



# ASHFIELD BOYS'

## HIGH SCHOOL



# 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 post-primary school is best for you, I would like to highlight 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 children are happy in school. In Ashfield we believe strongly in a partnership with students, staff and parents working closely together for the best of all involved. An excellent Pastoral Care system is essential if this partnership is to excel. I am delighted to report that Ashfield Boys' High School has such a Pastoral Care system. A Pastoral Care system where pupils are at the centre of all that we do. In fact the Education and Training Inspectorate for Northern Ireland outlined "the dedication and commitment of the staff and governors to the pupils and the life and work of the school" they continued by acknowledging the "strong sense of community which nurtures the pupils' confidence and self-esteem, and promotes mutual respect." I am 100% confident that, if you and your son chose Ashfield Boys' High School, you will both be very happy with your choice and that your son will enjoy his time at school.

However, school is not just about being happy. As a teacher of 24 years experience, gained in some of Northern Ireland's other top all ability schools, I know how important it is to ensure that we provide our pupils with the best educational experiences and opportunities available. It is our job to guarantee that your son gains the necessary and relevant qualifications while developing the skills that will ensure

that he progresses to the next levels of education and or employment. Again, if I may, I would like to state what the Education and Training Inspectorate said about Ashfield Boys' High School in relation to the students' attainment at both GCSE and 'A' Level. Quite simply they highlighted "the excellent standards achieved by the pupils in public examinations." In Ashfield we believe in providing the best for all of our students. That is what we have done historically and what we will continue to do in the future.

It is vitally important that we acknowledge our past; it has provided us with strong foundations, strong foundations based upon high standards of excellence, strong foundations of community and strong foundations of support and togetherness. However, we must not simply dwell upon our past, we must not simply try and replicate our past or we will be in danger of not moving forward with the future. 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' we stay at the forefront of these world developments. Over the next five years you will see Ashfield grow and develop 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 to invite you to visit us on our Open Night. 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. Our school website will also provide you with more information and will advertise times and dates for Open Night. If you would like any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me or one of our Core Management Team at the school.

I look forward to meeting you at our Open Night and working with you in the future.

**Mr Jo McColgan**  
Principal



**Mrs Nicky Simpson**  
Head of Year 8 / Head of RE

Mrs Nicky Simpson, Head of Year 8 and Head of RE. "Life is busy, busy, busy! No wonder - I feel like I'm a mum to 120 children, 3 at home and 117 in Year 8 - the best kids in any Northern Irish school.

When Jesus was teaching he said, "I am the Bread of Life", in HE we study what we should eat, in RE we look at how we should live. So here's to some SOUL FOOD!



**Mr Alistair Duffield**  
Pastoral Vice Principal,  
Former international triathlete

"I believe that the core values of respect, perseverance, excellence and collaboration that help underpin the pastoral care system in Ashfield Boys' High School have been central in all that I have achieved in elite sport."

# PASTORAL CARE AT ASHFIELD BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

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 pupil centred pastoral care system strives to break down the barriers to learning by putting in place programmes and supports to deal with your sons' social, emotional and behavioural concerns.

#### **Counselling Service**

Our in house Counselling Service is an integral part of the pastoral system and school life as a whole. The levels of trust and relationships built up through having a fulltime counselling presence in school ensure that our boys are able to access the support they need in dealing with problems and concerns. We also have links with New Life Counselling services.

#### **Reward Scheme**

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

To reinforce this we invest in a whole school reward scheme where boys with a good standard of attendance, punctuality, discipline and academic progress are recognised twice a year with trips ranging from the cinema, Dundonald Ice Bowl, paintballing at Shane's Castle to the pinnacle of the scheme where Year 14 boys travel to New York to expand their outlook on life.



