



BROWNLOW INTEGRATED COLLEGE



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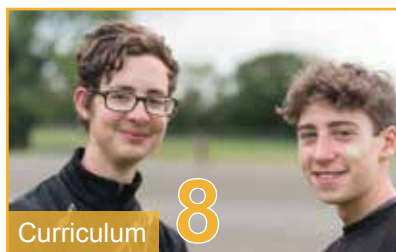
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Principal's Welcome

Brownlow Integrated College is a unique school within the Northern Ireland education system. It opened as Brownlow High School in 1973 and in September 1991 it became Brownlow Integrated College, the first transformed integrated post primary school in Northern Ireland. We continue to support the ethos of integrated education where young people of all abilities, religious traditions and cultural backgrounds are educated together in a caring and nurturing learning environment where respect for others is paramount.



At Brownlow Integrated College we have high standards and expectations for all our pupils. We offer a broad curriculum which is taught by a committed, hard-working teaching staff complemented by support staff who are dedicated to helping each young person reach his or her full academic potential. We also offer a wide range of extra-curricular and extended schools activities which we believe enriches pupils' experience of school life.

The college prides itself on the excellent level of pastoral care provided to all pupils. To this end we provide a pupil centred, holistic mentoring programme where parents and pupils are provided with the opportunity to meet with their dedicated mentor to review progress, set goals and address individual issues at various times throughout the school year.

Parental support is crucial to the academic achievement and personal growth of our young people. We are therefore committed to forging and maintaining a positive relationship with parents and encourage them to be fully involved in their children's education. The parents' group, Brownlow Friends and Family hosts a number of events throughout the year where we very much encourage everyone from the school and local community to attend.

Brownlow Integrated College is a safe, caring, fun and friendly place to learn. If you would like to visit Brownlow or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school. I really hope you will consider joining us in working towards a better and shared future for everyone.

Nicola Stevenson
Principal



Our Integrated Ethos

At Brownlow Integrated College, Integration is about:

- People of different religions, cultures, nationalities and backgrounds celebrating, learning and growing together
- Making good friends with people you wouldn't get the chance to meet elsewhere
- Discussing and respecting differences of opinions
- Learning about other people's beliefs and identities whilst feeling safe to be yourself



"I can honestly say I loved every minute of my time at Brownlow, a place where I felt education and a sense of fun mixed well together, providing an excellent atmosphere in which to learn and develop. I am sure that many will agree that their time at Brownlow was fun-filled and each day better than the previous. It is definitely true when they say that your school days are the best of your life - especially considering my time at Brownlow!"



#ProudToBeDifferent

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is of central importance to life at Brownlow Integrated College. Teaching and support staff help all of our pupils to develop into well rounded individuals and support them to manage and respond positively to life events during their time with us.

Through a taught Personal Development curriculum for all year groups, we aim to promote a sense of belonging, care, safety, self-

worth and mutual respect. In partnership with a number of external agencies, including: Reach, Aspire NI, Youth for Christ, Barnardos, Links Counselling, Protect Life, Women's Aid, and PSNI, we provide pupil-centred care and support for all of our young people.

Pictured below: Some of our partner agencies represented include Barnardos, Craigavon YFC, Reach mentoring and Aspire NI pictured with Mark Callender, Pastoral Care Director.



Mentoring / Curriculum Support

Pupils are assigned a teacher who acts as a personal mentor to them for the duration of their time at Brownlow Integrated College. In Key Stage 3, the mentor meets with the pupil and parents on two occasions and in Key Stage 4, three occasions throughout the school year.

During the mentoring meeting the pupil, parents and teacher meet in a relaxed setting to discuss and review progress and set new individual targets.

The Aims of the Mentoring Programme are to:

- Encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education.
- Provide pupils with guidance and practical help to improve performance.
- Support pupils to set short term "S.M.A.R.T." targets and help them to review progress made.
- Encourage and support pupils in reaching their full academic potential.
- Improve GCSE results.

The mentoring programme enables our pupils to be more actively involved in setting targets for their own learning and to plan for improved standards in their work. By parents becoming involved in, and fully supporting the programme we can develop a home-school partnership where pupils are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. The school has noted a strong correlation between parental attendance at mentoring sessions and pupils' academic success at GSCE level.

Enhanced Mentoring Programme

We offer an enhanced mentoring programme for a core group of pupils in each year group. Pupils in need of further support are identified through close tracking of pupil progress. This cohort of pupils meets with a teacher mentor on a more regular basis during the normal school day. As well as improvement in academic standards, improvements have also been noted in the areas of attendance and behaviour.



"Brownlow Integrated College. Best school ever. Best days of my life. Can't wait to see both my boys attending. The staff are amazing. Memories that will last a life time."

