



# TANDRAGEE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2024







**Coming from quite a small Primary School, it was quite nerve wrecking thinking about starting Tandragee Junior High. It seemed so big compared to what I was used to. I shouldn't have worried though, from my very first day there were lots of friendly teachers and staff to make this change feel less nervous.**

The school is easy to get around and it is surprising how quickly you become used to it. What I really like is that you keep the same form teacher for the 3 years you are here which really helps you get to

know one another and feel comfortable raising any issues you may have. The principal and vice principal are both very welcoming and I liked that you could talk to them also if you had any worries.

I loved all the new subjects and moving around the school between classes through the day, it keeps it so interesting and fun. I particularly liked TD, Maths, Geography and Art and Design.

The extracurricular programme is great, I have enjoyed being a part of the school football team and representing the school at the Districts.

The three years have passed so fast, and I feel like I am confident and ready for my next school. I have really enjoyed the three years I have spent here; the teachers are all great and the school atmosphere is so much fun.

I couldn't believe it when I was asked to be Head Boy, it made me feel really proud that my teachers and school staff thought I would do a good job and I have tried my very best. It is not hard when you enjoy school life and are proud of your school.

**Daniel Robinson** - Head Boy



**Moving from primary to secondary school is always a big step for any pupil. If you're feeling a mixture of both nerves and excitement ahead of starting the Junior High, I can honestly say you have nothing to worry about. That's exactly how I felt before walking through the school doors for that first time.**

I was welcomed into the Tandragee Junior High School community with kindness from the current pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff. I settled into school life very quickly, making lots of new friends and joining many afterschool clubs.

I recall being most excited to be learning new subjects which weren't taught at Primary school, including Technology & Design and Home Economics. HE turned out to be my firm favourite and I have learnt lots of tasty recipes. I was excited to be learning 2 new languages, French and Spanish, and I never realised it would also be fun to learn about each country and their culture.

I have a real passion for sports, especially cross-country running and athletics. Our school provides a wide range of afterschool activities for pupils to choose from. I am also part of the school choir where we get the opportunity to sing together on many occasions and at various events. Participating in the extra-curricular activities has boosted my confidence in everything I do.

The teachers will always encourage the pupils to live the school's values which are enshrined in our school motto, *Care, Courteous and Consideration*. I'm proud to be part of a school community that is kind and thoughtful to each other and the wider public on school trips or visitors to our school. I am really enjoying the honour and experience of being Tandragee Junior High's Head Girl and part of their senior prefect team and thankful for the opportunities it has provided me with.

As a Year 10, I look back over my time at TJHS very fondly and have so many fantastic memories that I will take with me to my future destination. I would encourage everyone to take full advantage of all the opportunities on offer, both inside and outside of the classroom, and really make the most of your time here. Set yourself high aspirations, be open to being challenged by your teachers and be the very best you can be. Remember, Aim High and Reach Higher!

**Abby Upchurch** - Head Girl

## TANDRAGEE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS:

- A safe, caring and stimulating environment.
- Quality teaching and learning for pupils of all abilities.
- Committed and caring staff.
- Consistent and fair discipline procedures.
- A Christian ethos.



Senior Leadership Team (L-R):  
Mrs Magennis, Senior Teacher - Mr Brown, Principal - Mrs Inns,  
Vice Principal

### Zac Ratcliffe

My first day at Tandragee Junior High School was good. I walked into school and I was greeted by Mrs Inns at the front door. I walked into the hall and nervously sat down not knowing what was going on but I remember walking out of that hall and following a class full of people I didn't know (my class 8JK), Mr Keenan talked to us for a bit and then we were shown all the rooms in the school. Mr Henning was the first teacher "Oh no, Maths" I thought but he didn't do any work and I remember we saw the Science lab and the mobile, ICT suite and the Art room looks so crazy there were these pizza boxes made out of cardboard boxes and pizzas made out of some tissue paper like material. My first day was fun and exciting and all out good, my worries went away and I was relaxed when I went home.

# WELCOME

2022/2023  
ATTENDANCE RATE: 90.2%

Tandragee Junior High School has been providing quality education since 1963. The school enjoys a picturesque setting on the outskirts of the town and was extended in 1976 to its present accommodation which is fully equipped and resourced with modern facilities designed to deal with all aspects of the Key Stage 3 Northern Ireland Curriculum. We are proud of our school's history and reputation and are confident that your son/daughter will enjoy positive experiences during their time with us.

Our school community comprises a genuinely dedicated Board of Governors, specialist teaching staff, a range of non-teaching staff and of course our pupils and parents. We have established strong family links and work in partnership with the local and wider community to "instil in pupils the core values of Care, Courtesy and Consideration in a Christian ethos and to promote positive attitudes to learning by encouraging each pupil to develop holistically."

We are proud of our Christian ethos and of the values enshrined in our motto - "Care, Courtesy and Consideration". We are proud also of the high standard of teaching and learning delivered by our enthusiastic staff and also of the wide range of extra-curricular and pastoral provision on offer.

Pupils transfer to Tandragee Junior High School at 11, remaining here for 3 years, during which time they follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum for Key Stage 3. At 14 the pupils will transfer to Portadown College or Craigavon Senior High School to continue their education.

Each year our former pupils perform extremely well at GCSE and A Level in local Senior High schools. The reality is that all of our pupils enjoy personal success. Whatever a pupil's aspiration or ambition, talent or gift,



Our pupils enjoy further academic and personal successes in their respective senior high school.



we can provide a solid foundation in the initial stages of post-primary (Key Stage 3) - thus ensuring that each child attains their potential.

In November 2010 our school was one of only 12 Post-primary schools in Northern Ireland to be awarded the overall descriptor of **"very good"** with certain areas reported as **"outstanding"**. In June 2014, our school was visited again by ETI who reported the school to be **"highly effective"** in Leadership and **"Outstanding"** in the work of the Improving Learning and Standards Team. Overall they concluded that this school **"continues to demonstrate its capacity for sustained self-improvement."** In October 2019 ETI endorsed our SLT's clear vision for the holistic development of our pupils. We are ultimately a school that can be the source of our community's pride and confidence.

Enjoy reading about our school and please feel free to contact me should you wish to visit our school or if you have a particular concern or query.

C W Brown

Chloe Watt

I like Tandragee Junior High School. I also thought before coming to Tandragee Junior High School my least favourite subjects would be Geography, Maths and PE but I actually enjoyed them and the canteen makes good meals for all the children at break and lunch. I really enjoyed HE because I've tried new foods and stuff. I think Tandragee Junior High is a good school as the pupils are nice and caring.





# ETHOS, AIMS & MISSION

## MISSION STATEMENT

The School Mission Statement has been formulated and agreed by the Board of Governors and all members of staff:

*“To instil in pupils core values of Care, Courtesy and Consideration in a Christian ethos and to promote positive attitudes to learning by encouraging each pupil to develop holistically.”*

## SCHOOL ETHOS

We are a learning community with strong Christian values and a family atmosphere where parental support and involvement is encouraged. Celebrating individual, group and whole school success is important to us. We believe the effective pastoral care of our pupils is pivotal to the success of the individual and the school.

All pupils are encouraged to work hard and develop competence in a range of life skills required in their personal, social and working lives, while becoming responsible, caring and compassionate individuals. Our school motto of “Care, Courtesy and Consideration” epitomises our ethos.

### Oliver McCordick

The first day isn't really that bad, it's actually quite good. You get a tour around the school and you get to meet all the teachers. PE is great: the first few weeks you get to do football and rugby after, too. The best bit about PE is you have it twice a week it's fantastic. The after school clubs are good, the year 8 football with Mr Gamble is the best though. HE is one of the best subjects; you get to bake loads of really tasty things and learn loads about kitchen safety.

