



# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to read our school prospectus, we hope that you will find the information helpful.

As you and your son decide which postprimary school is best for you, I would like to outline why I believe Ashfield Boys' High School will provide your son with the best education available. As a father of four. I know how important it is that our children are happy and safe in school. At Ashfield Boys' we believe strongly in a partnership with students, staff and parents working closely together for the best of all involved. Outstanding Pastoral Care and Support is essential if this partnership is to excel. I can, with pride, state that Ashfield Boys' High School has a first rate Pastoral Care and Support system which is at the centre of all that we do. At Ashfield Boys' we passionately believe in 'Child-Centred' education. 'Child-Centred' education which ensures that every one of our boys is at the heart of all that we do.

On entering Ashfield Boys' High School, our boys find a welcoming and purposeful

environment, with relationships based on mutual respect and built upon our Core Values of HEART:

- Honesty
- **Excellence**
- Attitude
- Respect
- **Teamwork**

Ultimately, we believe that this commitment to each individual pupil, along with our 'HEART' core values, the strong relationships we have with all of our stakeholders and the exceptional teaching, leads to our boys achieving, not just exceptionally high academic attainment, but goals beyond their expectations.

Our teachers are dedicated and committed to the highest standards of teaching and learning - achieved through a combination of challenge and support, encouragement, and praise – to ensure that all students not only gain outstanding qualifications, which enable them to progress to 'Higher / Further' Education, but also to develop the skills that are necessary for our boys to take their place in the world they live in and their chosen career.

It is vitally important that we acknowledge our past; it has provided us with strong foundations which are based upon high standards of excellence, strong foundations of community and strong foundations of support and togetherness. However, we must not simply dwell upon or try and replicate our past, or we will be in danger of not moving forward. Therefore, we must continue to develop and grow. We live in very different, and indeed difficult, times both in terms of economics and employment opportunities. The world is changing at an alarmingly fast rate, particularly in terms of information technology. It is our intention to ensure that, in Ashfield Boys' High School, we stay at the forefront of these world developments.

Over the next three years you will see Ashfield grow and develop even further - particularly in terms of facilities, resources and opportunities for all of our students. Your son, by choosing Ashfield Boys' High School, has the chance to be at the centre of these exciting opportunities.

I would like all potential students to know that your intelligence is not measured by a number. What you become will not be defined by a score in a test that you took at 10/11 years of age. No, your direction and pathway will be determined by how hard you are prepared to work, your willingness to learn, your drive to solve problems and to try new things. In Ashfield Boys' High School, we will do everything we can to help support you in your pursuit of achieving your dreams, your goals and your aspirations.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the school on 028 9065 6812 and arrange a suitable time to call with us for a personal tour. This will provide you with an opportunity to sample a snapshot of life here in Ashfield Boys'. I, along with staff and students, will be available to answer any questions you might have.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you in the future.

MR. ALISTAIR DUFFIELD PRINCIPAL



# PROVIDING EXCELLENT PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT

### PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT

The unique and celebrated atmosphere in Ashfield Boys' High School is created by a Pastoral Care system that places our pupils at the centre of everything we do.

Positive relationships are built on the rapport that exists between the pupils and the staff who care, support, develop and challenge them to achieve their full potential in a fair and consistent environment.

Our strong pastoral system commences with the boys benefitting from the care of a specialist Head of Year 8, Mrs. Linda Beattie. From Year 9 onwards, Year Teachers and Form Teachers move up the school with the boys, providing continuity of care throughout your son's time at Ashfield Boys'.

### **CHILD-CENTRED PASTORAL SYSTEM**

Our child-centred pastoral care strives to break down the barriers to learning by putting in place programmes and support which ultimately help your sons with their academic, social and emotional wellbeing.

We recognise that parental interest and involvement helps our boys to succeed and that the way to inspire them is to work together collaboratively. We believe that the most important partnership is between our boys, the school and parents.