### **Mrs Denise Hill**

Head of Year 11

I have been teaching in Ashfield for almost 10 years and I must admit I absolutely love it! I am currently Head of Geography, Assistant reward scheme co-ordinator and Head of Year 11 within the school. Our boys are truly wonderful young men and ambassadors for our school. It is a privilege and honour to work with them. Aside from, school I have a very keen interest in all sports in particular horse riding, football and golf (though don't ask me my handicap!!) My number one place to be ...obviously Kilkeel, nothing beats the Mournes!!!

### **Assemblies**

The Assembly programme is delivered weekly and is made up of a balance of materials drawn from religion and current affairs. Our aim is to help our boys' develop both moral understanding and social awareness.

### **Student Council**

The Student Council not only benefits those boys directly involved, by developing their confidence, communication and negotiation skills, but also the whole school by providing the means for all of our boys to communicate their views and opinions through their elected council representatives.

### **Peer Mentoring Scheme**

The Scheme encourages our boys to be supportive of each other and reinforces the work already being done to provide the boys with a supportive learning environment.

Year 13 & 14 boys apply to become a peer mentor and the successful applicants are given training organised by Childline in listening skills, suicide awareness training by PIPS and taught about the importance of confidentiality and when information needs to be passed on.

### **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 A-Level. The supports commence with a team building residential and participation in the Barnardo's All Stars programme in Year 8.





### **Delamont**

Every pupil in Year 8 gets the opportunity to go on a residential trip to Delamont, as part of the Year 8 Induction process. This gives pupils an invaluable opportunity to get to know their classmates and teachers alike, in a relaxed and informal environment. Pupils are encouraged to try new activities, like archery, bouldering and wall climbing and to develop their interpersonal and communication skills.





### **Mrs Jill Ashenhurst**

**Deputy Principal**

Jill, the Deputy Principal, has taught in Ashfield Boys' for eighteen years. Jill believes passionately in providing a challenging curriculum with amazing opportunities that lead to all of the boys attaining excellent results. A mother of three boys, Jill likes to challenge herself by zip lining, white water rafting, snorkeling and solo singing.

**18 years teaching in Ashfield but happy to embrace new technology.**



### **Mr Colin McKnight**

**Senior Teacher & Head of Mathematics**

Colin has been teaching in Ashfield Boys' for over eighteen years. He is a member of the Core Management Team and Head of the Mathematics Department. Colin and the Maths Team firmly believe and are committed to not just providing top quality teaching and learning but also in making Mathematics relevant, real, interesting and enjoyable. "We strive to ensure that the boys all succeed and develop their numeracy and mathematical skills to their full potential."





Ashfield Boys' High school provides a wide and varied curriculum that fully meets the requirements of the Northern Ireland curriculum and the Entitlement Framework curriculum. We encourage our pupils to develop their skills in all subjects with further emphasis placed upon the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. Our child centred approach, including differentiated tasks, ensures that our pupils experience a variety of teaching methods that enable all of our students to develop their skills and achieve their full potential. Our stimulating learning environment ensures that our pupils are challenged to be independent learners whilst acquiring transferable skills that will empower them to achieve the best they are capable of.



### Mr Michael McCann

Senior Teacher & Head of Senior School

"I first started teaching in Ashfield in 1975 and apart from a spell in America in the late 1980's have been a member of the science department. Having travelled extensively, and also worked in America as a showman in a variety of carnivals for several years, I try to use these and other life experiences as much as possible, both in my teaching methods and teaching content".



