

# VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST YOU



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**BE**

**BALANCED**

# WELCOME



Victoria College Belfast is a leading non-denominational Grammar school with over 900 pupils, aged 11-18. At Victoria, we strive to work collectively to get to know each individual pupil and to extend a warm welcome to each family.

At the heart of everything we do is a belief and a commitment to cultivate a culture of inspiration, innovation and inclusion for every pupil, every member of staff and all of our school community. We have a strong commitment to providing an education which is tailored to your needs and which offers individual support and encouragement; this pays dividends. We have high expectations for all our pupils and in a positive learning environment, where the level of pastoral care is outstanding, you will be motivated to achieve your full potential and challenged to be the best you can be.

The school takes pride in its strong records of academic achievement and sporting success and the opportunities that await you at VCB are boundless.

*Come and see what you can BE at VCB!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Quinn".

K Quinn (Mrs)  
Principal



# ABOUT US

Victoria provides an outstanding and rounded educational experience. We promote a vibrant and historic learning environment in which you will assume responsibility, take risks, relish challenges, and inspire and lead others, whilst developing the resilience, confidence and independence to equip you for adult life. It sounds like quite a lot, but every day you will **embrace new challenges and grow as a person.**

Your VCB experience will be geared specifically to meet your needs and developmental stage, allowing you the intellectual and physical confidence to blossom, coupled with the freedom to be yourself and to fully explore all the educational and cultural opportunities available. The world is your oyster!

**We will open your eyes to new and exciting possibilities** and help you to take the practical and imaginative steps necessary to achieve your ambitions. Whatever you want to be - software engineer, actress, musician, doctor, lawyer, nurse, fashion designer or coder - it is our aim to support and guide you every step of the way.



**BE**  
**BRILLIANT**

# ADMISSIONS

If you choose to come and be a part of VCB, you will receive a very warm welcome and will be encouraged to *meet new people and develop strong friendships in a supportive and caring environment.*

You will be an integral member of your form class and start each day with your peers and form teacher; faces that will soon become familiar. Don't worry if you do not know anyone coming to Victoria; we welcome pupils from a wide catchment area and will make every effort to ensure that you get to know people quickly and effortlessly. Before you know it, you will be staying on after school for a club, a chat, or even an ice cream with friends on the Lisburn Road.

Prospective pupils and their Parents/Guardians are warmly welcomed to attend our annual Open Day, or alternatively may contact our school office to arrange a visit.



# UNIFORM

We love our smart school uniform because it promotes a strong school identity and is clearly associated with our *high standards, expectations and ethos.*

It is a time of new things when transitioning to 'big school' and we trust that you will be really excited on that very special first day, wearing your Victoria College uniform with pride.

*Selfies at the ready!*

*high standards, expectations and ethos*



BE

CULTURED



# CURRICULUM

We know what a big step it is moving from primary to secondary school and we understand the importance of feeling like 'you can do it'. Our caring staff provide feedback and will work closely with you to ensure that you **grow in confidence, feel safe in your learning, and explore and discover new things.**

We believe that we are best when we work together; staff, you and your family. This partnership is really important in ensuring that you feel supported and can progress to reach your full potential. There will be various opportunities for us to meet, talk and communicate. Your parents will want to know how you are doing, and so written reports acknowledging strengths and suggesting strategies for improvement are issued annually, complemented by shorter interim progress reports.

Throughout your journey at VCB you will have the opportunity to study a range of new subjects and courses, suited to your learning style and aspirations. The College pro-actively engages in the South Belfast Area Learning Community. You will be encouraged to try new things, to realise your own talents and abilities, to push boundaries and set meaningful targets so that you can progress, whilst being happy.

## KEY STAGE 3

Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Digital Technology, Drama, English, French, Games, Geography, Home Economics, History, Latin, Learning for Life and Work, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Education, Science, Spanish, Technology and Design.

## KEY STAGE 4 (Additional Subjects)

Business Studies, English Language, English Literature, Food and Nutrition, Further Mathematics, Health and Social Care, Religious Studies and Travel and Tourism\*.

## KEY STAGE 5 (Additional Subjects)

Government and Politics, ICT\*, Life and Health Sciences, Performing Arts\*, Sociology, Sport Studies.

\*BTEC Courses

*Curriculum offerings are kept under review and may be subject to change.*

*Further details regarding specifications can be accessed in our Subject Options booklets, accessible via our school web page.*

"Every teacher is passionate about their subject and inspires enthusiasm in me as a pupil, making lessons engaging and exciting."

# SCHOOL DAY

School begins bright and breezy at 8.40am and ends at 3.10pm, with an extensive range of extracurricular activities running during and after school. You will start each morning with your form class and some days collectively you will attend assembly.