Having trained and taught at Ashfield Boys' High School for the last 25 years, this place is a huge part of my life. I love to see the young men of East Belfast grow in confidence and self-belief and achieve success in all areas of school life and beyond. School, for me, is about developing life skills, forging lasting friendships and making great memories!

I love my job and I always strive to teach Maths in a relevant and engaging way for our boys. Outside school, I enjoy running and spending time with my family.



# OUR CORE VALUES: HEART

In Ashfield Boys' High School, we have identified 5 core values that we believe should shape all of our behaviours and actions.

## They should be at the HEART of everything that we do:

- **1. Honesty** be honest with yourself and others, do the right thing.
- **2. Excellence** strive for the highest personal achievement in all that we do.
- **3. Attitude** having the right attitude, a 'can do' attitude.
- **4. Respect** treating others in the same way as we would like to be treated.
- **5. Teamwork** using the support available to us to be the very best version of ourselves.

Being Head of Year 8 is my favourite role as a teacher. One of the best, but busiest, times of the year is helping the new boys to settle into life at Ashfield Boys'. It's fantastic getting to know each of them and being able to support the boys through the transition process and beyond. I am a mother of two, I am dedicated, passionate and 100% committed to making sure that our boys develop academically and emotionally in a safe and welcoming learning environment.



## **TRANSITION**PROGRAMMES

The school's transition programmes are proactive in supporting our boys through the main transition phases in their education - P7 to Year 8, Year 10 to GCSE, Year 12 to Sixth Form and Sixth Form to either Further / Higher education or the world of work.

Support begins in P7 with an intensive transition programme, which involves Ashfield Boys' staff visiting all of our feeder primary schools and organising our familiarisation days in June and August.

It continues with a team-building residential for all Form Classes during the first term and active participation in the 'Barnardo's All Stars' programme.

Partnerships with other groups and organisations is a recognised strength of the school. We do not believe that schools should work in isolation; we welcome active participation from a wide variety of organisations to ensure that our school is vibrant and inspiring, providing your sons with a broad and balanced school experience.

# PEER MENTORING SCHEME

This programme actively develops our boys to be encouraging and empathetic towards each other, whilst it also reinforces our commitment to providing our boys with a supportive learning environment.

Year 13 and Year 14 Prefects provide peer mentoring support to the boys in the Junior School. The Prefect / Mentors are provided with training, organised by PIPS, in listening skills, resilience building and suicide awareness. They are also taught about the importance of confidentiality and when information needs to be shared with the appropriate staff.

## **COUNSELLING**SERVICE

The school's Counselling Service is an integral part of the school's pastoral care provision and school life. The levels of trust and the strong relationships ensure that our boys are able to access the support they need in dealing with any problems or concerns that they might have. A counsellor from 'Family Works Counselling' service also works with our boys through weekly sessions.



## PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

We believe that the promotion of 'positive' behaviour is the responsibility of the whole school community. It is a co-operative venture: we work as part of a team. Mutual support, consistency and communication are essential components of this work.

We are committed to developing confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline in all of our boys. There are high expectations of all students and the school has a caring environment where boys are encouraged to identify and work through any problems or difficulties they might be experiencing. The boys are urged to respect themselves, all others and are expected to take responsibility for all of their own actions.

Our aim is to ensure a peaceful, safe and happy school in which individuals can live, learn and develop their potential. All members of the school community are expected to make a positive commitment to promoting and modelling our positive behaviour strategies.

MR. KEITH MILLAR ASSISTANT VICE-PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PASTORAL CARE



I have been a PE teacher at Ashfield Boys' for over 20 years. I love seeing pupils excel in sport and education and, through my Pastoral role, I love helping our boys develop their resilience and achieve something they thought they were not capable of. The reason I teach is to help pupils gain self-confidence and reach their potential. Away from school I love spending time with my wife, my two sons and my daughter who makes me laugh... a lot!