Special Educational Needs

At Brownlow Integrated College we value, support and provide care to all of our pupils regardless of their academic ability. Pupils with Special Educational Needs are supported by our two Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs), together with a team of highly dedicated Classroom Assistants. In the college we have the DEN facility which aims to develop, educate and nurture our pupils who have additional needs. We run a number of programmes out of the DEN including speech and language, literacy and numeracy programmes that we deliver to individual or small groups of pupils. We also support pupils who have behavioural issues or challenges. They can start their day in the DEN where they can receive support to help them manage their behaviour and help them prepare for learning. For children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder we have a dedicated sensory room where children can have quiet time in a safe, secure and nurturing environment.



International Room

In Brownlow Integrated College we have children who originate from 14 different countries including Bulgaria, Czech Republic, East Timor, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Syria and Zimbabwe.

We have a dedicated International Department that supports all our newcomer pupils. On arrival at Brownlow Integrated College, newcomer pupils will start off in the International class where they receive intensive support to help them build their confidence and improve their English vocabulary and literacy skills so they are able to fully integrate into school life.



Careers Education

Our aims are to help pupils: develop their skills and personal qualities, identify a suitable educational pathway, prepare for progression from Brownlow Integrated College, make suitable career choices.

“Given a chance, I’m gonna be somebody”



Curriculum

Brownlow Integrated College is a non selective all ability school. We provide all of our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum in KS3.

All pupils have the opportunity to study the following subjects:

- Art
- Careers
- Drama
- English Language
- French
- Geography
- Home Economics
- History
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Development
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Design and Technology



Pupils in KS3 are only streamed in Mathematics classes; all other classes are mixed ability.

In KS4 pupils are directed and supported to help them to choose a suitable pathway based on their ability level, progression route and aspirations.

Pupils on the academic pathway will study 9 or 10 GCSEs including Mathematics, English Language, English Literature and Double Award Science.

Pupils on the academic / vocational pathway will study 8 GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including Mathematics, English Language, Single Award Science, Occupational Studies.

Pupils on the vocational pathway will study 6 or 7 GCSEs or equivalents, including Mathematics, English Language, OCN Science, Occupational Studies and Prince's Trust.



Student Council

The Student Council is elected by pupils in each year group to represent them and provide an authentic voice for the pupil body. It promotes the development of the college and the welfare of all its pupils. The council meets regularly and discusses matters of importance to the pupils and liaises with the Principal and Senior Leadership Team. They also have a consultative role in relation to decision making and identifying areas for improvement. The Student Council also represents the school at conferences and a range of forums.



Art & Design

At Brownlow Integrated College we believe that Art has a significant role to play in pupil's holistic development. In Art and Design pupils are encouraged to experiment and expresses themselves in their work. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to explore the areas of portrait drawing, colour mixing, experimenting with mixed media, masks from around the world, architecture, ceramics and textiles.



Drama

Drama is a practical subject designed to give pupils the opportunity to work in groups and express themselves in a safe environment. Through drama pupils explore the world in which we live and gain skills needed for lifelong learning. Building self-confidence is at the core of this subject to promote pupils' social awareness, empathy, values and attitudes. Pupils have the opportunity to participate in pantomime, movement and mime, soap operas and plays.

"Even though I wasn't the best student and thought all the teachers were out to get me, I now realise that they were all just trying to push me to do my best!"



English



The English department strives to develop pupils' literacy, e-literacy and inter-personal communication. Pupils have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of topics including poetry, advertising, creative writing, script writing, functional writing, Shakespeare and war literature.

*We are delighted to have a BAFTA award winning teacher in our English Department.
Dr Blaney, featured below, won this award for writing the short film, "Boogaloo and Graham."*





At Brownlow Integrated College, all pupils have the opportunity to study French in junior school. French is also available as a choice of GCSE at Key Stage 4. The modern language classroom is equipped with a fully integrated, interactive whiteboard, advanced audio devices for listening material and conducting speaking activities and, in line with technological advances, the opportunity for iPad use to enhance language learning through apps such as Quizlet and Linguascope. The classroom is a vibrant space for pupils to engage in language learning in an aesthetically-pleasing environment with a great variety of resources catering for different levels, needs and abilities.



Geography

Pupils have the opportunity to explore and understand the relationship between the Earth and its people, through the study of space, place and environment. These three elements form the core of geography in Brownlow Integrated College. Pupils completing the Key Stage 3 Geography curriculum in Brownlow will have acquired basic enquiry and generic skills, and have had experience of making value judgements through investigating issues from a Geographical perspective.



