



ST PATRICK'S  
ACADEMY  
DUNGANNON

# THE ACADEMY PROSPECTUS 2026





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# A PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to our annual prospectus. Whether you are already part of the Academy community or a prospective student or family member, I hope that you enjoy learning more about everything that happens here in and beyond the classrooms at the Academy.

Dedicated to St. Patrick, the Academy has been a beacon for quality Catholic education in Dungannon since 1891. As we continue our work of delivering high quality pastoral care and learning in our impressive school building, we work hard to be a centre of educational excellence for the 21st Century – in short, we strive to be a modern school with traditional values and high expectations. Our prospectus offers you a window through which you can see into all aspects of Academy life. However, should you wish to visit us in person to experience our ethos, to meet our pupils and staff and to view our first-class facilities, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Whether you wish to renew old friendships or to learn more about what we do, you will always be welcome. I look forward to seeing you here at the Academy and to working with you and your family in the pursuit of 'Achieving Excellence Together'.

Colin Holmes, Principal



“  
OUR PROSPECTUS OFFERS  
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ASPECTS OF ACADEMY LIFE  
AS WE PURSUE ‘ACHIEVING  
EXCELLENCE TOGETHER’.”



# OUR VISION

## 'Achieving Excellence Together'

At St. Patrick's Academy, we work together to nurture our Catholic faith, celebrate our Irish heritage and respect all cultures. We provide a stimulating curriculum within an ethos of support and encouragement, helping every pupil achieve their full potential and develop as confident, independent, lifelong learners. Through strong partnerships with parents and active contribution to the wider community, we foster respect for ourselves, each other and our shared environment.

# MISSION STATEMENT

## 'Helping Our Young People Succeed'

We help our young people succeed by offering opportunities that promote academic excellence, personal growth and spiritual development. Pupils engage in worship and practical Christian living and experience high-quality teaching and learn to evaluate and improve their own progress. They work collaboratively with teachers and peers, building self-esteem and respect for others. They take part in a rich programme of cultural, sporting and recreational activities. Through these experiences, pupils develop an understanding of society at all levels, prepare for the workplace, establish good habits of attendance and punctuality and strengthen their ICT skills to become confident, effective learners.



# OUR SCHOOL DAY AND BEYOND

At St. Patrick's Academy, the school day begins at 8:50am and ends at 3:30pm, with a wide range of extra-curricular activities available during and after school.

Each morning starts with form class, giving every pupil the time to settle in and prepare for the day ahead. Pupils enjoy a broad curriculum, taught in classes based on registration groups, subject choices or individual learning needs. Break and lunchtime are important parts of the day, offering time to relax, catch up with friends and recharge for more learning.

Our dining hall provides a cashless cafeteria service, offering healthy hot and cold meals, while also accommodating pupils who bring packed lunches. Beyond lessons, we encourage all pupils to take part in our extensive extra-curricular programme, which changes each year but has included activities such as chess club, table tennis, astronomy club and the bar mock trials. These opportunities are a great way to meet new people, build confidence and enjoy school life beyond the classroom.



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EVERY DAY BEGINS WITH  
TIME TO SETTLE, CONNECT,  
AND PREPARE FOR LEARNING.”

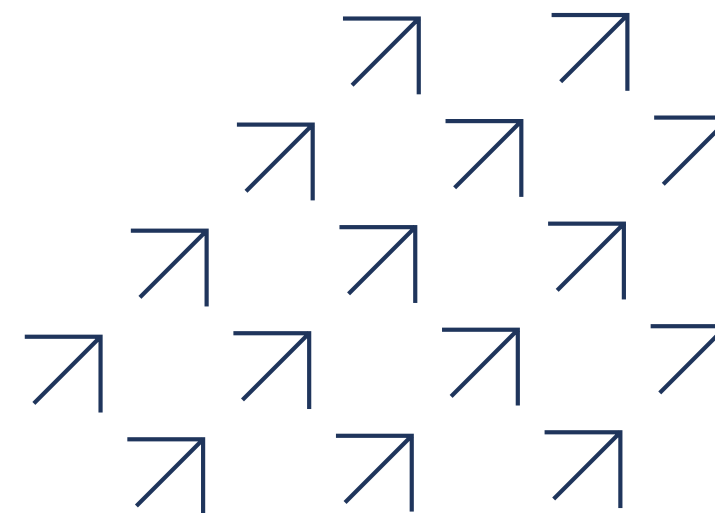
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66  
STUDENTS WEAR THE  
SCHOOL BLAZER AND TIE  
WITH PRIDE. 99



# PRIDE IN OUR UNIFORM



St. Patrick's Academy has, since its inception, required students to wear a uniform. The style and specification of the uniform has evolved over the years but there remains broad support within the school community for a school uniform that meets three basic aims:

- To foster among pupils, a shared identity that is recognised and respected in the local and wider community;
- To serve as a "leveler", ensuring that pupils of the school are not distinguishable by family income or background and that they are, by extension, treated the same by school staff and by each other;
- To provide a school uniform that is affordable, durable, comfortable and available from a number of outlets.

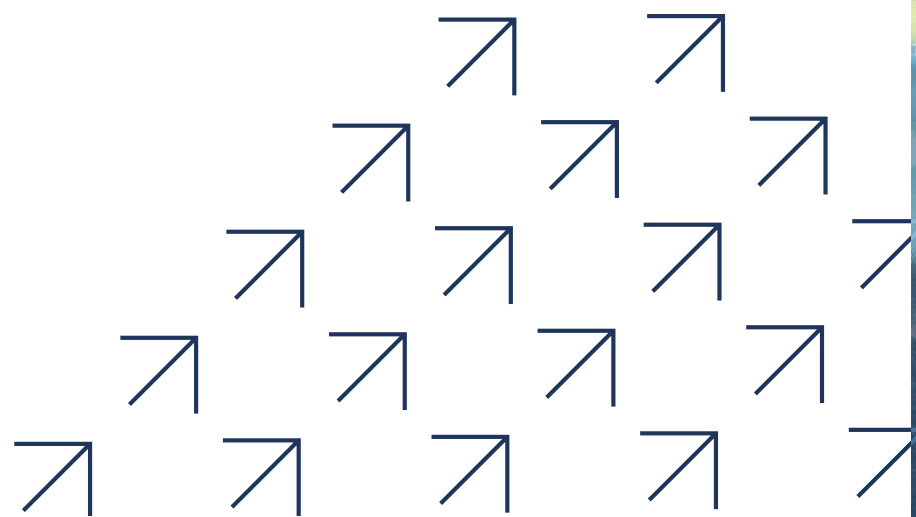
All pupils must wear the school blazer, clip-on tie, blue shirt (white for KS5) and plain black shoes. Pupils must also wear either our navy pleated skirt with navy tights (socks in

warm weather permitted) or plain black trousers with black socks. Pupils have the option of wearing the school's V-neck jumper should they wish. Outdoor wear is limited to the school scarf and/or a plain navy raincoat, while the PE kits consists of a school jersey, shorts and socks. Additional jewellery or hats, scarves, ties, hooded tops etc. that breach uniform regulations will be confiscated for parental collection.

Hair should be clean, neat, tidy and a natural colour. Speed lines, tracks and other partially shaved styles are not permitted. Pupils should be clean shaven at all times. No more than one stud earring, worn in each ear lobe, one chain and one plain ring will be allowed. Pupils should not wear make-up in Years 8 to 10 and no pupil should not wear false tan, eye make-up, acrylic/gel nails, nail polish, false eyelashes or eyelash extensions.

A full copy of the school's uniform policy is available on our website.





# SCHOOL TRANSPORT

St. Patrick's Academy serves a wide catchment area, with pupils travelling daily from towns such as Carrickmore, Ballygawley, Armagh, Lurgan, Moortown and Cookstown.

To ensure safety and efficiency, the school provides nine purpose-built bus bays and a supervised indoor waiting area, with each bus assigned a designated platform and a supervisor. Our Bus Co-Ordinator, Mr Mulgrew, and his team oversee boarding and work closely with Translink and EA Bus Inspectors to maintain high standards and resolve issues promptly. In the rare event a pupil misses their bus, they are directed to reception to contact home and wait safely. Expectations for safe travel are reinforced regularly through assemblies.