### **REWARD SCHEME**

Encouragement, praise and reward are an essential part of promoting positive behaviour in Ashfield Boys' High School.

As a result, we have developed a culture of rewarding good attitude in class, good punctuality and attendance, and also the excellent contributions that our boys make to clubs and societies both inside school and in their local communities. The reward system involves boys being awarded achievement credits that they can cash in for Gold, Silver or Bronze rewards throughout the year. The rewards include food vouchers, high street store vouchers and days out at activity venues ranging from aqua parks to paintballing at Shane's Castle. Year 14 boys even have the opportunity to go to New York.



## **LEARNING**SUPPORT

Within the Learning Support Department, we are committed to a child-centred, individually tailored learning experience for your son. The department has a large, experienced and motivated team of teachers and support staff. Alongside the day to day care and support your son will receive, we have developed several strands of intervention which help remove barriers to learning and achievement.

### **LITERACY INTERVENTION** is delivered through 3 programmes:

- The Better Reading
   Programme is delivered on a one to one basis with a trained member of staff helping the boys further develop their reading skills.
- 2. Reciprocal Reading is delivered through group work. Four boys are supported by a trained member of staff to read and take on the roles of predictor / clarifier / summariser and questioner. These skills help not just to develop word recognition and reading, but also to further develop their understanding and comprehension of what they are reading.
- **3. Dyslexia Support** is delivered by a specialist teacher on a one to one basis / or small group basis. The specialist teacher also provides training for all staff on how to best provide dyslexia support within the classroom. In partnership with the Education Authority, we also provide 'Assistive Technology' for those boys with a diagnosis of Dyslexia. Access is provided to read / write technology applications and websites to promote better literacy skills and the ability to bypass any barriers they might have to learning.

### **NUMERACY INTERVENTION** is provided via 2 programmes

- Maths Recovery is delivered on a one to one basis with a trained member of staff.
- Easimaths is a group based intervention with 4 boys working with a trained member of staff.





NURTURE CLASS provides a safe and stable environment for young people to develop both academically and emotionally. The Nurture classes are for specific Year 8 and 9 pupils and are limited to a maximum of 12 boys. This allows us to work in small groups and helps us to make sure that we are able to support and meet each individual boy's need. The boys work on a curriculum based on connected learning. Each topic is connected through Literacy / Communication, Numeracy / Using Mathematics and Using ICT. The boys also work across a range of subjects to develop their academic ability and also their Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Pupils' progress, in all interventions, is assessed on a regular basis and communicated with home.

As a former pupil and Head Boy at Ashfield Boys' High School, it has been a dream come true for me to be given the opportunity to teach at our wonderful school. During my time as a pupil I saw the great lengths that every member of staff at Ashfield Boys' went to in order to support each pupil and enable them to become the very best version of themselves. It was my desire to become a teacher at Ashfield Boys' so that I could give back to the Ashfield family which has already given so much to me.

MR. LUKE HILL HEAD OF MATHS

# OUTSTANDING TEACHING PROVIDING CHALLENGE AND ACHIEVEMENT

"Tell me and I will forget; show me and I will remember; involve me and I will understand it."

CHINESE PROVERB POPULARISED BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Our staff are dedicated to providing high quality teaching, so our boys can maximise their potential. We have high expectations in the classroom and seek, daily, to stretch and challenge the boys. They discover the value of persistence, resilience and determination and, in doing so, they display confidence and enthusiasm in their learning.

In a well resourced and stimulating learning environment, we aim to develop the boys as problem solvers, to be creative and flexible, to work effectively with others, as well as building strong foundations in Literacy, Numeracy and the use of ICT.



**MRS. DENISE HILL** 



## MR. ALISTAIR DUFFIELD PRINCIPAL

I believe that our school's core values of honesty, excellence, attitude, respect and teamwork, that help underpin everything we do in Ashfield Boys' High School, have also been central in all that I have achieved in elite sport and my career.

