



**BANGOR
ACADEMY**
& SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE

**SUCCESS
IS DAILY**

**AT BANGOR
ACADEMY**

Prospectus 2026



SCHOOLS' CUP COMPETE TOGETHER!



Welcome to a World of Outstanding Education and Opportunity!

A message from

Principal, Mr Matthew Pitts:

'Our tagline, **'Success is daily'** sums up our ethos. As you and your child decide on the best post-primary or sixth form school for your child, let me explain what sets Bangor Academy apart.

Daily wins and encouragement in the classroom and beyond are just as important as headline statistics. At the Academy, our priority is to ensure our pupils leave school able to face the demands of the 21st century with confidence. Progress is not linear, rather it is complex and individual and so therefore we must tailor the post-primary experience to adapt to those needs.

We continue to challenge the 'league-table mentality' around education, selection and how to measure success. When you **experience a school which truly values all-abilities**, you understand the diverse talents that are needed to make up a successful society. Nurturing the individual is the key to ensuring everyone thrives! The Education Minister's described us as 'hugely successful'. We agree!

To the right are some of the many parental endorsements of our approach and you can also read our latest ETI Inspection report : <https://www.eti.gov.uk/publications/follow-inspection-bangor-academyand-sixth-form-college-bangor-county-down>

Thank you for your interest in Bangor Academy. In addition to this prospectus and our social media feeds, I really look forward welcoming prospective Year 8 and Sixth Form parents on our Open Nights: Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th January 2026.

"My daughter leaves your wonderful school a confident, well-balanced teenager with extremely positive memories of a fantastic school life. She really is ready to take on anything!"
(Year 14 Parent)

"Thank you for the dedication and support Bangor Academy staff gave my son. He loved his teachers, made good friends and he succeeded in his exams so he is now off to do the degree he wanted at university."
(Year 14 parent)

"Bangor Academy has exceeded our expectations and our son has thrived both in the classroom and on the rugby pitch!"
(Year 14 Parent)

"My children chose the Academy and we couldn't be happier. They each got high AQE scores and many asked us why we weren't just taking the selective school places they could have had but this school suited them, we have never regretted that choice. Their academic progress is excellent and the school community provides the full learning experience."
(Year 12 Parent)

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



MATTHEW PITTS
BA PGCE PQH
PRINCIPAL

DID YOU KNOW?

THE AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IN YEAR 8 IN 2024/25 IS 22.



Volunteer together... play together!



Pastoral Care

Bangor Academy provides a caring pastoral support structure for pupils.

Each pupil is placed in a Form Class and belongs to one of our five houses; Beach, Tower, Ward, Castle and Abbey. Pupils have daily contact with their Form Tutor and Year 8 classes also benefit from the interest taken by our trained Sixth Form Mentors. There are many others involved in helping and supporting your child as you can see from the diagram on page 3.

Halloween disco Yr 8

'When I think back to my early days here, it's hard to believe how far I've come. I knew I wanted to come to this school from the moment I attended Open Night in P6. There was such warmth in the atmosphere. I especially remember being drawn to the English Department. As someone who has always loved reading, it felt like a place where I could truly thrive. I now study English Literature at A Level, and I know I wouldn't be here without the encouragement and dedication of my teachers.

Throughout my time at this school, I've been given countless opportunities to push myself and try things I never would have attempted before. I joined the netball team, I took part in concerts and carol services with the choir, and in Year 12 I even spoke at the Carol Service... something younger me would never have believed possible. Some of my favourite experiences include leading a campaign inspired by ending violence

against women and girls, and being part of the Reading Partnership programme where I had the chance to share my love of books with pupils who sometimes find reading challenging. These experiences have shaped me more than I can say.

I would never have put myself forward for anything like Head Girl in the past, but this school has helped me discover confidence I didn't know I had. I am incredibly grateful for every opportunity, every challenge and every memory. As difficult as it is to say goodbye, I know I will carry everything I have learned here with me as I move on to university next year.

