

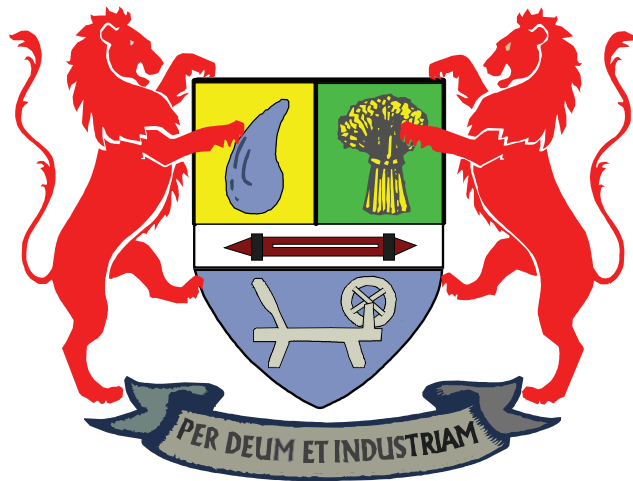


Belong | Aspire | Achieve



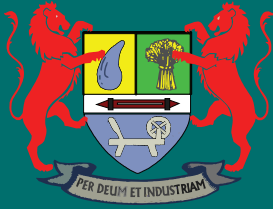
Banbridge Academy

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025



Belong | Aspire | Achieve

Banbridge Academy



Belong | Aspire | Achieve

Chairman of Board of Governors
Mr J Mathers

Principal
Mr R S McLoughlin OBE

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Foreword

From Chairman Mr J Mathers

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the Governors' Annual Report for 2024/2025. Banbridge Academy continues to flourish, achieving excellence in academic, sporting and many other extra-curricular arenas while offering rich experiences that extend far beyond the classroom. These successes are underpinned by strong pastoral care and a school ethos that fosters belonging, aspiration, and achievement.

The Board of Governors play a vital role in sustaining this progress. Through their work on appointments, finance, estates, admissions, and curriculum development, they ensure the Academy remains forward-looking and resilient. I am deeply grateful for the commitment and expertise of each Governor.

Our dedicated teaching staff are the heartbeat of the Academy, inspiring curiosity and nurturing ambition so that every pupil can thrive. Alongside them, our auxiliary staff, engaged pupils, and supportive parents create a vibrant community where excellence is celebrated and opportunities abound. Guided by thoughtful and visionary leadership, together we uphold the values that define Banbridge Academy: Belong | Aspire | Achieve.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building a school where aspiration and a sense of belonging go hand in hand. Thank you to all who make up our school community for your continued support in making this vision a reality.



Staffing Annual Report

Principal & Secretary to Governors:

Mr R S McLoughlin OBE, BSc, MEd, PQH

Board of Governors:

Chairman

Mr J Mathers

Parents' Representatives:

Mrs K Bell

Dr C Bryson

Mr J Ireland

Mrs A Wilson-Reid

Teachers' Representatives:

Mrs R Beacom

Mrs D Dreading

EA Representatives:

Ms S Henning

Mr M Hudson (Vice-Chairperson)

Mr D Livingstone

Mr M Orr

Mr J Wilkinson

DENI Representatives:

Mr M McNeill

Mr J Trueman

Mr H Widdis

STAFFING

Teaching Staff (including Principal)	78
Teaching Ratio	171 : 1
Office Staff	8
Pupil Welfare Auxiliary	1
Technicians	6
Ancillary: Caretakers	2
Part-time cleaners	20
Groundsman	1
Foreign Language Assistants	2
Study Supervisor	1
Librarian	1



Attendance

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance during the year was 95.9%. The school management continues to monitor attendance and is keen to maintain and improve school attendance. Parental support in this matter is always appreciated.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Visitors are required to report to Reception to sign a visitors' book on arrival and departure. They are also issued with a visitors' badge. Members of staff are reminded regularly of the need for vigilance at all times.

The school holds practice emergency evacuations and regularly reviews safety procedures.



