

RATHMORE GRAMMAR SCHOOL



YEAR 8 INFORMATION BOOKLET 2021

Welcome

18 August 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family have had a refreshing summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Rathmore and to working in partnership with you over the next seven years.

Our Head of Year 8, Mrs. McCormick and her experienced team of tutors, working with the sixth form buddies will ensure that all new pupils are made to feel welcome and supported as they settle in to their new school. This is an exciting time for our year 8 pupils but we understand that some might feel a little apprehensive. If you should have any concerns about your child please do feel free to contact us at any time.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Arthur Donnelly

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Main Contacts

Principal: Dr Arthur Donnelly

Vice Principals: Mrs U Lavery
Mr P O'Callaghan

Head of Year 8: Mrs L McCormick

Year 8 Tutors: Mrs Parker
Mrs McGarry
Ms Bell
Dr Booth
Ms Brown
Mrs McKenna
Mrs Scannell
Miss Cullen
Miss Boyle

Designated Teacher for
Child Protection:

Mrs U Lavery, VP

Deputy Designated
Teachers for Child
Protection:

Miss C Miskelly
Mr P O'Callaghan

Principal's Secretary:

Miss L McAllister

Student Secretary:

Mrs C Cushnahan

Contact Us

☎ 02890 610 115

🌐 www.rathmoregrammarschool.org

Thursday 26 August 2021
9.00am - 12.00 noon



First Day

What does your child do on his/her first day?

Has a Year 8 Assembly in the Assembly Hall.

Meets his/her Tutor in the Tutor Room.

Receives his/her timetable.

Receives some stationery.

Finds out where his/her bus arrives/leaves from.

What does your child need to bring on the first day?

Paper and pen
School bag
Snack/ water

There will be NO CLASSES on the first day of school.
There are **no buses** on this day.

The school values the positive relationships it establishes with parents. We continually seek out new ways of enhancing the ongoing communication with parents and how best to share the vibrancy of school life with our local community.

Our school website is kept up to date with our latest news, celebrating the achievements of our pupils and giving a flavour of school life. Our online calendar will let you know what is happening throughout the year. The latest versions of our policies, transport information and the weekly canteen menu are available from the information section of our site.

In addition to the regular updates and letters issued to parents via SMS and e-mail, the school has very active Facebook and Twitter pages that showcase school life.

A Pupil Page for Year 8 is available on the school website. This part of the website will contain all notices relevant to pupils in Year 8. Please check in on this regularly to keep in touch with everything that is available to your child in school.



Our Student Council devised an online communication form to enable all pupils to report any issue that was worrying them or causing them concern. This sends an email to Miss Miskelly who will discreetly make contact with the concerned pupil.

Scanning this QR code on your smart phone or tablet will take you directly to the It's OK to Say! page.



It's OK to Say!

What's On In School

There are nine periods in the school day.

Each period lasts 35 minutes, except on a Wednesday morning when each period lasts for 30 minutes.

Pupils move from class to class during the day.

They have a double period for Art & Design, Home Economics, ICT, Music, Technology & Design, and P.E., which are practical subjects.

There is a split-lunch. This means Years 8, 9 and 10 have lunch together between 12.20 pm – 1.00 pm. The pupils in the Senior school have their lunch from 1.00pm - 1.40 pm when junior pupils go to class.

The School Day

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| REG | 9.00 – 9.10 am | 9.00 – 9.10 am | 9.00 – 9.40 am | 9.00 – 9.10 am | 9.00 – 9.15 am |
| 1 | 9.10 am | 9.10 am | 9.40 am | 9.10 am | 9.15 am |
| 2 | 9.45 am | 9.45 am | 10.10 am | 9.45 am | 9.45 am |
| Break | 10.20 – 10.35 | 10.20 – 10.35 | 10.40 – 10.55 | 10.20 – 10.35 | 10.20 – 10.35 |
| 3 | 10.35 am | 10.35 am | 10.55 am | 10.35 am | 10.35 am |
| 4 | 11.10 am | 11.10 am | 11.25 am | 11.10 am | 11.10 am |
| 5 | 11.45 am | 11.45 am | 11.55 am | 11.45 am | 11.45 am |
| 6 | 12.20 – 1.00 Senior School | 12.20 – 1.00 Senior School | 12.25 – 1.00 Senior School | 12.20 – 1.00 Senior School | 12.20 – 1.00 Senior School |
| Junior Lunch | 12.20 – 1.00 | 12.20 – 1.00 | 12.25 – 1.00 | 12.20 – 1.00 | 12.20 – 1.00 |
| 7 | 1.00 – 1.40 Junior School |
| Senior Lunch | 1.00 – 1.40 |
| 8 | 1.40 pm |
| 9 | 2.15 pm |
| 10 | 2.50 pm |
| End of School Day | 3.25 pm |