### Jake Davidson

School is great because of good staff and classmates and now learn over ten more subjects than Primary School. Most people are really nice and have manners. Staff are really nice and teachers make any lesson fun. Tandragee Junior High School is the best Junior High School in Northern Ireland. It has the best staff of all and best food and the classmates are nice and grateful. I don't think I'll want to leave this school.

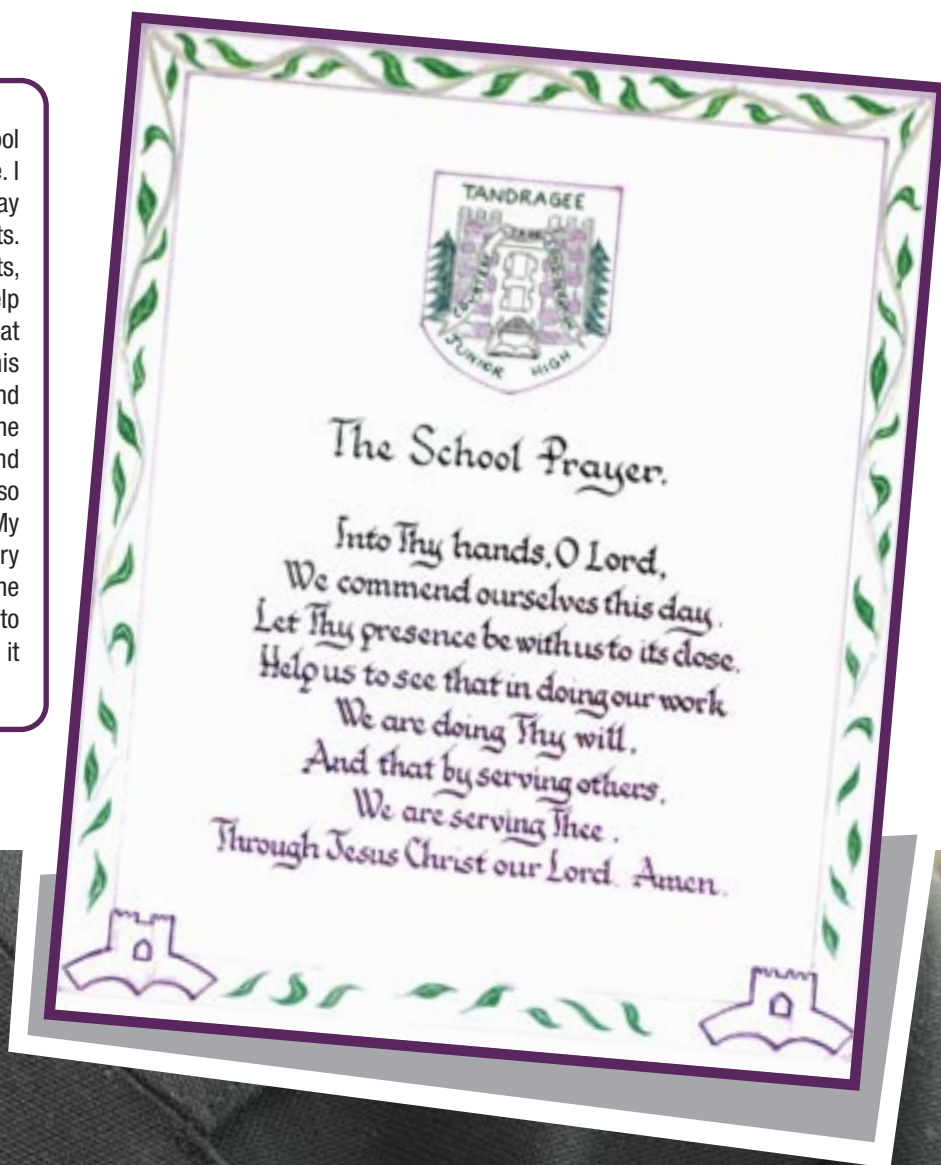
## SCHOOL AIMS

- 1 To encourage pupils to be inquisitive about the world around them and to develop openness to new experiences.
- 2 To help pupils acquire knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living.
- 3 To develop the pupils' ability to discuss, analyse, reach decisions and apply themselves to tasks, thus creating a sense of purpose and ambition.
- 4 To develop the ability to communicate effectively through listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- 5 To develop individuality, independence, self-confidence and the ability to regard oneself critically.
- 6 To develop tolerance, awareness of others and the ability to respect values and opinions that may differ from one's own.
- 7 To develop a sense of responsibility to care for others, helping the pupils to realise that we are all interdependent.



## Matthew Chambers

I was a bit worried when I first came to the school about the teachers but most of them are very nice. I play football and rugby after school and play volleyball in school. I like most of my new subjects. All the staff are kind, such as classroom assistants, etc. Everyone in the canteen are very nice and help you with whatever you need. I like to play football at break and lunch when it's our day in the tennis courts. It's not a very big school so it's easy to find our way around so we don't get lost. Mr Brown, the Principal, is very kind as he shows us around and tells us all the rules. Mrs Inns, the Vice Principal, also tells us what we should and shouldn't be doing. My favourite subjects are PE, HE and TD as they are very fun and I enjoy all the lessons I get for them. All the students are nice in my year and nobody is rude to anyone. I hope that the school continues the way it is as everyone is kind.



## Maria Pearson

I like Tandragee Junior High because of the friendly and welcoming staff and the great welcoming staff and great after school clubs. When I first came to Tandragee I was a bit nervous to meet all the new staff but I don't know why because the teachers in this school are great!.





# LEARNING & TEACHING

## CURRICULUM

Tandragee Junior High School provides a curriculum to meet the needs of pupils of all levels of ability. The school has fully implemented the NI Curriculum at Key Stage 3.

The subjects taught will allow pupils, at the end of Year 10, to transfer to either: **Craigavon Senior High School** or **Portadown College**.

The school has many years experience in preparing pupils for their future in all types of education. The subjects taught in school will give the pupils a strong foundation for the following courses:-

- 1 GCSE Examinations
- 2 AS/A2 Level Examinations
- 3 AVCE Courses – Advanced Vocational Certificate in Education
- 4 Job Skills

The school is already well prepared for the curricular changes that focus on developing the young person's skills and capabilities, their thinking skills and their ability to work and communicate with others. This aspect of the curriculum is taught through the General Learning areas.

## LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK

- Citizenship
- Personal Development
- Education for Employability
- Home Economics

### General Learning Areas

- The Arts – Art & Design and Music
- English – Media Education and Drama
- Environment and Society – Geography and History
- Modern Languages – French (all classes) and Spanish (Years 9 and 10 selected classes and LSC Senior)
- Mathematics with Financial Capability
- Physical Education – PE and Games
- Religious Education – prescribed core syllabus agreed by main churches



Being creative in Art

- Science & Technology – Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Technology & Design, ICT

### Cross Curricular Skills

- Using Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using ICT

### Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- Managing Information
- Working with Others
- Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Self Management
- Being Creative

### Learning for Life and Work

This area of the curriculum encompasses: Personal Development, Employability, Citizenship and Home Economics.