Financial Report 2024/25

The Board of Governors presents the following report on the school budget based on the LMS Budget and Expenditure Report from the Education Authority (Southern Region)

SCHOOL: Banbridge Academy

SECTOR: Controlled Grammar School

Pupils: 1320

DE REF NO: 541-0013

Accrued Carry Over to 2024/2025	£	£
		619,287

INCOME 2024/2025

Budget Allocation		7,420,450
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Additional Allocation

Non Teaching Pay & Grading Budget	65,019	
Non Teaching NJC Budget	55,716	
Non Teaching Incremental Budget	4,098	
SENCo SEND Act (NI)	10,882	
Period Dignity	1,525	
Entitlement Framework	3,000	
EMA	400	
		140,640
		8,180,377

EXPENDITURE: 2024/2025

Salaries: Teaching	5,627,125	
Salaries: Non Teaching	1,147,012	
Staff - Other Costs Total	7,921	
Premises, Fixed Plant & Grounds	480,542	
Operating Costs Total	433,262	
Non Capital Purchases Total	269,911	
Reallocations Total	60,394	
Capital Expenditure Total	10,045	
		8,027,550
Other Income (inc. Renewable Energy)	-8,662	
Carry Over to 2025/26		152,827



School Fund 2024/25

Parental Contributions and Allocations

	£	£
Balance brought forward from 2023/24		-95,568
Deficit payment		95,568
Income for the year to 31 Aug 2025		
Parental Contributions	97,848	
Expenditure for the year to 31 Aug 2025		
Extra and Co-curricular Expenses		-72,148
Transport		-94,824
Affiliation/Entry Fees		-7,193
Facilities Hire		-5,922
Miscellaneous		-5,061
In-year movement for year to 31 Aug 2025	97,848	-185,148
Balance carried forward to 2025/26		-87,300



School Hours and Holidays

The school hours are as follows:

Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 3.20pm. The school will be open to receive pupils from 8.45am. All pupils not engaged in school organised activities should have left the premises by 3.45pm.

A number of inter-schools games fixtures are held on Saturday mornings from 9.00am to 12.00 noon approximately.

Pupils selected for school teams are expected to make participation a priority.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The school will be closed for the months of July and August (except for examinations results and advice on Higher Education and Further Education). A list of holiday arrangements is set out below. Information about holidays and school closures will be confirmed with parents at the beginning of September.

Holiday List 2025 /2026

Term 1

First Day of Term (All Pupils)	Monday 1 September 2025
Prize Day	Friday 24 October 2025
Half Term Break	Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October 2025
Last Day of Term	Friday 19 December 2025

Term 2

First Day of Term	Monday 5 January 2026
Open Night	Monday 26 January 2026
Half Term Break	Monday 9 - Friday 13 February 2026
Bank Holiday	Tuesday 17 March 2026
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 31 March 2026

Term 3

First Day of Term	Monday 13 April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 25 May 2026
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 30 June 2026

ATTENDANCE

Full attendance is expected of all pupils at all levels. Only in cases involving medical or other exceptional circumstances are pupils permitted to be absent. Parents are expressly asked not to arrange family holidays in term time.



The Curriculum

The school timetable consists of 45 periods per week, each period lasts 35 minutes.

KEY STAGE 3

Pupils entering Year 8 are organised into 8 unstreamed classes in which they remain throughout Years 9 and 10. All pupils have equal access to the full curriculum.

The Curriculum provision will be reviewed annually.

SUBJECT	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
English	5	5	5
Mathematics	5	5	5
Science and Technology			
Science	5	6	6
Technology & Design	2	2	2
Environment and Society			
Geography	3	2	3
History	3	3	3
Home Economics	2	2	2
Creative & Expressive Studies			
Art & Design	2	2	2
Drama	2	-	-
Music	2	2	2
Physical Education	2	2	1
Games	3	3	2
Languages			
French	4	4	3
Spanish	-	4	4
Religious Studies	2	2	2
Personal Development, Employability, Citizenship [LLW] & Careers Education.	1	1	1
Computing	2	-	2
TOTAL PERIODS	45	45	45