We operate a 10 day timetable over each fortnight, with six 50 minute teaching periods each day. This can take a little time to get used to, but it allows you to enjoy a range of subjects and to manage your studies at a pace that suits you. Pupils are taught in classes aligned to their Registration Group, subject choices, or alternative needs. An important part of the school day is also break and lunchtime, when you will have time to relax, catch up with friends and build your energy for more learning! The College provides both a break and lunchtime cafeteria service, providing both healthy cold and hot meals. The dining hall also accommodates pupils who bring packed lunch to school. Purchasing meals is cashless and accessed through ParentPay.

All pupils are encouraged to **participate in our extensive range of extracurricular activities\*** including Yoga, Language clubs, Art Club, Sign Language, Bar Mock Trials, to highlight but a few. There will definitely be something that appeals to you and these activities are a great way to meet even more new people and staff, whilst enjoying school life beyond the classroom.

Start	End	Lesson
9.10am	10.00am	Period 1
10.00am	10.50am	Period 2
10.50am	11.10am	Break
11.10am	12.00pm	Period 3
12.00pm	12.50pm	Period 4
12.50pm	1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	2.20pm	Period 5
2.20pm	3.10pm	Period 6

\*Extracurricular activities include sports fixtures and a wide range of clubs and these take place both during and after school

*Information regarding our school holidays and term dates can be accessed via our school web page.*





**BE**

**CONSCIENTIOUS**

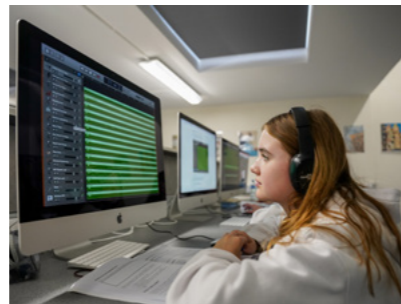
# DISCOVERY

18 explore opportunity

We believe in and are passionate about discovery. Perhaps it will be in Science conducting an experiment, or navigating the virtual world in ICT, up a mountain during the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, on a school trip, whipping up a new recipe in HE or testing your language skills. VCB is the place to explore: *explore yourself, explore learning and explore opportunity.*

With us you will develop a real sense of curiosity and inquiry, and have access to a wide range of courses and work related experiences in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics and beyond. The opportunities are endless and our aim is to equip you with the knowledge and skills required to be happy and to succeed in life.

"A school which has shaped my life positively."



# ACHIEVEMENT

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*VCB pupils achieve excellent academic outcomes and our value added is strong.* We live up to our College motto that each pupil will fulfil their full potential.

We have high expectations of all our pupils and we want you to flourish both in and outside of the classroom. Our strong performance at both GCSE and A level ensures that we remain a top performing school whose pupils consistently achieve above the NI and UK averages. You can be a part of this success.

We recognise that learners are all unique and hence we measure success widely and use individual interests and motivations to determine what individual success looks like. Don't worry if something seems challenging; we have lots of support mechanisms available, including a vibrant homework club, coupled with a supportive mentor programme through which senior pupils provide individual support in a positive and caring environment, where you will be encouraged to progress and achieve.

Parents/Guardians will have opportunities throughout the academic year to discuss the educational progress of their child.

"One of the many successes of Victoria College is that it encourages pupils to move forward. During my time here I have been continually offered opportunities to achieve my goals, and the teachers have inspired me to seize these so I may reach my full potential."

**97%  
A\* TO C  
GRADES**  
at GCSE

**35%  
A\* OR A  
GRADES**  
at A2

**92%  
A\* TO C  
GRADES**  
at A2

**BE**  
**VISIONARY**



# CAREERS

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) will be an interesting and integral part of your school experience. You will engage in Learning for Life and Work, covering Employability and Personal Development. You will also gain experience and understanding of the world of work and the concepts of employability and enterprise, through the taught curriculum, workshops, seminars and team building events.

Detailed advice and guidance is provided for pupils seeking to apply through UCAS and CAO for university places and those pupils exploring opportunities at FE colleges and in modern apprenticeships. There is also opportunity for work experience at the end of Year 13; mock interviews in Year 14; specific workshops and guidance for applications to study nursing and midwifery, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.

In addition, guidance and support is provided for applications to the Queen's pathway programme, Sutton Trust, Nuffield research programme, Sentinus and similar programmes.

We like to map your unique journey and you will complete a Progress File and Career Starter e-portfolio. This involves self-evaluation, target-setting, action planning and exploration of a wide range of careers. With us, you will begin to further explore who and what you want to be.

Pupils in Years 10 and 12 are interviewed before they choose the subjects they wish to study at the next Key Stage. All pupils in Year 12 receive an interview with the Northern Ireland Careers Service and a separate interview with the Careers Department at school in order to help them to decide upon their Post 16 pathways.