Home Economics / Hospitality

At Key Stage 3, Home Economics is divided into 3 main areas: Healthy Eating, Family Life and Independent Living. Pupils are encouraged to develop their practical skills in cooking and baking.

Pupils studying Hospitality in Key Stage 4 have the opportunity to have afternoon tea at the Merchant Hotel in Belfast.



History

At Brownlow Integrated College, all pupils have the opportunity to study the Norman Conquest, the Reformation and the Irish Partition in junior school History. Pupils taking History as a GCSE study Nazi Germany and International Relations in years 11 and 12.

*"I loved Brownlow would do anything to go back
loved all the teachers and my year group."*



Information Communications Technology

All pupils in junior school have the opportunity to attend ICT classes. Pupils learn about creating spreadsheets, data bases and word processing. They are also provided with the opportunity to code and make computer games. Pupils can study ICT or Business and Communication Studies for GCSE.



Learning for Life & Work Prince's Trust

The subject comes in three strands and aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills which will support them in life after school. Through Personal Development, Citizenship and Employability, we raise issues such as health, drugs awareness, human rights, democracy and globalisation, endeavouring to foster in our pupils a deeper understanding of the world around them. Pupils who study Princes Trust have the opportunity to engage in work experience and an enterprise activity.



Maths

Maths is fundamental to life in the sense that its unique language and forms of notation help us to calculate, estimate and problem-solve. We aim to challenge and encourage pupils to succeed in Math by making it fun and interesting. The Maths department uses the latest technology and methods to bring the teaching and learning of Maths to life.

"I always liked that Brownlow always supported community events. Their brass band was always welcome especially at the Brownlow Festival."



Music

All pupils are potentially musical and can benefit from learning experiences which develop their knowledge, understanding and skills. By actively engaging with the core musical activities; composing, performing and listening, they learn more about both making and responding to music. Pupils are provided with opportunities to create personal meaning, express their own feelings, explore diverse musical tastes and experiment creatively through music. The school has a fully equipped music suite where pupils can record and mix their own music.

"I don't think I would have had the courage nor confidence to pursue music education further (or music in general as a career) if it weren't for the encouragement of Ruthie Norton. Music class in Brownlow changed my outlook on the possibilities for the future and I'm very thankful for that!"



Physical Education

Physical Education is compulsory for all pupils in both junior and senior school. Pupils have the opportunity to play a wide variety of sport including: Soccer, Table Tennis, Hockey, Rounders, Badminton, Netball, Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball, Rugby, Gaelic Football. The school also has a fully equipped fitness suite where pupils can train.

"I went to Brownlow when it was a high school and without the courage and strength of my art teacher I wouldn't be where I am today. With two diplomas in Art and having the love of art and crafts I wouldn't be able to use the talent that God has given me without Brownlow High (college) encouragement. Thank you."



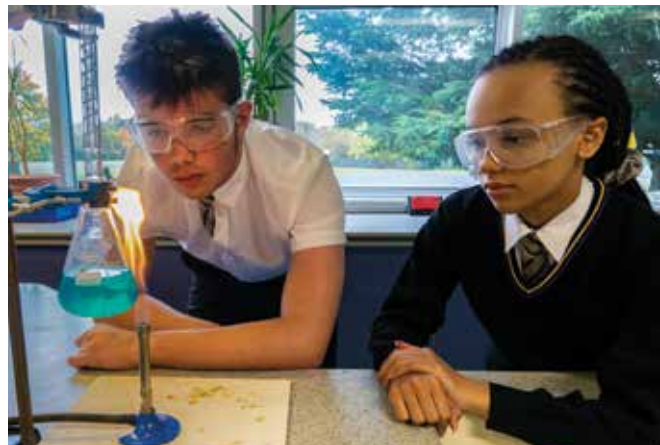
Religious Education

In Religious Education pupils study both Old and New Testament Christianity. They also examine other world religions including Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. Pupils are also introduced to meditation to promote self-reflection, stillness and serenity.



Science

At Brownlow Integrated College Science is a compulsory subject at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Pupils will study the three scientific disciplines; Biology, the study of living things, Chemistry, the study of matter, its properties and reactions and Physics, the study of forces, energy and movement. Pupils at Key stage four will study either Double Award Science, Single Award Science or OCN Science.



Technology and Design

In Technology and Design pupils will learn a variety of practical skills that will equip them for life in a technological society. In Key Stage 3 pupils will learn about the importance of health and safety in a workshop environment and will have the opportunity to make a Christmas tree, mobile phone holder, bird feeder and a candle holder. Pupils will have the opportunity to work with various materials including, the traditional wood and metal as well as new smart and composite materials.