Learning for Life and Work aims to develop our young people's skills in order that they can flourish in the world of life and work. All other areas of the curriculum will contribute to this process of developing our young people with the knowledge and skills necessary in order to enhance their self confidence and ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

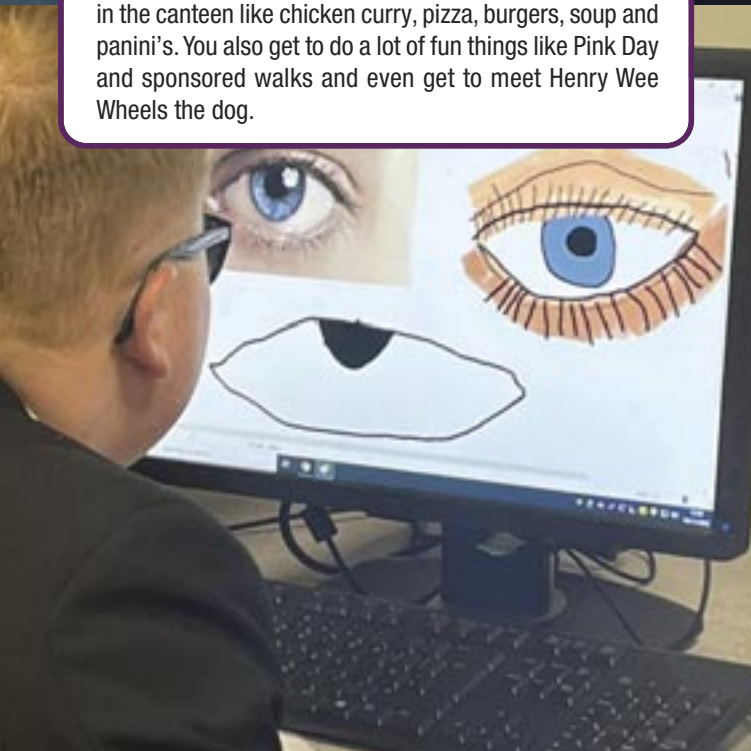
**Alfie Joy**

I like Tandragee Junior High because of all the new subjects and extra-curricular activities. I like choir and being an assembly monitor. My favourite subjects are HE, TD, Maths, English, science, French and RE and there are more choices of food to choose from.



**Sara Magowan**

The reason why I like TJHS is because you can get to play matches of your favourite sports and there's yummy food in the canteen like chicken curry, pizza, burgers, soup and panini's. You also get to do a lot of fun things like Pink Day and sponsored walks and even get to meet Henry Wee Wheels the dog.



## Local and Global Citizenship

Local and Global Citizenship is based on the following key themes which are addressed in local, national, European and global contexts:

- Community Relations
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Equality and Social Justice
- Democracy and Active Participation
- Human Rights and Social Responsibility



Supporting Pretty 'n' Pink, Breast Cancer Charity

## Personal Development

The planned programme of Personal Development endeavours to address the aims and ethos of Tandragee Junior High, encouraging responsible, healthy attitudes, values and beliefs. Our Year 11/12 LSC also receive Personal Development. This is delivered within a 2 year cycle.

The following agencies and visiting speakers are regularly invited into school to support the Personal Development programme.

### Outside agencies

- Action Cancer (smoking, exercise)
- School nurse (puberty)
- Education & Welfare Officer
- PSNI (drugs/binge drinking)
- Love for Life (relationships and sexuality)
- Community Safety Partnership (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council)
- Education Authority Pupil Personal Development Services
- Road Safety talks

Counselling is provided to pupils, if and when necessary, by the Family Works Counselling Service and the Education Authority mentoring service (PPDS). Pupils are supported by the Education Authority and the Education Welfare Officer (EWO).





# EMPLOYABILITY

This area of the curriculum enables each pupil, beginning in Year 8, to plan their own career development in an informed manner.

Employability encourages pupils:

- how to learn and think for themselves, viewing learning as a lifelong endeavour
- to be creative, innovative and empathetic thinkers in their response to problems, utilising a range of information and ICT
- to apply what they are learning to life and work-related situations



Key Stage 3 Employability incorporates 4 key dimensions:

- work in the Local and Global Economy
- career management
- enterprise and entrepreneurship
- skills and qualities for work



## Madison Marshall

The things I like about TJHS they have a lot of fun sports including netball, hockey, volleyball and more. My Favourite sport is netball. They also have other extra-curricular. They also have a lot of subjects, including HE, maths, science, music, citizenship, ICT, PE, English, French and more. My favourite is HE because you get to make a lot of treats.

## Joel Abraham

You should come to Tandragee Junior High. There are a lot more subjects like HE, TD, PD, Music and French. There are also a lot more afterschool clubs like football, hockey, netball and rugby and the food is delicious.

## Isabel Wilson

I like TJHS because it's not as big as I thought it was going to be. I also like our teachers. I like the way we have got so many extra-curricular activities. I also like our food in the Canteen – It's very nice. It is also good that we finish at 2.50pm and even if you are taking part in an extra activity, you still get out early around 4pm. I like that we have a Library club so at break times we can go up there. I also like that we have choir at lunch and get out early for lunch. I also like the people in my class.





# PUPIL ASSESSMENT

## a) Year 8 Banding

At TJHS we use Key Stage 2 results and the professional judgement of the Primary School Principal to band your child on entrance to TJHS. There are normally 4 or 5 classes in Year 8 (depending on intake).

A Band – 2 classes

B Band – 3 classes

We aim to have a maximum of 28-30 pupils in A band classes, with the B band having approximately 15-20 pupils in each class. The class structure is designed to stretch the able child and to ensure weaker pupils are given additional help. All pupils are encouraged to work to their full potential and are rewarded for their successes through the 'Pupil of the Month' system.

## b) Additional Testing

GL Assessment tests are also carried out in English, Mathematics and Science (P.T.i.E and P.T.i.M and P.T.i.S.) during Years 8, 9 and 10. CAT4 and PASS may also be used to provide additional information to help develop your child holistically.

## c) Class Assessments

In order to facilitate continuous assessment / tracking, subject teachers carry out a variety of tests throughout the school year.

## d) Assessment and Reports

Reports are usually issued bi-annually.

Assessment at Tandragee Junior High combines the continuous monitoring and checking of pupils' progress during the year, with the more formal bi-annual assessment by examination at Christmas and in the Summer Term. Some pupils may move class as a result of the formal examinations or on the professional judgement of the Teaching Staff and Senior Leadership



Team. A more detailed explanation of assessment will be presented to parents at the Year 8 Information Evening in September.

## e) Progress

You may discuss your child's progress at Year 8 Parents' Afternoon with his/her form teacher/subject teachers. Parents are encouraged to meet with the form teacher at any time during the year if the need arises.

## f) Homework

This school believes that it is important for pupils to learn to work independently. Therefore, it is school policy to set homework as and when appropriate. The type of homework set will vary according to the pupil's age and ability. Homework is any constructive task set to be completed outside the timetabled day.

**We will always strive for your child to reach his/her full potential in a happy, caring and learning environment but realise we cannot do this without parental support.**

**For a child to reach his/her full potential he/she needs your help as parents/guardians to foster positive attitudes and encourage the work ethos.**



### Keri Conn

When I first came to this school I was extremely nervous, I thought it was going to be very hard because of how many new subjects I was starting but after a few weeks I really liked it here. I've met so many new friends and started so many new after school clubs that I enjoy like football, netball, hockey, etc. My favourite subjects are HE and PE because I like cooking and I like to exercise. Timing is actually really helpful because school starts at 25 minutes past 8 and ends at 10 to 3. I would definitely recommend Tandragee Junior High School to everyone who is thinking of going here.



# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

## Key Stage 3

At the end of Year 10, pupils will be awarded levels in the Cross-Curricular Skills of Using Communication and Using Maths.

## GCSE

Former pupils who attended Portadown College and Craigavon Senior High Schools rose to the occasion this year again in the GCSE Examinations. A high percentage of all our pupils who sat GCSEs at both our senior high schools achieved 5A\*-C or better – well above NI average. Our former pupils are regularly top achievers in their senior high schools.

Our former pupils continue to succeed at whichever senior high school they attend.

