

Dominican College



Portstewart

Open Night 2022

Additional Information



DOMINICAN COLLEGE

Strand Road,

Portstewart BT55 7PF

Telephone: 028 70832715

Fax: 028 70834807

Website: www.dcpni.net

E-mail: info@dominican.portstewart.ni.sch.uk

Principal: Ms R Ronan BSc, MSc

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr Michael Fleming BA

Voluntary Grammar School
(Denominational)

Age Range of Pupils: 11-18

Admissions Number: 100

Enrolment Number: 675

OPEN NIGHT will be held virtually in January 2022

Fees & Charges

The school has no Capital Fee. Parents are invited to make a Voluntary Contribution of £100 per pupil.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8**Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the school**

The Board of Governors is the relevant admissions authority for Dominican College, Portstewart ("the College"). The Board of Governors draws up and approves the Admissions Criteria and delegates to a Selection Sub-committee responsibility for considering all applications for admission to Year 8.

Any reference to the term 'the Board of Governors' within these Admissions Criteria includes the Selection Sub-committee nominated and approved by the Board of Governors, for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out in this document.

The Board of Governors has agreed that in the event that the number of applications for places at the College exceeds the College Admissions Number of 100, the criteria set out below will be used.

Pupils resident in N. Ireland at the time of their application will be considered before any pupil not so resident.

It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all the information required by the College, accompanies the Transfer application. Failure to provide the required information may result in the College being unable to consider the application.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should note that they must attach documents verifying information pertinent to the College's Admission Criteria to the online application. Where the Board of Governors has a general knowledge or belief of a problem relating to false or incorrect information the College will take action to ensure that no pupil gains a place through use of such information.

For admission for 2022/23

Pupils will be admitted in the following order until 100 places have been filled in total:-

- 1 Preference will be given to all children who give Dominican College as their 1st preference school on the application form.
- 2 Where selection has to be made between pupils after application of criterion 1, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down until all places are filled:-
 - (a) Pupils who have a child of the family* currently enrolled in the College
 - (b) Pupils who do not fulfil criterion (a) but had a child of the family* enrolled in the College for 2 or more years.
 - (c) Pupils who are the first or only child in a family.
 - (d) Pupils who have a parent who is currently a permanent member of staff at Dominican College Portstewart.
 - (e) Pupils who have a parent* who was enrolled at the College for 2 or more years.
 - (f) (i) Pupils who are from the following Primary Schools, St Colum's Primary School Portstewart, Portstewart Primary School or St Patrick's Primary School Portrush.

- (ii) Pupils who are from other Traditional Feeder Primary Schools**.
- (g) The age of the pupil as entered on the birth certificate - preference being given to the older pupil(s).

* Full name(s) and dates must be given.

** Traditional Feeder Primary School is defined as one from which one or more pupils have transferred to Dominican College within the last 7 school years (i.e. after 30th June 2015) This information is available from the school office.

Verification of all Information

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the Transfer application or appended to the Transfer application by parent(s)/guardian(s).

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide any requested verifying documents within the deadline set by the College will result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.

The responsibility to ensure that:

- the Transfer application and other necessary documentation is correctly completed;
- any required verification documents are provided within specified deadlines,

lies with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child. Failure to ensure that this occurs will lead to the application not being considered by the Board of Governors and/or the withdrawal of a place in the College.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September 2022 should write to the Principal clearly stating this. In the event of a vacancy arising, the above criteria will be applied to these applications.

Number of Applications and Admissions

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2019/20	100	129	101
2020/21	100	124	100
2021/22	100	132	100

This table does not include children who were admitted to the school with a statement of special educational needs.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 - 12

Admissions criteria for year 9-12 will be available from the school office.

Travel Arrangements

Pupils travelling to and from school can receive free transport, through a bus pass, providing that their home is more than three miles (as measured by the nearest available route) from the school and that transport to the school is available. Application forms for bus passes may be obtained from EA North Eastern Region.

Alongside our Portstewart pupils we have pupils travelling to and from Dominican College from Aghadowey, Articlave, Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Bushmills, Castlerock, Coleraine, Dunloy, Garvagh, Kilrea, Portrush, Stranocum and other outlying districts.