The Curriculum

In Key Stage 4, pupils are divided into an appropriate number of classes. In some subjects this selection is based on either ability and performance or on the requirements of the timetable. All pupils have access to the Areas of Study

- (a) Compulsory subjects
English; English Literature; Mathematics; one Modern Language (from French, Spanish); Double Award Science or the three separate Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics); Religious Studies (Short Course).
- (b) Optional subjects
Further Mathematics; Art and Design; Business Studies; Computer Science; Economics; Geography; History; Food and Nutrition; Moving Image Arts; a second Modern Language; Music; Religious Studies (Full Course) ; Technology and Design; Physical Education; Digital Technology, MVRUS.

All pupils take 9 Full GCSE subjects except in cases where, in the view of the school and the parents, only 8 subjects would be considered more appropriate.

Most pupils are entered at the Higher Tier in GCSE. In some cases, the school and the parents may agree that entry at a lower level would optimise their academic potential.

Courses in Physical Education, Games, Learning for Life and Work (Personal Development, Employability, Citizenship) and Careers Education are also provided.





The Curriculum

1. Advanced Levels

Advanced Level courses are organised into AS (Advanced Subsidiary) undertaken in Year 13 and A2 in Year 14. AS and A2 combined constitute an A Level. Subjects are chosen from the following list: Art and Design; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Digital Technology; Drama and Theatre Studies; Economics; English Literature; French; Geography; Government and Politics; Health and Social Care; History; Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Music; Nutrition and Food Science; Physics; Religious Studies; Spanish; Physical Education; Technology and Design; Psychology and Software Systems Development.

Pupils choose at least 3 A Level subjects, or with guidance a combination of 4 subjects.

Classes in minority subjects will be reviewed annually, and if student demand is low, some subjects may not be available every year.

2. Careers Education

Classes in Careers Education are available in the Sixth Form.

3. Physical Education and Games

All pupils will have at least 3 periods of physical activity per week.

4. Enrichment Programme

Throughout the year there will be a Life Skills programme involving guest speakers to address pupils on a variety of social topics.

5. Other Courses

Sign Language classes, a programme of Community Care, Young Enterprise and Chinese are also available.

6. Private Study

Pupils undertake private study when not in class. Private study is supervised for pupils in Years 13 and 14.





The Curriculum

CAREERS EDUCATION

The importance of helping pupils to choose the right career on leaving school is recognised. Every effort is made to raise pupils' awareness of opportunities in the many types of careers available to them.

Pupils have time-tabled careers classes in Years 10, 12, and the Sixth Form which prepare them to make informed choices. In Years 10 and 12 pupils also consider options in Further and Higher Education and develop their study skills and presentation skills. Each pupil in Year 12 is offered an interview by the Careers Officer from the Careers Service (NI).

In Year 13, pupils consider opportunities in Higher Education and are helped to make realistic choices in relation to their academic potential. The Careers Department organises a Work Shadowing Scheme and facilitates participation in a Higher Education Awareness Day. Visits are organised to familiarise pupils with particular careers and attendance at University Open Days is encouraged.

Training in Interview Skills is provided and each Year 14 student is given a practice interview in preparation for Higher and Further Education. In Years 13 and 14 interviews are also available with the Careers Officers. Pupils have access to reference materials (including online resources) in the Careers Library. Careers staff are available for consultation by pupils and parents (by appointment) and presentations are given at Parents' Evenings.

LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK (LLW)

LLW is a discrete Learning Area in the Revised Curriculum. It comprises of Personal Development, Employability, Local & Global Citizenship and Home Economics. It seeks to enable pupils to develop their potential in all aspects of their lives. LLW reflects and contributes to the whole school ethos. It is central to the whole curriculum and is consistent with the school's pastoral care provision. LLW is about values, attitudes, skills and is concerned with the holistic development of an individual, not just the learning of knowledge. It is hoped that as a result of this new module of work we will encourage pupils to become more confident, independent and participative citizens who can make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives. They will develop skills that can be employed and transferred across a range of contexts.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Non-denominational Religious Studies is available to all pupils between the ages of 11 and 16. The course follows the Northern Ireland Programme of Study.