Lia Duncan,
Head Girl



'I remember my first day at Bangor Academy, walking up to that massive building. Nerves and excitement coursing through me—I wondered if I even belonged. But then I looked around and realized everyone else was feeling the same way. We were all trying to find our place.

Once that sank in, things got easier. I opened up, made friends, and suddenly it didn't feel so intimidating. My coaches and teachers didn't just teach me—they pushed me to believe in myself. Their encouragement made me take risks, work harder, and step out of my comfort zone. Because of them, I learned that I'm capable of more than I ever thought possible. They showed me standards and helped me access drive, discipline, and a stronger work ethic. Most importantly, they showed me the power of belief.

Bangor Academy has given me confidence I didn't know I had. It challenged me, placed me in uncomfortable situations, and shaped who I am. I learned how to work with others, trust myself, and

handle pressure. And perhaps most importantly, I found a sense of belonging. I came in not knowing anyone, and now I can't imagine my life without these people.

This place has gifted me countless memories—from school trips to Italy, Portugal, and New York, to playing rugby in the Kingspan Stadium with my mates. Every moment, big or small, has shaped my time here.

I have genuinely loved my experience at Bangor Academy and wouldn't change a thing. The school has prepared me for the next stage of my life. And now, standing at the start of something new, I feel that same sense of being out of my depth I felt on day one. But I know it won't last. If Bangor Academy has taught me anything, it's that challenges fade and the growth they bring, stays with you'

Sean Hynes,
Head Boy



Castle



Tower



Ward



Beach



Abbey



PASTORAL CARE

& Safeguarding AT BA&6FC

Staff Support

DESIGNATED TEACHER
IN CHARGE OF CHILD PROTECTION:
Mr N. Withers (Vice-Principal)

DEPUTY TEACHERS IN
CHARGE OF CHILD PROTECTION:
Mrs J. Irvine & Miss C. McDowell
Pupil Well-being Officer: Miss E.
Miskimmin
School Nurse: Mrs S. Sanlon
Counselling Services: Family Workss

ACHIEVEMENT TEAMS -
SUPPORTING ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT

Supported by:
Senior Leadership Team
Heads of Year
Deputy Heads of Year
Form Tutors
Subject Teachers
SEN Team
Classroom Assistants
School Librarian:
Mrs C. Devenney
Support Staff



Year 8 Transition Support

YEAR 8 PASTORAL TEAM:

ASSISTANT-PRINCIPAL: MRS N. ANDERSON

YEAR HEAD:

MISS A. MCKAY (ASSISTED BY TWO DEPUTY YEAR
HEADS - MRS C. HEYWOOD AND MR J. STEWART)

Year 8 Form Tutors

EVENTS:

In addition to teachers who have a special focus on
Year 8, we run several events to familiarise new pupils
and develop strong and supportive relationships.

- Feeder Primary School links
- Year 8 Induction Evening (June)
- Year 8 Induction Days (August)
- Parent /Teacher Consultations
- Regular progress reports
- Study Skills event with Young Enterprise
- Internet Safety
- Year 14 and Year 8 Sponsored Walk
- Team building events e.g. Connected Unit, Numeracy Leaders Maths Day etc.
- European Day of Languages Bake Off
- PTFA events e.g. Take your parent on a tour of the school afternoon.
- House events eg: Quizzes, Competitions

Peer Support

Pupil Leadership team -
Prefects and House Captains
Peer Mentors in each form class
Reading Partnership Pupil Tutors
Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
Digital Leaders (E-safety)
Homework Club
Year 8 Lunchtime Club
International Friends' Club
Mental Health Ambassadors
Numeracy Leaders



**Meet our friendly health
team: Nurse Sanlon and
Pupil Well-being Officer,
Miss Miskimmin.**

**Whatever your passion we will support,
encourage and celebrate with you.**



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Business Studies Tayto



THEO

"Hi, my name is Theo and I have settled into Bangor Academy really well. My favourite subjects so far are Geography, P.E. and Maths.