From day one in Ashfield Boys', we work together to instil these in all of our boys.

## **CURRICULUM**

We are committed to meeting the needs of all our boys from ages 11 through to 18. We provide a stimulating and personalised curriculum that is designed to challenge and support boys of all abilities.

We want enquiring minds and enjoyment in learning. We seek to develop transferable skills across a wide range of challenging and engaging subjects. This is crucial to our ongoing academic successes.

Achievement is celebrated, and skill sets nurtured, in all areas of the school and across all age groups. The English Language specialist, the Mathematician, the Scientist, the elite Sportsman, the Artist, the Engineer, the ICT whiz kid, the Musician, the Linguist and the creative, talented Photographer... all have their place in Ashfield Boys' and all are nourished, challenged, stretched, developed and celebrated.

We are building your son's future... today!



## LITERACY ACROSS THE SCHOOL

"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book."

WILLIAM G. SPAD

Literacy incorporates talking, listening, reading and writing. These key elements of language are interdependent and integral to all learning. Literacy is fundamental to personal and social development and to lifelong learning. Quite simply, we believe that Literacy is the key to learning for all of our boys.

Our highly effective, and fully integrated, literacy strategy helps us make sure that our boys achieve the highest possible academic standards.



MRS. JULIA CROZIER TEACHING AND LEARNING COORDINATOR

I have been teaching Maths in
Ashfield Boys' High School since
2012 and can honestly say I can't
imagine working anywhere else.
I believe that everyone can be
successful at Maths and I love
helping all of our boys get to the
'penny drop' moment - whatever
their level of ability. Maths staff all
work together to achieve the best
outcomes for our boys (who are,
by the way, the best young men
Belfast has to offer!).

When I'm not sharing my love of numbers, my little girl keeps me busy. I also like to squeeze in some board games and the odd game of badminton!

## NUMERACY ACROSS THE SCHOOL

"Without numeracy, there is nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics.

Everything around you is numbers."

SHAKUNTALA DEVI

Numeracy is about communicating mathematically through explaining, predicting and reasoning. We may not always be aware of it, but each and every one of us applies numeracy skills on a daily basis. Therefore, it is our aim to continue to improve and develop numeracy skills in all of our boys and, by doing so, ensuring that they have access to the highest levels of education and employment.



## CAREERS AND PATHWAYS

We passionately believe in providing our boys with a well-balanced curriculum that will help meet all of their academic, vocational, training and occupational needs. We give our boys guidance to ensure that their education provides diversity and appropriate pathways, not only at school, but beyond.

Whether Higher / Further Education / Training or a Career, we will provide the stepping stones to a successful future. We have careers and employability classes embedded across all year groups. We invite and utilise the services of expert visitors from a variety of industries, employers, regional colleges and universities. Year 12 and Year 13 have the opportunity to engage in very successful work experience and interview skills development programmes and we also arrange a series of work-related visits.

All of these methods help the boys develop a full awareness of careers appropriate pathways. It is our aim to help our boys not just achieve the highest academic standards, but to also develop the skills that will equip them to make informed decisions about their future career pathway.



MRS. CAROLINE MOORE
ASSISTANT VICE-PRINCIPAL
RESPONSIBLE FOR
CURRICULUM, CAREERS,
OPTIONS AND PATHWAYS

I have been teaching in Ashfield Boys' for over 20 years and it has honestly been the most rewarding time. I really love learning, especially about business and the workplace, so you can understand why I have specialised in the areas of Curriculum, Careers and Business. My favourite place is in the classroom and seeing young people develop their personalities and aspirations; that has been one of the best parts of teaching.

I enjoy spending time with my family and, when not with them, I enjoy golf and running – and my holidays!!



