



A message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, and members of our Community,
Happy New Year. As we begin 2026, I want to extend my warmest good wishes to every family connected to our school communities across the Causeway Coast area.

This year marks an important moment for us. In September 2026, Causeway Academy will officially open its doors, beginning a **new chapter in integrated education for our region**. Over the past months, I have had the privilege of working closely with pupils, staff and governors as we shape the vision and structures that will define our new school.

One of the highlights of this journey has been spending time in each of our schools, meeting students and delivering assemblies. These interactions have been incredibly meaningful. They have allowed me to experience the strengths, character, and sense of pride that exist within each school community. It has been energising to see the enthusiasm and curiosity of our young people.

I have also greatly valued the feedback I have had from our 'student voice' about their upcoming transition. Their honesty, ideas, and perspectives have provided us with valuable insights. Hearing directly from young people about what will help them feel supported — whether

it is clear communication, familiar faces, opportunities to make new friends, or understanding what daily life will look like — has shaped our planning in real and meaningful ways. Their voices are helping to build a **transition model that puts wellbeing, belonging, and confidence at its heart**.

As we look forward to the opening of Causeway Academy, we also recognise that 2026 is a year of reflection. The schools that will close as we move into this new phase have served their communities with dedication, care, and pride for years. Their legacies have helped to form the foundations upon which Causeway Academy is being built.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement as we take each step towards September. I look forward to working closely with you throughout this year, ensuring that every pupil experiences a positive, secure, transition into Causeway Academy.

Warm regards,

Ruth Harkness

Principal Designate, Causeway Academy



Announcing Our Two New Vice Principals

INTRODUCING OUR VICE PRINCIPALS FOR CAUSEWAY ACADEMY

We are delighted to announce the appointment of two outstanding leaders who will join the Senior Leadership Team of Causeway Academy as Vice Principals. Their experience, passion, and commitment to young people will play a vital role as we prepare for opening in September 2026.



Mrs D Keys

I have been teaching since 1995, one year at St Columb's College and from 1996 I have been at the Carthall Road site – firstly in Coleraine Boys' Secondary School and then in Coleraine College. During these years I have taught several subjects including History and Travel & Tourism, but my great love is my own subject – Geography. I studied Geography and History at Queens University Belfast before doing my teacher training at Durham University. I was fortunate to be able to further my qualifications as an adult gaining my MEd and PQH while working. Encouraging our students to be life-long learners is something that is important to me.

I have held several positions in the Coleraine College including Head of Year, Head of Department, Curriculum Manager and recently Vice-Principal. I have enjoyed all these roles, but I have never lost my enthusiasm and love of being in the classroom.

It is my privilege to be appointed Vice-Principal of Causeway Academy, and I am excited about getting to know all the young people, families and staff that will make up our new school community. I believe this is a fantastic opportunity for all concerned as a larger school will offer so many more opportunities and experiences to our students.



Mrs E Casson

Having completed my degree in English Literature at the University of Ulster and my PGCE English at Bristol University, I am now quite unbelievably in my 30th year of teaching! Initially teaching in Bristol, I returned home, and following some time working with SEN classes at a primary school in Belfast, I began teaching English at North Coast Integrated College.

I have held a variety of roles in teaching including Head of Years 8-12, Library Coordinator, Acting HOD and Designated Teacher for Child Protection. In 2008 I was appointed to SLT as Senior Teacher. I completed my PQH (NI) in 2010 and became acting Vice Principal in 2018 - a post which became permanent in 2020.

Wholly committed to the core values of integrated education, I consider it my privilege to work in the integrated education sector. I look forward to embarking on Causeway Academy's new and exciting journey ahead.

Together, as students, staff, parents and carers alike, we can work in partnership to make Causeway Academy an inspirational school; one that will be filled with innovative challenges and enhanced educational experiences for all our students, and one that we are proud to hold at the centre of our community!

Together, Mrs Keys and Mrs Casson will support the strategic development of our curriculum, pastoral structures, and learning culture, ensuring that every young person in Causeway Academy thrives from the moment they walk through our doors.

Information for Current Students and Parents

As we continue preparations for the opening of Causeway Academy on 1 September 2026, we want to keep families fully informed about what to expect over the coming months. Below is important information **for children currently attending our three legacy schools.**



School Uniform for Causeway Academy

We are delighted to share the key items that will make up the new Causeway Academy uniform:

- » Grey Blazer with the school badge
- » Shirt/Blouse White
- » Tie Causeway Academy colours
- » Trousers/Skirt Navy
- » Jumper Grey V jumper with the school badge, this will be compulsory for all students from November- March
- » Socks/Tights Black/navy tights or grey knee length socks of the girls.
- » School Shoes Plain black leather shoes

PE Kit

The PE kit will consist of:

- » Navy polo shirt sports top with school badge
- » Navy shorts/skorts with school badge
- » Sports leggings with school name
- » Navy ¾ zip top with school badge
- » Navy sock with school name
- » Trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor use

Uniform and PE Kit Suppliers

All uniform and PE items will be available to purchase from our approved suppliers:

- » Heart & Home, Coleraine
- » Wallace's of Coleraine, formerly known as S. T. Moores, Coleraine

We will inform parents as soon as uniform items arrive in store.



Automatic Transfer to Causeway Academy

We want to reassure parents that you do not need to take any action for your child to transfer to Causeway Academy.

All pupils currently enrolled in the three legacy schools will **automatically move across to the new school** in September 2026. Our administrative teams are working closely together to ensure the process is smooth and fully managed on your behalf.

Further details on transport, and transition activities will follow in future newsletters.

Celebrating the Success of Our Open Evenings

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT OUR OPEN EVENINGS

Over the past number of weeks, we have been privileged to welcome families, pupils, and members of the community to our Causeway Academy open events. These events were an incredible success, with strong attendance and warm engagement from parents and young people alike.

We held our Year 8 Open Evening for P6 & P7 pupils & their families on the Carthall Campus on Thursday 15 January 2026. We also held a 6th Form Open Afternoon on Thursday 22 January 2026 on our Cloyfin Campus where our 6th Form provision will be based.

We are grateful for the encouragement, thoughtful questions, and shared excitement expressed by so many.

Key Updates Coming Soon

- » Transition activities and dates
- » Further leadership appointments
- » Student transport updates
- » Curriculum and pastoral structure highlights

We will share more information in upcoming newsletters.

Applications Open

12 noon Tuesday 27
January 2026

Applications Close

12 noon Thursday 19
February 2026

Notification of the outcome

Saturday 9 May 2026

Year 10 Options

Information available
the week commencing
23rd February

6th Form Choices

Visit our website for
latest information

Our Website

Visit us online and take a
look at our prospectus



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EA Website

Applying for a Post
Primary Year 8 Place



www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide

