



# Belfast Model School for Girls

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

# Prospectus

# Welcome...



On behalf of the Governors, staff and students of the Belfast Model School for Girls, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this prospectus.

Belfast Model School for Girls is an all ability post primary school for girls aged 11 – 19 in North Belfast. Students learn and achieve in a culture of care, good discipline and tolerance, where young people of different cultures, abilities and backgrounds are educated together. Diverse identities are welcomed, respected and cherished under a common bond. We are a fully inclusive, full service extended school, which offers a broad and balanced curriculum at each key stage, providing pathways to success for each child.

We are very proud of our school. Our aim is to provide the highest quality of educational opportunities for our students within a friendly, supportive and caring environment.

This prospectus will only give you a glimpse of what is special about the Belfast Model School for Girls and our £30 million facility and state of the art resources. For more information, please visit our website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

  
Ms P Stuart  
Principal



# we are a *Model* school

## Vision Statement

Belfast Model School for Girls is a vibrant, inclusive learning community. We work in partnership with parents and the local and wider community. Wrapped within a culture of care, support and challenge, all are safe, happy, respected and valued.

We are committed to delivering progressive, personalized, high quality education and opportunities to empower all to become the very best that they can be: **Model** citizens; **Model** learners; **Model** professionals.



## School Motto

### Achievement for All

# In our school...

## Academic Standards

We aim to ensure that your daughter has every opportunity to experience a wide variety of quality and exciting learning experiences, which will enable her to develop a love for learning, as well as an enquiring mind.

Each learning programme, whatever the stage (KS3, KS4 and KS5) is designed so that your daughter can achieve success, fulfil her highest potential and be thoroughly equipped for the future. Each girl will have her own pathway to success.

Such experiences enable students to gain knowledge and develop important skills across the Key Stages which lead to the highest grades and outcomes in public examinations.

The majority of students return to continue their studies in Post 16, where learning pathways are carefully crafted to ensure students have access to suitable, relevant and engaging courses to ensure they are ready for work, college or university.

We offer individualised programmes of study: GCSE, OCR, GCE Advanced Level, BTEC / CTEC or other vocational courses. Our curriculum on offer is continually informed by labour market information.



# we *Model* high quality learning and teaching

Motivated

Organised

Determined

Enthusiastic

Lifelong

Learners



# In our school...

"Staff have always gone the extra mile to help me with any problems I have had"

*Sarah, Year 14*



## Learning Support

- Many students benefit from a range of support services provided by the Learning Support Team
- Individual programmes for students returning after prolonged absence
- Peer tutor support
- Literacy and Numeracy support at Key Stage 3
- GCSE support

## Student Wellbeing

The **Assistant Principal: Culture, Care and Character for Learning** and the **Assistant Principal: Student Wellbeing for Learning** work collaboratively with the teams of Leaders of Learning, Assistant Leaders of Learning and Form Tutors, sharing ideas, skills and talents and contribute to the effective functioning of a highly motivated, cohesive team with a shared vision for the future of Belfast Model School for Girls. Staff have a shared sense of common purpose to ensure that the young people in the school experience the highest quality of learning provision from a highly skilled professional team of teachers and support staff, within a supportive, encouraging and disciplined environment.

- Leaders of Learning - provide support and also monitor attendance, behaviour and academic progress
- Form Tutors deal with day-to-day matters
- A range of counselling and youth services is available to support students, coordinated through our Full Service Extended School provision
- Full health provision and support through our specialist Student Wellbeing Hub
- Teddy - our school wellbeing dog

# we *Model* care

## We promise to provide:

- A safe, well-ordered, fun, caring, learning environment
- Programmes of study suitable for each student's age, aptitude and ability
- Regular information about school activities, academic progress and courses on offer at each Key Stage
- Annual face to face consultation meetings (parent-teacher interviews)
- Early identification of underachievement or other issues causing concern and requiring support in terms of relationships, behaviour and wellbeing
- An efficient system of dealing with concerns with access to the Principal and other members of the Senior Leadership Team

Teddy - our school wellbeing dog



## Safeguarding and Child Protection

We make every effort to ensure that our students are protected and kept safe from harm.

