

2023 PROSPECTUS



Omagh Academy

Inspire. Empower. Achieve.

Since 1903

Inspire. Empower. Achieve.

Inspire.

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Empower.

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Welcome to Omagh Academy



Since its foundation in 1903, Omagh Academy has been closely identified with the town; however, our pupils also come from a wide geographical area, and from all religious and ethnic backgrounds. The school community aims for excellence, combining technological advances and innovative approaches to learning and teaching with the best traditional values and standards of behaviour.

We take pride in the many achievements of present and past pupils. Our pupils are among the highest achievers in public examinations in Northern Ireland and are successful in gaining admission to the top universities. Former pupils of Omagh Academy can be found playing important roles in many countries and settings, and making significant and valuable contributions to their communities.

Pupils flourish when they are happy and well-motivated, and it is important for each boy and girl to have the freedom to develop as an individual. We therefore ensure that pastoral care has a high priority, and our pupils enjoy learning in a friendly, caring and responsive social environment.

We value our relationships with parents and strive to develop a sense of partnership within and beyond the school community. Special emphasis is placed on fostering a sense of responsibility among pupils and on cultivating leadership skills in combination with an attitude of service to others. We also value the links that we have developed with other schools locally, nationally and, especially, internationally

Our commitment to the development of the young person as a well-rounded individual is reflected in the numerous cultural and

sporting activities that continue outside the classroom and beyond the normal school day.

Omagh Academy provides a modern curriculum and a rich educational experience that extends beyond traditional academic subjects to include a range of more practically based courses and excellent extracurricular provision. We feel that pupils leave our school with a head start in life.

I hope that you find the snapshot of life at Omagh Academy offered in this prospectus interesting and informative, and I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Mrs Ruth Maxwell
Principal

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Omagh Academy is a co-educational controlled grammar school. It is open to all and welcomes applications from boys and girls throughout the Omagh area and beyond.

Our School

Established in 1903, the school building occupies a central location in the town. Our distinctive navy and gold uniforms are easily recognised throughout Omagh and Northern Ireland!

Our Crest

Our crest carries the motto – **Veritas Vincet** – and we believe that its meaning ‘truth prevails’ is still relevant for 21st Century education.

Our Ethos

We continue to promote the values of integrity, resilience and confidence; encouraging the young people entrusted to our care to develop their gifts and talents and to achieve the highest academic standards according to their ability.

We believe that the interests of our school community are fostered and developed by a balanced education based on Christian values and mutual respect. We promote excellence in all our endeavours, acknowledging that growth and potential are experienced when we work together.

To find out more about our ethos, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/our-ethos





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In the classroom

Omagh Academy is proud of our talented and dedicated staff who deliver a diverse and varied range of subjects.

We want our pupils to aspire to achieve great things and we encourage them to work in partnership with staff and take responsibility for their learning.

The subjects we offer at different stages of school life are:



To find out more about subjects at Omagh Academy, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/departments

Key Stage 3 | Years 8-10

- Art & Design
- Drama
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- ICT
- Learning for Life & Work
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Spanish
- Technology & Design

Key Stage 4 | Years 11 & 12

- Agriculture & Land Use
- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Digital Technology: Multimedia
- Digital Technology: Programming
- English Language
- English Literature
- Food & Nutrition
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science (Double Award)
- Spanish
- Triple Award Biology
- Triple Award Chemistry
- Triple Award Physics
- Technology & Design

Sixth Form | Years 13 & 14

- Agriculture
- Applied Science
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Digital Technology
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Hospitality Management
- Mathematics
- Media Games
- Music
- Nutrition & Food Science
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sports Studies
- Technology & Design

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Careers Guidance

We have a dedicated team of staff who prepare our students for the world of work. Many of our students continue to third-level education courses and many also follow vocational pathways and choose to complete apprenticeships.

It is very encouraging as we observe our students throughout their time at Omagh Academy; we watch with pride as they develop skills and attributes which shape their future careers.



To find out more about the Careers Department at Omagh Academy, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/careers-department



To see more of life at Omagh Academy scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/gallery

Beyond the classroom



We believe that involvement in activities 'beyond the classroom' is very important, and that it contributes to an enriching and satisfying time at school.

Not only are new skills discovered but new friendships are made! We believe that balancing academic life with extra-curricular involvement is essential for creating good wellbeing habits.



To find out more about extra curricular activities at Omagh Academy, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/extra-curricular

We offer a wide variety of clubs and societies which meet weekly:

- Byte This – ICT Club
- Blast from the Past – History Club
- Brass Band
- Junior Drama
- Junior Choir
- Junior Scripture Union
- Eco Schools
- Games Club
- GrassRoots Agriculture Club
- Mandarin Classes
- Netball
- Equestrian Club
- AILO Club
- Science Club
- Senior Choir
- Senior Scripture Union
- Omagh Academy Players
- Community Care
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Psychology Society
- Young Enterprise

Music

The Music Department is a busy place and offers so many opportunities to our students.

