



# INCHMARLO

Preparatory Department  
of The Royal Belfast  
Academical  
Institution









## WELCOME TO INCHMARLO

A school should be an environment in which each and every child is happy, valued, challenged and able to fulfil his individual potential in the widest possible range of activities, both inside and outside the classroom.

This is exactly what Inchmarlo provides. By the time our boys leave they are more than ready for continued success at RBAI, our senior school, where Inchmarlo boys make an outstanding contribution.

Inchmarlo is very proud of its family ethos, its reputation for academic excellence, breadth of extra-curricular sporting, musical and artistic provision and the quality of pastoral care.

We are sure that you will find all of the above in abundance when you visit the school.

**Andy Smyth** B.Ed PQH(NI)  
*Head Master*



**PROGRESSION  
INTO P1 IS A  
NATURAL AND  
VERY EXCITING  
PROCESS.**





# PRE-SCHOOL

## THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

The Pre-school provides a happy and stimulating atmosphere in which children learn through constructive and imaginative play. There is a caring and welcoming atmosphere in which the talents of each individual child are nurtured.

The broad range of activities provided offers excellent opportunities for learning in all areas of the preschool curriculum. The children are encouraged to be independent, creative, sociable and co-operative with each other.

The Pre-school is an integral part of the Prep school and throughout the year the preschool boys join the KS1 boys in a shared Nativity performance and Sports Day. The Pre-school children have full access to the large outdoor play area, the school gym and the school library.

There is a maximum of 20 children with three dedicated and caring members of staff. Parents may choose two or more sessions per week.

**After School care until 5.30pm** – Preschool boys have the opportunity to stay in school until 5.30pm. They have their own facilities and enjoy all the benefits of the main school, in its six acre site. With a staff ratio of 1:8, individual and small group attention is guaranteed in their many and varied activities such as cookery, art and craft, construction toys, iPads, French and drama. The only problem is getting them to go home!







## THE NEXT STAGE

### Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (P1–P4)

It is here that learning habits for life are established. The boys are encouraged to ask searching questions, use reasoning and thinking skills in problem solving and become active and thoughtful listeners. They will be provided with opportunities to develop these skills through a worthwhile, challenging, relevant and enjoyable learning experience.