All pupils are assessed in a GCSE course in Religious Studies, either the Short Course or Full Course.

Parents may remove their children from Religious Studies classes on the grounds of conscience and for these pupils the school will make alternative provision.

Assemblies are held daily.

The school places strong emphasis on the non-denominational nature of its intake and ethos.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The school's Special Educational Needs Policy conforms to the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

Arrangements for pupils with Special Educational Needs are made through consultation with the pupils and their parents, the appropriate staff in school and the EA.

A copy of the school's policy is available on request.

SPORTS EDUCATION

The aims of sport in Banbridge Academy are:

- to promote the physical, social and emotional development of pupils through directed activity;
- to provide opportunities to experience a range of sports and sports activities both within the curriculum for Physical Education and as extra-curricular activities;
- to promote the benefits of sport and sports activities in terms of healthy lifestyles and physical well-being;
- to encourage and develop skills in a variety of sporting and creative activities;
- to create an awareness of the benefits of teamwork;



The Curriculum

- to encourage pupils to continue participation in physical activities on leaving school.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school places a very strong emphasis on the value of extracurricular activities as a contribution to the education of its pupils, particularly in developing social skills, self-esteem, initiative and the ability to work as part of a team.

Games provided include: athletics, badminton, cricket, cross-country running, football, golf, hockey, netball, rugby, soccer, squash and tennis. Sports Day is held towards the end of May each year. Pupils selected for teams are expected to make participation a priority. Parents are very welcome to attend matches. Exemption from Games and Physical Education will be granted only on medical grounds or for another sufficient reason, as a result of prior arrangement with the Principal.

Clubs and Societies operate largely at lunch-time and after school and pupils (under staff guidance) are encouraged to take a leading part in their management. These include: Charity Committee; Chess Club; Choirs (Junior and Senior); Debating Societies (Junior and Senior); Drama Society; Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; Orchestra; Scripture Union (Junior and Senior); Young Enterprise; Junior Cooks' Club; BAYS; Ski Club; Modern Languages Cine Club; TASK; Warhammer Club.

Educational visits and exchanges are an important part of extracurricular activities. Pupil-exchanges with schools in France, Germany and Spain are organised. Numerous other field trips and educational visits are arranged. There is an annual ski trip to a European resort.

The Dramatic Society stages productions. A school magazine is produced annually and the Music Department arranges public performances each year.

CURRICULUM CONCERNS

Concerns relating to the curriculum should be addressed in the first instance to the Principal.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Detailed information on the curriculum and other policies of the school are available to parents from the Principal on request.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum in Banbridge Academy is reviewed annually. The curriculum is supported by appropriate methods of assessment, recording and reporting progress to parents.





Public Examinations

GCSE

Most pupils in Year 12 are entered for 9 GCSE subjects. Some pupils, in consultation with parents, are entered for only 8 subjects. The majority of subjects are provided through NICCEA and pupils are entered at Higher Level. In a small number of subjects pupils will be entered, with the agreement of parents, at a lower level.

A Level

All pupils are entered for examinations in a minimum of 3 A Level subjects.

Examination results for the summer of 2025 are set out in the following tables.



Public Examinations

GCSE RESULTS 2025

Subject	Entries	A*(9)	A(8&7)	B(6)	C*(5)	C(4)	D(3)	E	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G
Art & Design	29	8	10	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	29	29
Biology	118	43	54	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	118	118
Business Studies	44	5	20	9	6	2	1	1	0	0	0	42	44
Chemistry	118	54	46	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	118	118
Computer Science	30	6	15	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
Digital Technology	10	1	3	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	9	10
Double Award Science	164	22	61	38	23	13	6	1	0	0	0	157	164
Economics	13	0	4	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	13	13
English Language	200	64	103	24	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	200	200
English Literature	200	59	93	37	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	199	200
Food & Nutrition	41	13	15	7	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	40	41
French	83	16	38	12	5	9	3	0	0	0	0	80	83
Further Mathematics	81	37	33	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	81
Geography	69	16	31	11	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	68	69
History	63	6	32	12	8	4	0	1	0	0	0	62	63
Mathematics	200	83	85	30	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	200
Motor Vehicle Studies	15	3	5	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	14	15
Moving Image Arts	10	1	2	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	9	10
Music	12	1	6	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
PE	27	8	9	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	27	27
Physics	118	36	46	24	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	117	118
Religious Studies	50	10	30	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	50
Spanish	112	26	52	19	8	5	2	0	0	0	0	110	112
Technology & Design	42	9	22	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	42	42

