



# **CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

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**INFORMATION for JOB APPLICANTS  
TEACHER of MATHEMATICS to A LEVEL  
Permanent Full-Time from January or  
February 2023 or as soon as possible  
thereafter**



## CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL INFORMATION for PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

### INTRODUCTION

Carrickfergus Grammar School is a successful, over-subscribed and thoroughly ambitious school. Our unrelenting mission is to ensure the highest quality learning and teaching experiences for our pupils.

In the most recent public examinations from 2022, every single pupil at GCSE Level achieved 7 or more A\*-C passes at GCSE including English and Mathematics. 88% of pupils attained 7 or more A\*-B passes at GCSE including English and Mathematics. 55 pupils achieved 7 or more A\*-A passes. At A Level, 94% of pupils achieved 3 or more A\*-C passes, with almost 60% of pupils attaining 2 or more A\*-A grades.

The school is on an exciting journey, and in the past two years has become:

- the first school in Northern Ireland to appoint a Director of Research;
- the first Grammar School in Northern Ireland to go into partnership with the Teacher Development Trust, ensuring a firm focus on the best possible continuing professional development for our staff;
- the first research school in Northern Ireland, now aligned to a research network comprising of 11 like-minded schools from across the UK, including in the independent sector.

The school's current journey is rooted in evidence-based research. In 2020, the school was featured as a case study in Kate Jones' best-selling latest book on Retrieval Practice, and was noted by the author as the inspiration for writing the book.

The school espouses the following:

- a no-nonsense, zero-tolerance approach to behaviour management, with centralised systems for sanctions and detentions, emphasising the notion of 'warm-strict';
- clear and established routines;
- an unfaltering focus on learning and teaching which incorporates clear stretch and challenge for our pupils;
- a belief in the importance of equipping our pupils with powerful knowledge to give them the edge in later life;
- a focus on highly positive, respectful relationships between pupils and staff;
- professional development opportunities which emphasise the development of subject-specific knowledge and subject-specific pedagogy.

The school's new School Development Plan 2022-2025 priorities will include:

- embedding spaced retrieval practice into lessons and student self-study, in the clear belief that this approach will facilitate the embedding of powerful knowledge in long-term memory;
- the development of a knowledge-rich curriculum in all subjects for September 2022;
- raising standards and outcomes further for all pupils.

In relation to learning and teaching, Rosenshine's 10 Principles of Instruction form the bedrock for our approach. It is essential that applicants to this post have an excellent knowledge of these.

The very clear school vision is to ensure that all children are well-equipped with the powerful knowledge which will lead to the development of robust domain-specific skill. This will facilitate strong academic outcomes and success and happiness in later life, not just from an employment perspective, but culturally and socially as well. Our pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum as well as to the latest equipment and facilities.

The clear aspiration embedded in this school is the mantra 'no labels, no limits' for every single child who attends this school. No matter what their background, needs, interests or academic potential, they will be taught in a manner which will expedite opportunities for the greatest possible social mobility – affording access to Higher Education. We do not place a limit on opportunity, potential, aspiration or ambition for any child.

The values which are embraced at Carrickfergus Grammar School such as respect, tolerance, responsibility, honesty, gratitude, kindness and community spirit remain a constant and unshifting element embedded within the history and future of the school and are core to the school.

The school seeks to appoint a hard-working, dedicated, reliable, ambitious, innovative and forward-thinking member of the Mathematics Department who shares its vision and ethos.

## **THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

The Mathematics Department at Carrickfergus Grammar School has a legacy of robust results, not just in relation to high-quality learning and teaching, but also standards and outcomes. In 2021 100% of A2 pupils achieved A\*-C, with 84.6% attaining A\*-B. At GCSE level, 100% of pupils attained an A\*-C grade in 2022, with 99.2% of pupils attaining A\*-B. This statistic is 11% above the Northern Ireland Grammar School average.

Just under half of pupils undertake GCSE Mathematics in Year 11 through a combination of M4 and M8 modules. They then study GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12. The

remainder of pupils will complete GCSE Mathematics at the end of Year 12. At A Level, both Mathematics and Further Mathematics are offered.

At Key Stage 3, the Department is playing a significant role in its planning and preparation for *Curriculum 2022*, the term employed by the school to denote its move to a knowledge-rich curriculum at Key Stage 3. As a result, the Department is introducing greater stretch, challenge and depth into its Key Stage 3 curriculum through extensive use of retrieval practice methodology such as spaced retrieval activities.

The Department is wedded to the school's overarching belief in explicit instruction, alongside well-utilised booklets and textbooks, and opportunity for pupils to engage in structured deliberate practice.

The Department is led by Mr Keith Marshall, a highly experienced teacher of Mathematics.

The Department is a high-functioning, cohesive and collegial team of five dedicated staff members, with a few other specialist staff teaching Mathematics as their second subject. The sharing of ideas, resources, pedagogy and practice is key, and the appointee would be expected to share generously in a similar vein.