I love doing anything active so I have joined lots of clubs including rugby, hockey and cross-country. I have already represented the school in rugby for the A-team. I was so pleased to be picked because I had never played rugby before coming here.

I am also performing as an Oompa Loompa in the school production of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. It has been brilliant fun and I have made new friends from other year groups as well as Year 8."

➔ CURRICULUM
OF BREADTH
AND BALANCE

MATHS
Science
TECHNOLOGY
Languages
ART



**Young Enterprise
showcase at St
George's Market.**

➔ A YEAR 8 TYPICAL DAY

Let's walk through a day in

**ARRIVE AT SCHOOL
ANY TIME AFTER 8.15AM**

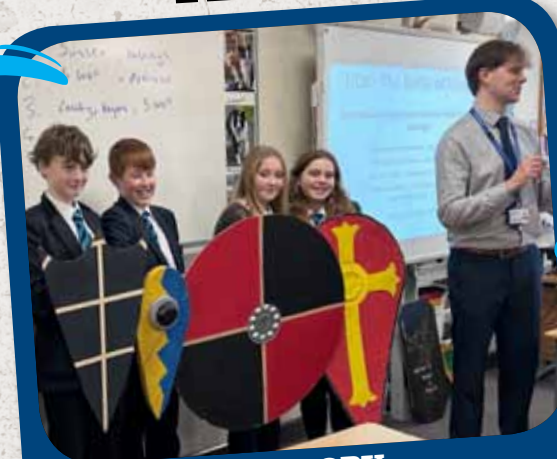
**YOU MIGHT WANT TO
MEET YOUR FRIENDS IN
THE CANTEEN FOR
BREAKFAST CLUB**

**ON FRIDAYS YEAR 8 HAVE
ASSEMBLY, OTHERWISE YOU GO
TO FORM CLASS AT 8.45AM**



FORM CLASS 8.45AM

PERIOD 5



HISTORY

PERIOD 6



**JUNIOR
LUNCH**



FRENCH

PERIODS 7 AND 8



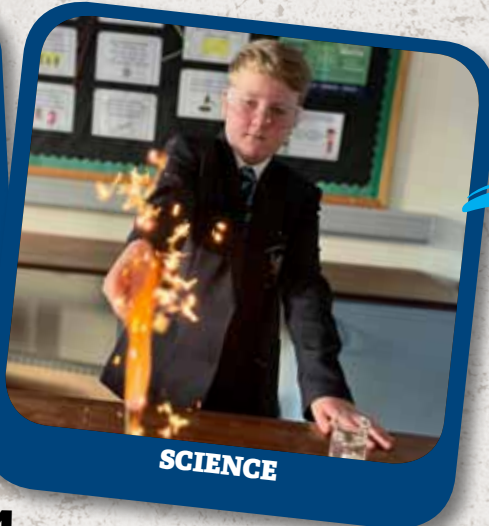
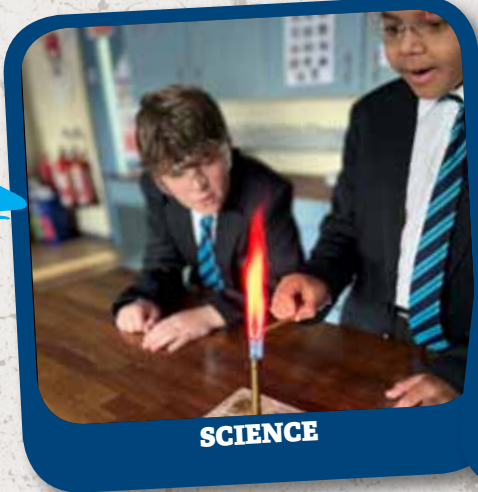
HOME ECONOMICS