Morning buses leave from the various locations in such a way that children leave home at a reasonable time and are delivered to the school gates in time for the start of the school day. Return buses leave close to the end of the

school day, normally enabling pupils to get home without undue delay. Later buses are available for those engaged in after school activities.

Transport arrangements brought in by the Department of Education in 1997 mean that some prospective pupils from the Coleraine area may have to pay for their bus passes. *Some of these currently receive free transport at post-16.*

School Organisation

The school day begins at 8.55am and ends at 3.25pm. We operate a two-week timetable with five periods each day, except for Wednesdays and Thursdays which have six classes. This structure was devised to support a broad curriculum and to enable a range of learning activities to take place within a single period. It also helps minimise time lost through travelling between classrooms.

Special Educational Needs

We seek to identify and support students who have special educational needs and to ensure that those students have access to as wide and full a curriculum as possible. The College has a Special Educational Needs Coordinator and a Learning Support Coordinator who work with staff, parents and outside agencies, as appropriate, to address concerns and to make sure that the welfare and progress of identified pupils is monitored, evaluated and kept under review.

Copies of the school's special educational needs policy are available on request from the school office.

Education for Mutual Understanding

Dominican College attracts pupils and staff from Catholic and other Christian denominations as well as some pupils from other faiths. Our pupils come from a range of backgrounds and differing home circumstances.

We welcome and value all members of our Dominican community equally and value the contribution made to the school by each of its members.

Our commitment to Education for Mutual Understanding is enshrined in the following aims:

- To encourage a school spirit of friendly relationships and communication between staff and pupils.
- To help pupils develop a critical awareness of cultural values and enable them to develop a strong sense of self.
- To encourage and promote a discipline system based on mutual understanding, respect and sensitivity to others.
- To provide an environment conducive to the understanding of and tolerance and respect for different religious, social, political and cultural backgrounds.

These aims are implemented at all levels of pupil development and across both the formal and informal curriculum. Specific implementation is also achieved through:

- The whole school Religious Education and Liturgical Programme
- EMU as a cross-curricular theme
- Other school initiatives and activities including:
 - International Day of Languages
 - Eco Club
 - Joint School enterprises

- Riverside Theatre Concerts
- Environmental Awareness/Preservation
- Community Carol service
- Interdenominational liturgies
- CEM conference
- Morning Assembly
- Public Speaking & Debates
- Educational visits
- Inclusive School Services / Enrichment Days
- Support for Trocaire & St Vincent de Paul
- Pupil and staff involvement in Gaeltacht
- ReadOn literacy & charities effort
- European Youth Parliament
- Sponsored walk in support of local, national and international charities.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2021

YEAR 10 – END OF KEY STAGE 3 ASSESSMENT- JUNE 2021

Number of pupils in Year 10 - **101**

Number of pupils exempt from Assessments - **0**

Percentage of pupils in the final year of key stage 3		
	Achieving at least Level	
	4	5
Using Communication Teacher Assessment	100	100
Using Mathematics: Teacher Assessment	100	100

Key Stage 3 assessment in English, Mathematics and Science has been replaced with assessment of cross-curricular skills. All pupils in year 10 are awarded a level for both Using Communication and Using Mathematics. Pupils are expected to achieve a level 4 in both assessments by the end of Key Stage 3.

YEAR 12 – END OF KEY STAGE 4 ASSESSMENT- JUNE 2021

Number of Pupils in Year 12 **82**

Number of these with a statement of special educational needs **1**

GCSE RESULTS OVERALL

Summary	2021
Achieving 5+ Grades A*- C	100%
Achieving 5+ Grades A*- C (including English & Mathematics)	98%

Achieving 7+ Grades A* - C	95%
Achieving 7+ Grades A* - C (including English & Mathematics)	94%