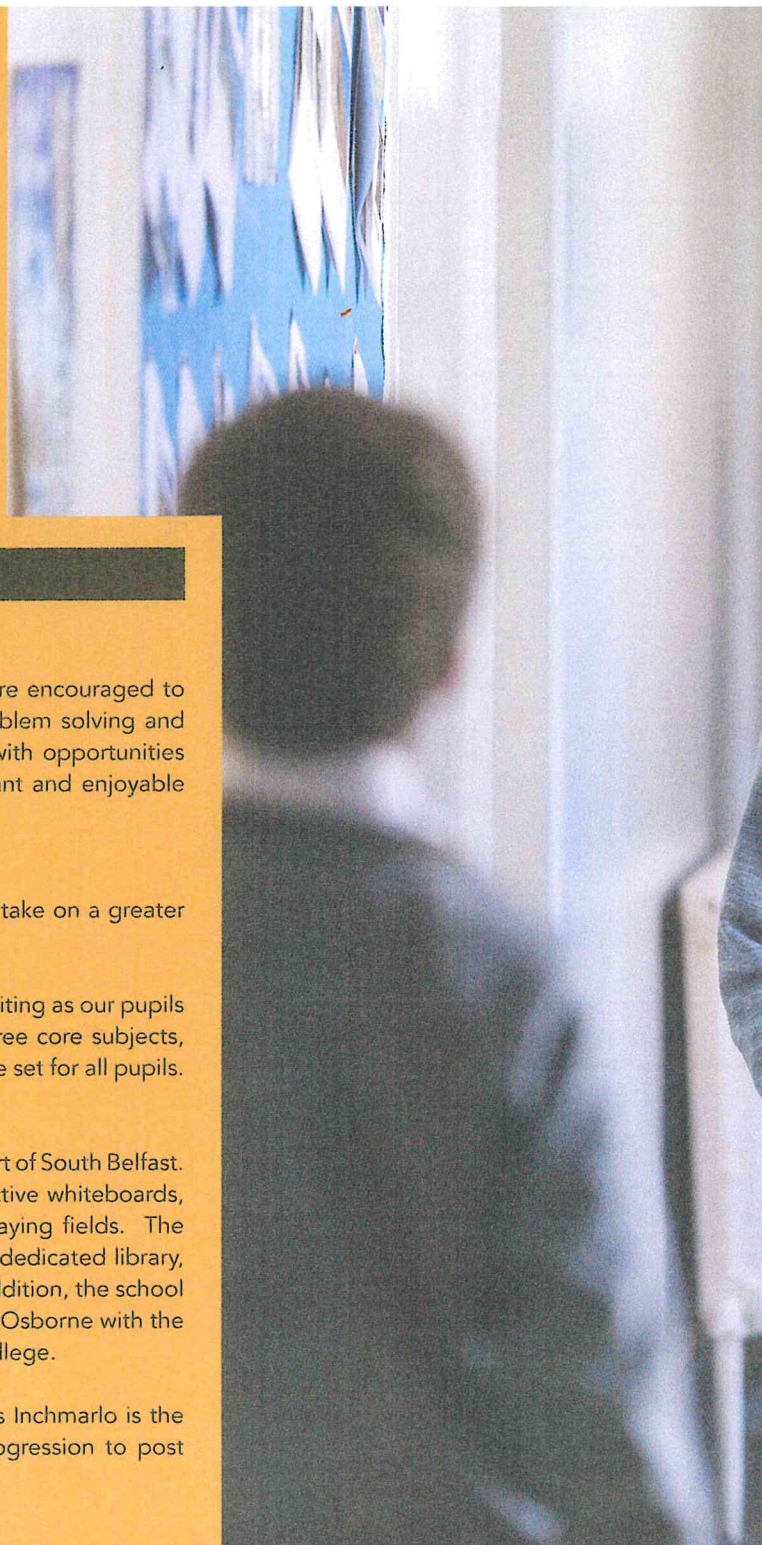
### Key Stage 2 (P5–P7)

Pupils at Key Stage 2 are encouraged to develop socially and to take on a greater degree of responsibility both individually and in groups.


In P5 – P7 the curriculum becomes more challenging and more exciting as our pupils prepare for Grammar School. There is much emphasis on the three core subjects, Literacy, Numeracy and ICT, and personal and academic targets are set for all pupils. There is support for all learners including the Gifted and Talented.

The preparatory department is set in six acres of parkland in the heart of South Belfast. The excellent facilities and resources include an ICT suite, interactive whiteboards, ipads, Astro-Turf hockey pitch and rugby, cricket and football playing fields. The purpose built soft play area is popular as is the well-stocked and dedicated library, which is an integral part of our Accelerated Reading scheme. In addition, the school enjoys access to many of the main school's facilities at Bladon and Osborne with the swimming pool facilities courtesy of our neighbours at Victoria College.

We provide outstanding academic preparation for transfer and as Inchmarlo is the preparatory department of RBAI, this is the natural route of progression to post primary education.





A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms walking in a hallway. The boy on the left is wearing glasses and a grey V-neck sweater over a white shirt and striped tie. The boy on the right is also wearing a grey V-neck sweater over a white shirt and striped tie. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, other students in school uniforms are blurred.

# ACADEMIC LIFE IN THE PREP

**LEARNING IS  
BALANCED WITH  
EXTRA-CURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE  
OUR BOYS ACHIEVE  
A GENUINE LOVE OF  
KNOWLEDGE AND A  
SENSE OF PERSONAL  
ACHIEVEMENT.**

**ALL MY TEACHERS AT  
INCHMARLO WERE  
BRILLIANT. THANKS TO  
THEM AND THE AMAZING  
SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES,  
I HAVE REALLY ENJOYED  
MY TIME AT CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY AND PLAYING  
CRICKET FOR IRELAND.**

**BEN WYLIE, INCHMARLO/RBAI  
(1998-2012)**



# OUR CARING SCHOOL

## WRAP AROUND CARE

Fun, enjoyment, learning, friendship, family atmosphere—these are the words that come to mind when describing the wrap-around care at Inchmarlo—all taking place in a caring and supportive environment.

