attend all Year 13 in school careers talks
- Option- begin CAO, FE and other HE application processes outside that of UCAS (Term 2-3)
- Sixth Form pupils all have option to attend all FE/HE talks and events
- Pupils encouraged attend appropriate work placements, Open Days, talks and other CEIAG events
- Regular email contact with staff, Year 13-14 pupils with and relevant CEIAG material received or found on the media.
- LMI Presentation to Year 13-14- Post 18 Options / Careers Service Skills to Succeed website and accompanying video (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/skills-succeed>) / Skills in Demand Presentation (Skills NI folder)

Other CEIAG Activity

- LLW
- Work for You Plus (W4UP) Award (Year 12)
- Millennium Volunteer Award (Year 13-14)
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (Year 11-14)
- Key Stage 3- STEM Workshops
- Prince's Trust- CEIAG module part of Prince's Trust Award

GCSE and A Level Results (2020)

Whole School GCSE Results and Predictions based on MIDYIS / Yellis

Cohort	% 5+ A* - C Including English and Maths	% 5+ A* - C all subjects
2014	43.2% (Yellis- 43%)	59.5% (Yellis- 49%)
2015	40% (Midysis- 45%)	56.5% (Midysis- 54%)
2016	47% (Midysis- 47%)	55% (Midysis- 56%)
2017	31% (Midysis- 39%)	58% (Midysis- 49%)
2018	50% (Midysis- 40%)	69.2% (Midysis- 49%)
2019	52% (Midysis- 38%)	72% (Midysis- 48%)
2020	59% (Midysis- 37%)	79% (Midysis- 46%)

Summary of GCSE Results (2014 - 2020)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
5 A* - C including Maths and English	43%	40%	46%	31%	50%	52%	59%
5 A*-C all subjects	60%	57%	55%	58%	69%	72%	79%

A2 Level Results and Trends (2014-20)

Category	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
% A* - C	96.8	64*	69	60.7	69.2	71.1	69.2
% A* - E	100	100	99	96.4	95.2	97.4	92.5
%3+ A* - C	58.1	44	37	24.1	43.6	46.3	49
% 2 + A* - C	80.7	68	71	51.8%			
%3+ A* - E	77.4	84	58	44.8	61.5	81.5	76
%2+ A* - E	96.8	96	96	96.6	94.9	94.5	100
%1+ A* - E	100	100	100	96.6	100	100	100

Yr 14 Provisional A level Results 2020

Subject	No	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	%	%
									A-C	A-E
Art & Design	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Biology	11	0	4	3	2	2	0	0	81.8	100.0
		0.0	36.4	27.3	18.2	18.2	0.0	0.0		
Business Studies	5	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	80.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	0.0		
Chemistry	4	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	75.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	50.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0		
English Literature	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Geography	8	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	87.5	100.0
		12.5	12.5	50.0	12.5	12.5	0.0	0.0		
Health & Social Care (SA)	12	0	2	5	4	1	0	0	91.7	100.0
		0.0	16.7	41.7	33.3	8.3	0.0	0.0		
Health & Social Care (DA)	10	0	0	6	3	1	0	0	90.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	60.0	30.0	10.0	0.0	0.0		
History	4	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	50.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
ICT	6	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	66.7	16.7	16.7	66.6	0.0	0.0		
Music	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	x
		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Maths	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Physics	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
PE	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	33.3	75.0	0.0	25.0	0.0		
Psychology	16	1	3	6	2	3	1	0	75.0	100.0
		6.3	18.8	37.5	12.5	18.8	6.3	0.0		
Sociology	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Travel & Tourism	5	1	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
		20.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Polish	3	0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
MIA	1	0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
		0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		

Attendance

2016/17- 90.8% 2017/18 - 91.9% 2018/19 - 89.9% 2019/20 – 91.9%

SUMMARY OF SUSPENSIONS 2017 - 2020

2017-2018	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Autumn Term	0	19	11	8	1	0	39
Spring Term	2	12	17	18	0	0	49
Summer Term	5	7	0	0	0	0	12
Total Days	7	38	28	26	1	0	100

2018-2019	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Autumn Term	6	10	28	3	12	0	59
Spring Term	4	3	20	3	0	0	30
Summer Term	0	9	7	2	0	0	18
Total Days	10	22	55	8	12	0	107

2019-2020	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Autumn Term	13	2	3	5	2	0	25
Spring Term	8	0	31	20	0	0	59
Summer Term							
Total Days	21	2	33	25	2	0	84

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care and student's well-being are paramount in the school and all staff provide an environment where students feel safe, cared for and supported. The school embraces the promotion of positive behaviour to ensure outstanding behaviour for learning and conduct in the school community that means are students are safe and uphold the good reputation in the community that the school has. The school aspires to create a community which demonstrates respect, responsibility and excellence. Inappropriate behaviour is therefore not accepted in school, on the way to and from school, and during school activities and visits.

In 2019-20 the school reviewed its Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy. As a result, a new policy was written, and several additions made to pastoral care provision. The review involved staff, student and parent voice as well as visits with other school to share good practise, additional staff researched and considered current academic literature to ensure our policy met the needs of all our pupils. Staff received training to support new initiatives which saw a new Code of Conduct introduced and a clearer, concise system of rewards and consequences. In addition, a new Electronic Device Policy was also introduced. There has also been an improved system introduced to communication with parents and it is hoped that the use of Sims InTouch, will further enable key messages of behaviour and recognition to be shared effectively with parents and carers.