We do this by:

- Giving parents, students and staff information about what we do and what they can expect from us
- Making sure that our staff and personnel from outside agencies are carefully selected, trained and supervised
- Letting parents and children know how to voice their concerns or report if there is anything concerning them
- A dedicated safeguarding team of designated teachers for Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Access to and support from external partners and agencies

## Designated Teacher Team:

Mrs J Clarke



Mrs G Houston



Ms P Stuart



# In our school... we *Model* high expectations

## School Aims

### Quality Learning and Teaching

- To provide a relevant, stimulating learning experience that develops an enquiring mind in all students and motivation to learn
- To develop each student's academic abilities and other gifts and talents to the fullest extent
- To employ strategies to ensure that each student, regardless of their starting point, attains the highest possible outcomes required to secure their future economic and personal wellbeing
- To utilise methodologies and research which enhance learning and teaching in order to develop the potential of students and our wider community
- To encourage each student to develop a positive attitude to continuing education and training and lifelong learning

### Skills for Life and Employability

- To equip all students with the transferable skills required in a changing job market
- To encourage and develop independence, self-confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, and resilience for learning
- To develop students' awareness and understanding of, and respect for; themselves, others within the school and people in our local, national and international community
- To enable students to make a positive contribution to the community

### Culture, Character and Care for Learning

- To promote the spiritual, moral, intellectual, cultural and physical development and growth of each student
- To provide a safe, caring and stable environment where each student is encouraged to make a positive contribution to the school and wider community
- To ensure that all students and their families promote and know the value and impact of excellent attendance and punctuality
- To ensure the highest standards of personal presentation and behaviour
- To foster the highest possible levels of parental engagement and support



# In our school...

## Provision

- An all-ability, inclusive, 11-19 post primary school for girls, under the control of the Education Authority
- 1100+ students are drawn from a wide catchment area
- Long tradition of academic excellence
- Learning pathways and courses for students of all abilities - GCE A/AS Level, CTEC, BTEC, CACHE, GCSE
- Dedicated, well-qualified specialist staff and high-quality teaching
- A broad and balanced curriculum which is student centred and needs-led
- Learning Support for students with additional learning needs in our state of the art 'Learning Support Suite'
- A caring environment with excellent provision for pastoral support and careers guidance
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Strong community support and opportunities for extensive community involvement
- Work experience and valuable school-industry links
- Full Service Extended School

"I have applied to go to university to study a course to become a primary school teacher. The subjects on offer, the clubs, the facilities and the teachers have all helped make this a brilliant experience. I am really excited about my future."

*Scarlett, Year 14*



# we offer *Model* provision



# A seven year journey to success at Belfast Model School for Girls



**Belfast Model  
School for Girls**  
ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## KS5

**Post 16**

Years 13 and 14

### Optional Subjects Level 3:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art and Design                        | <input type="checkbox"/> French/Spanish          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Studies                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Studies                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography               | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Award Life and Health Sciences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double Award Life and Health Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Government and Politics | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama and Theatre Studies             | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Social Care  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Studies                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Years Studies                   | <input type="checkbox"/> History                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel and Tourism                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English Literature                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality             |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> ICT                     |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts         |  |

### Non Exam:

- ☐ Careers
- ☐ Enrichment Programme

Broad and balanced curriculum  
Entitlement framework compliant  
Individual pathways

## KS4

**Senior  
School**

Years 11 and 12

### Core Subjects:

- ☐ English Language
- ☐ ICT
- ☐ Mathematics
- ☐ Personal Success and Wellbeing

Broad and balanced curriculum  
Entitlement framework compliant  
Individual pathways

### Non Exam:

- ☐ Careers
- ☐ Learning for Life and Work
- ☐ Physical Education
- ☐ Religious Studies

### Optional Subjects Level 2:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art and Design                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure and Tourism               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Studies                       | <input type="checkbox"/> English Literature      | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image Arts                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare                              | <input type="checkbox"/> French/Spanish          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography               | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction and the Built Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government and Politics | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Hair Styling and Total Beauty | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Social Care  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science (Single and Double Award) |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> History                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology                         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Studies                    |

## KS3

**Junior  
School**

Years 8, 9 and 10

Numeracy, literacy and ICT skills acquired, developed and assessed across the curriculum.