GCSE results by subject for 2021

GCSE SUBJECT	Total Entry	% A*	% A*-A	% A*-B	% A*-C*	% A*-C	% A*-D	% A*-E
Art and Design	9	0	33	78	78	100	100	100
Business & Communications Systems	14	36	50	71	79	93	93	100
Design & Technology	10	20	40	60	60	80	90	100
Digital Technology	46	50	76	89	91	100	100	100
Drama	16	0	44	69	75	100	100	100
English Language	82	7	43	78	84	100	100	100
English Literature	61	13	48	87	92	100	100	100
French	8	13	38	75	88	88	100	100
Geography	27	4	37	59	59	82	93	100
Health & Social Care	15	0	33	87	87	93	100	100
History	18	11	22	50	56	94	100	100
Mathematics	82	9	40	76	79	98	99	100
Mathematics (Further)	22	27	46	77	91	96	100	100
Media Studies	20	0	25	45	60	95	100	100
Music	19	21	47	74	84	100	100	100
Religious Studies	60	13	62	80	87	93	100	100
Science: Single Award	37	19	41	49	78	100	100	100
Spanish	35	11	46	66	77	100	100	100

GCSE SUBJECT	Total Entry	% A*A*	% A*A	% AA	% AB	% BB	% BC*	% C*C*	% C*C	% CC	% CD	% DD
Science: Double Award	45	16	31	42	56	73	80	91	98	100	100	100

GCSE Equivalence Qualifications

NQF Level 2	Total Entry	Dist*(%)	Dist*-Dist(%)	Dist* - Merit(%)	Dist* - Pass(%)
GCSE Equivalence		A*(%)	A*-A(%)	A*-B(%)	A*-C(%)
Sport	10	40%	60%	80%	100%

OCN Level 2 Certificate	Total Entry	PASS(%)	FAIL(%)
GCSE Equivalence		B (%)	U (%)
Creative Arts	22	100%	0%
Religious Studies	21	100%	0%

YEAR 14 – END OF KEY STAGE 5 ASSESSMENT- JUNE 202

Number of Pupils in Year 14 67

Number of these with a statement of special educational needs 1

A LEVEL RESULTS OVERALL

Year	2021
Achieving 3+ Grades A*- C	94%
Achieving 2+ Grades A*- E	100%

A LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT

A LEVEL SUBJECT	Total Entry	% A*	% A-A*	% A*-B	% A*-C	% A*-D	% A*-E
Art & Design	3	0	0	67	100	100	100
Biology	11	0	55	82	100	100	100
Chemistry	11	18	64	91	100	100	100
Design and Technology	6	33	67	83	100	100	100
Digital Technology	20	20	55	90	100	100	100
English Literature	7	14	57	86	100	100	100
French	2	0	50	100	100	100	100
Further Mathematics	1	100	100	100	100	100	100
Geography	9	22	44	78	100	100	100
Health & Social Care	17	6	35	77	94	100	100
History	5	0	60	80	100	100	100
Mathematics	13	15	62	77	85	92	100
Media Studies	27	4	30	67	100	100	100
Music	8	25	88	100	100	100	100
Performing Arts	7	0	43	71	86	100	100
Physics	7	29	57	86	100	100	100
Polish	2	0	50	100	100	100	10
Religious Studies	11	18	46	91	100	100	100
Spanish	2	0	100	100	100	100	100

GCE Equivalence Qualifications

NQF Level 3	Total Entry	Dist*(%)	Dist*-Dist(%)	Dist* - Merit(%)	Dist* - Pass(%)
GCE Equivalence		A*(%)	A*-A(%)	A*-C(%)	A*-E(%)
Business Studies	17	47%	76%	88%	100%
ICT	14	64%	78%	100%	100%
Sport	6	17%	34%	100%	100%

Child Protection Policy

"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by those looking after them....."

When adults or organisations make decisions which affect children, they must always think first about what would be best for the child".

Extract from United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991)

The welfare of the pupils in our care is paramount. Dominican College's Child Protection Policy is designed to help protect all pupils in our care from harm. A copy of the Policy is available on request from the school office or through the school web-site. When abuse is suspected or when a pupil makes an allegation that he or she is suffering, or has suffered abuse, the school has a statutory obligation, under the Children (N.I.) Order 1995 and in line with the requirements of the Department of Education circular 2017/04 "Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools", to make a referral either to the social services of the local Health and Social Services Trust, or to the PSNI.

A Designated teacher and Deputy, with responsibility for Child Protection have been appointed and all members of staff have been made fully aware of the necessary procedures to be followed. If parents have concerns regarding their child's safety they should contact the designated teacher.