This is a full-time appointment, starting where possible in January or February 2023. It is an exceptionally exciting opportunity for someone who shares the school's ethos to come and work in a friendly, happy school which is on a very clear journey towards becoming outstanding.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT**

Applicants should refer to the essential and desirable criteria in the personnel specification advertised in the press. We invite applications from interested persons who meet the criteria.

The school is looking for someone with a combination of energy, enthusiasm, dedication, innovation and ambition who is prepared to give complete commitment to the role as an outstanding practitioner and teacher of Mathematics, and develop / promote the school's ethos.

A tour will be arranged for shortlisted applicants. Shortlisted applicants will be required to teach a lesson as part of the selection process.

## CURRICULUM

### KEY STAGE 3

English	Mathematics	Religious Studies	PE / Games
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	History
Geography	French	Spanish	Home Economics
Art and Design	Technology	Music	Drama (Year 10)
ICT	Learning for Life and Work		

### KEY STAGE 4 (GCSE)

English	English Literature	Mathematics	Further Mathematics
Religious Studies	PE / Games	PE (GCSE)	Art and Design
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Business Studies
Digital Technology (ICT)	Drama	History	Geography
French	Spanish	Food and Nutrition	Child Development
Health and Social Care	Learning for Life and Work	Music	Technology
Careers	Engineering		

### KEY STAGE 5 (A Level)

English Literature	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	Religious Studies
PE (A Level)	Accounting	Biology	Chemistry
Physics	Art and Design	Business Studies	History
Government and Politics	Geography	Travel and Tourism	French
Spanish	Food and Nutrition	Health and Social Care	Music
Photography	Technology	Digital Technology (ICT)	Technology
Applied ICT	Media Studies*	Moving Image Arts*	Sports Studies*
Environmental Technology	Games		

\*On offer through the Carrickfergus Learning Community.

Pupils study the following core subjects at GCSE:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- A Science
- Religious Studies (Full Course)
- A Modern Language (with the exception of a small number of pupils)

Most pupils then choose three or four optional GCSE subjects.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

The high quality of Carrickfergus Grammar School's pastoral care provision has been recognised as a strength by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) and the school places great emphasis on the provision of appropriate pastoral care for all pupils.

We foster a warm and happy school environment, and the size of the school allows for a real family ethos. The Senior Teacher in charge of Pastoral Care at the school is ably assisted by seven experienced Heads of Year and 28 Class Teachers.

Our robust attendance rate of over 95% means that we are well above the average for Northern Irish schools.

A pastoral system has been designed to build up the pupils' confidence, enabling them to thrive academically, to understand themselves as individuals and to develop sound relationships with other pupils and staff at the school.

The pastoral care team provides informed and sensitive guidance to support pupils in their personal development and in times of personal, family or social difficulty. Some pupils may at certain times benefit from the opportunity to work through any difficulties with a trained counsellor and this service is available through school.

Our experienced Learning Support Co-ordinators work to ensure that the pathway for children identified with additional educational needs is tailored appropriately, whilst maintaining the highest of aspirations and expectations. Individual Education Plans / Personal Education Plans are in place for relevant pupils, with reasonable adjustments where necessary.

## **DISCIPLINE**

In this school, as in all well-ordered establishments, it is necessary to have rules laid down to assist the smooth running of the school. Carrickfergus Grammar School believes in firm boundaries and routines, and the importance of a 'warm-strict' approach. It is expected that all pupils will behave in a respectful manner.

In Carrickfergus Grammar School, positive behaviour is encouraged in the following ways:

- active promotion of positive behaviour in Assemblies;
- a well-maintained, clean and bright learning space;
- active promotion of positive behaviour through wall displays and posters;
- positive stories on the school's online learning environments and in local press;
- access to a broad range of curricular and extra-curricular clubs and activities;
- School trips and team-building days such as the Year 8 Breckenhill Adventure Day;
- use of departmental strategies for rewarding positive approaches to learning such as postcards home;
- celebration assemblies;
- positive and proactive relationships with a range of charities;
- prizegiving events;
- the Positive Note System;
- representation on school teams, including sports teams;
- posts of responsibility for pupils such as Prefects and Team Captains;
- positive written feedback when appropriate, either on marked work or through other documentation;
- strong links between Form Teachers and their classes;

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

All pupils attending Carrickfergus Grammar School must wear the complete and correct school uniform. Correct clothing for Physical Education is also compulsory. The school stores great importance in the maintenance of high standards as regards uniform.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The school offers pupils a wide range of activities, for example Choir, Debating Society, Duke of Edinburgh, Young Enterprise, Bridge, Warhammer, Chess Club, Creative Writing, Book Club and Scripture Union. On the sporting side pupils have the opportunity to participate in soccer, rugby, hockey, volleyball, netball, athletics, cross-country, orienteering, cricket, golf, basketball and much more.

Educational visits and trips also play an important part in the curriculum offered.

It is anticipated that teachers will become involved in extra-curricular activities, including after-school Maths revision clinics and other Maths-related opportunities such as World Maths Day.

**J. A. Maxwell (Mr)**  
**Principal**