Number of Year 12 Pupils on 31st October 2024 200

Number with a statement of Special Educational Needs: 6

GCSE RESULTS 2025 SUMMARY

Number of Year 12 pupils	% Entered for 5 or more subjects	% Achieving Grades A* - C in 7 or more	% Achieving Grades A* - C in 5 or more	% Achieving No GCSEs
200	100	99.0	99.5	0



Public Examinations

A LEVEL RESULTS 2025

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A* - C	A* - E
Health & Social Care	18	0	9	7	2	0	0	0	18	18
Biology	72	10	16	25	14	6	0	1	65	71
Chemistry	69	15	27	19	7	1	0	0	68	69
Physics	31	9	7	1	12	0	2	0	29	31
Mathematics	68	20	23	13	9	3	0	0	65	68
Further Mathematics	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
SSD	7	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	7	7
Digital Technology	4	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4	4
Business Studies	26	1	2	7	11	1	3	1	21	25
Nutrition & Food Science	12	1	3	7	1	0	0	0	12	12
Art & Design	15	5	4	4	2	0	0	0	15	15
Geography	37	6	14	8	9	0	0	0	37	37
History	21	4	4	12	1	0	0	0	21	21
Economics	16	1	5	3	5	2	0	0	14	16
Religious Studies	6	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	6	6
Politics	25	4	4	12	4	1	0	0	24	25
Psychology	25	3	7	5	9	1	0	0	24	25
English Literature	37	7	12	14	4	0	0	0	37	37
Drama	11	0	2	8	1	0	0	0	11	11
French	7	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	7	7
German	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Spanish	15	1	4	7	2	1	0	0	14	15
Music	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
PE	10	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	10	10
Technology & Design	5	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	5	5

A LEVELS 2025 SUMMARY

No. of Pupils in Final Year of A Level Course	% Achieving 3 or more passes at Grades A – C	% Achieving 2 or more passes at Grades A – E	% Achieving 1 or more passes at Grades A – E
178	88.8	100	100



Public Examinations

PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS¹ 2020/21 to 2024/25 - Grammar Schools

Performance Indicator	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	School	NI Average	School	NI Average	School	NI Average	School	NI Average	School	NI Average
% Achieving 7+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent) ¹	98.4	N/A	99.5	N/A	99.0	94.4	98.9	91.4	99.0	N/A
% Achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent) ¹	99.5	N/A	100	N/A	100	97.6	98.9	96.6	99.5	N/A
% Achieving 3+ A levels at Grades A*-C (or equivalent) ¹	92.1	N/A	90.7	N/A	89.9	83.8	77.1	79.9	88.8	N/A
% Achieving 2+ A levels at Grades A*-E (or equivalent) ¹	100	N/A	100	N/A	100	99.6	100	99.6	100	N/A

¹ Excludes pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs



Public Examinations

SCHOOL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS 2024/2025 (FROM YEARS 12, 13 & 14)

Number of Leavers 2024/25: 212

% of Leavers to:

	Higher Education	Further Education	Another School	Job Skills	Employment	Other
Year 12 - 14	83.4%	12.2%	2.4%	1.5%	0.5%	0.0%
Year 14	96.1%	3.4%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%

This figure represents the % of all School Leavers entering Higher Education from Years 12-14 in 2024/2025 . In practice, only Year 14 students enter Higher Education directly. In 2024/2025, 96.1% of Year 14 Leavers secured a place in Higher Education.

Annual attendance rate (all pupils)

Total days attended by all pupils on roll as a % of total possible days of attendance: 95.9%



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