Pastoral care deals with the overall development of the pupil - physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. It requires a caring commitment by all teachers to guide and advise pupils. It permeates all aspects of school life and contributes to the creation of a supportive atmosphere in the school for both teachers and pupils.

Pastoral Programme

The Pastoral Programme in Year 8 includes:

Settling In
Emotional Intelligence
Self Awareness
Resilience: Bullying
PROPS

Life Skills:
Friendships
Internet Safety / Digital Citizenship
Making Healthy Life Choices

Counselling

A Senior Teacher co-ordinates a counselling service within the school. It is provided by a counsellor from Family Works and an independent registered counsellor. Counselling is available to pupils at their own or at their parents' request and on the recommendation of Year Heads.

Pupils' Images

Pupils' images are recorded from time to time as they participate in class, school trips, teams, sports days, competitions, productions and special events or simply to highlight their achievements.

The images are displayed on school notice boards, the web site, multi-media presentations, in publications such as the school magazine and, on occasion, in the local press. Pupils are normally proud to see their achievements thus recognised.

It is assumed that parents consent to having their child's image recorded or displayed. Please note that if you want to withhold your consent you should let the Principal know in writing, stating your child's name and that of his/her Tutor.

Subjects studied in Years 8, 9 and 10

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Art & Design | Design & Technology |
| Languages: | French + Spanish, German or Irish |
| Drama | ICT |
| English | Learning for Life and Work |
| Mathematics | General Science |
| Music | Geography |
| Physical Education | History |
| Religious Education | Home Economics |

Homework

Homework is central to the learning process of the pupil. It extends and consolidates classroom learning and encourages pupils to develop independent research and study skills. For homework to be effective an active partnership between pupils, teachers and parents is necessary.

Parents are asked to take a keen interest in their child's homework and to ensure that it is done in an environment suitable for study. A reasonable amount of time should be spent on homework and private study each evening and at weekends. Year 8 should spend at least 1 hour per day. When homework is completed within the recommended time pupils should devote the remainder of the time to private study.

Assessment

You will receive a report on your child's progress at the end of November, at the end of March, and in June.



Attendance and Punctuality

Regular Attendance

Please ensure that your child attends school every day unless he/she is ill.

Holidays during Term Time

In particular, please do not disrupt your child's progress and development in school by arranging any family holidays during term time.

Absence

If your child is absent, even for one day, please phone the School Office before 10am. If you have not done so, the Student Secretary will phone or text you to ensure that your child is absent with your consent and for a valid reason. On your child's return to school, please send in a completed absence note (at the back of the Student Planner) to his/her Tutor, outlining the reason for the absence. This note is necessary for our school records.

Appointments

Please try to arrange all appointments outside school hours.

If this is not possible and your child has to go out of school, for example, for an orthodontic appointment, please send in a completed appointment note (at the back of the Student Planner) to the Tutor asking permission for your child to leave school and **explaining the transport arrangements you have made.**

If you have an appointment card, please enclose it with the note. Please also ensure that your child misses only the time required for the appointment.

Pupils are **not permitted** to leave school without this note from their parents.

Sickness

If your child is sick and unable to continue in class, the Principal's secretary will contact you, using the contact numbers filed on the school computer system. It is essential that you have arrangements in place for your child in case he/she has to go home during the school day.

It is, likewise, essential that you inform the school of any change in your contact details.

Improving Links with School

We have implemented Schoolcomms, an electronic school communication system, as a means of improving communication with parents. Schoolcomms is registered with the Data Protection Act and all information that parents provide is confidential and will not be passed on to any other organisation. Details will only be used for the purpose of school business and parents will not receive any SPAM or marketing material.