### **Mrs Linda Beattie**

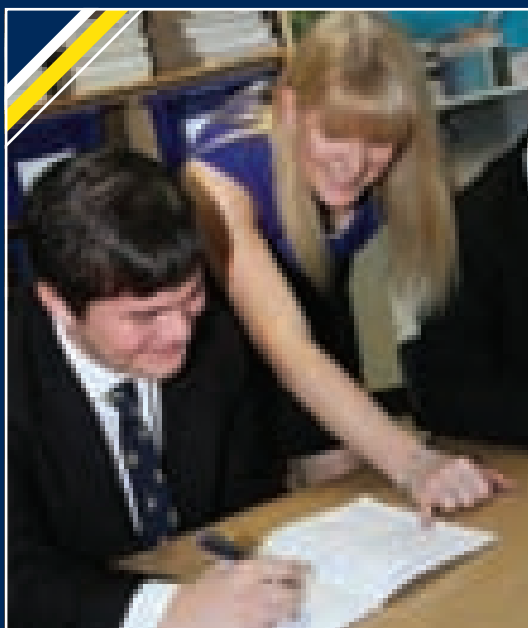
**Learning Support Co-ordinator**

Linda is a mother of one who ensures all of the boys in Ashfield have the best learning opportunities and support possible. "I am dedicated, passionate and 100% committed to ensuring that our boys get the best. I believe in working in partnership with parents and that together we will guarantee that the boys succeed."

### **English in Ashfield**

We recognise that English is essential for our boys to progress to the next levels of education and or employment; therefore, English is at the centre of all that we do. Once your place in Ashfield is confirmed we will assess your level of English in relation to Reading; Writing, Talking and Listening. This information helps us develop an individual plan for every boy, enables us to tailor our teaching and guarantees that all boys are provided with the best opportunity to succeed. If students require extra assistance with English, a variety of reading, linguistic and phonics programmes are utilised and co-ordinated by both the English and Learning Support Departments.

All boys are involved with the Accelerated Reader programme. Students read books of their individual choice and then take computer quizzes to check if they have understood what they have read. This initiative has seen all of our students engage with reading, the library and improve upon their reading skills. Quite simply English is at the core of our learning.



### **Mrs Fiona Duffield**

**Head of English**

As Head of English, it won't surprise you to hear that I love reading, especially to and with my children. I have two young boys who keep me very busy outside of school! It is difficult to say which author is my favourite, but I recommend that all teenage boys try Darren Shan, Jeff Kinney and Robert Muchamore!





### Mrs Victoria McMahon

Art and Design and Moving Image Arts

Victoria is the teacher in charge of Moving Image Arts at ABHS. She graduated with a BA (Hons) in Visual Communication, specialising in Photography & Graphic Design from University of Ulster, Belfast. She has been Teaching Art, MIA and Photography at ABHS for 5 years, having taught in a variety of schools for six years prior to this. "I have a real passion for Art and Design and a keen interest in lens based media and Film. I am a published photographer in the Ulster Tatler and have established my own business in this field. I have travelled extensively from the Inca trail in Peru to the Taj Mahal in India and use my personal experiences to inspire the pupils and raise aspirations".



Pupils whose strengths are of a more literary and artistic nature are also given plenty of opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects such as Moving Image Art, Media Studies, Geography, History, Art, English, H.E., Music, LLW and Spanish.

We are excited by our new jointly managed and governed Sixth Form with Ashfield Girls'. This will provide all of our students with a portfolio of subjects that will fully meet the Entitlement Framework enabling all students to flourish and excel.

Pupil progress is tracked four times a year and intervention in the form of mentoring is put in place for those pupils considered to be underachieving.