Personal capabilities and thinking skills acquired, developed and assessed across the curriculum.

### Subjects Studied:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art and Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning for Life and Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Careers        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama          | <input type="checkbox"/> French or Spanish          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geography      | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History        | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ICT            | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology and Design      |

## PRIMARY SCHOOL TRANSITION PROGRAMME

# In our school... we offer *Model* facilities

## Our Facilities

The Belfast Model School for Girls has modern educational, sporting, creative, performing and community facilities which are second to none.

### ICT Provision

- Ten PC suites
- Three Apple Mac suites
- More than 600 computers

### Sporting facilities

- Leisure centre sized sports hall
- Gymnasium
- Two polymeric hockey pitches
- A polymeric athletics track, with netball court
- Three tennis courts
- Dance studio with sound system and performance mirror
- Fitness suite with treadmills, exercise bicycles and rowing machines

### Performing Arts provision in multi purpose hall

- Performing Arts theatre, with tiered retractable seating and professional quality sound and lighting
- Sound and lighting control booth
- Props store
- Green room, dressing room and showers
- Interlinked recording studio
- Drama studio, with stage curtains, lighting and sound system

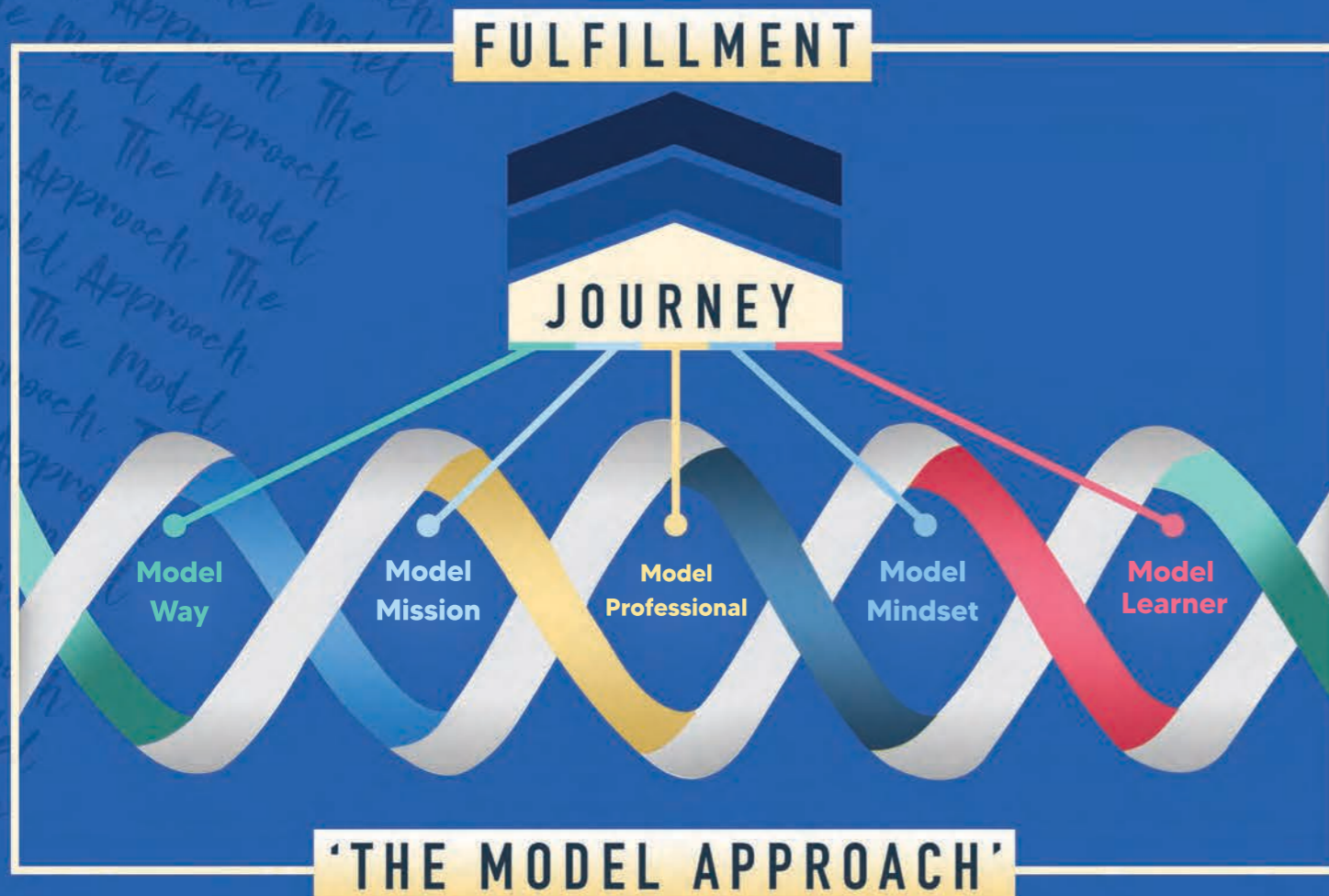


### Education facilities

- Specially designed Music Department, with rock room, orchestra room, Apple Mac suite, and recording studio
- Specially designed Art Department with Apple Mac suite, Sixth Form room and three classrooms
- Science and Technology with seven Science labs and extensive Design and Technology work areas
- Large Home Economics suites