Attendance

Code of Behaviour

Classroom Code of Behaviour

Follow teacher's instructions

Listen when teacher or a pupil is talking in class

Put up your hand rather than calling out

Do not disrupt other pupils

Behaviour Code Outside of Classroom

Observe uniform rules

Be courteous and well behaved with fellow pupils and staff

Never use bad language

Follow the one way system

Do not chew gum

Policies

The following policy documents are available via the website:

www.rathmoregrammarschool.org

Anti Bullying
Child Protection
Homework Policy
Positive Behaviour

Mobile Phones

All mobile phones must be switched off from 8.45 am until 3.25 pm. Pupils are not permitted to make or receive texts or calls for any reason during the school day. Pupils wishing to contact home must go to Reception. Mobile phones may be used to contact parents from 3.25pm onwards.



CANTEEN

The canteen is open every morning for breakfast at 8.30am. It is also open at breaktime and lunchtime.

Lunchtime Arrangements

At lunchtime pupils in Year 8 eat their own lunches or can pre-order from the Pop-up Canteen. They will be shown how to use the online pre-order form in Tutor Group . Dinners cost £2.80 while snacks vary in price. Weather permitting, pupils go outside after they have eaten for recreation.

Canteen Arrangements

Healthy Eating: We want to promote healthy eating throughout the school community. As part of this we are providing a broad menu of healthy eating dishes and snacks in the canteen. We ask parents to engage with us in this campaign. You can help by encouraging your child to eat only healthy foods while they are in school.

Peanut Allergies: We have a number of pupils who suffer from a severe peanut allergy which is potentially fatal. It is essential that they do not come into contact with peanuts or any peanut related product. We ask you therefore to ensure that your child does not bring peanuts or any peanut related product into school at any time.

Cashless Vending

We operate a cashless vending system in the canteen which means that there are no cash transactions at the tills. The system is cardless and based on index finger recognition. A pupil's canteen account is credited by using ParentPay, an online payments system.

ParentPay

With ParentPay you can top-up school meals, pay for trips and make other payments in the school at a time that suits you using a debit or credit card. There is no need for pupils to bring cash into school.

Free Dinners

Pupils who are eligible for free dinners will have their canteen account credited automatically on a daily basis to the value of £2.80. This can only be spent at lunchtime and cannot be carried forward from one day to the next. These pupils can also have additional credit placed on their account as set out above and this can be used at any time when the canteen is open.



“There’s such a lot of talk today about how children should be reading when, in fact, if you can get a child excited about it, that’s half the work done, because they’ll have the courage or enthusiasm to carry on themselves.”

Lauren Child,
the new Children’s Laureate

The library at Rathmore is a valuable, vibrant space at the heart of the school community. The bright attractive space provides study and research facilities to all pupils and staff through the provision of books, periodicals/journals, DVDs and internet-linked computers.

Year 8 pupils are brought to the library every week by their English teacher where they learn how to use the library, borrow books and complete library based tasks.

In September we will be continuing with our library booklet challenge. Pupils will be required to read a significant number of books by a variety of authors and genres in order to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates. Pupils will be required to read a significant number of books from different genres in order to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates.

Pupils are encouraged to use the library out of normal class time for reading, browsing and studying.

General Information

The library has over 20,000 resources – fiction, non-fiction, reference material and DVDs, periodicals/journals and magazines printing and photocopying facilities internet/computer facilities.

Opening hours: 8:30am – 4:30 pm Mon-Fri

Junior pupils can borrow up to 4 books at a time and seniors up to 6 books.

The loan period is 2 weeks.

Pupils also have access to a library app which allows them to check stock, reserve, renew and review items.

During World Book Week in previous years we had various events in the library including:

Author visit and workshop with Joffre White for Years 8 and 9.

Screenwriting workshop and talk with Matt Harvey for Year 11.

Writing workshop with author Bernie McGill.

Writing workshop with author Byddi Lee



SCHOOL UNIFORM (June 2021) Years 8 to 12

We expect pupils to take pride in their uniform and to remember that when they wear it they are representing the school.