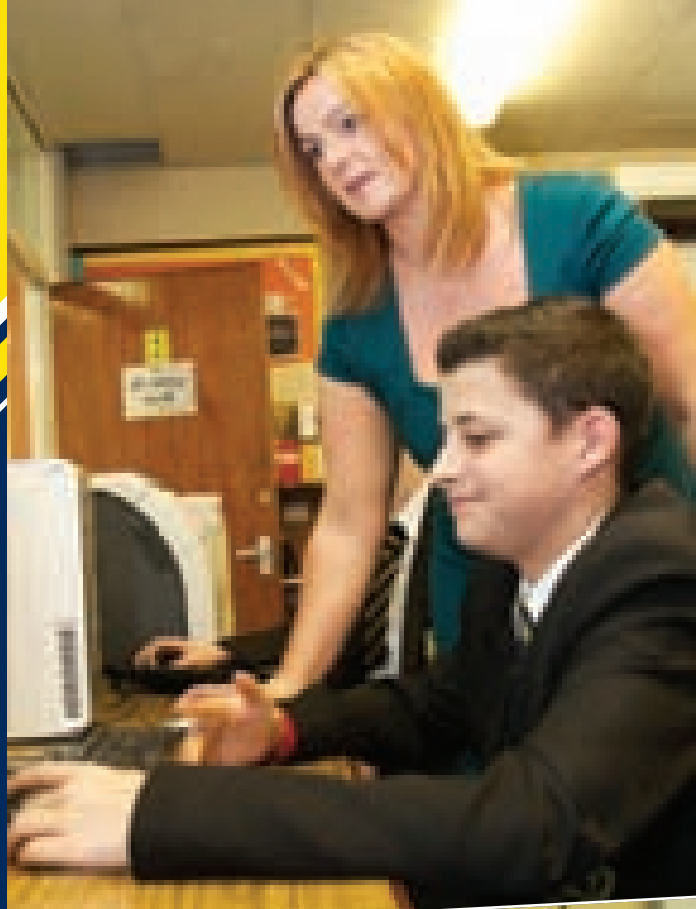
At Ashfield Boys' High School we aim to identify as quickly as possible children with Special Educational Needs. Our Learning Support Coordinator provides an extensive range of support both internally and through links to outside agencies such as Oakwood Advisory Service.



### Mrs Rachael McConnell

ICT teacher and Head of the Media Studies Department

Rachael graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a MEng in Computer Science before completing her PGCE to move into teaching. She has taught ICT, Media Studies and (a little bit) of Art at Ashfield for 5 years. "After working a number of years in summer camps in the USA I could only think of a career in teaching and have found a little home here at Ashfield. I love teaching Media Studies because it presents the opportunity for the pupils to develop their practical ICT skills whilst being creative and exploring popular culture – which is a lot of fun!!"



### Information Communication and Creative Technologies

ICT is developing at an exponential rate never seen before. Consequently we will ensure that Ashfield Boys' remains at the forefront of these amazing developments. All students study ICT to at least GCSE / Level 2 standard and those boys who wish to continue their studies to 'A' Level / level 3 are able to do so via one of the many courses available through either Ashfield Boys' or our shared Sixth Form with Ashfield Girls'.

The next five years will see us build upon the current ICT resources; every classroom will be provided with state of the art ICT facilities, enabling all teachers to fully integrate technology into their teaching and learning. We also have a three year plan that will see 'Tablet / Smart' technology introduced across the school for all boys and staff. Exciting times indeed for Ashfield Boys' and ICT.



### Mr Johnny Reaney

Head of ICT and Digital Media

Mr Reaney joined ABHS in 1994 as a member of the Science department. "During this time I developed an interest in the use of IT within the teaching of science. To develop this further I completed a postgraduate MSc Computing in Education and started to teach ICT within the School. Currently I am Head of ICT and Digital Media, and believe that ICT is an essential skill in today's technological world and can act as a major catalyst in transforming education.

Prior to my teaching career I raced motorcycles at national level winning many races and a championship. I still continue this life long passion however now my biking is limited to touring European countries and collecting, building and restoring Ducati motorcycles".



# SPORT IN ASHFIELD

'It is the vision of Ashfield Boys' High School to promote lifelong participation in physical activity for all students'.

## 'To Actively Engage'

As a Physical Education Department, we aim to provide a challenging, disciplined and safe environment for high quality learning and teaching. Pupils should experience a balance of activities which has the necessary coherence and breadth to develop the PE Curriculum.

By the end of their time at Ashfield Boys' High School, the pupil should have developed a personal commitment to, and genuine passion for, maintaining their health and well-being into adult life.