*We will listen to your dreams and help you take the right pathways and stepping stones to enjoy and succeed in life beyond VCB.*



# LEADERSHIP

You will be motivated to seek out and step up to a wide range of leadership opportunities throughout your school career. VCB models 'excellence of self'; where you will be inspired to be an ambassador and role model, as you *blossom into a confident young adult* with a mission to be the very best that you can be.

The Student Council, Prefect roles, Anti Bullying Ambassadors and Peer Mentors are just a few of the platforms open to you so you can share your voice, your ideas and contribute constructively and positively to ensure that our school continues to excel.

Building on our rich heritage, we root our purpose on *Values, Confidence and Belief*. No matter how small or expansive your stage is, you will play a vital part in our school community and will hopefully embrace the opportunities open to you, so that you can take your place in the wider world potentially as a future leader or visionary. You will be inspired to imagine the possibilities.



**BE**

**BENEVOLENT**

# PASTORAL CARE

In VCB we place pastoral care at the very heart of College life. All staff will ensure that you are safe and thriving, whilst being inspired and encouraged to be yourself, and to grow in confidence within our caring community. We are confident that through our positive learning atmosphere, you will thoroughly enjoy your time at school.

*Our pastoral structure means that you will be known, supported and valued.* We emphasize core values such as respect, politeness, kindness, and also promote inclusion and equality. You will be equipped with the confidence to have fun and be creative, to be a risk taker and to persevere in order to achieve great things.

Our door is open. If a Parent/Guardian has a concern about their child's safety, they can get in touch with a member of our experienced Safeguarding Team. We also have a Pastoral Portal on our school web page which contains many useful links for pupils and their families. Copies of relevant school policies can also be accessed via our school web page.

Our taught pastoral curriculum sits alongside weekly assemblies and key events which cover a range of topics and include sessions on online safety, positive relationships, mental health and well-being, self-esteem and good citizenship. Our well-being rooms are also used to great effect and can provide you with a place for reflection, guidance, mindful consideration and time out. Throughout your journey at VCB you will be supported by a Form Teacher and Head of Year. The College also has the expertise of a School Nurse and Counsellor for specific pastoral needs.

We appreciate that during your time with us you will mature from an 11 year old, to becoming a teenager and leaving as a young adult; and we are here to support you and your family on this journey.

...known, supported and valued



"Victoria offers an exceptional variety of extra-curricular activities. You name it Victoria most likely provides an after-school activity for it. I can honestly say as I look back that many of my favourite, most memorable, recollections of school will be from the various teams I have played in."



# EXTRA CURRICULAR

You will participate in an extensive, exciting and evolving range of activities that allow you to further develop a range of new skills and to form extended friendships.

The PE Department benefits from access to first class facilities on campus, with the development of a new Sports Complex. These state of the art facilities include a sports hall, fitness suite, outdoor multi-purpose astroturf playing field, tennis courts and modern classroom and changing facilities.

You can avail of an exciting range of sports including: athletics, badminton, cross-country, gymnastics, hockey, netball, tennis, trampolining, rugby,

golf, dance and equestrian events. If sport is not your thing, we have Drama, Art, Dance, Choir, Classics or Cookery; the list is endless!

As a VCB pupil you will experience and develop your global perspective and understanding. Participation in programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is encouraged and pupils are also involved in a range of volunteering and charitable activities such as the Habitat for Humanity project.

Get involved, try something new and build your self-esteem and confidence, we want you *to be a contributor to our wider school community on local, national and global levels.*

You name it, Victoria most likely provides an after-school activity for it!



BE

VENTURESOME

# PUPIL VOICE

At Victoria College we value the pupil voice and Student Council is one of the many ways that you can input into College life. The Student Council provides valuable input into school policies and procedures, and the elected members are responsible for many new initiatives to develop school life.

"The Student Council is a large group of girls who will keep a look out for any students and listen to their voice and help them improve their school experience and help boost their confidence."

**Emily O'Kane**

"The Student Council provides students with a voice, allowing them to represent their class, or year group, and improve the school experience for the student body. It provides excellent opportunity to develop skills, preparing pupils for their personal and professional lives away from VCB."

**Louise Lowther, Deputy Head Girl**

"Through participation in extracurricular activities since Year 8, I settled in easily and have made friends for life. Yet, sports' teams and choirs are only a small part of a large community of students, who all support, encourage and entertain each other."

**Emma McCloy, Head Girl**

"The Student Council is the voice of all students. it allows even the quiet voices to be heard and brought to attention. it is incredibly important to allow students to have their say in decision making in order for meaningful change."

**Robyn Gaw**



# MEETING YOUR NEEDS

At any given time, pupils may need additional support to fulfil their potential. When a particular need has been identified, we work diligently through our SEN Policy to monitor and implement relevant strategies and support to assist each pupil. In consultation with parents it may be appropriate that a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) is written in order to help the pupil identify focused targets. Staff will use the information and targets set out in the PLP to plan to inform their classroom practice.

An extra-curricular Homework Club on our Junior campus supports pupils in developing their literacy skills and study strategies and we avail of other extra-curricular clubs such as Lego and Meditation to help build strategies of support for the pupils identified. In terms of accessibility, due to the layout of the campus not all areas of the College are accessible for those with a disability. As a result, timetabling arrangements are made for pupils, or staff, with mobility issues to be taught in suitable accommodations.

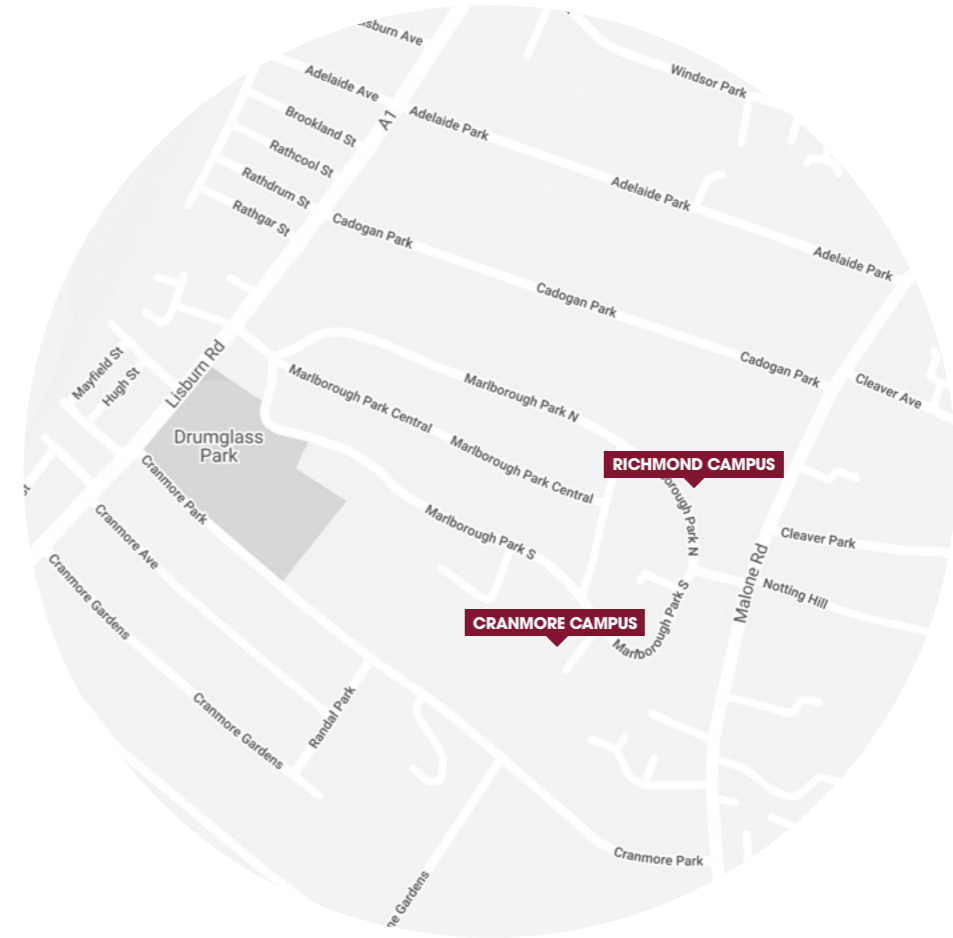
The Special Educational Needs Policy is posted on the school website and paper copies are available, on request, from the School Office which describes in detail our whole school based approach to SEN provision at VCB. SEN is managed and run by the Senior Teacher for Learning Support and Examinations and SEN focused staff training is provided during school development days to assist with the day-to-day support needed.

"Victoria instantly became somewhere I felt comfortable, supported, and inspired to become the very best version of myself every day."





**BE  
VALUED**



# SEE WHAT YOU CAN BE AT VCB

“What really sets Victoria College apart is its strong community ethos. As members of the VCB community, we pupils support, encourage and entertain each other, while our teachers guide and motivate us in a friendly, nurturing and inclusive school environment – enabling each of us to reach our full potential and be the best we can in every aspect of our lives.”



# GETTING HERE

Don't be nervous if you are not familiar with Victoria, or if you live further away, because pupils travel from a wide catchment around and beyond Belfast. The College is conveniently located between the Lisburn and Malone Roads in South Belfast and is easily accessible by town and country bus routes and via the local railway network. You will be sure to see a Victoria uniform who will look out for you as you embark upon your first journey to school.

# SEE WHAT YOU CAN BE AT VCB



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College  
Belfast**

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