Occupational Studies

In collaboration with Southern Regional College and Lismore Comprehensive School we are able to offer our pupils the opportunity to study Occupational Studies in the following areas:

- Business and Services
- Construction
- Design and Creativity
- Engineering and Engineering Services
- Environment and Society
- Technology and Innovation

These qualifications allow pupils to learn for work, through work and about work. This hands-on approach is ideal for those pupils who prefer to develop their skills in a more practical, occupational environment.



"I always liked that Brownlow always supported community events. Their brass band was always welcome especially at the Brownlow Festival."



Breakfast Club

In Brownlow Integrated College we offer a breakfast club for all of our pupils. Pupils can arrive at school from 8:00 a.m. and can have a warm, healthy breakfast which includes cereal, toast, fruit, and hot or cold beverages.

Brownlow Integrated College has been awarded the Kellogg's 'Best Breakfast Club in Northern Ireland' award.



Sports Clubs



Gardening

The Gardening Club is a pupil led club that welcomes pupils from all year groups. Pupils decide which flowers and vegetables they would like to grow. Pumpkins are the pupils' favourite choice and every year we grow a pumpkin patch. We also grow, from seed; tomatoes, sunflowers, strawberries, runner beans, petunias and sweet pea, in our well established greenhouse. Through gardening club, pupils

develop skills they can utilise at home. They can also enhance their knowledge from subjects such as Science, Home Economics and Geography. The Gardening Club is a nurturing and therapeutic alternative for pupils who do not play sport or a musical instrument. We welcome all pupils who are interested in horticulture.





Minecraft

We have an extremely popular Minecraft Club that runs at lunch time and after school.

Minecraft is an insanely popular online video game that allows players to build their own virtual worlds using blocks. Within our club we use this game to give pupils the freedom to push their imaginations to the limit and allow them to be creative in ways not possible in the real world. Minecraft can inspire pupils' higher-level and critical thinking skills, whilst encouraging them to problem solve.



Music

The Music department offers a number of extra-curricular musical options for pupils. These include choir, samba and rock clubs. We also provide music tuition in cello, violin, viola, clarinet, flute, oboe and piano.



Icthus

Icthus is a lunchtime club which is well supported by pupils and staff at Brownlow Integrated College. The aim of the Icthus Club is to help pupils have a greater understanding of the Christian faith and to help them grow in that faith. Club members very much enjoy the fellowship and fun each lunchtime, exploring the Christian faith and its relevance to our lives today. Guest speakers, stories, quizzes and pizza days are regular features. Out of school activities include cinema nights, bowling and a trip to the Belfast Christmas Markets. Icthus pupils play a huge part in our Christmas and Easter Services. The highlight of the Icthus calendar is the annual weekend residential which is usually held at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. Pupils take on lead roles during the weekend with prayers, drama, readings, testimonies, stories, singing, dancing and are supported by guest speakers and the Icthus staff. All pupils attending Brownlow Integrated College, including those of other or no faiths, are invited and welcome to attend Icthus.



Rambling



Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is a student-led Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Club which unites LGBTQ+ and allied youth. The club supports young people who are struggling with gender or sexuality issues and provides them with a forum to talk about these issues in a safe and supportive environment. All pupils are welcome to attend the club to be educated about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity in school and the wider community. We often invite guest speakers from organisations such as Cara-Friend, TransgenderNI and local LGBT youth groups to talk with our pupils about their work. Our school was nominated for an Inclusive Education award at a prestigious event alongside Queen's University, Ulster University, Further Education colleges and schools, in recognition of the support the Kaleidoscope club provides to our pupils.



Ski Trip



French Trip



Water Sports



Icthus Residential



Shannaghmore



Prefects' Residential



Formal

Every year our Year 12 students celebrate their time in Brownlow IC with a school formal.



House Competition

Every year, our pupils (and staff) compete in the fiercely contested House Competition. Our three houses are Mourne, Antrim and Sperrin.



Brownlow Friends and Family

Parent Teacher Association

We are delighted to have a very active and supportive Parent Teacher Association - "BFF" (Brownlow Friends and Family). The aim of the BFF is to bring parents, teachers, local community and businesses together to help support the pupils of the school.

BFF Activities include:

- Organising meetings for parent and teachers to discuss educational issues.
- Provide opportunities where pupils, teachers and parents can socialise in a relaxed environment
- Help raise funds to support our school in providing additional resources for pupils.
- Increase community awareness of the school's unique educational ethos and opportunities.
- Help build and maintain relationships with business and the community.

All parents, friends and staff of Brownlow Integrated College are welcome to attend any of our BFF meetings which will be advertised through the school's website and Facebook page. Meetings are very informal, with a cup of tea / coffee and plenty of craic!









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