On successful completion of 'A' Levels many former pupils of Tandragee Junior High commence undergraduate studies in our local Universities (QUB, University of Ulster and Stranmillis) and on the mainland (England, Scotland and Wales). They study a wide variety of degree courses, both vocational and non-vocational.

### Reuben Millar

Starting a new High School could feel very frightening but not Tandragee Junior High School. It was easy because you had Mrs Inns greeting you at the main entrance. Your name got called to go to your form teacher, you were brought to the teachers classroom that would be your form room. After break you then got a tour around the school. By then it was home time and that day did not seem as bad as it was in your head.



Platform Party



### Molly Robb

These are all the nice things about TJHS. Nice staff and teachers, different subjects like HE, TD, lots of clubs and activities like netball, football, volleyball, art club, maths club and more.



Starting Tandragee was quite a scary thought. Though now as a Year 8 pupil its like living a dream. You get to do things you wouldn't have done in primary school. There is a lot more subjects like Science, PD, Geography. The homework can be tough sometimes but you get there in the end.

The teachers were very welcoming and all the new activities we did like Geography, TD and more are fantastic. I was quite worried the night before but shouldn't have been as everything has been great and better that expected. I recommend this school to all the P7's that are trying to decide the best school for them. There is a large range of extra curricular activities to choose from including sports, arts, creativity, homework and many more.

Tandragee Junior High School is a great choice. You will have no bother making friends and all of the staff are vey nice. My worry was that I was going to get lost but if I didn't know where to go I would ask somebody because everyone was very nice. The uniform is very nice so you have to wear it proudly. There are lots of after school and break/lunchtime activities. Eg netball, hockey, choir, football and orchestra etc. We hope to see you here next year.

# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Tandragee Junior High welcomes children with a wide spectrum of educational needs into mainstream classes and also in a Learning Support Centre.

The SEN Coordinator is responsible for coordinating provision for all pupils in mainstream with special educational needs, through a system of Individual Educational Plans with inbuilt monitoring and review procedures. We keep in close contact with parents to ensure our provision is up-to-date and effective and have excellent relationships with outside support agencies also.

There is also a Learning Support Centre which caters for pupils in Key Stages 3 & 4, with a degree of integration with the mainstream curriculum and classes.



Our classroom assistants provide excellent support











# LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

The Learning Support Centre at Tandragee Junior High comprises a forward thinking, child centred department led by two dedicated full time members of staff. Within our Junior and Senior classes, pupils with a Statement of Special Needs (Stage 5) benefit from interactive teaching and lessons tailored to suit their ability. Pupils are supported to achieve their best and effort is celebrated.

## At Key Stage 3

As pupils make the transition from Primary School to Year 8, they are welcomed into a caring, nurturing environment, where a great emphasis on supporting the needs of the individual pupil is upheld. Pupils are taught as one class and cover the content as outlined in the Northern Ireland Curriculum, differentiated to their personal ability. A full time classroom assistant is attached to the class.

As well as developing social and life skills, their teacher delivers the core subjects of Maths, English and RE. Pupils are integrated fully in the whole school as they benefit from further specialist teaching across a range of subject areas.

To ensure an enriching holistic approach is adopted, pupils can benefit from a wide choice of extracurricular activities within school and enjoy trips, cross community events, as well as educational visits. Pupils have had the opportunity to engage in CALC (Craigavon Area Learning Community) activities over the past few years, which has strengthened links with local schools and has given pupils the opportunity to develop new skills.

## At Key Stage 4

As pupils make the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, they consolidate what they have learned in the Junior class and undertake a programme of study based on the Entitlement Framework.

Teaching and expectations are aimed at the pupils' individual level, resulting in exam accreditation at the end of KS4. Within school, pupils are prepared for Essential Skills Entry Level examinations in Literacy and Numeracy, Entry Level History, RE and Art & Design. MENCAP visit school weekly and deliver an accredited programme in Employability Skills.

Pupils attend SRC one day per week, where they prepare for Occupational Studies examinations.

In Year 12, pupils have a work experience placement one day per week with the aim of equipping pupils with transferable skills whilst growing in confidence and independence. Good relationships and links with local firms and businesses offer the possibility of well supported, relevant work placements.

These qualifications, alongside experience gained in the workplace, aim to empower pupils as they embark on the next step of their further education or work as they leave in Year 12.

An important event in Year 11/12 is our Information Evening where parents are encouraged to attend and meet further education providers and employers who will guide, offer advice and support pupils as they leave Tandragee Junior High.



# PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral dimension is an integral part of the whole curriculum in Tandragee Junior High. Meeting the needs of the individual child is of paramount importance. Our Pastoral provision seeks to promote pupils' confidence, develop positive relationships and enhance self-esteem. It is a continuous process involving all teachers and active participation by all pupils in a supportive, caring and disciplined environment – and it is reviewed regularly.

We are conscious that many pupils coming to this school may be from relatively small Primary Schools and may be worried by the move to a very much larger school, and also that a child's needs extend far beyond his/her 'academic' needs.

We aim to help pupils:

- feel a sense of worth and dignity
- experience success and achievement
- develop their talents to the full
- assume a responsibility towards themselves and others

Each year group is divided into form classes. The form teacher assigned to each class focuses on building a good relationship with each pupil. Form classes meet with their form teacher each morning. This provides opportunity to progress any concerns. Year assemblies and whole school assemblies provide opportunities to celebrate success and develop collective responsibility. Positive achievement is recognised and promoted and pupils can choose rewards from the school rewards shop.

The pastoral care of our pupils means responding to their needs at a period of their young lives when they are growing physically, maturing emotionally and acquiring a wide range of knowledge and skills.



The delivery of the programme is through both a general and specialised focus and is co-ordinated by a Pastoral team, led by the Vice Principal.

## Anti-Bullying Policy

We take very seriously our responsibility to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all our pupils; an environment that is conducive to effective learning and teaching, free from intimidation and the threat of psychological and physical abuse. The school's Anti-Bullying Policy is an integral part of our Pastoral Care Policy and Child Protection Procedures.

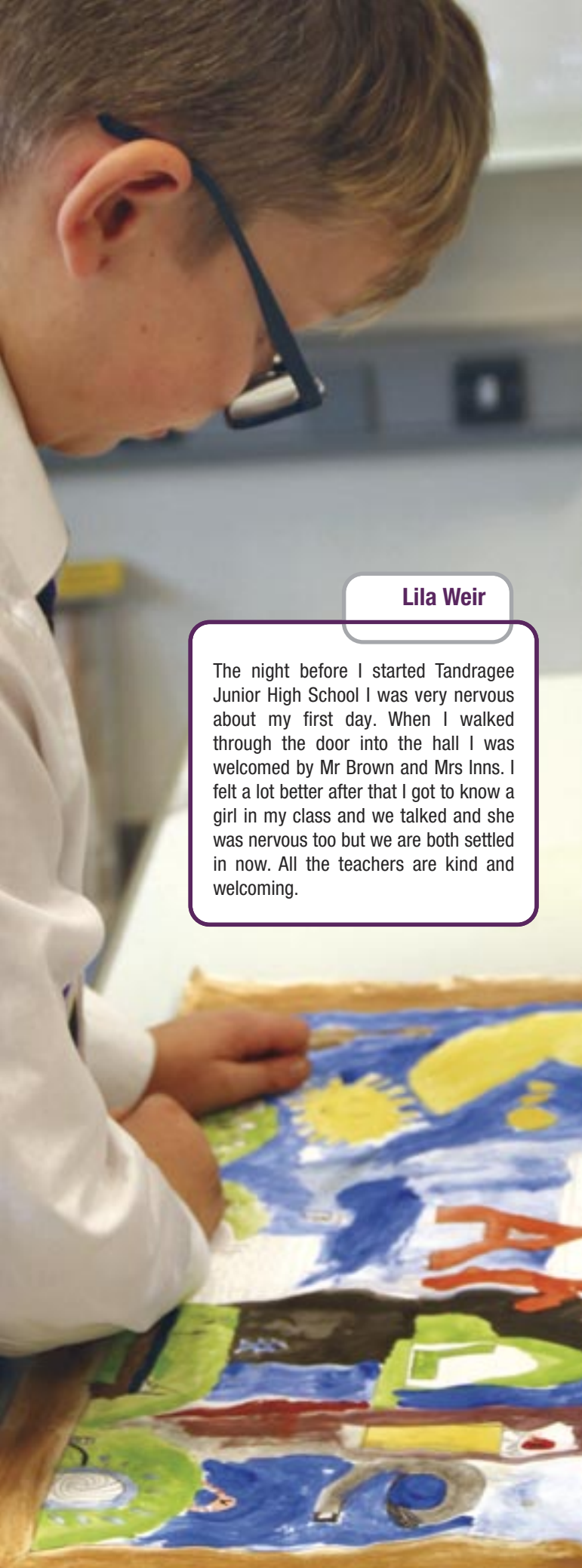
The school affirms that all forms of bullying are unacceptable and we will endeavour to eradicate them.

We ask our parents to support us by:-

- Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children which may be indicators of bullying.
- Encourage their children to follow school procedures for reporting incidents of bullying.
- Inform the school if they suspect their child is a pupil experiencing bullying behaviour.
- Being sympathetic and understanding towards their children and assuring them that appropriate action will be taken.
- Co-operating with the school, if their child is accused of bullying, helping to ascertain the truth and point out the implications for both their child and the pupil experiencing bullying behaviour.

There is a structure in the school and all reported incidents of bullying will be carefully investigated and, if substantiated, will be acted upon. During this process, steps will be taken to consult, protect and support the pupil experiencing bullying behaviour. The Vice Principal is the person designated to have overall responsibility for Anti-bullying.



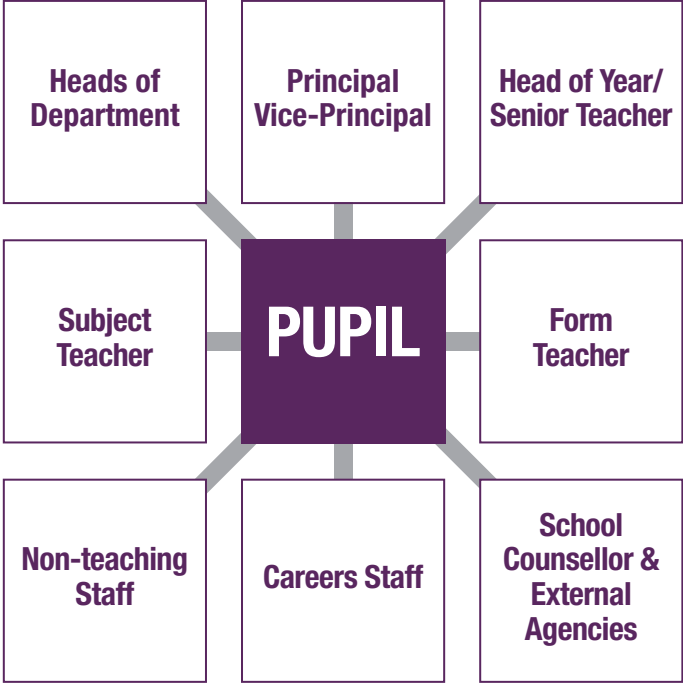


**Robyn Vennard**

Before starting TJHS I thought I would easily get lost or forget the room numbers of classes but being here for a while I haven't got lost once and most of the time I remember the room numbers but if I do I can just look in the induction book we got the first day or ask someone in my class.

**Lila Weir**

The night before I started Tandragee Junior High School I was very nervous about my first day. When I walked through the door into the hall I was welcomed by Mr Brown and Mrs Inns. I felt a lot better after that I got to know a girl in my class and we talked and she was nervous too but we are both settled in now. All the teachers are kind and welcoming.



### Child Protection Policy

A Child Protection Policy operates in Tandragee Junior High.

The aim is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school, teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers, have clear guidance on the detection and inter-agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The over-riding concern of all our adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child.

In all their contact with pupils, staff in Tandragee Junior High follow the guidelines and procedures described in the DENI publication 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2016). The principle of our action, as required by legislation, is that the care, welfare and safety of the child is our paramount consideration. We believe pupils should be listened to and taken seriously and a proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families.

To protect the pupil in its care and to comply with the recommendations of the DHSS/DENI, the school is required, by law, to report matters of suspected child abuse to Social services and the Education Authority's Safeguarding Team.



## Positive Behaviour Policy

In Tandragee Junior High we are concerned with the promotion of 'positive' behaviour. We wish to ensure that worthy pupils are rewarded for their overall contribution to positive behaviour. Likewise, on occasions, there will be consequences for those pupils who do not conform to the standards required at the school.

In order to monitor pupils' behaviour, attitudes and application, a Class Report Book follows the class and is the responsibility of the Class Form Captain. In this book, the subject teacher can record positive and negative behaviour which will inform the Form Teacher, who in turn, will deal with any incidents appropriately and effectively. Pupils who contribute positively in class/school will receive 'Achievement Points' – this enables the pupil to gain points for his/her House and will be used by the pupil to exchange/trade in for prizes/rewards.

In cases where the anticipated behaviour is not reached, there is a graded set of sanctions – extra work, detention, Form Teacher's Report, Head of Year's Report, Vice Principal's Report and exiting. If necessary, parents will be contacted and invited to the school to discuss the matter.

This policy is reflective of DENI guidelines on Promoting Positive Behaviour, as well as guidance from the Education Authority, and applies to pupils while on school premises and when engaged in any school activity while in school uniform. Pupils are reminded that on their way to and from school they are expected to behave as good ambassadors of the school.

Effective discipline is a partnership between the pupil, the school and home. In order to maintain the highest standard of conduct and behaviour each of these partners must be fully committed.

## School's Drugs Policy

The school does not condone the misuse of drugs but recognises that there has been a considerable increase in the abuse of drugs in recent years in Northern Ireland. Sadly, drug misuse appears to be affecting an ever-younger population.

We believe that Tandragee Junior High has a vital preventative role to play in combating the misuse of drugs by young people and we therefore include a Drug Education programme in our curriculum.

We unreservedly condemn and prohibit the possession, use of and dealing in drugs and any pupil engaged in such activities will be subject to disciplinary procedures. As required by Law we inform the Police when we believe or suspect a pupil to be in possession of a drug. The Principal is the person designated to have overall responsibility for drug issues.

### Grace Meredith

I love Tandragee Junior High School there are so much more after school activities and so much fun subjects. I have only been at Tandragee Junior High for a couple of weeks now and we have already lit the Bunsen burner in Science, cooked and eaten tea and toast and we are learning how to work lots of fun machinery in Technology and I hope you would come here because it is a really good school.



Mrs Greer - Technician



Mrs Meredith - Senior Clerical Officer



Mrs Magowan - Senior Executive Officer



# A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY

8.00 am	Earliest Arrival in School
8.25 - 8.40 am	Assembly/Form class
8.40 am	Period 1/Registration (am)
9.30 am	Period 2
10.20 am	Leave bags in period 3 classroom
10.25 - 10.40 am	<b>Break</b>
10.40 am	Period 3
11.30 am	Period 4
12.20 pm	Leave bags in period 5 classroom
12.25 - 1.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.00 pm	Period 5 / Registration (pm)
2.00 pm	Period 6
2.50 - 4.00 pm approx.	Extra-Curricular Activities

## Assembly 8.25 – 8.40 am

Morning assembly is an integral part of the school and there is a strong emphasis on pupil participation in the Year Group Assembly.