# KS3GCSEA LEVEL

Art & Design
Careers Education/Employability
Drama
English
French
Geography
History
Home Economics
ICT
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
Personal Development & Citizenship
Religious Education
Science
Technology
Wellbeing

Art & Design
Business Studies
Business & Communication Systems
Careers Education (not examined)
Child Development
Computer Science
Digital Technology – Multimedia
Engineering and Manufacturing
English Language
English Literature
Food and Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Irish
Learning for Life & Work (LLW)
Mathematics/Further Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education (GCSE)
Physical Education (not examined)
Religious Studies
Science (Single Award)
Science (Double Award)
Spanish
Technology and Design

Accounting
Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Careers Education (not examined)
Chemistry
Digital Technology
Drama and Theatre
Engineering (BTEC)
English Literature
Environmental Technology
French
Geography
Government & Politics
Health and Social Care
History
Irish
Life & Health Sciences
Mathematics/Further Mathematics
Media Studies
Nutrition and Food Science
Physical Education
Physics
Professional Business Services
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish
Software Systems Development
Technology and Design

## A RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM

At St. Patrick's Academy, we believe academic excellence is the foundation of success. Our curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire pupils, ensuring every child has equal access to enriching opportunities and tailored support for individual needs. We maintain a strong grammar school tradition with emphasis on

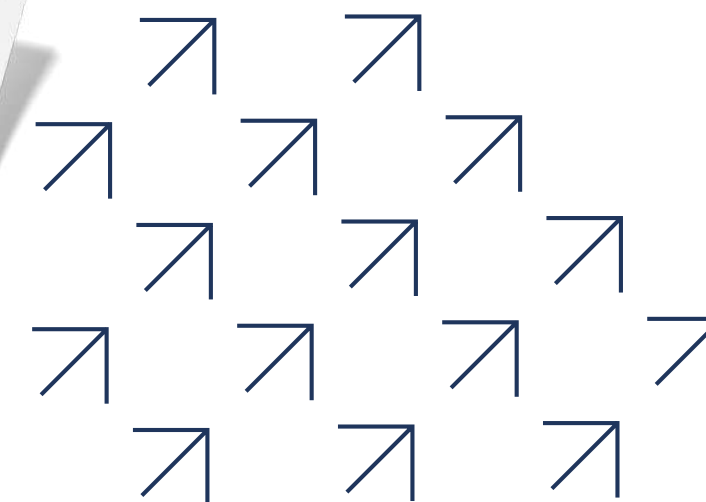
english, mathematics, sciences, languages and humanities, complemented by a wide range of subjects including IT, business, media, performing arts, social sciences, health and social care and engineering. Flexible options at KS4 and post-16 prepare pupils for university, apprenticeships and the world of work.



# A CREATOR







# ACHIEVEMENT

The Academy has a long tradition of producing academic excellence and we pride ourselves in maintaining that tradition. With supportive teaching and innovative approaches, we develop a culture of learning that produces outstanding results year after year. We work hard to raise the standards for and to add value to every child. We do this by fostering positive working relationships with our pupils and our parents, which promotes engagement and pupil-centred learning.

We know that strong qualifications improve a young person's life chances, so academic excellence is something on which we will not compromise. Pupils complete regular tracking tests and assessments, enabling us to monitor progress closely and provide targeted support so every child can reach

their full potential. We also measure academic success in terms of the softer skills and qualities gained through the varied opportunities beyond the classroom. The development of every pupil's ability to think critically, make decisions, solve problems and communicate effectively is a priority. It is our hope that any young person leaving the Academy will have academic achievement and also have high level self-esteem and the necessary people skills and qualities needed to succeed in life.

The success of our approach is evident in our pupils' 2025 GCSE Level performance. Over 98% of our pupils achieved 7+ Grades A\*-C (including English Language and Mathematics). We also enjoyed remarkable success at A-Level this year.





# A DREAMER



Teacher

Doctor

Pilot

Fireman

Chef

Scientist

Engineer



# A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

At St. Patrick's Academy we are committed to providing high quality Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) as an integral part of school life. Our goal is to help students explore future pathways, develop key employability skills and gain their confidence for life beyond school. Careers education is delivered through lessons, workshops and team activities, giving students valuable insight into the world of work and enterprise.

## Our Careers Provision

At St. Patrick's Academy, we are proud to offer a comprehensive careers programme designed to guide and support students at every stage of their education. One of the key elements of our provision is PeopleHawk, an innovative platform that takes students on an EPIC journey - Explore, Prepare, Inspire, Connect. This process begins with assessments to identify each student's values, interests, personality and skills. From there, students received tailored

support to build CVs, personal statements and develop confidence for interviews.