## Mr Barry Reid

Head of Department for Physical Education

Mr Barry Reid, Head of Department for Physical Education has recently been inducted into the Vermont University soccer hall of fame. As an ex Irish league footballer and now marathon runner Mr Reid aims to inspire, enthuse and actively engage the next generation of stars in Ashfield Boys'.

### Extended schools targets 5 key high level outcome areas:

- Being Healthy
- Enjoying and Achieving Learning
- Living in Safety and Stability
- Experiencing Economic and Environmental Well Being
- Contributing Positively to Society and Community.

Since the Extended Schools Programme was implemented we have strived to cater for every pupil's needs covering all five key high level outcome areas. On average we have 23 clubs running from morning until night and over holiday period for pupils, families and members of the community. Our aim has been not to focus on one or two key areas of development within the school but to have a broad range of clubs and services free of charge to every pupil/parent, family and members of the community. The rationale for this approach is to ensure that every pupil has an area of interest or service that allows them to reach their potential.



**Mr Keith Millar**  
PE Teacher

I have been a PE teacher at ABHS for 13 years. My life revolves around my love of sport, fitness and health and promoting the importance of it in young people's lives. As an ex-Irish league player I love playing and watching football. My greatest pleasure outside of school is taking my son to watch our beloved Manchester United and Northern Ireland.



### Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED):

#### Ashfield Boys' High School aims to give all pupils the opportunity

to develop their personal qualities of tolerance, self-discipline, consideration towards others and good manners. We provide opportunities, in formal and non-formal education settings for pupils to acquire confidence, self-esteem and the ability to project themselves positively. We also aim to develop pupils' political, social and economic awareness; their understanding of the role of the individual in society and develop their appreciation of religious, cultural and moral values. We strive to achieve this by providing the pupils with opportunities to build relationships with those of different backgrounds and traditions.



**Mrs Aithne Kerrigan**  
Teacher in charge of CRED

Aithne has taught Learning for Life and Work (LLW) for nine years. She is also the Year 8 Mentor. She is a Politics graduate from Queen's University Belfast and has a keen interest in current affairs, citizenship and human rights, which helps to bring a contemporary relevance to all lessons. She strives to inspire lively debates, hard work, and ambition from all of our pupils. Mrs Kerrigan is also responsible for the Community Relations, Equality, and Diversity programme at Ashfield Boys encouraging pupils to explore opportunities for personal development and fostering cross-community links. Outside school, Mrs Kerrigan is a devoted mum and enjoys watching Downton Abbey!





## A selection of our past pupils

### **Professor John Anderson**

Patented the pocket Defibrillator used in James Bond film Casino Royale.

### **George Callaghan**

World famous painter "My experiences at Ashfield were stepping stones to my achievements"

### **Gary Moore**

Rock band Thin Lizzy

### **Sammy McIlroy**

Played for Manchester United, N.Ireland, Ex N.Ireland Manager

### **Ian Corbett**

Principal Electrical Engineer at JCP Consulting Ltd

### **David Philips**

Graduated in 2008 from Film Studies at Queens University, Belfast with a 2:1

### **Ronnie Rutherford**

Proprietor of Strand Cinema

### **Peter Crooks**

Graduated in Law from the University of Sydney, Australia; now works as a solicitor for New South Wales Police.

### **William Ashenhurst**

Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) 2:2 currently studying for his Masters

### **Matthew Skelton**

1st year of Film studies at Queens University Belfast

### **Corey Watson**

2nd Year Visual Communication at University of Ulster Belfast (Art College)

### **Michael Morrison**

3rd Year Architecture University of Ulster Belfast (Art College)

“ For decades, Ashfield Boys’ High School has delivered quality education to boys in east Belfast and has been a cornerstone of the local area. I am impressed by the quality of teaching here and the passion of the whole staff body, whose dedication is clear to see and has a positive impact on the pupils every day. It is this learning environment and ethos that helps facilitate the excellent results the school’s pupils produce. This is the template I would like to see used across the north. ”

**Education Minister for  
Northern Ireland; 2012**



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