The format of Morning assembly is:

- School Prayer
- Hymn
- 'Thought for the day' – Principal, Vice Principal or Head of Year/Senior Teacher assisted by pupils
- Closing Prayer
- Announcements/Presentations

There is no assembly on a Monday as pupils have a 15 minute period with their Form Teachers for Form Class, collection of monies, equipment check and other business.

Every Friday there is a whole school assembly which is taken on a rota basis by the clergy from the local churches. The pupils look forward to the Friday assembly which also offers the opportunity to celebrate pupil successes.

During the year we have a number of 'Special Assemblies' in which members of staff and visiting speakers participate.

The school promotes a Christian ethos.



Mr Robinson - Technology Technician



Canteen Staff



# SCHOOL UNIFORM

## GIRLS

Blazer	black with school badge
Skirt	black, regulation – 4 pleats (2 front and 2 back) <b>below the knee.</b>
Blouse	white
Pullover	plain black v-neck (no badge) <i>(optional)</i>
Tie	house tie <i>(it is suggested that you purchase a second tie)</i>
Socks	white <b>knee-length</b> black tights in winter <i>(optional)</i>
Shoes	flat/low heel plain black leather <b>(maximum 3 cms)</b>
Coat	plain black available from suppliers <i>(optional)</i>

## BOYS

Blazer	black with school badge
Trousers	black
Shirt	white
Pullover	plain black v-neck (no badge) <i>(optional)</i>
Tie	house tie <i>(it is suggested that you purchase a second tie)</i>
Socks	black
Shoes	black leather
Coat	plain black available from suppliers <i>(optional)</i>



### Vinnie Lurring

I was worried over the summer before I came, I was worried about friends and the teachers, would they be mean or nice to me but now I know I'm safe here with my friends at school. The teachers are amazing, they aren't like teachers you have seen like Matilda. I also worried about homeworks there isn't piles on piles of paper to do it's roughly 1-3 homeworks a night so I stopped worrying about that. If you're worried about something in school there are so many people to help, eg Reach, form teacher, Mr Brown, etc.

Worries hold you back from coming to great places!



# EQUIPMENT FOR PE & GAMES



## BOYS

Jersey	black, purple and white hoops
Shorts	Kukri black/purple – rugby
T-shirt	Kukri black/purple
Socks	purple & black football type
Track Shoes	any colour (non-marking soles), <b>not</b> boots
Track Suit	school hoodie top and tracksuit bottoms only. Available from suppliers.
Football boots and shin pads	
Towel	
Mouth Guard available from family dentist (highly recommended)	



## GIRLS

Polo Shirt	Kukri black/purple
Skort	Kukri black/purple
Socks	black, knee-length
Track Shoes	any colour (non-marking soles), <b>not</b> boots
Track Suit	school hoodie top and tracksuit bottoms only. Available from suppliers.
Hockey stick and shin pads	
Towel	
Mouth Guard available from family dentist (highly recommended)	

Equipment for Home Economics: 1 white apron

**NB** Technology Department supply the pupils with aprons

The school requests that **all items of clothing** are **indelibly marked** with the pupil's name.



# HOUSE SYSTEM

The House system is an integral part of the pastoral, academic and sporting structures in school. It promotes a sense of community and responsibility across each year group. Healthy competition is encouraged as well as fairness and cooperation. Additionally, participation in house events enables pupils to develop appropriate leadership skills.

The three houses are linked historically to Tandragee Castle (In 1822 Miss Sparrow who inherited the Castle married George, Viscount Mandeville, the 6th Duke of Manchester. The castle became the seat of the

Montague family and later in history it was the seat of the Duke of Manchester until 1939.) Each house is represented by a colour and shield.

Each pupil is assigned to a house. A pupil may earn points for making a positive contribution to school life. House competitions are held regularly. Towards the end of the summer term house points gained through various activities and positive behaviour are counted. Successes from each of the houses is recognised in special assemblies and at Prize Night.



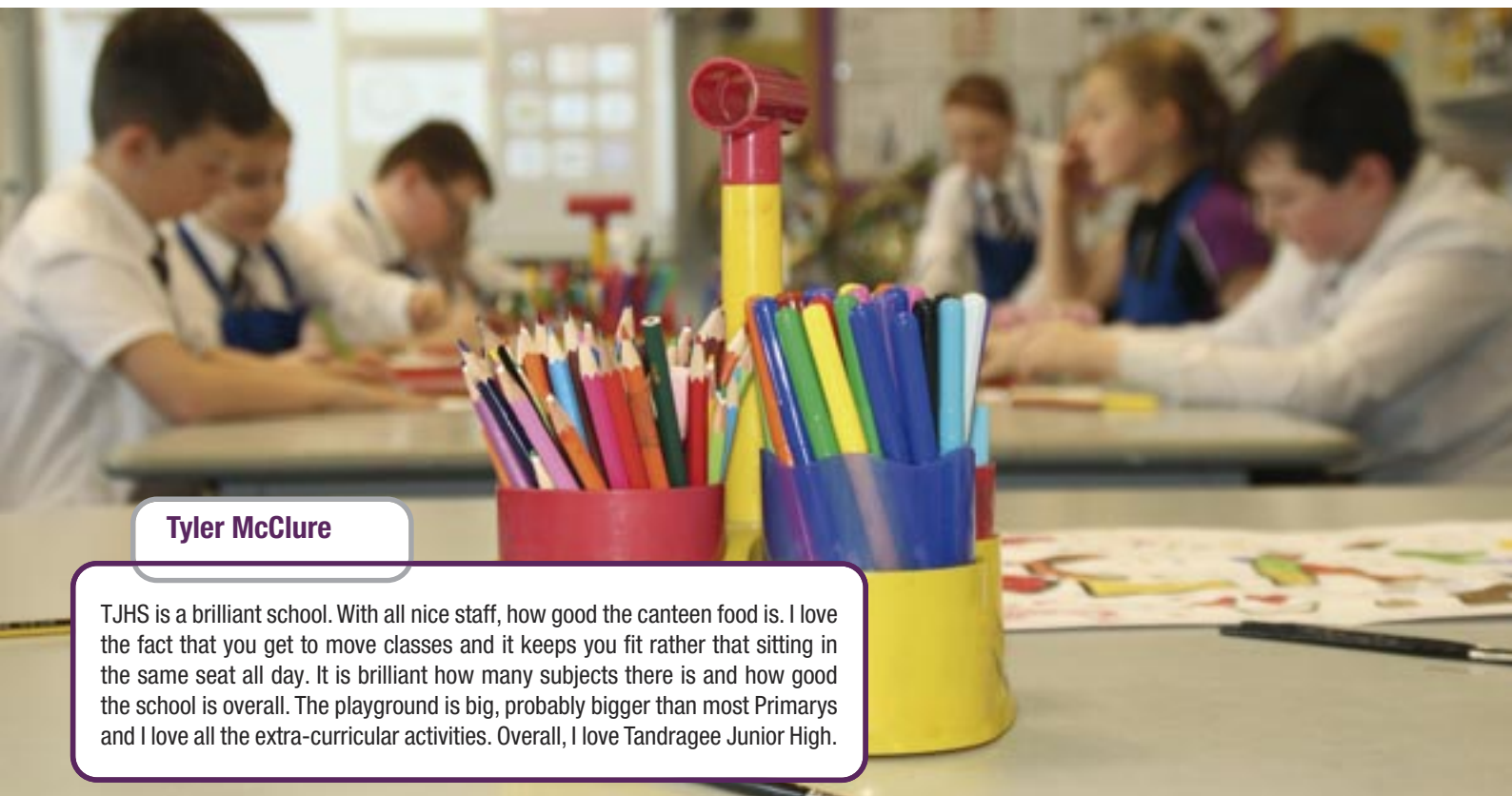
Montague



Mandeville



Manchester



## Tyler McClure

TJHS is a brilliant school. With all nice staff, how good the canteen food is. I love the fact that you get to move classes and it keeps you fit rather than sitting in the same seat all day. It is brilliant how many subjects there is and how good the school is overall. The playground is big, probably bigger than most Primaries and I love all the extra-curricular activities. Overall, I love Tandragee Junior High.