Careers guidance is available at all Key Stages. Year 10 and Year 12 students benefit from one-to-one meetings to help them make informed choices about GCSE and A Level subjects. Year 12 students also have the opportunity to meet with a specialist careers advisor from the Careers Service of Northern Ireland for additional guidance.

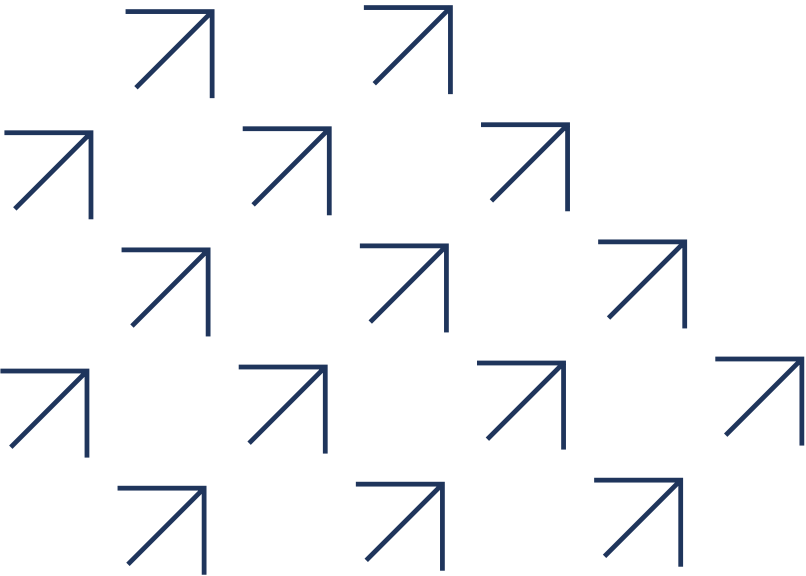
As students progress, they research their post-18 options and receive support prior to applying to UCAS, CAO, St Mary's University, as well as further education, apprenticeships, and vocational routes. We also provide access to work experience opportunities, presentations from visiting professionals across a range of career paths, interview preparation and other work-related learning.







# A PLACE TO BELONG



At the Academy, high-quality pastoral care is at the heart of every pupil's success. We believe that pupils who feel safe, supported and valued will thrive both academically and personally.

To help our new Year 8 pupils settle in, we provide a range of induction and familiarisation events in June and August for pupils and parents/carers. Our online registration process allows us to learn about your child before they start, so we can place them in a form class with like-minded peers, helping them form lasting friendships. Parents also have access to our transition microsite, which offers key information as well as a help-desk facility.

On their first day, Year 8 pupils have the school to themselves and are guided around the building by senior prefects. They receive priority in the dining hall and, until mid-term, enjoy a slightly shortened school day to establish a safe home-time routine. Our school environment is calm, well-maintained and supervised by staff and prefects to ensure pupils always feel safe and secure at all times.

Daily support is provided by the Head of Year 8, Mrs Kane, and a team of caring form tutors who act as the key link between home and school. They help pupils navigate routines, manage homework and feel confident and respected. Attendance, safeguarding and health concerns are treated with urgency and sensitivity.

We also offer exceptional emotional support through a trained counsellor and medical help from our School Health Officer. Early in Year 8, pupils take part in a unique resilience and friendship programme, followed by workshops in Years 9 and 10 to build confidence and coping skills.

Our goal is simple: to create a happy, supportive environment where every pupil can learn, grow and succeed.

66  
A HAPPY, SUPPORTIVE  
ENVIRONMENT WHERE  
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# MEETING ALL NEEDS

## Supporting Every Learner

St. Patrick's Academy is committed to supporting every pupil with Special Educational Needs (SEN) through an inclusive and caring approach. Led by our SEN Co-ordinator, Mrs Mitchell, and a team of Classroom Assistants, we provide tailored academic and pastoral support in partnership with teachers.

Pupils are carefully monitored and all students on the Code of Practice at Stages 1, 2 and 3 have Individual Education Plans to set clear, achievable targets. We are proud to offer a fully equipped Sensory Room, creating a calming and supportive space for pupils who benefit from sensory regulation. Through these facilities and our ethos of inclusion, we help every child build confidence, independence and reach their full potential.





# A LEADER

## Student Leadership

At St. Patrick's we value the voice of our pupils and encourage active participation in school life through a strong student leadership structure. Leadership opportunities help pupils develop confidence, responsibility and essential life skills such as; communication, teamwork and decision-making. These roles allow students to contribute positively to the school community while preparing them for future challenges beyond the classroom.