HOME ECONOMICS

the life of a year 8 pupil

PERIODS 1 AND 2

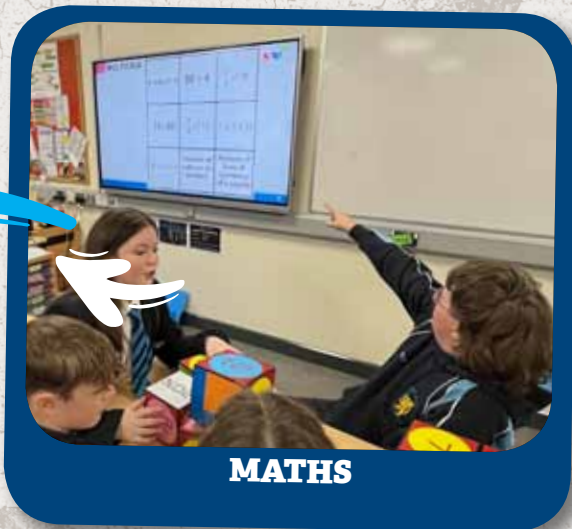


- Pack schoolbag the night before (don't forget homeworks).
- Before school, have a healthy breakfast.
- Have you an after school activity?



BREAK
IN JUNIOR CANTEEN

PERIOD 4



PERIOD 3



At 3.10 pm lessons end and most people head to an after-school club or activity. There are so many to choose from!

- ➔ OPPORTUNITIES TO FULFIL POTENTIAL
➔ EXPERIENCES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Extra-Curricular Activities

Colour Run: Fundraising together for a good cause.



Something for everyone

Whether you are a football fanatic, the outdoor type or a culture vulture, there will be a club to suit you. We have a huge range of extra-curricular clubs as you can see from the list. Get involved in something beyond your normal lessons. Club activities will broaden your horizons, you will have fun, enjoy new experiences and make lots of new friends.



HANNA

"At first secondary school did feel a little overwhelming but I quickly got used to it. I made lots of new friends in my Form Class and they made me feel more comfortable. Now I feel very settled. I am learning lots of new things and enjoying new subjects like French and Home Economics. On Fridays after school I go to running club."

Girls' Football



Clubs & Societies



Golf



Gardening Club



Duke of Edinburgh Adventures



TAGSA Netball winners

PUPILS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A WIDE RANGE OF EXCITING AND CHALLENGING ACTIVITIES



Fancy trying something new? Check out the astounding array of clubs on offer.

- Animation Club
- Art club
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Brass Ensemble
- Chess Club
- Cricket
- Cross-country Club
- Djembe Drumming Club
- Dance
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Equestrian Club
- Football (Girls and Boys)
- Futsal
- GarageBand Club
- Gardening Club
- Haven
- Horrible Histories Club
- Hockey
- Homework Club
- House Activities
- Ju-Jitsu
- Junior Choir
- Knit and Natter Club
- Lunchtime Club
- Music Theory Club
- Netball
- Numeracy Leaders
- Pet Club
- Queen's Academy
- Reading Partnership
- Rock Group
- Rugby
- School Council
- Senior Choir
- Scripture Union (IMPACT)
- Skiing
- Tabletop Games Club
- Technology Club
- Trampolining
- Ukulele club
- Wind Band
- Young Enterprise

TOP QUALITY EDUCATION

Key Stage 4 and 5

The Academy has a broad and balanced range of subjects on offer to pupils.

DID YOU KNOW?

AVERAGE GCSE AND A-LEVEL EXAM CLASS SIZE IS 15.