Please make sure that all items of uniform are clearly marked with pupil's name and class.

| Girls | Boys |
|--|--|
| Year 8 to 12 skirt (must be <i>knee length</i> and must not be too tight) | Black trousers (skinny or stretch styles are not permitted) |
| Blue school shirt (neck wide enough to fasten top button) | Blue school shirt (neck wide enough to fasten top button) |
| Rathmore pullover | Rathmore pullover |
| Rathmore blazer | Rathmore blazer |
| Rathmore scarf | Rathmore scarf |
| Rathmore tie (properly knotted and tightened) | Rathmore tie (properly knotted and tightened) |
| Rathmore socks or tights (Years 8-10) | Black socks (no other colour permitted) |
| Rathmore tights (Years 11-12) | Black shoes (no boots or training shoes) |
| Plain black flat shoes (leather/leather look) | Light waterproof rain jacket (plain navy or black - hoodies are not permitted) |
| Light waterproof rain jacket (plain navy or black - hoodies are not permitted) | |

Girls' Hair: must be clean, tidy and of a natural colour and style.

Boys' Hair: must be clean, tidy and of a natural colour and style. Cuts shorter than No. 2 are not permitted. Boys must be clean shaven.

Jewellery: the only jewellery permitted is a watch, a small ring and a pair of small stud earrings, one in each ear lobe.

Make-up: make-up is **forbidden** in Years 8–10; a **light** foundation cream permitted for Years 11/12.

Nail varnish/gels/acrylics/fake tan are not permitted.

NOTE TO PARENTS

In order to maintain the public image of the school and to ensure the safety of pupils we ask for your cooperation in ensuring that your child wears **only** what is permitted on the uniform list and that he/she respects all the above regulations.

All stockists have been advised on appropriate uniform and pupils will be asked to replace item(s) that do not meet these regulations. Stockists offer 20% discount on uniforms during June and July.

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS:

Chaplins, Unit 36, Park Centre – telephone 02890 312711

McCalls, 20-24 Market Street, Lisburn – telephone 02892 675111

Warnocks, 791-792 Lisburn Road, Belfast – telephone 02890 381828

Please see overleaf

School Uniform

Girls' PE Uniform 2021/2022

Unisex Crew Neck Jumper (new)

Hooded Sweat-shirt

Navy Half-zip (phasing out)

Round Necked Blue T-shirt (new)

Navy Polo Shirt (phasing out)

Navy Leggings (new)

Navy Skinny Track bottoms (unisex)

Shorts (optional)

Skort (only required if pupil plays Netball for the school)

Navy Windcheater (unisex) – (optional - available to purchase Sept 2021).

Boys' PE Uniform 2021/2022

Unisex Crew Neck Jumper (new)

Navy Skinny Track bottoms (unisex)

Navy Half-zip (phasing out)

Gaelic Jersey

Navy Windcheater (unisex) – (optional - available to purchase Sept 2021).

Many pupils walk to and from school but others travel by bicycle, bus or car. Whichever way your child travels to school, **he/she must be on time.**

Travel by Bus

Routes of school buses are enclosed. If your child travels by bus, please ensure that he/she has a bus pass or bus money each day.

Please note that we expect high standards of courtesy and behaviour from our pupils at bus stops and on school and service buses.

Travel by Car

If you bring your child to school by car, please drop him/her off at the lay-by on the link road.

If your child has an injury, however, and is unable to walk up to school from this point, he/she may get a pass from the Year Head to enable you to drive him/her up to school.

If you are collecting your child by car at 3.25 pm, please wait in St. Anne's Church car park and your child will meet you there.

If you are collecting your child by car following after-school activities, please drive up to school and park in the waiting area outside Music.

Safety of Pupils

Please note that while the school is open from 8am to accommodate parents who wish to drop their children off as they go to work, there is no formal supervision of pupils until 8.45am.

After school, pupils may study in the library from 3.25pm until 4.30pm and then go to a study room which, although not formally supervised, is regularly checked by a "roving" supervisor who keeps an eye on all pupils staying for after-school activities. She is on duty until 5.50pm.

To ensure the safety of all pupils, it is essential that parents use the designated drop off and parking areas and that they follow the instructions of school staff on duty before and after school.