## School Council

Our School Council provides a formal platform for pupils to express their views, share ideas and influence decisions that shape school life. Representatives from each year group work collaboratively with staff to promote initiatives, enhance the learning environment and ensure that student perspectives are heard and respected.



# A COMPETITOR





# A COMPETITOR

St. Patrick's Academy has a proud sporting tradition and is committed to providing outstanding opportunities for all pupils. With experienced coaches and a full-time Gaelic games coach, the school supports students in developing their skills and achieving success at both recreational and competitive levels. Our teams regularly compete in provincial and national competitions, winning numerous trophies and building a reputation for excellence. Sport is not only about achievement but also about enjoyment and friendship, and every pupil is encouraged to participate.

Camogie, gaelic football, netball and basketball are among our flagship sports. Camogie teams have achieved remarkable success, including an All-Ireland title in 2020 and multiple Ulster titles across age groups, while individual players have earned prestigious All-Star awards. Ladies gaelic football boasts high participation rates and strong performances, including an All-Ireland title in 2019 at Senior level and our U.16 team

are the current Ulster Champions. Each year a number of our LGF players are recognised with 'Future' and 'College All Star' awards. Boys gaelic football remains central to school life, with a proud history in the MacRory Cup and strong engagement from Year 8 onwards. Netball has grown rapidly, with teams competing in the Tyrone/Fermanagh League and regional blitzes.

The Academy also offers hurling, athletics, soccer, golf and basketball, all of which have achieved notable success. Hurling teams compete at Ulster Colleges level, while athletics continues to grow, with pupils qualifying for district, Ulster and Irish Schools' Championships. Soccer and golf teams compete in major competitions and basketball is one of the most popular sports, with provincial and All-Ireland victories, including the historic first All-Ireland girls' title in 2020. Across all sports, St. Patrick's Academy provides opportunities for pupils to excel, stay active and enjoy the many benefits of teamwork and competition.







# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

St. Patrick's Academy offers an extensive extra-curricular programme designed to prepare pupils for employment, active citizenship and leadership.

Students are encouraged to join at least one club or society and the school provides a wide range of options to cater for individual interests. In addition, pupils participate in numerous competitions and events throughout the year.

For Sixth Form students, enrichment opportunities go even further. Alongside the regular extra-curricular activities, they can take part in a leisure programme and additional activities focused on physical and mental well-being, as well as community service. These include initiatives such as the Duke of Edinburgh/President's Award, the John Paul II Award, bar mock trial, conservation projects, fitness classes, swimming, squash, table tennis and running programmes like Couch to 5K. Students can also engage in chess, mentoring and the Lifesavers programme.



Students at the Bar Mock Trials, London 2025

## Some of our Competitions and events include:

- Art Exhibition in Linen Green
- Abair (Gael-Linn) public speaking, Scrúdú an fháinne, Tráth na gCeist, Feis Dhún Geanainn, Gaeilge 24
- European Day of Languages, Francofest, Hispanofest
- Public speaking competition, Creative writing workshops, Poetry Slam
- Extra-curricular Activities:
- Astronomy Club
- Chess/Games Club
- Choir – Junior & Senior
- Dance Club
- Coding Club
- Debating/Public Speaking/ Mock Trial
- Saphara – Be The Change Award
- Lego Club
- Liturgy Group
- Junior & Senior Book Club
- Mandarin Classes
- Orchestra
- Quiz teams
- Sentinus R & D Engineering
- Sports Clubs
- John Paul II Awards
- Traditional Group
- Minecraft Club
- Crochet Club
- Eco Club



# A SHOW STOPPER

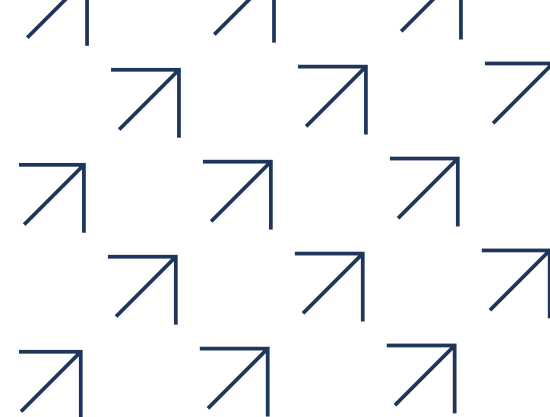
## Music

Music plays a central role in school life, offering enjoyment and enrichment while laying the foundation for those who wish to pursue a career in the field. Pupils can join instrumental and vocal ensembles, including the school orchestra, Irish traditional groups and junior and senior choirs. These groups perform at school functions and community events such as the Carol Services and Spring Concerts as well as entering national competitions.