# EMBRACING MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

## ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

## INFORMATION AND CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

The digital age has transformed the way our young people communicate, network, seek help, access information and learn. Our boys are living in an online world which they access through a variety of means such as computers, tablets, games consoles, SMART TVs and phones.

As technology becomes more and more embedded in our culture, we will be providing our boys with relevant and up to date experiences that allow them to successfully prepare for life after school. We will endeavour to make sure that technology drives and enhances the teaching and learning experiences for all of our boys.

Every pupil studies ICT up to GCSE / Level 2 standard. Boys can also select from subjects that have a high level of ICT incorporated into them, such as Engineering, Moving Image Arts and Photography. All of these subjects can be studied up to Year 14, 'A' Level / Level 3.

We will make sure that our boys are well prepared for the digital / technological / creative world that we all live in.



## EXTENDED SCHOOLS AND ENRICHMENT

On average, we have 26 programmes / clubs running from early morning, after-school, night-time and also over holiday periods. The programmes / clubs are available to all pupils, some are available to their families and some are also available to members of our wider community.

Many of the programmes are designed to help our pupils raise their academic ability and attainment. Study clubs and departmental clubs allow pupils the opportunity to complete work to the required examination standard. The before school, lunchtime and after-school sporting activities enable our pupils to further develop their physical experience, whilst also helping to improve overall health and wellbeing.

A snap-shot of some of our extended enrichment programmes includes: life skills, cooking, Science STEM club, 3-D design club, Warhammer, careers & pathways, band, choir, fitness club, couch to 5K, debating, Spanish, French, Moving Image Arts, and many many more.

All of the programmes / clubs are free of charge and cover a wide range of our pupils' interests.



## AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

"Being together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success."

### **HENRY FORD**

We define community as being, first and foremost, the boys and their families who make up our great school, followed by the local community, the other Post-Primary Schools, Primary Schools, Nursery Schools and the various statutory and voluntary organisations within the East Belfast area. Finally, we also look to the wider community, cross community and our Shared Education Partners.

We believe that by working together collaboratively, with all of our community partners, we will be able to develop innovative solutions enabling us to continue to deliver a highly effective, efficient and modern education for all of our boys.

**MRS. AITHNE KERRIGAN** AND LIAISON Mrs Kerrigan endorses the view that the true goal of education is to develop 'intelligence plus character'. She has taught Learning for Life and Work (LLW) and Politics at Ashfield Boys' High School since 2004. She has a keen interest in skills development and employability, as well as current affairs, citizenship and human rights. Mrs Kerrigan strives to inspire lively debates, hard work, and ambition from all of our pupils and is always seeking opportunities to support pupils to develop their skills and see their potential. As a mum of a P7 girl, Mrs Kerrigan fully understands the challenges of transition and her advice to all is, "it's not where you go to school, it is what you do when you get there that really makes the difference!"





Through the curriculum, our extended school initiatives and enrichment programmes, students at Ashfield Boys' High School develop a range of skills, experiences and talents. The wide range of sports, ski trips, New York Trip, football trips to Manchester United, Rangers, Euros & World Cups, 3D-printing, Formula 1, Engineering, Eco Club, STEM Club, debating and creative / visual arts on offer improve our boys' social interaction and helps develop lifelong skills.

We are committed to providing diverse and exciting experiences for our young people. New opportunities enhance their intellectual, emotional, creative, cultural, physical and social wellbeing. In pursuing this aim, we are fortunate that our experienced, committed and highly qualified staff give freely of their time and expertise.

MR. DYLAN PROCTOR PE TEACHER AND HEAD OF YEAR

As a former pupil and now teacher, I cannot express the significant impact that Ashfield Boys' has had on my life. I am honoured to be here and in a position to help our boys succeed... just in the same way my teachers at Ashfield Boys' helped me.





Emigrated to the Australian island state of Tasmania, where he is still regarded as one of their leading visual artists and jewellery makers. "My experiences at Ashfield Boys' were stepping stones to my achievements."