In any school it is important to have a clear policy on dealing with unwanted behaviour and ensuring those students who are going above and beyond are rewarded. Equally, any policy must be regularly monitored, reviewed and evaluated. The Vice-Principal, along with the Heads of Year, regularly monitor behaviour and the school makes every attempt to treat all pupils fairly within a policy which sets very high standards for everyone.

In 2019-20 a new Attendance Strategy was launched to clearly define staff roles and responsibilities and introduce a new system of monitoring and addressing attendance concerns. This works on a warning system, which dovetails with monitoring and support for the pupils to improve poor attendance. It also rewards those students with excellent attendance or whose attendance is rapidly improving. The school maintains excellent working relationships with the Education Welfare Service, who support referrals of students once attendance falls below 85%. It was hoped that this new strategy would demonstrate improvements to our overall school attendance and ensure pupils do not miss valuable learning hours. However, unfortunately and understandably COVID-19 has impacted adversely on school attendance. The strategy continues to be implemented and reviewed.

The school, works effectively with the Independent School's Counselling Service, provided by Family Works to support vulnerable pupils in school. This is in addition to pastoral support and intervention offered by pupils Tutor, Head of Year and the Pastoral Care Team. This team meet regularly to discuss provision and ensure all students are supported in school.

Financial Summary

Newry High School, like many schools, has been facing a very challenging time financially. Current intakes have been strong and school numbers have continued to improve. Post-16 numbers remain challenging. As a school we have been aware of the long-term financial prospect which is why the staffing levels have been closely monitored and kept under review. With the steady increase in pupil numbers this has put increasing pressure on class sizes and they have increased. As our pupil numbers have risen so has the need for additional staffing and staff levels have increased by 2.

	Total Cost at March, 2020 (£)
Teaching Staff	1,740,993
Non-Teaching	277,989
Running Costs	325,265
Total Costs	2,367,247
Balance left at year end	(498,757)

Staff absence figures for 2019-20

Illness – 118

Long term illness - 12

Pupil Successes – Overview of the Year

While academic excellence is central to the life and work of Newry High School, the wider curriculum and indeed the hidden curriculum here, is what shapes character, inculcates values, and facilitates moral, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development. A very rich tapestry of growth opportunities was provided here during the last academic year even though it was curtailed due to Covid-19. In this annual report, we can only present a small selection of examples which exemplify the comprehensive range of opportunities for fun filled learning and personal development which took place.

We welcome our Year 8 students who have joined the Newry High School family this year.



Year 11 pupils recently attended an "Alternative Careers" event at the Canal Court organised by the Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency. Pupils got the opportunity to speak to a range of employers from various sectors about future career opportunities in the local area.



The annual Book Fair was held by the English Department. It was a wonderful way to enhance reading and literacy across our whole school and in a fun and informative manner.



Year 12 students recently attended the Skills NI careers fair that took place in the Titanic Exhibition Centre, Belfast. Pupils had access to a range of employers, organisations, colleges and universities to help give them more information and guidance on their future careers paths.



Big congratulations to our Year 14 History student Adam McCartan who was successful in applying to attend a Youth Seminar in Germany. The seminar is called "Peacing it Together" and is about the causes and effects of conflict in a divided society. This was a considerable achievement for Adam who worked hard to win a place on the trip.



Mrs K Feeney



I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all the students and parents who have welcomed me as the new Vice-Principal here at Newry High School. It has been great to start to getting to know the students and continue to support them pastorally. I already feel like I am part of the Newry High School family.



Congratulations to our pupils as they completed their qualification to become Peer Tutors.



Students from Newry High School attended the Skills NI Careers Exhibition in the Titanic Exhibition Centre in Belfast.

ANNUAL AWARDS CERENOMY

This year we were delighted to welcome Past-Pupil, Rev. Ivan Steen to our Annual Awards Ceremony, his words inspired all our young people on to further success. It was a wonderful night filled with celebrations and recognitions of achievement in Newry High School.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Meet the members of our elected Student Council for the year 2019-20.



Well done to our Concern Ambassadors who took part in a 24 hour fast this term



The Eco-club planted 101 trees around the school grounds on December 17th with 'Restorify' who are a charity aiming to plant 2020 trees around Newry in 2020 as it is the only city in NI with no city Park.



Year 11 chemistry students recently attended the Chemistry at Work careers fair that took place at Queen's University, Belfast. Pupils had access to a range of employers who use chemistry in their everyday work. The following day we were contacted by the University organiser and told we were voted the most engaged school of the day and won an Amazon voucher. We are going to buy some dry ice with it and do some fun experiments!

Sporting success:

Well done to our very talented girls' football team who won their Junior Cup game against Craigavon Senior High School 7-0.

Our Yr 9-11 girls' football team won the NISFA 11 A-Side Female Tournament. They have qualified for the national finals.

Year 9 boys are unbeaten making it through to the semi-finals of the South Down Cup.

Under 16 football team beat Banbridge Academy 2-1 AET in the semi-final of the South Down Cup.

Both the Under 13 and Under 15 Futsal squads were Co. Down champions, competing at the National finals in November.

And more....

Year 10 budding linguists attended a 'Languages for Employability' Workshop delivered by the Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching.

8Y1 were involved this term in a Shared Education workshop in St. Joseph's, Crossmaglen where they completed team and resilience building activities amongst other academic pursuits.

Some Year 11 history students are involved in Politics in Action workshops this term which included a visit to Stormont.

Congratulations to our student, Sinead Heaney, who was singing on Radio Ulster's Children in Need Special with Hugo Duncan. We are so proud of you!



Take Ten Christmas outing to Belfast City Hall and Christmas Market.