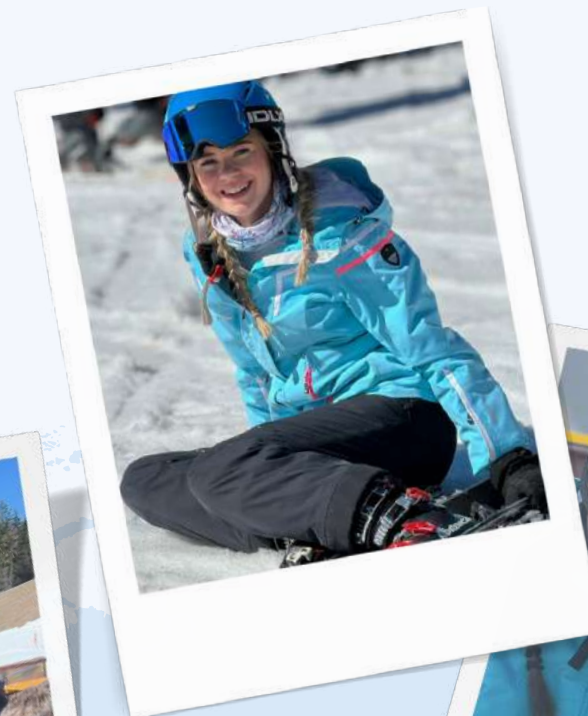
The Music Department is a vibrant, creative community dedicated to developing musicianship, imagination and artistic excellence. Pupils are offered a rich and supportive environment in which to explore performance, composition and music technology and become confident, expressive musicians who are equipped with skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

## Drama

Lessons take place in a fully-equipped Drama Suite and students have opportunities to attend workshops and professional productions in Belfast and Dublin. The Academy has a proud tradition of staging major productions, including *Les Misérables*, *School of Rock* and *The Crucible*. Many former pupils have gone on to enjoy successful careers in theatre, film and television, performing on Broadway, in the West End and in major productions such as *Marvel's Hawkeye*.







# A WANDERER

At St. Patrick's Academy, we believe learning extends beyond the classroom.

Each year, we offer a variety of school trips that provide pupils with the chance to explore new environments, experience different cultures and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

These opportunities not only enrich academic learning but also help pupils develop confidence, independence and social skills. Recent trips have included: Washington DC, New York, Munich, Berlin, Krakow, Paris, Gaeltacht and school trips around Ireland.





# ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY & COMMUNITY LINKS

At St. Patrick's Academy, we are proud to maintain strong links with our local community. We actively collaborate with businesses, charities and community organisations to provide pupils with enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

These partnerships create opportunities for volunteering, fundraising and shared projects that promote social responsibility and leadership. By engaging with the wider community, we help our students develop empathy, teamwork and a sense of pride, ensuring they grow into well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to society.

Recent activities have included visits to local nursing homes, hosting a Lourdes coffee morning, participating in the John Paul II Awards and supporting charitable initiatives such as; Trócaire fundraising, the Shoebox Appeal and donations to local food banks.

Our pupils also volunteer at nearby primary schools, strengthening community links and fostering leadership skills. In addition, we maintain strong connections with the Royal School in Dungannon, providing opportunities for collaboration and shared learning.



Irish Dancers in local nursing homes



Yr 13 students teaching Irish in St. Patrick's PS Donaghmore



Fundraiser for Cancer Research & Air Ambulance



Credit Union Art Competition



Lourdes Coffee Morning




Shoebox Appeal



Fundraising for Mental Health





A CREATOR  
A COMPETITOR  
A FRIEND  
A LEADER  
A LEARNER  
A MAKER  
A DREAMER  
A DOER  
A BELIEVER  
A PERFORMER  
A SCIENTIST



BE A  
PART OF  
SOMETHING

Acadamh Naomh Pádraig  
Le Chéile chun Feabhais



# Acadamh Naomh Pádraig Le Chéile chun Feabhais

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