#### **PROFESSOR JOHN ANDERSON**

Patented the pocket defibrillator made famous in the James Bond film, 'Casino Royale'.

#### JIM MCQUILLAN

Appointed Head of Forensic Science for the PSNI where he was responsible for a number of specialist units including the 'Fingerprint Bureau' and 'Crime Scene Investigation'.

#### **GARY MOORE**

A world-renowned rhythm and blues guitarist and member of the world famous rock band, 'Thin Lizzy'. Gary also performed with world famous musicians including, George Harrison of the Beatles, BB King and the musical impresario, Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber.

#### **ADAM MAGILL**

A former Head Boy who left in 2015, Adam was one of the first pupils from Northern Ireland to secure a 'Deloitte Brightstart' advanced apprenticeship in Business Management and Consultancy.

A playwright accredited with seven full length stage plays, along with many television and radio screenplays. Stewart also taught at Hamilton College and Cornell University in upstate New York. His birth place, in Sydenham, is marked by an 'Ulster History Circle' blue plaque.

#### **BRYAN HAMILTON**

Accumulated 376 appearances and scored 61 goals for Everton, Ipswich, Millwall, Swindon and Tranmere. He also won 50 caps, scoring four goals for Northern Ireland. Bryan went on to manage Northern Ireland from 1994-98.

#### **SAMMY MCILROY**

Sir Matt Busby's final ever signing for Manchester United, Sammy played 342 times for Manchester United and scored 57 goals. Whenever he retired from professional football he had accumulated 629 appearances and scored 81 goals. Sammy was a member of Billy Bingham's famous Northern Ireland team of the 1980s, playing in both the 1982 and 1986 World Cups. He was captain of the 1986 team and played alongside David McCreery, another Ashfield Boys' pupil. The 1986 World Cup team's assistant manager / coach was Martin Harvey, yet another past pupil of Ashfield Boys' High School.

"I studied Mathematics at the Queen's University Belfast, and was delighted whenever I was awarded a First Class Honours Degree, this enabled me to progress onto my Master's degree course in Mathematics and, in turn, my PGCE. As a former pupil and now teacher at Ashfield Boys' High School, I cannot speak more highly of the positive impact that being part of the Ashfield community has had on my life. It is an honour for me to be back as one of the teaching staff."

#### **CRAIG JOHNSTON**

Since graduating, from the University of Ulster with an honours degree in Business Studies, Craig has worked his way up through the ranks of Citigroup and is now an Assistant Vice President. "Ashfield Boys' taught me that in order to succeed, you must stand out. I was taught that to achieve good examination results alone will not be enough... you have to stand out from the crowd... that has always stuck with me."

#### **JOHNNY LAVERTY**

Has recently graduated, 2018, with a BSc in Accountancy, attaining a 2:1. "Ashfield Boys' High School taught me never to give up and not to fear making mistakes but to embrace them and learn from them."

for the Belfast Giants. He left Ashfield Boys' in 2002 to study Interactive Multi-Media at the University of Ulster. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Ashfield Boys' and I am extremely grateful to the school, and

provided me and for helping me develop as a person. I have nothing but great things to say about Ashfield Boys' High School."

all of the teachers, for the education they

#### **LUKE WHITE**

"I studied at the University of Glasgow for my undergraduate degree gaining a BSc in Clinical Physiology. I then studied for a MSc in Human Nutrition with Dietetics, at Ulster University. After a career working in the science industry as a Clinical Research Scientist, I gained a PGCE in Science at Queen's University, Belfast. I am now a Science teacher and Head of Year in Ashfield Boys."

#### **DYLAN PROCTOR**

"I studied for four years at Ulster University Jordanstown for my undergraduate degree gaining a BSc in Sport and Exercise Science. I then completed a PGCE in Physical Education at Liverpool Hope University, gaining my Qualified Teacher Status. I am now a PE teacher in Ashfield Boys'."



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