A team of instrumental tutors visits the school every week, offering expert tuition in a range of instruments. Pupils can avail of lessons - even if they have not begun lessons in primary school. It's never too late to learn an instrument!

Please speak to a member of the Music Department to find out more.



To find out more about musical opportunities, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/musi-extra



Tuition is available in

Piano	Oboe
Singing	Bassoon
Guitar	Cornet
Snare Drum	Trumpet
Bagpipes	Tenor Horn
Violin	French Horn
Viola	Baritone
Cello	Euphonium
Flute	Trombone
Clarinet	Tuba

Pupils are encouraged to develop their gifts and talents in Music by joining one of the many ensembles. A highlight of the school calendar is the annual Spring Concert which takes place in the Strule Arts Centre. In fact, this event is so popular that tickets are sold out weeks in advance!

We enjoy fantastic community support and love to see our pupils involved in a variety of performance opportunities, covering a range of musical styles. There really is something for everyone!

Our pupils have been on stage as members of:

- Senior Choir
- Junior Choir
- Orchestra
- Brass Band
- Guitar Ensemble
- Woodwind Ensemble
- String Orchestra
- Samba Band
- Djembe Drumming Circle
- Ukulele Orchestra
- Pipes & Drums
- Musical Theatre Ensemble
- Rock Band
- Percussion Ensemble



We love to follow the success of our past musicians and see how they have performed on the stages of many prestigious concert halls. **The opportunities are endless!**

Sport

- Aerobics
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross-country
- Fitness training
- Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rounders/
softball
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Tag Rugby
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball



To find out more about sporting activities, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/sport-extra



Aside from weekly lessons in PE and Games, our students are offered an unrivalled range of sporting opportunities.

The sports pitches at Campsie are busy every day after school and it is fantastic to see junior and senior pupils participating in sport. Our on-site fitness centre offers state-of-the-art training facilities to all our senior pupils and they also enjoy the facilities at Omagh Leisure Centre.

We compete in Rugby and Hockey tournaments – fielding as many as 10 teams each week for fixtures with schools across the province. Our Football teams play in the Schools' Cup competitions and we also have much success in Athletics in the summer season, with pupils competing and winning medals at Ulster and Ireland events.

We wish to see our students involved in sport – whether as a beginner or a proficient athlete – and know that **health and wellbeing** are enhanced by these opportunities.

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Nurturing Potential

High standards of Pastoral Care pervade all areas of Omagh Academy life. We view our students' progress holistically, not merely content with strong academic scores but desire that each student feels safe, is cared for and that their emotional needs are supported.

The Pastoral Team, led by Vice Principal Miss Faris, exists to ensure that a warm, caring and safe environment exists within our school.

Each class has a Form Teacher who meets with his/her class every morning. This daily contact allows for detailed knowledge of the academic and wellbeing needs of the pupils and provides guidance and encouragement with opportunities to build good relationships.

The Year Head has overall responsibility for the year group – monitoring attendance, behaviour and academic progress – and is the first point of contact

between school and home. The Year Head continues to give pastoral support to their assigned year group throughout their time at Omagh Academy.

Safeguarding

Omagh Academy treats safeguarding seriously.

We have a suite of pastoral policies which regulate practice and a team of Designated Teachers for Child Protection who work with external agencies on various matters relating to safeguarding.

The School Counsellor is present in school every week and is available for any pupil who wishes to make an appointment.



To find out more about pastoral care, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/pastoral

Support

We want our pupils to thrive, and we seek to provide support to ensure that they reach their potential.

The school's Learning Support Co-ordinator works in collaboration with pupils, staff, parents and professionals to identify and assess the special needs of pupils. Effective intervention strategies to aid learning are then devised, agreed and shared through the pupil's Individual Educational Plan (IEP). These IEPs are regularly reviewed in order to monitor both the pupil's progress and improve the effectiveness of the support provided.

To promote good learning habits and understanding, we provide Literacy and Numeracy Support. Senior pupils are also involved in a mentoring scheme where they work alongside younger pupils and provide mathematics support. We also ensure that every pupil receives key stage-appropriate training in study skills and approaches to revision

Pupil Leadership

The community of students is led by the Head Girl and Head Boy and a team of Senior Prefects. We value their support and creative input into the running of the school week.

School Council also provides opportunities for pupil input into the life of the school. The Council meets once a month and is made up of representatives from all twenty-eight form classes across the school. Members play an important role in shaping new policies, plus building relationships with Staff and Governors. Council also takes the lead in sharing good practice with classes about important topics, including Anti-Bullying and using Social Media safely. Representatives from the School Council are also members of the Strule Shared Education Student Council which meets termly.



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Celebrating Success

We celebrate success in the everyday events as well as in the extraordinary opportunities which our pupils enjoy.

- Working well in class
- Submitting a great homework
- Achieving a high test score
- Promoting the school
- Taking part in events
- Showing kindness to others

We recognise that these academic and pastoral achievements are important and contribute to making our pupils resilient, empathetic, and forward thinkers.