**Isaac O'Hara**

When I first started here at TJHS, I was worried about making new friends, moving around the classrooms, the subjects and the teachers. We got separated into our groups and went to form class. After a few days the year 9's and 10's came in after a while. I started to get the hang of getting to each class on time, since then TJHS has helped me with so much. I would 100% recommend this school to any P7.



**Daisy Brock**

School in Tandragee Junior High School is better than I expected. Meeting the teachers was one of the best things that ever happened to me especially Mrs Hampton and Mr Wardell. I enjoy most subjects like History, English, TD, HE, French, RE and ICT. Although I try I will never understand Maths, Geography and Science. This school has changed my life and I feel more open to share my ideas and thoughts. I do enjoy being here and hopefully I will for the next 3 years of my life.

# FACILITIES

Tandragee Junior High School is an attractive, well-equipped school situated on the outskirts of Tandragee. The school's main aim is to serve the pupils and the local community. It has well-developed links with local Primary Schools and Senior High Schools.

Over the last few years many departments have been refurbished. These include Technology, Science, Music, ICT, Home Economics and Art & Design. All these facilities are fully computerised with data projectors and interactive whiteboards.

Pleasant rural site surrounded by trees on the outskirts of Tandragee.

Hard and grass pitches for hockey, netball, football, rugby and athletics.

Tennis courts (refurbished 2012).

Gymnasium.

Music Suite with practice rooms and recording studio.

A new modern state of the art Computer Suite.

Three fully equipped Science Laboratories with interactive whiteboards.

New high-tech Home Economics Suite.

- ICT Suite.
- Technology Suite, built to the latest standards with spacious well-equipped accommodation.
- Refurbished Art & Design room with pottery facility and ICT Suite.
- Library with Internet Resource facility.
- Lay-by for buses, setting down and collecting pupils.
- Key operated lift so that areas in school are accessible to pupils with mobility problems.
- A Learning Support Centre (Junior Key Stage 3 and Senior Key Stage 4) for pupils with moderate learning difficulties.



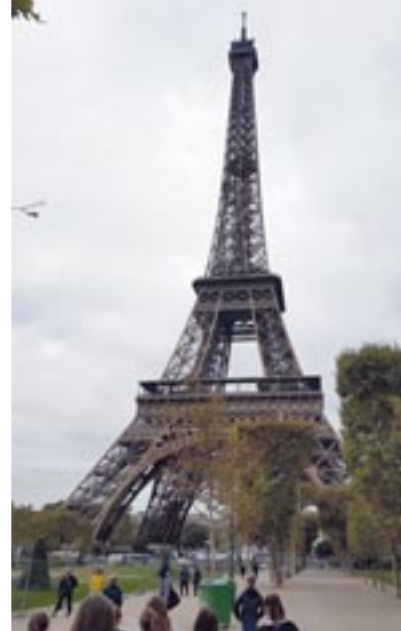


# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Netball
- Badminton
- Hockey
- Dance
- Volleyball
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Choir
- Skiing
- Band/Ensemble
- Scripture Union
- ICT/Homework Club
- Tennis
- Library Club
- Golf
- Young Farmers' Club
- Technology Club
- Art Club
- Drama Club
- Cupcake Design
- ECO Club
- Maths Club
- Charity Club
- Trips, e.g.
  - Ski
  - France
  - Manchester
  - Portrush
  - Subject
  - Cinema
- Sponsored Walk
- Cookery Club







**Oliver Morrow**

This school is wonderful and I'm sure you're scared of something about TJHS but I am a year 8 student and I was a bit scared as well but now it's all fine to me. You might be scared of new subjects but with our school's teachers, they are all fine such as HE, well it's fun. Maybe you're worried about moving to different classes well you always have loads of time to get to them, or getting lost because our school has lovely teachers and pupils so you can always ask for help or maybe it's meeting the teachers well they are all wonderful. So there is no need to be scared of anything.





# ADMISSION

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and the child concerned accept and are in agreement with the ethos, aims, policies and regulations of the school, including any Code of Conduct or Discipline Policy of the school. Pupils are admitted if they meet the admission criteria of the Board of Governors of the school.

The criteria will be administered by the Principal on behalf of the Board of Governors.

## Admission to Year 8

(either in September or during the course of the school year)

Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the Transfer Form or attached to it. An example of such information is whether the child attends a contributory Primary School.

The Principal, on behalf of the Board of Governors, will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to select pupils for admission. In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child not so resident.

1. Children from any of the following contributory Primary Schools:  
Clare Gilford Moyallon Mullavilly Poyntzpass Scarva Tandragee
2. Children who, at the date of their application, have a child of the family currently enrolled at the school.
3. Children who, at the date of their application:
  - a) are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to the school; or
  - b) are from a family which has not, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, had the opportunity to have an eldest child of the family previously or currently enrolled – such as in cases:
    - where the child is more than 7 years younger than the next child of their family; or
    - where a family has moved residence; or
    - where an older child of the family cannot attend mainstream school, for example attends a special school.

Details demonstrating eligibility with either sub-criterion 3(a) or 3(b) above must be provided when making the online application. This should be in the form of a letter from a member of the Clergy, Solicitor, or Public Servant such as a Health or Education professional directly involved with the family.

4. Children for whom Tandragee Junior High School is the nearest controlled secondary school.
5. Other children.

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria sub-criteria will be applied.



APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2019/20	102	99
2020/21	117	107
2021/22	92	92
2022/23	106	105
2023/24	113	111





# SCHOOL POLICIES

A Prospectus such as this cannot contain all the information which is available to parents about the policies of the school. Such policies are constantly under review and approved by the school's Board of Governors. Extracts from some of the important policies have been included in this prospectus (see Pastoral Care section), but a full copy of any School Policy is available on request from the school office or on the school website site.

## OTHER POLICIES

### Charges and Remissions Policy

Under the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989, all children must be educated free of charge for anything which is part of the planned curriculum.

If there are 'optional' extras e.g. Theatre visits, exhibitions etc. then the pupils will be asked for a contribution. These 'optional extras' are not part of the planned curriculum; therefore failure to participate will not disadvantage pupils in any way in terms of the formal curriculum or examinations.

The Board of Governors recognises its entitlement to make a charge for materials used in Home Economics, Technology & Design and Art & Design, provided that the finished product is recognised as the property of the parent.

Parents are responsible for the replacement of books and equipment that are lost, damaged or destroyed and for any reports that are necessary in the event of damage by their child.

### Benefits Policy

#### PROVISION OF CLOTHING

Any parent who thinks they are eligible to apply for assistance towards the provision of clothing can obtain an application form from the school office and at the Board's headquarters. They are normally available from mid-May for the following academic year.

Assistance takes the form of a cash payment and the amount is normally increased each year in line with inflation.

#### PROVISION OF SCHOOL MEALS

The school operates a cash cafeteria system. Any parent who thinks that their child is eligible for free school meals should obtain the appropriate form from the school office.

#### TRANSPORT

Pupils entitled to free bus passes will receive them at the beginning of the first term. Applications for bus passes should be made to the Transport Officer, Education Authority, 3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh, BT61 9AX. Application forms are available at your present Primary School.