Designated Teacher: Mrs A Heaney **Deputy Designated Teacher:** Mr G Lynch

School Uniform

Every pupil is required to wear the designated school uniform throughout each school day, when representing the school, when travelling to and from school and on other occasions as directed. The school uniform suppliers are Couples, Coleraine and McKenzie Menswear, Portstewart. No other outlet has permission to claim to sell Dominican College uniform.

Pupils should be aware that their personal appearance matters – that they should always be clean, neat and tidy. Pupils have a responsibility to themselves and to the school to take pride in their appearance, including the way in which they wear their uniform.

School Discipline

The school Discipline Policy reflects the aims of Dominican College. This means that the emphasis is on encouraging, developing and maintaining high standards of self-discipline, self-control, self-respect, respect for others and courtesy. This creates and maintains an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness in the school and ensures a safe and stimulating environment in which “to assist each pupil in his or her pursuit of full human and spiritual development”. A “Code of Conduct” sets out the standards expected in a range of areas of school life. Copies of the Code are available, on request, from the school office.

Where breaches of discipline do occur, they are dealt with by the class teacher, form teacher or senior member of staff as appropriate, following guidelines laid down.

Homework

The school recognises that homework is an essential part of the learning process and that pupils who regularly do homework gain immeasurably from the experience.

Homework enables all pupils to demonstrate and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired in class and to develop and enhance the core skills of literacy and numeracy.

Homework is one of the indicators of each individual pupil’s progress and enables teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of classroom practice.

Homework is viewed as an integral part of the teaching and learning process, and is used as a valuable assessment tool.

The school believes that the purposes of homework are to allow pupils to:

- Revise, reinforce and consolidate what they have learned within the classroom;
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently;
- Show an understanding, application and extension of what has been studied in class, for example by means of extended writing and project work
- Develop an independent attitude and share responsibility for their own learning;
- Practise self-discipline and develop organisational and time-management skills;
- Prepare for examinations and future class work;
- Have opportunities for stretch and challenge by means of research and innovation.
- Be creative

All students are expected to complete homework every school night (Monday – Friday inclusive) and as a guide the following times are expected on an average night:

Year Group	Recommended daily homework time
<i>Year 8</i>	<i>1 hour - 1 hour 30 mins</i>
<i>Year 9</i>	<i>1 hour 30 mins- 2 hours</i>
<i>Year 10</i>	<i>2 hours- 2 hours 30 mins</i>
<i>Year 11</i>	<i>2 hours 30 mins- 3 hours</i>
<i>Year 12</i>	<i>3 hours</i>
<i>Year 13 and 14</i>	<i>3 hours (in addition to study periods)</i>

Charges and Remissions Policy

Voluntary Contributions

Seeking to provide the highest standards of equipment and facilities for our pupils involves considerable expense over and above the funding which the College receives from the Department of Education. Parents are requested to make an annual donation of £100 per pupil to help meet these needs.

Optional Extras

Parents will be charged for:

- i. individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument
- ii. individual vocal training

Transport

Pupils will not be charged for travelling to timetabled Physical Education activities except for Year 8 swimming where an annual charge of £10 is made to defer costs. Appropriate charges will be made for travel to after-school events such as theatrical visits, sporting events, matches etc.

Residential and Educational Trips

Charges will be made in respect of all residential and non-residential activities which take place wholly or more than fifty per cent outside school hours when the child's participation has been agreed in advance by the parent.

The charge will include the cost of travel, entrance fees, materials, books, instruments and other equipment, non-teaching staff costs and insurance costs.

Where a school activity involves pupils spending a night or nights away from home charges will be made for board and lodging.

Public Examination Entries

The entry fee is paid by the school for a pupil to sit once any GCSE, AS or A level examination for which the school prepares the pupil. Any other Examination Entry and Amendment fees are payable by the pupil.

Practical Subjects

Charges will be made for ingredients and materials needed for courses in practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.

Breakages and Fines

Fines may be imposed by the school for any incident which causes damage or waste with regard to school property. Defaced, damaged or lost textbooks or items of equipment will be charged for when this is a result of the pupil's behaviour.