- Extensive Learning Zone, with tutorial, teaching, reading, counselling and resource rooms
- State of the art digital facilities and resources
- A professional standard hair and beauty salon



# In our school... we have a *Model* Approach



# In our school... we follow the *Model* Way

## Ready.

- Take pride in your uniform and **be well equipped for school.**
- Remain focused **on learning in the classroom.**

## Respectful.

- Be polite and **respectful to everyone.**
- Take responsibility **for your own actions.**

## Safe.

- Move around the school **in a quiet, responsible way.**
- Take pride **in our school environment.**

# KS3 Curriculum Guide

In Belfast Model School for Girls we understand that talent and capability are only the starting point. We believe that effort and determination are key to success.

We encourage our students to embrace a growth mindset. We know that intelligence can be developed. We help our students to become resilient and persistent learners who embrace challenges and who see failure as an opportunity to learn. We strive and work hard together to ensure 'Achievement for All'.

In Year 8 - Year 10, classes are all ability across the year group.

Year 8 - Year 10	Form Group/ Teaching Group/ Class Labels	Practical Sets	PE Sets
All classes all ability across the year group	M	Students are mixed across the different teaching groups for practical subjects	Students are mixed across the different teaching groups for Physical Education
	O		
	D		
	E		
	L		
	G		
	S		
	W		
	A		
Nurturing Group	Y		

Students are taught in linear groups which are all ability teaching groups. For practical subjects students are mixed in all ability practical sets.

## NURTURING GROUP

THE 'NURTURING' GROUP WILL BE A FORM GROUP

The Nurturing Group is made up of those students who we know, for a wide variety of reasons, will need most support with their transfer to post-primary school. This group will have the same specialist teacher for a significant part of their week - for English, Maths, Drama, RE, Literacy and Numeracy - with a focus on the knowledge, skills and competencies required to be successful at post-primary school.