We share successes in Assemblies, through our social media pages and in the printed press. We reward success too! Certificates, merit trips, vouchers and special presentations are just some of the ways we acknowledge our students.

At GCSE and A-Level stages it seems that the stakes are higher – but good foundations have been created and our pupils are confident and prepared for all possibilities. Our annual Prize Day in September is a special event where we reward achievements.

Omagh Academy is measured against educational benchmarks and we enjoy a strong reputation throughout Northern Ireland – but we measure the success of the individual, celebrating the gifts and talents which makes each student unique and highly valued.



To find out more about how we celebrate our students and staff, scan this code or visit omaghacademy.com/celebration-of-achievement



Creating Community

An important aspect of Omagh Academy's success is found in the strong links which exist between school, home and our local community. We create community by valuing the strong foundations and excellence of the past, whilst looking forward with enthusiasm to what our school can achieve in the future.

We value:

- Partnerships with families as we seek to nurture and guide our young people to be the best that they can be.
- Connections made with local businesses, schools, churches and community organisations throughout Tyrone and beyond.
- Links with former pupils – discovering where their career path has led them and the impact they have made around the world.

Connecting with Home:

We keep in touch with our families in various ways.

- Parent App – School Gateway – is a quick and easy way of sending messages, emails, reports and updates.
- Social Media – daily posts are added to our Facebook and Instagram channels
- Website – the hub for all information relating to our school
- Newsletters & Magazines – providing a record of school life throughout the term
- Phone calls & Parent Meetings – providing a personal and focused approach to ensuring the potential of each one of our students is realised.

Connecting with the Community

Recent examples include:

- Pen Pal initiative with residents in local Nursing Homes
- Providing Christmas Hampers for foodbanks in Omagh
- Leading Music workshops at feeder Primary Schools
- Young Enterprise company visiting trade fairs
- Teaching Modern Languages to Primary School pupils
- Carol Services at St. Columba's Church
- Participating in workshops within our Shared Education Partnerships
- Spring Concerts at Strule Arts Centre

Connecting with our Alumni

Perhaps you are a past pupil of Omagh Academy or know a past pupil? We want to reconnect with you! Click on our website to find out more!

Connecting with Charities

Omagh Academy firmly believes in the importance of supporting the work of local charities. We wish to instil in our pupils the necessity of reaching out to others and gaining awareness of support which is offered to all. Fun Days, non-uniform days, weekly collections, quizzes, sporting events and musical performances are some of the ways in which we've recently raised money for a variety of worthy causes.

- Air Ambulance NI
- Care for Cancer
- MS Society
- NSPCC

Looking to the Future



Joining Omagh Academy as a Year 8 pupil

It is always an exciting time when we meet the new cohort of students who are beginning their post-primary education at Omagh Academy!

We know that the move to 'big school' is exciting but can also be a little daunting. We aim to provide a smooth transition from primary school, and we are committed to supporting pupils and their families through this process.

Omagh Academy has a dedicated pastoral team which focuses on Year 8. Led by the Year Head, Mr Bingham, and a team of form teachers, we are grateful for the work and impact of the Year 8 Prefects who provide peer support to our new students.

We organise several events throughout the year which help to familiarise new pupils with the school setting. We believe that these events are key to developing strong and supportive relationships which will last throughout their Omagh Academy journey.

- Feeder Primary school visits
- Open Evening (January/February)
- Year 8 Induction Evening (June)
- Year 8 Games Night (August)
- Year 8 Trip (September)
- Parent/Teacher meetings (first term)
- Tracking Reports (three times a year)
- Study Skills Event

We can't wait to meet you and look forward to you joining us and making your mark in the history of our school.

Joining Omagh Academy after Year 8

If you wish to join our school community at a later stage of your school career – then why not contact our Principal, Mrs Maxwell, to consider your options and find out more. We can arrange a tour of the school and opportunities to speak to staff who can provide curriculum and pastoral guidance to ensure your queries are answered.

Contact Us

If you are interested in becoming a student at Omagh Academy, then please do get in touch.

- Come along to our Open Evening for Year 6&7 pupils – Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 6.30pm
- Consider your options for Sixth Form and come to our Post-16 Subjects Evening – Monday 13th February at 5.30pm

The traditions established in past are important to us, but we are excited for the future as we continue to provide first-class education opportunities for the pupils in our locality.

2023 is a significant year for Omagh Academy as we celebrate our 120th birthday!

Will you join us?

We look forward to meeting you!



STOP PRESS!

The Sunday Times 2023 Parent Power Schools Guide, published on 11th December 2022, revealed that... Omagh Academy is ranked in 11th place in Northern Ireland!

As a fantastic affirmation of the partnership between pupils, staff and families and the success of the 2022 public examinations series, Omagh Academy is ranked as 11th school in Northern Ireland and 83rd in the UK!

We are proud to be Omagh Academy!

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Omagh Academy

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Keep in touch

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