The Breakfast Club is available for P1– P4 boys from 8.00am–8.40am. Situated in a good sized classroom in the main building, it is fully equipped with construction and design toys, board games and art and craft materials. With no extra cost involved, it is a facility which is much appreciated by many parents, enabling them to leave their children in a safe and a happy environment, and then going about their daily business.

**INCHMARLO IS RENOWNED FOR ITS HAPPY ATMOSPHERE AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT BOYS AND PARENTS ENJOY SO MUCH ABOUT THE AFTER SCHOOL CARE IN PARTICULAR, AND THE WHOLE SCHOOL IN GENERAL.**

P1–P7 boys (if not already participating in an extra-curricular club) are fully supervised in a stimulating, organised and homely environment. Boys can relax over a game of pool or table football, while senior boys can also do homework, encouraged and assisted by staff. Healthy, energetic and lively boys need much more of course, so the gym, outdoor play area, new astro-turf pitch and ICT suite are superb facilities which the boys make full use of, and, to keep the blood sugar up, a tasty snack is provided every afternoon.

**MY SONS LOVE INCHMARLO AND WITH HIGHLY COMPETITIVE FEES, WE AS PARENTS VALUE THE EDUCATION OUR SONS RECEIVE. I FEEL THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPRESS ANY TALENT THEY MAY HAVE.**

**K O'CONNOR**



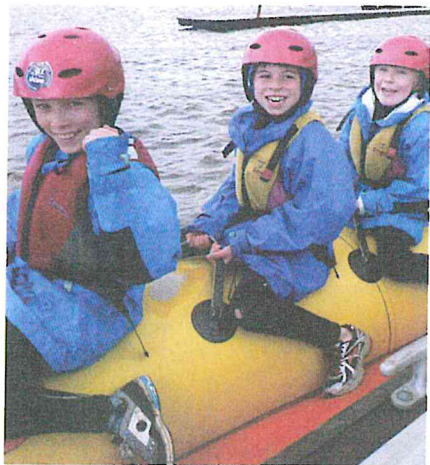




# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Walk into a Key Stage 1 classroom and ask what the boys do after school and you will be amazed by the responses: "Playball, Technology, ICT, Maths, Tennis, Languages Club, Music, Communication & Drama".

Ask Key Stage 2 boys what they do and you will hear "Science, Basketball, Brass Band, Choir, Orchestra, Hockey, Football, Table Tennis, Lego and Tennis". These activities provide invaluable enrichment and help to foster the individual talents of each and every pupil.



Playball, Technology, ICT, Maths,  
Tennis, Club Francais, Music,  
Communication & Drama,  
Rocking Readers, Science,  
Debating, Brass Band, Choir,  
Orchestra, Hockey, Football,  
Table Tennis, Lego, Tennis,  
Computer Club, Cricket, Cookery,  
IPad Club, Rugby, Eco Club





**AT INCHMARLO, I WAS ALWAYS  
ENCOURAGED TO TRY. IT LEFT ME  
WITH A SENSE THAT TRYING HARD,  
EXPLORING SUCCESS AND FAILURE  
IS ALL PART OF DISCOVERING  
WHAT IS POSSIBLE.**

**MARK POLLOCK, SOUTH POLE ADVENTURER NOW EXPLORING  
A CURE FOR PARALYSIS. INCHMARLO / RBAI 1980 – 1994**







**THE EMPHASIS ON SPORT AT  
INCHMARLO IS A PARTICULAR  
STRENGTH OF THE SCHOOL  
ALLOWING EVERYONE TO  
TAKE SPORT AS FAR  
AS THEY CAN**

