

# LECALE TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEW LASALLIAN CATHOLIC 11-19 CO-EDUCATIONAL  
VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, DOWNPATRICK

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**PROGRESS UPDATE**

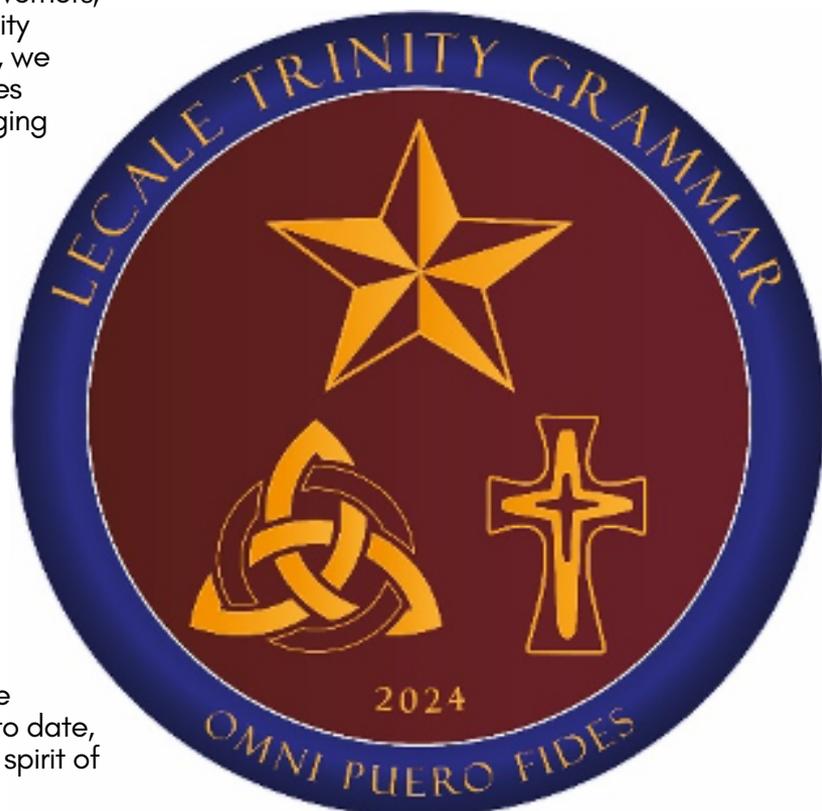
*from the Interim Board of Governors*

## **Introduction**

On 19th January 2023 we, the Interim Board of Governors, held our inaugural meeting to establish Lecale Trinity Grammar School. Over the course of the last year, we have worked tirelessly to address the many priorities on the Implementation Plan. It has been a challenging but rewarding twelve months. Our shared focus is now firmly on continuing to support Dr Moore and the talented staff and pupils in the three schools to ensure that Lecale Trinity Grammar School opens successfully on 1st September 2024.

It is very encouraging to read about some of the main developments outlined below. While much has been achieved, we acknowledge that there remains a lot to do over the next seven months. However, we are very confident that the commitment, core values, experience, skills and hard work of the staff in the three schools, working with Dr Moore in a supportive, child-centred culture, will ensure that the key priorities are addressed. We, the Interim Board of Governors, pledge our unrelenting support in the months ahead. We appreciate the support we have received from the parents and other key partners to date, and we look forward to the continued journey in a spirit of mutual collaboration and understanding.