Construction



Drawing inspiration in the Tropical Ravine and in the Ulster Museum for A Level Art



Moving Image Arts A-Level

Key Stage 4 Subjects

In addition to the CORE Subjects students choose up to 5 OPTIONAL subjects:

English Language Learning for Life and Work
Mathematics Religious Education
Science Physical Education

Art & Design	French	Music
Business Studies	Geography	Occupational Studies
Child Development	Health and Social Care	Science (Double Award)
Construction	History	Science (Single Award)
Drama	Home Economics	Technology and Design
Engineering	I.C.T.	Travel and Tourism
English Literature	Motor Vehicle Studies	
Film Studies	Moving Image Arts	

Key Stage 5 Subjects

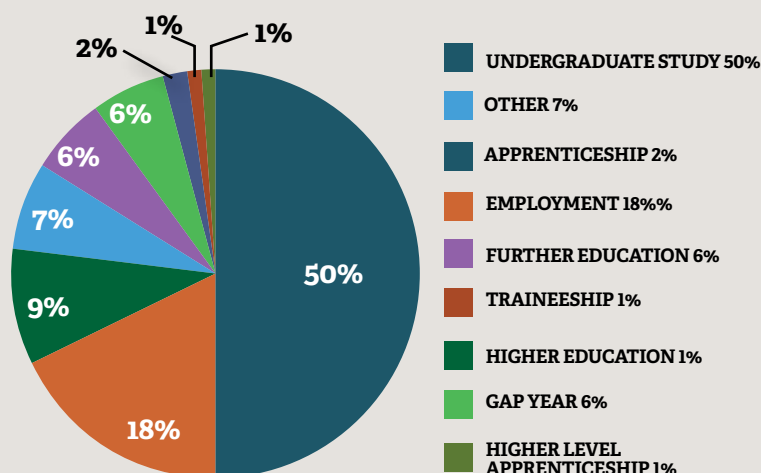
A range of A Level subjects (see table) is offered, some of which are delivered through the Bangor Learning Partnership.

Art	Engineering	Moving Image Arts
Biology	English Literature	Music
BTEC Science	Geography	Performing Arts
Business Studies	Government and Politics	Religious Studies
Child Play Learning and Development	History	Sport and Physical Education
Construction	Health and Social Care	Travel and Tourism
Design and Technology	I.C.T.	Uniform Protective Services
Employability	Life and Health Science	
	Mathematics	

Careers Department

At Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College, Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) plays a vital role in supporting our students' success. Our dedicated Careers team, alongside subject teachers and pastoral staff, works closely with students to help them make informed decisions about their courses and pathways at key transition points, and at the end of their school career. We focus on fostering self-awareness and personal development, encouraging exploration and research into potential careers, and equipping students with strong decision-making skills. By emphasising transferable and employability skills, we ensure our students are fully prepared for the challenges and opportunities they will face in life beyond school.

Year 14: Leavers' Destinations 2025





FUTURE

Your future

We want to help you get to where you want to go.

Going Places

Your academic and vocational qualifications as well as extra-curricular experiences will take you places.

We enjoyed meeting many of our recent leavers at Prize Day and hearing all about their life beyond the Academy.

Katie & Harry

Katie has started her degree course in Biomedical Science at Ulster University, Coleraine and is loving undergraduate life. Harry has started his dream Electronics apprenticeship with Red Bull Formula 1.



Jodie & Joel

Jodie and Joel's top marks have taken them both to Queen's University, Belfast. Jodie has started her English degree while Joel is doing Accountancy.



First Class

Former Head Girl, Samantha Beggs achieved a 1st Class Honours degree in Geography from Queen's University, Belfast.



First Class

Peter Dornan graduated with a 1st Class Honours degree in Engineering from the University of Ulster.



First Class

Robyn Willis, another former Head Girl, graduated from Stranmillis University, QUB with a 1st BEd Hons in Primary Education.



Top Apprentice

Former Head Boy, Andrew Thompson completed an apprenticeship with Magellan Aerospace and SERC in 2021. He is now in his dream machining job and working as a Team Leader and trainer.



Admissions criteria for Year 8 September 2026



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 the Principal the responsibility for applying these criteria.