School Bus Routes

Mornings

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--|
| Crumlin | 07.35 | Crumlin Main Street, Glenavy Main Street (07.41), Filterbeds (07.51), Sheepwalk Road (07.54) |
| Crumlin | 07.55 | Crumlin Main Street, Glenavy Main Street (08.10), Filterbeds (08.10), Ballymacash (08.30), Lisburn – North Feeder Road (08.35) <i>Last pick-up Filterbeds</i> |
| Glenavy | 08.00 | Glenavy Main Street (08.00), Filterbeds (08.05), Lisburn Rail Station (8.20) |
| Lisburn | 08.05 | Rushmere Park, Ballinderry Road (08.07), Lisburn Rail Station (08.10), Lisburn Park Gates (08.15), Lambeg, (08.18) Bell's Lane 08.20), Drumbeg Corner (08.25) |
| Lisburn | 08.15 | Murphy's Petrol Stn (Pond Park), Prospect Park (08.17), Ballymacash Road (08.20), Lisburn Rail Station (08.25), Belsize Road (08.30) <i>Last pick-up Lisburn Rail Station</i> |
| Moira | 07.50 | Moira Main Street, Flatfield (08.00), Culcavy Crossroads (08.05), Lisburn Bus Centre (08.25), Belsize Road (08.30), Milltown (08.35) |
| Lisburn | 08.25 | Lisburn Park Gates, Belsize Road (08.30), Milltown (08.35) |
| Falls Road/ Black's Road | 08.05 | Europa Bus Centre, Falls Road (08.08), Black's Road (08.20) |
| Malone | 08.15 | Europa Bus Centre, Malone Road, Balmoral Avenue/Malone Road Junction (08.20), Finaghy Road South (08.30) <i>Last pick-up Stranmillis Junction</i> |
| Malone (08.35) | 08.25 | Myrtlefield Park, Finaghy Road South |
| Twinbrook | 08.10 | Twinbrook Estate, Bellsteele Road (08.15), Black's Road (08.20) |
| Knockbreda/ Forestsides | 07.25 | Comber Cemetery, Railway Street (07.29), East Link Road (07.32), Knock Road (07.37), Castlereagh Road (07.45), Knockbreda Road (07.55), Forestside (08.04), Milltown Road (08.07), Upper Malone Road (08.12), Finaghy Road South (08.16) |

Afternoons

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|--|
| Crumlin | 15.40 | Dunmurry Lane (15.45), Ballymacash Road (15.50) Filterbeds (15.55), Glenavy – Main Street (16.00), Crumlin – Main Street (16.10), Antrim Bus Centre (16.36) <i>First stop Filterbeds</i> |
| Crumlin | 15.40 | Black's Road (15.45), Ballymacash Crossroads (15.55), Glenavy – Mains Street (16.15), Crumlin – Main Street (16.20) <i>First stop Glenavy</i> |
| Belsize | 15.40 | Black's Road (15.42), Dunmurry By Pass (15.45), Milltown (15.50), Lisburn – Belsize Road (15.55), Lisburn – Bus Centre (16.00) <i>First stop Milltown</i> |
| Drumbeg | 15.40 | Finaghy Road South (15.45), Upper Malone Road (15.50), Drumbeg Corner (15.55) <i>First stop Upper Malone Road</i> |
| Flatfield / Moira | 15.40 | Black's Road (15.42), Dunmurry By Pass (15.44), Lisburn – Bus Centre (16.05), Flatfield (16.20), Moira Main Street (16.30) <i>First stop Lisburn Bus Centre</i> |
| Falls Road | 15.40 | Upper Dunmurry Lane (15.44), Suffolk (15.46), Falls Road (16.00), Europa Bus Centre (16.10) |
| Falls Road | 15.40 | Falls Road (15.50), Grosvenor Road (16.00), Europa Bus Centre (16.14) |
| Twinbrook | 15.40 | Upper Dunmurry Lane (15.42), Suffolk (15.44), Bellsteele Road (15.46), Twinkbrook Estate (15.48), Summerhill Road (15.50) |
| Malone | 15.40 | Finaghy Road South (15.40), House of Sport (15.50), Malone Road 15.55, Europa Buss Centre (16.15) <i>First stop Stranmillis Junction</i> |
| Rosetta | 15.40 | Kings Hall (15.48), Balmoral Avenue (15.50), Stranmillis (15.52), Ormeau Bridge (15.57), Ormeau Road (16.00) Rosetta (16.15) <i>First stop Balmoral Avenue</i> |

All of the buses, except the Ormeau Road morning buses, are operated by Translink exclusively for Rathmore. These buses set pupils down and collect them within the school grounds. Pupils may also travel by public bus. Public bus routes, however, are not listed here.



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