

The Dickson Plan and Transfer at Age 14

The Controlled Post Primary Schools in the Craigavon Area are a community of schools referred to as either the Two Tier System or the Dickson Plan.

This structure of education was established in 1969 in the area and encompasses the following partner schools:

Senior Highs: Craigavon Senior High School, Lurgan College and Portadown College.

The two Colleges are selective and admit about 50% of students from the four Junior High Schools which are Clounagh Junior High, Killicomaine Junior High, Tandragee Junior High and Lurgan Junior High. The remaining students transfer to Craigavon Senior High School. Students attending the first three schools transfer to either Portadown College or Craigavon Senior High School. Students from Lurgan Junior High School transfer to either Lurgan College or Craigavon Senior High School.

The staff, and in particular the leadership, of these partner schools work closely together to promote a smooth curricular and pastoral transition for the students from Junior to Senior High and the teachers in the Senior High, very importantly, take cognisance of what has to be studied, and how, in the Junior High Schools by the students. Any student who enters a Junior High is best served by following the advice of that school, transferring to one of the two Colleges or Craigavon Senior High to ensure a consistent, monitored pathway of education from age 4 to 19.

The Two Tier System is keen to build on initial work revolving around establishing clear academic and vocational pathways for students from age 11 to age 19. Students who enter Portadown College are expected, on the whole, to continue their studies post-16 at 'A' Level in the College which offers one of the widest choices of 'A' Levels of any school in Northern Ireland. It is firmly believed that students should have access to a breadth of provision under one roof and the College leadership does not have to force students off site to other institutions to cover the requirements of the DE directive on the Entitlement Framework. The College is proud of its breadth of GCSE and 'A' Level provision and the expertise of its teachers as specialist GCSE and 'A' Level providers. Our examination results are a testimony to this.