**MR J PEAK, HEAD OF PE AND GAMES, RBAI**





# SPORTING EXCELLENCE

**THERE IS A HUGE AMOUNT OF SPORT AT INCHMARLO. PARTICIPATION BY ALL BOYS IS MOST IMPORTANT, BUT COMPETITION AND EXCELLENCE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED. THE HOUSE SYSTEM GIVES ALL BOYS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN TEAMS AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF COACHING ENABLES MANY BOYS TO REPRESENT ULSTER AND IRELAND AT SENIOR LEVEL.**

## MINI RUGBY

Now that mini rugby is played on a participation basis, the school still is involved in several local mini rugby festivals. Our own blitz involves several local teams when the Julian Yarr Shield 'Spirit of the Tournament' is awarded.

The latest exciting development for rugby at Inchmarlo is the appointment of Mr Dan Soper as Director of Rugby at RBAI. Mr Soper currently coaches P1-P7 boys and illustrates the integrated approach the school takes to rugby development.

Inter house mini rugby for the McFall Cup is a very competitive affair, with Knockagh, Divis and Scrabo playing for the trophy and House points.

Inchmarlo is always keen to acknowledge the contribution Instonians RFC makes to mini rugby at the school. All Inchmarlo boys (P1- P7) are able to play at Shaw's Bridge on Saturday mornings (10.00 am-11.30 am).



# SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

**MANY FORMER PUPILS, WHO BEGAN THEIR HOCKEY CAREERS AT INCHMARLO, HAVE GONE ON TO PLAY SENIOR HOCKEY AT INSTONIAN AND WITH ULSTER AND IRELAND AT SENIOR LEVEL.**

## HOCKEY

Hockey is played by pupils from P3 - P7, with the school represented by mini hockey teams in various tournaments. Inchmarlo have enjoyed a very consistent level of success in the Northern Ireland Mini Hockey Championships, winning the tournament on five occasions and finishing runners up four times.

Two members of staff have a wealth of experience in coaching international hockey to the highest level, while two members have represented Ireland in Masters hockey. The school makes full use of the water-based pitch at Shaw's Bridge on a regular basis and now enjoys the added facility of a mini astro-turf pitch in the school grounds.

## CRICKET

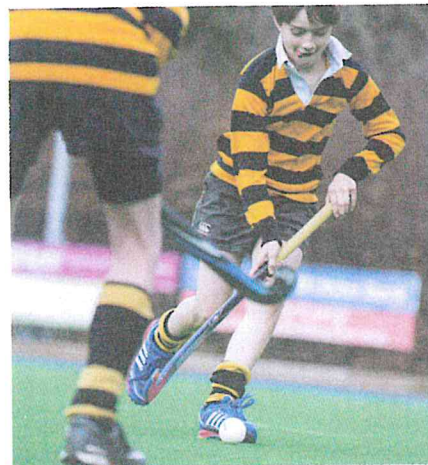
Cricket is a major sport in the summer term with P6 and P7 boys playing "hard ball" competitive fixtures against other schools. The P7 team win the U11 Schools' Cup regularly (current holders) and have also achieved success in the U12 Cup. P4 and P5 boys play Kwik Cricket, the skills of which are coached by a member of Instonians Cricket Club both at school and Shaw's Bridge.

Boys are frequently chosen to represent the NCU squad; this year three boys are members of that squad and are receiving winter coaching.

## OTHER SPORTS

All pupils are encouraged to participate in a variety of sports including: table tennis, cross country, athletics and swimming. This helps to build co-operation and team spirit and to promote health and well being. Whether it is during games time, Inter House competitions or after school extra curricular activities, boys get the chance to experience a wealth of sporting opportunities.