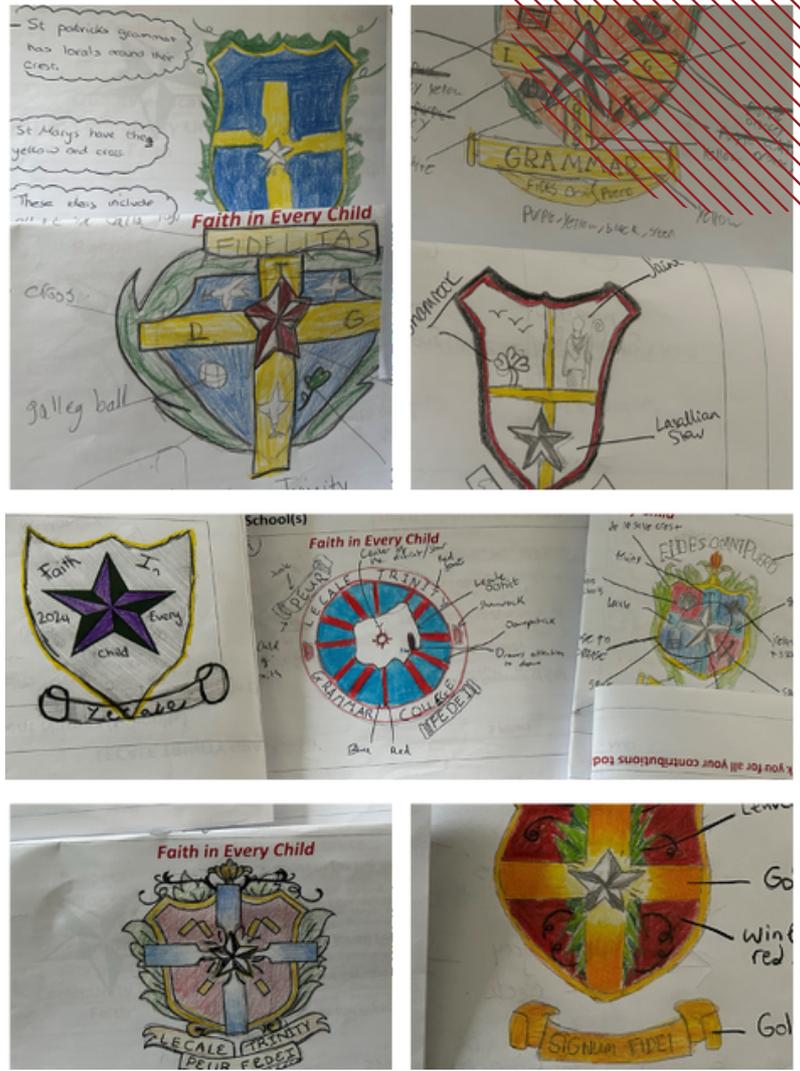
Detailed below is a brief synopsis of the main developments which have occurred since our last update.



# 1. The School Crest

It is wonderful to be able to include the crest officially on this update. You will see that it incorporates the colours of the three schools and the symbols represent clearly the Mercy and Lasallian traditions in the Mercy cross and the Lasallian star. The Trinity Knot represents the presence of God in the Holy Trinity and the three schools coming together. Furthermore, there are three great Irish saints associated with Downpatrick, namely St Patrick, St Brigid and St Colmcille.

The motto 'Omni Puero Fides', (Faith in Every Child), encapsulates very powerfully the core value and purpose of Lecale Trinity Grammar School. We pay tribute to the creativity of the pupils who worked with Dr Moore to create the beautiful crest which will be worn with pride by pupils in Downpatrick and the surrounding rural areas for many years to come. We extend a special word of thanks to Rachael Ranaghan who provided outstanding support in the professional design process.



# 2. Uniform



In a spirit of openness and transparency, time was devoted to consulting pupils, parents and staff about the colour of the new uniform. The results which are totalled from the three key groups are as follows:

COLOUR PALETTE	TOTAL
Blue/Navy Blazer (with Maroon & Navy/Blue)	751
Charcoal Grey Blazer (with Maroon & Navy/Blue)	1058
Dark Purple Blazer (with Gold & Grey)	387
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2196</b>

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## 2. Uniform (Continued)

As you can clearly see, a grey blazer with maroon and navy/blue was the preferred colour palette choice of all three groups. Dr Moore is now working with the uniform suppliers to ensure the final product is as professional as possible while taking cognisance of cost pressures on families.