In view of the proposed new Common Funding for schools we would encourage all eligible parents to apply for assistance with clothing and free school meals. It will help you and also give the school additional funding.

**For further information, please contact the Principal's Secretary.**



# PAST PUPIL REFLECTIONS

Hi, my name is Katie Gilmore, I attended Tandragee Junior High from 2014-2017 and I am currently a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Pharmacy student at Queen's University Belfast.

I transferred to the Junior High from the small country primary school of Clare and going to the 'big school' was always viewed as a daunting experience, due to the many new teachers and the different subjects that I was going to now study. On reflection it turned out to be some of the best years of school that I ever had, but I just did not know that at the time. Hindsight is a wonderful thing!

During my time at the school my favourite subject was Maths, taught by Mr Henning. For most people, Maths would be viewed as one of the more 'boring' subjects or a hard subject, but the way the lessons were delivered were interactive and engaging, keeping my interest throughout all three years. I just loved getting stuck into a problem and working my way through all the stages to get to a correct answer. The topics taught during this class were an excellent foundation for both GSCE Maths and Further Maths, and that was a strong encouragement for me to study A-level Maths at Portadown College.

Aside from the academic subjects, I was also blessed to have formed many friendships that will last me a lifetime. Right up to this day, I am sharing accommodation with pupils I got to know from Tandragee and it is always great to catch up with the 'craic' and share the funny memories with all those other past pupils that I now meet at Queen's Christian Union.

Friendships and social skills were developed daily and built upon during group/teamwork in Science practical, PE lessons and the hockey team. I also enjoyed the orchestra where I had a 'go' at playing the violin and being the narrator in the school play. Another two highlights were the school trip to Paris and Disneyland and skiing in Italy. However, what happens on a school trip stays on a school trip!

After leaving Tandragee, I continued onto Portadown College where I studied all the Sciences and Maths right up to A-level and am now thoroughly enjoying Pharmacy. I would like to commend the teachers of Tandragee Junior High for their part in giving me so many opportunities; from planting the seeds of knowledge and growing and nurturing my talents and skills. Thank you sincerely.

**Katie Gilmore**

**I attended TJHS just over 10 years ago from Clare Primary School. Leaving a small class of 12 and walking into a class of 30 is always going to be a scary experience for any pupil. However, I found it easy to settle into the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the school with the help of my form teacher Mr Gale. He was always welcoming and provided a good laugh in registration.**

During my 3 years I was a keen member of the football, rugby and cross-country / athletics team (some might say I took any excuse to get out of class), but it is these activities where I have my most memorable moments. I made the best of friendships in Tandragee Junior High and have travelled around Europe



with some of the boys I got to know in Year 8 and some now are at the stage of getting married and settled. Now that is scary!

My favourite subjects were PE, Geography and Science and these departments provided the backbone for my interest in Biology and Chemistry. I wasn't that good at English, French and Home Economics but I managed to survive at Uni on beans and toast and an odd Ulster fry and I can now ask for 'des pommes frites et du poulet roti' when on holidays in France...so I did learn something very useful after all.

I left TJHS in 2013 and moved onto study GCSEs and A-levels at Portadown College. I got a really good set of GSCE results but then sort of took the 'foot off the pedal' at A level and did not automatically get into the University course I had wanted. That was a tough 'moment' of disappointment, but then I got into a 2-year Foundation degree in Applied Medical Sciences at Newry SRC. After graduating from this, I enrolled into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Biomedical Science at Ulster University, Coleraine. I had a work placement in the labs at Moy Park, and a full placement year during the pandemic at Randox, doing all the COVID testing, and I graduated this summer with a 2:1 in my BSc Biomedical Science with a DPP in Industrial Studies.

Having work placement during my studies was a great help when I went for interview, and I have now just started working in the Biochemistry and Microbiology labs at Craigavon Area Hospital.

**Matthew Gilmore**



# DEPUTY HEAD PUPILS



I have really enjoyed my time at Tandragee Junior High School so far! I was a little worried starting a new school as it was so much bigger than the primary school I had just left. However, it didn't take long to find my way around and the pupils from the older classes were always available to direct me and my friends if we got lost.

I have really enjoyed learning new subjects and moving between different teachers. Some of the new subjects for me were, Home Economics, Technology and Design, Spanish, French among many others. Out of all the subjects I have really enjoyed P.E. In P.E you get to do a variety of sports and activities like Rugby, Volleyball, Football, Cross Country and Athletics. For a relatively small Junior High in comparison to our neighbouring schools we live up to the P.E. Motto "Aim High, Reach Higher."

I have been fortunate in my time at Tandragee Junior High to win several awards, among them, Small Schools League in Football and Boys Volleyball League Champions.

I've been very fortunate and honoured to be Deputy Head Boy this year. If I could offer advice to any new student starting in TJHS, it would be, "Get Involved." This school caters for everybody's needs, interests and abilities. Join some of the many clubs that the school offers. I have made so many fantastic memories and friends. I have learnt new skills which I will continue to pursue at the hope of achieving more success.

**Dominykas Gvazdauskas** - Deputy Head Boy



I am now halfway through my last year at TJHS and I'm genuinely shocked at how quickly my time here has went and how much I have enjoyed it.

Some of my friends moved with me from Tandragee Primary but I have also made lots of new ones here too. Teaching and non-teaching staff have been friendly, welcoming and encouraging which has helped me settle into a new routine. I have enjoyed learning new subjects such as Technology and Design, Home Economics and not just one but two languages! French and Spanish.

I am very passionate about sport and here at TJHS we have a wide range of activities. I am the Manchester House Captain and love playing netball, volleyball, football, hockey, running and cross-country captaining various teams which encourages me to be a team player as well as a leader.

I love singing and play an active part in the school choir becoming the Music President.

The school motto of Care, Courtesy and Consideration is encouraged throughout the school with staff and pupils alike which we can all take forward outside of school.

Becoming Deputy Head Girl was a real privilege which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I will use the solid foundation TJHS has given me to take forward and build on as I continue my education.

**Lucy Gibbons** - Deputy Head Girl

## TANDRAGEE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROVIDES:

- Specialist teachers at KS3.
- A wide range of extra curricular activities.
- Various musical experiences.
- Extensive sporting activities.
- Comprehensive Learning for Life and Work programme at Key Stage 3, supported by a variety of speakers.
- Information Evenings for Years 8 and 10 parents.
- An Induction Day for Year 8 in the Autumn Term.
- Parent Afternoons to allow parent/guardians to discuss with relevant subject/Form Teachers their child's progress.
- Equality of Opportunity.
- A Primary School Experience Day





# CARE, COURTESY & CONSIDERATION



## TANDRAGEE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Armagh Road  
Tandragee  
CRAIGAVON BT62 2AY

T (028) 3884 0278

F (028) 3884 9928

[info@tjhs.tandragee.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@tjhs.tandragee.ni.sch.uk)

[www.tjhs.co.uk](http://www.tjhs.co.uk)

### School Type

Controlled Secondary – Junior High

Approved Admissions Number for 2024: 105

Approved Enrolment Number for 2024: 320

### Principal

Mr C W Brown  
BEd, MEd, PQH(NI)

### Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Mr R Leckey

### Vice-Principal

Mrs D L Inns  
BEd (Hons), MEd, MA, DASE, NPQH

### Senior Teacher

Mrs R Magennis  
BA (Hons), MPhil, PGCE, PQH(NI)

### Employing Authority:

Education Authority – Southern Region  
3 Charlemont Place, The Mall  
Armagh BT61 9AX  
Tel: 028 37512200

The information contained in this Prospectus is correct at the time of publication. If there is any subsequent change in the information all parents/guardians will be informed in writing of the nature of the change.