Admissions criteria for Year 8 pupils for September 2026

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 27th January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 19th February 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 19th February 2026 and up to 4pm on 24th February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

If the school is oversubscribed, the Principal will consider applications subject to the following ranked criteria. If after the application of the criteria in order, there comes a point where there are more pupils who meet a particular criterion than there are places available, then a tie-breaker will be applied. The tie-breaker is described below.

Admissions Criteria

1. Pupils who have a child of the family enrolled at the school. *
2. Pupils whose parents are permanent employees in the school (includes anyone who has worked in the school for a minimum of 6 months).
3. Pupils who attend any one of the school's traditional feeder primary schools from Group A below.
4. Pupils who attend any one of the school's traditional feeder primary schools from Group B below.
5. Applicants residing in catchment areas BT19, BT20, BT21 and BT23 for whom the school is the nearest controlled all ability school.
6. Other Pupils.

Tie-Breaker:

The tie breaker is in two stages:

If, after the application of the criteria in order, there comes a point where there are more pupils who meet a particular criterion than there are places available, then a tie breaker will be applied. The tie breaker is described below.

Stage 1

Pupils who place Bangor Academy as either first or second preference on the transfer application will be given priority.

If there remain more applicants at Stage 1 than places available, then Stage 2 will be applied. It will be initially applied to all applicants who meet the Stage 1 criteria before moving to other applications.

Stage 2

Final Selection will be on the basis of initial letter of the surname as identified in the randomly devised set of letters outlined below and the application of those letters thereafter. If applicants have the same surname, then the Christian names will be used in the order they appear on the birth certificate.

MPNORKYWDECILSJXZBTAVFGQHU

When we reach the position to allocate the final place and in the unlikely event that there are two or more pupils who meet the criteria with the same name, we will then apply an alternative random selection.

It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the Board of Governors, on the transfer application, of any information which will help when making a decision. Assumptions cannot and will not be made.

Contributory Primary Schools Group B

Abbey PS	Londonderry PS	Victoria PS NArds
Carrowdore PS	Newtownards Model PS	West Winds PS
Castle Gardens PS	Regent House Prep	

Please note: neither the primary schools nor the catchment areas are in rank order.

* The criterion "child of the family" will be, defined in relation to the parties to a marriage or parties living together in the same household, interpreted in accordance with Annex 2 paragraph 4 of The Procedure for Transfer from Primary to Post-Primary Education: "Child of the family" means a child of both of them, and any other child who has been treated by both of those parties as a "child of their family". The Department of Education has been advised that this definition of a child of the family covers: a child born to a married couple; a child born to a co-habiting couple; a child of either of those people by a previous marriage or relationship; a child living with same- sex partners whether there is a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 or not; an adopted or fostered child; a situation where, for example, an orphaned cousin is being brought up with the family.

The name and date of birth of the child of the family must be included on the application.

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 application form/Transfer Form e.g. Birth Certificate.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post- primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's transfer application.

Waiting List Policy

Applications received after schools have been allocated to pupils will be placed, in order of receipt, at the end of the waiting list of those children not selected during the admissions process.

After the commencement of the 2026 school year, the above criteria will be used for entry into Y8 should admission become possible.

Contributory Primary Schools Group A

Ballyholme PS	Donaghadee PS	Rathmore PS
Ballymagee PS	Glenraig IPS	St Comgall's PS
Ballyvester PS	Grange Park PS	St Malachy's PS
Bangor Central IPS	Kilcooley PS	St Finian's PS
Bloomfield Road PS	Kilmaine PS	Towerview PS
Clandeboyne Road PS	Loughries IPS	
Crawfordsburn PS	Millisle PS	

Applications and Admissions

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/24	272	333	291*
2024/25	263	321	292*
2025/26	262	341	293*

*Includes children admitted with a statement of SEN and Temporary Variation approved by DE



Welcome to Bangor Academy

“Success isn’t just something big that you aim for at the end of a term, for every pupil at Bangor Academy success is daily.”

M. Pitts

Mr Matthew Pitts - Principal



**BANGOR
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& SIXTH FORM
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