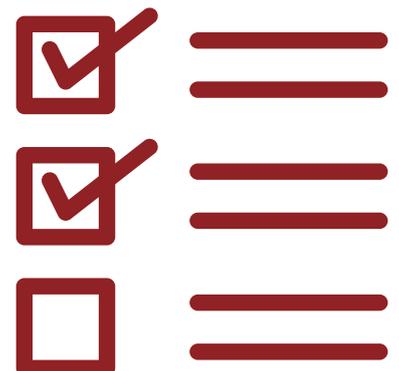
A special word of thanks must go to the Ethos Committee and the three Teacher Governors whose advice, guidance and generous commitment of their time was invaluable. We also acknowledge the patience and sound advice of our uniform suppliers and look forward to continuing to work with them in the months ahead.



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## 3. Admissions Criteria

The Admissions Criteria for Year 8 entry are now available on the Education Authority website and have been uploaded on to the websites of the three schools. The two routes are clearly outlined with 180 places for pupils from Category A Primary Schools and 70 places for pupils from Category B Primary Schools. Dr Moore and the Chair met the Principals from the partner Primary Schools on 17th January 2024, to discuss both the criteria in detail and any concerns raised by the parents of their Primary 7 children.

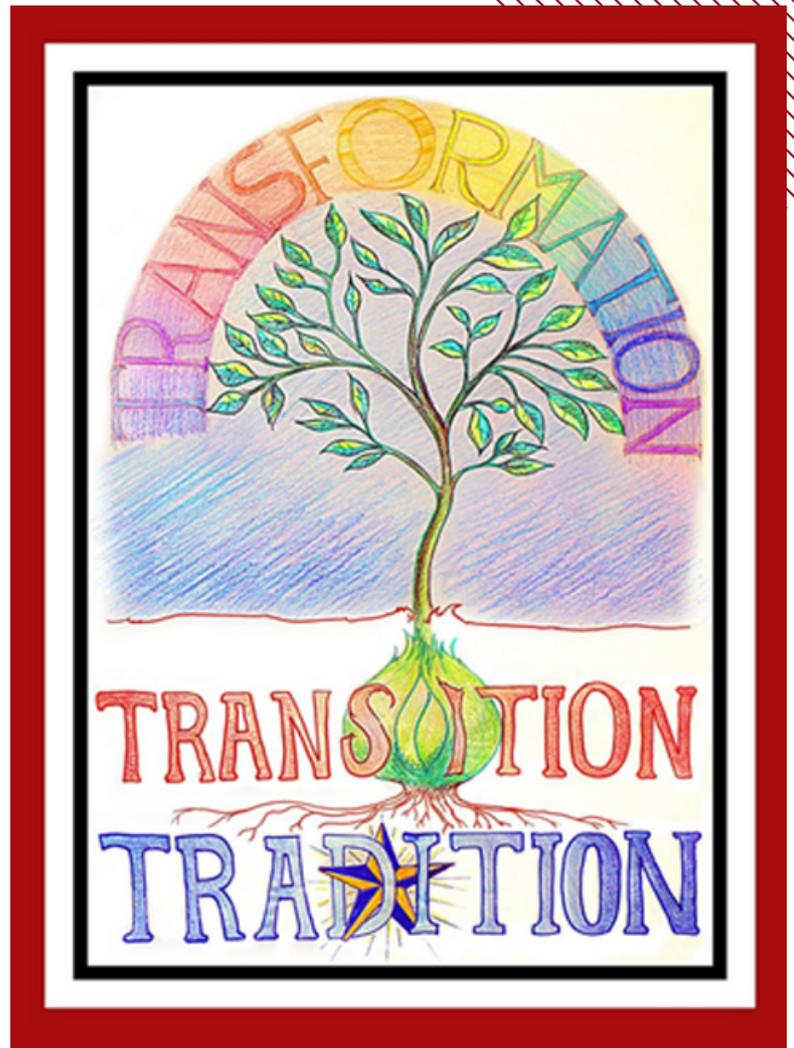


## 4. Ethos Day

The teaching and support staff spent a most enjoyable, productive day on 20th December 2023 in which they:

- engaged as a school community in a prayer service to recognise and deepen their faith;
- reflected on the noble traditions of each school;
- defined the core purpose and values which are the foundation upon which Lecale Trinity Grammar School will be an outstanding school;
- reviewed the considerable work completed by students in November; and
- began drafting the school's Mission Statement.

This was a giant, first step on a shared journey in which there will be rich opportunities to define the distinctive nature of Lecale Trinity Grammar School as a community of faith and learning in which the core values of Catholic teaching are experienced.



Mr Joe Gilson, Director of Mission with Trustees, De La Salle Brothers, launched the day with a most insightful presentation on the interconnected themes of tradition, transition and transformation grounded in core Lasallian values.

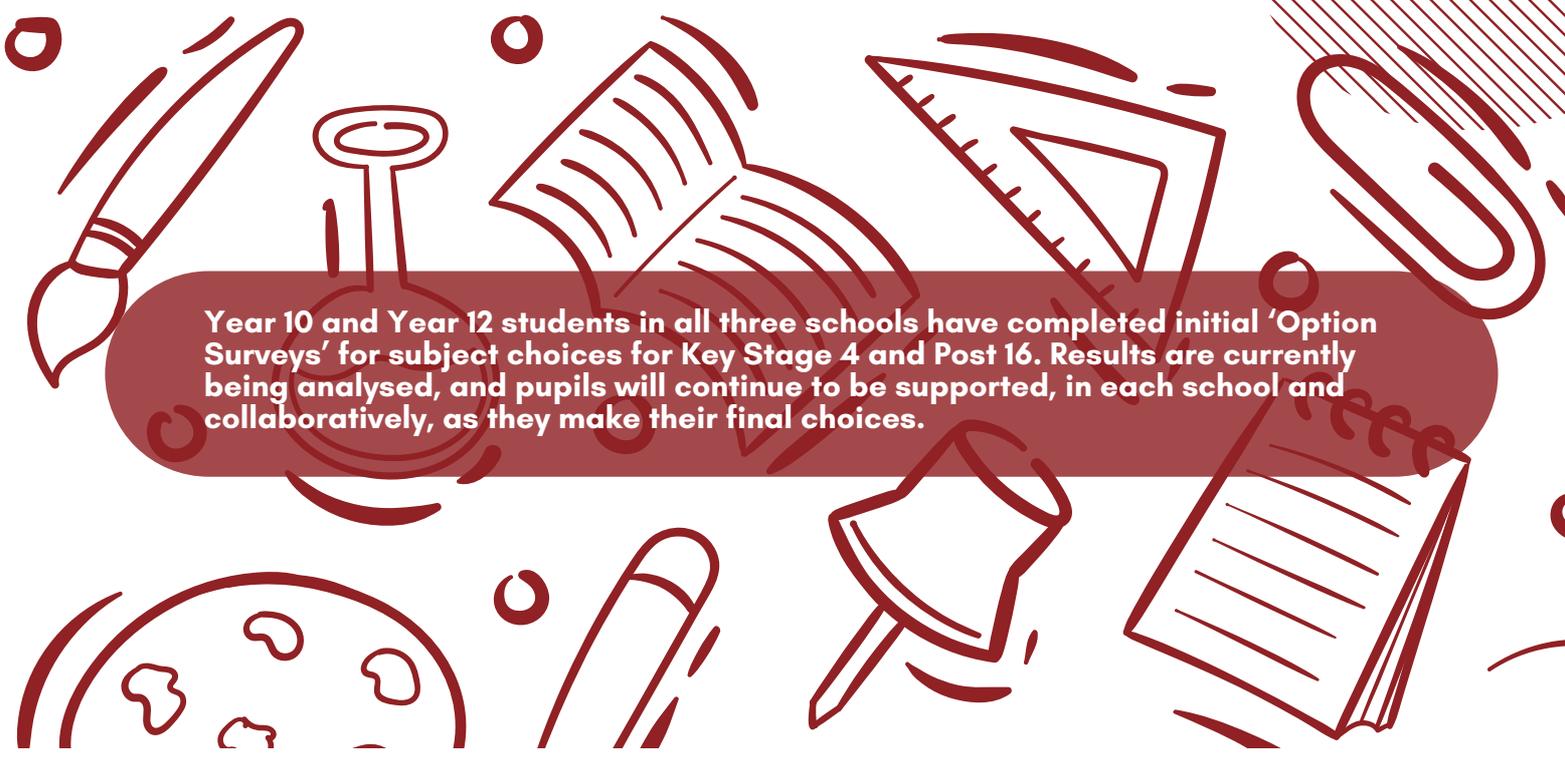
Work has continued on the school's Mission Statement with a representative sub-group from the Students' Ethos Strategic Group meeting with Dr Moore and Teacher Governors on 22nd January.