### Year 8 - Year 10 study the following subjects:



Art



Drama



English



Geography



Home Economics



History



Digital Technologies



French\*



Learning for Life and Work



Maths



Music



Physical Education



Religious Education



Science



Spanish\*



Technology



Careers (Year 10)

## FORM GROUPS

- The Form Tutor is a parent's first point of contact
- Form Groups and Teaching Groups are the same
- Form Groups and Teaching Groups M-A are all ability and follow the same learning programme



### Please Note:

- Modern Foreign Languages - students in teaching groups M-A will study French OR Spanish
- Students in the Nurturing Group 'Y' will have additional English literacy time in place of a Modern Foreign Language



**In our school...** *we Model* **extraordinary**

## Extra Curricular Activities

Aerobics **Fitness Training** Football **Athletics** Gymnastics  
**Badminton** Hockey **Basketball** Running Club **Tennis**  
Cross-country **Netball** Trampolining **Dance** Volleyball  
**Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** Choirs **Orchestras**  
Recorder Groups **Ensembles** Debating Society  
**Hair and Beauty Club** Young Enterprise **Theatre visits**  
Art Gallery visits **Scripture Union** International Links  
**Computer and Coding Club** Residentials **Drama Club**  
Film Club **Homework Club** Book Club **Gardening Club**  
Walking Club

## Music Tuition

Singing, woodwind, brass and piano lessons are available during and after school and are open to all Year 8 students, no previous experience is required. More information will be provided in September.





## Settling into Year 8

We understand how daunting the move from primary to post primary can be, therefore we have in place a thorough and wide ranging transition programme to help your daughter settle in as smoothly and as quickly as possible.

### Team Building

Every September Year 8 go on an activity day to get to know the other girls in their Form class and Form tutor better. The girls participate in a range of activities that encourage them to test their limits, solve problems and challenge each other, while learning new ways to communicate.

### Halloween Disco

Just before October midterm break, a special spooky evening is organised exclusively for Year 8 students. Year 8 and Post 16 girls are joined by staff to enjoy an evening of games, music, dance and treats! Fancy dress is encouraged and there are lots of prizes to be won, as well as lots and lots of fun!

### Friendship Conference

In the first term your daughter will take part in the Year 8 'Friendship Conference'. This event is hosted by our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who help new students settle into their new school.

### Peer Mediators - WBA - ABA

Our Peer Mediators, Wellbeing Ambassadors (WBA) and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABA) are senior students who work with Year 8 students to help them settle into life at Belfast Model School for Girls.



## Student Admission

Our school draws most of its students from partner primary schools in North Belfast. We also serve West and South Belfast and Newtownabbey.

We have always sought to draw students from a wide catchment area and will continue to respond to parental choice. Details of special transport arrangements are available on our school website. In recent years, Year 8 has been oversubscribed, but not at first preference. Prospective parents are advised to read the admissions criteria carefully, adding as much relevant information to the transfer form as possible.

## Organisation of Students

In the Junior School (Years 8-10), students are placed in all ability Form classes.

In the Senior School (Years 11 and 12) we operate a mixture of streamed and all ability groupings to ensure your daughter can realise her full potential.

# Preparation for life after school

The school seeks to provide a comprehensive programme of careers education, information and guidance which equips students with the skills required for the world of work.

### Industrial Awareness Conferences

Industrial awareness conferences enable Year 12 students to develop their interview skills with the help of advisers from a wide range of occupational areas.

### Work Shadowing

Work shadowing is organised for Year 13 students undertaking A/AS level courses to give them insight into professional roles and responsibilities.

### Work Experience

Work experience is offered to all Year 12 students and Post 16 students.

### Industrial Visits

Industrial visits provide students with experience of the real working environment and enhance their understanding of industry and production.

### Individual Careers Interviews

Individual careers interviews with Careers Officers (Training and Employment Agency) are organised for all Year 10, Year 12 and Post 16 students.





Community Centre

**Belfast Model School for Girls**

35 Dunowen Gardens  
Belfast  
BT14 6NQ

**Tel:** 028 90 718111

**Email:** [info@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@girlsmodel.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

**Principal:**

Ms P Stuart – B.Ed, PGCE PQH NI, M. Ed

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[www.belfastgms.org](http://www.belfastgms.org)

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