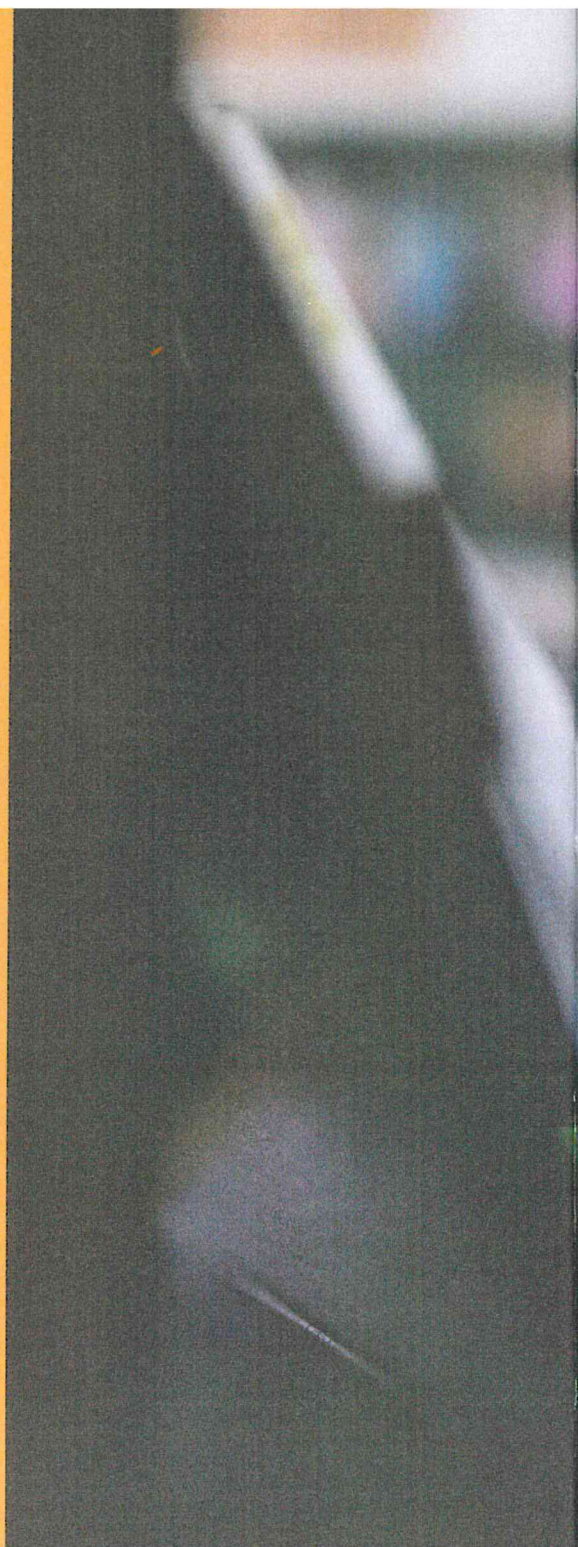


# MUSIC AND DRAMA


It is unusual to walk through the school and not hear music of one kind or another! Tuition starts in P1 with lessons in percussion and singing, and from P3 we have a specialised music teacher.

We have a choir, well known throughout Belfast, and with a huge number of boys receiving instrumental tuition we also have an orchestra and excellent brass band. The annual Carol Service, in St John's Church, is a highlight of the year.

Boys participate regularly in dramatic performances which include music and movement. The climax of the year is undoubtedly "the Concert" when all the boys, either KS1 or KS2 will appear on stage, enhancing their self confidence and self esteem. Recent performances have included Toy Story 4 and Oliver.





A young boy with short brown hair and black-rimmed glasses is shown from the chest up, seated at a piano. He is wearing a white dress shirt and a dark tie with yellow diagonal stripes. His hands are on the piano keys, and he is looking slightly to his left with a focused expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a school setting with bookshelves.

**INCHMARLO GAVE ME A GREAT  
MUSICAL START. I BEGAN MUSIC  
LESSONS IN CLARINET AND PIANO  
AND HAD MY FIRST EXPERIENCES  
OF PERFORMANCE, SINGING IN  
THE SCHOOL CHOIR AND  
DRAMATIC PRODUCTIONS.**

**COURTNEY LEWIS, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR  
OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC.**

INCHMARLO

Music and Drama



66

LET THEIR FUTURE BEGIN

INCHMARLO