**The simplest and most practical lesson  
I know is to resolve to be good today,  
but better tomorrow.**

**Catherine McAuley**

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## 5. Curriculum



Year 10 and Year 12 students in all three schools have completed initial 'Option Surveys' for subject choices for Key Stage 4 and Post 16. Results are currently being analysed, and pupils will continue to be supported, in each school and collaboratively, as they make their final choices.

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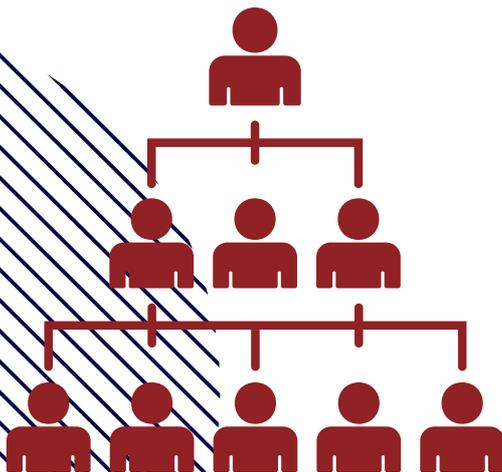
## 6. Accommodation

It has been proposed that Years 8 and 9 will be on the Mercy site at St Mary's and Years 10-14 will be on the Lasallian site which encompasses both St Patrick's Grammar School and De La Salle High School. Meetings with key Department of Education and EA personnel, Dr Moore, the Bursar Designate, Chair and Vice Chair of the IBoG are currently being scheduled. The focus will be the minor works programme and refurbishment plans.



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## 7. Leadership



The new Leadership Structure closed for consultation on 15th December. Dr Moore, the Chair, HR Associate and Senior Education officer from CCMS met with union representatives and EA staff on 18th December 2023 to discuss the new model. The written and verbal feedback from unions and individual staff is being considered in detail by the Chair, Dr Moore and Staffing Committee. Key amendments will be tabled at the next IBoG meeting for approval.

We are delighted to announce that Mr Brian Jamison has been appointed Bursar Designate and has taken up post. We wish Mr Jamison happiness and success in the years ahead.

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## Concluding Remarks

Finally, we would like to thank you, our parents for your continued support in our journey towards the opening of Lecale Trinity Grammar School. Going forward, Dr Moore and her team will issue the regular Pupil Progress Updates, while also working with pupils in the production of a pupil-friendly format that is accessible to all our young people. The new school's website is under construction and will also contain helpful information in the months ahead.



Down Cathedral and Saint Patrick's Grave

Photo Credit: <https://www.visitmournemountains.co.uk/>

**Interim Board of Governors**  
**Thank You**