



PEARSON  
NATIONAL  
TEACHING  
AWARDS

WINNERS 2021

# Edmund Rice College Prospectus 2022





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EDUCATION

**EXCELLENCE**

FOR ALL PEOPLE

**RESPECT**

FOR THE

**CARE** IN THE

SCHOOL AND

COMMUNITY

ONAL

ICE

UPILS

FOR

OTHERS

HE HOME

AND

TY



Edmund Rice College

Edmund Rice College

# Mission Statement

In Edmund Rice College we provide a pupil-centred, broad and balanced curriculum reflecting the needs of all pupils with the aim of maximising their life chances.

We strive, as a school community, to ensure that each student has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. We do this within a learning environment that is safe, positive, respectful, inclusive and welcoming.

Our ethos permeates all that we do and creates an environment of care and support. Pupils are encouraged to have ambitious aspirations and are motivated in pursuit of these. Past pupils have progressed into all walks of life. Many past pupils retain a strong link with the school including involvement at Board of Governor level. An even greater number send their children to Edmund Rice College, which indicates confidence in the school and is a great testament to what we do. Through provision of a broad range

of curricular and extracurricular activities and the promotion of a positive outlook to life, we develop the whole individual. The professionalism of all staff is evidenced in their work and performance. Their commitment to Continued Professional Development ensures modern techniques, methodologies and technologies are employed in both teaching and learning. Our school is deeply rooted in our communities and reflects the diversity therein. The triangular partnership between the school, the home and the community allows us to create a school that pupils aspire to go to, feel welcome at, perform well in and of which the community is proud.

*"Whilst you work for God, whether you succeed or not, he will amply reward you."*



# Welcome from our Transition Team

At Edmund Rice College we are fully committed to ensuring that pupils have a sense of belonging in a strong and vibrant school community where they can experience a wide range of activities and develop a desire and passion for learning.

From the very beginning of any student's journey here, we encourage everyone to excel and take up an opportunity to promote themselves in a positive light. We expect our pupils to challenge themselves, to work hard and to give their best efforts in order to achieve their full potential as they enter adult life. We welcome and value all pupils in an inclusive all-ability environment as we aim to instil the values of Excellence, Respect and Care at all times throughout their time in the school.

Education is not just about exam results and we pride ourselves in Edmund Rice College in guaranteeing that each pupil feels safe and happy at all times. The pastoral care in the school has been highlighted in recent ETI inspection reports as being "Outstanding", highlighting the strong and positive relationships between staff, pupils and parents. The school's Catholic ethos permeates the life and work of the college as we aim to continue the legacy and great work that Blessed Edmund Rice began with when

he founded his first school. Through this prospectus, we aim to show the warmth of Edmund Rice College. We invite you to take the opportunity of the Open Evening to explore the school and to speak to staff and pupils about their experiences.

We very much look forward to meeting you then and fully hope that you will be able to join us in September as a pupil of Edmund Rice College.

Mr S Campbell (Head of Year 8)

Mrs M O'Connor (Head of Transition)





**'Pupils have a sense of belonging in a strong and vibrant school'**

# Welcome from Head Boys & Head Girls



## **Hi, we're Mark and Michael and we are the Head Boys at Edmund Rice College.**

We started Edmund Rice College in Year 8 and have made great friends from the moment we stepped through the doors. Edmund Rice College has provided us with amazing teachers that have challenged and encouraged us to achieve our goal. With the guidance of our teachers and hard work we were both able to achieve eleven GCSEs each and are currently studying for our A levels. Next year we hope to go to University and further our studies. The school has great sports facilities that has helped us develop our skills in basketball and football. Starting any new school is always going to be a challenge when moving from a small primary school to a big secondary school but Mr Campbell, head of year 8 and Mrs O'Connor, head of transition, along with our form teachers were a brilliant help and made the transition so easy. We will always be grateful for our time at Edmund Rice College and thankful of all the opportunities the school has given us. By choosing Edmund Rice College as your secondary school, you will be making the right choice!

## **Hi, we're Kennedy and Niamh, the Head Girls at Edmund Rice College.**

We both joined the school in September last year and have loved our experience so far. Edmund Rice College has given us the opportunities to progress in our final years of school and achieve the qualifications that we will need for a successful future. Edmund Rice College is a very warm and welcoming environment. The members of staff are always very approachable and supportive. Through joining this school, we have met many new people and made new friends which has allowed us to grow in confidence and develop as young adults. We are currently studying A levels in health and social care, travel and tourism and hospitality and we both intend to go to university next year. Teachers are very involved and will motivate you to get the best out of you, always guiding you in the right direction. Edmund Rice is an amazing school and choosing to come here will be the best choice you can make.



# Pastoral Care in Edmund Rice College

Pastoral Care in Edmund Rice College is the corner stone of everything we as a school community do.

The minute you walk through the doors you will be offered the hand of friendship. It has often been said over the years that you can feel the caring atmosphere throughout the school. This is all due to the hard work and dedication of a staff that have the pastoral care of our students at the heart of everything they do. In addition, the Pastoral Care Team work closely with a number of external agencies that engage our students in activities to support their well-being and enhance their learning experience.



## Day-to-Day At Edmund Rice College



- 1 The Pastoral Care Team is co-ordinated by the Head of Pastoral Care - Mrs Geraldine Davey and she is supported by the Year Heads and Form Teachers. Strong relationships are built between students and form teachers and Teacher Mentors are there to support individual students for a variety of reasons.

## Youth Services



- 2 The aim is to use youth work interventions with our young people to raise their awareness of positive mental health, how to find support and develop their confidence, resilience and coping strategies.

## Family Works



- 3 School Counselling Service. Offers a range of support services to all students.

## Leading Change Programme



- 4 For the past two years, Edmund Rice College has been working with Barnardo's Leading Change Programme. Each year two year 13 students are selected to take part in the programme whereby they engage with students from the nine schools in North Belfast taking part in a residential developing leadership skills while organising activities for the local community.

## We are a 'Take 5' School

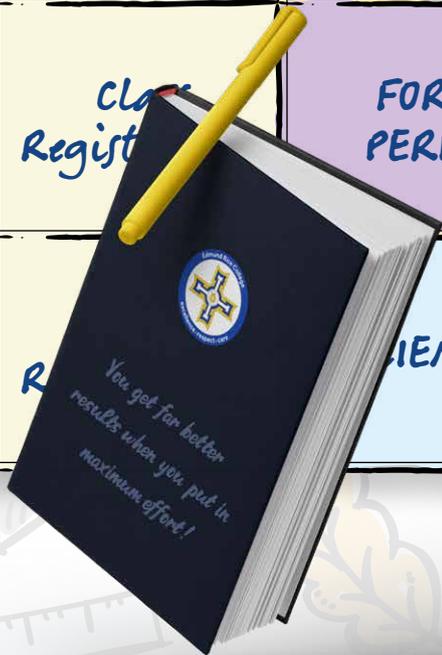


- 5 The Education Authority has awarded us a 'Take 5' status, the first school in the area to achieve this. We embrace the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing, which are Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice and Give. All of our students are encouraged to incorporate these concepts in their lives in a drive to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. We have a number of Take 5 pupil champions who are promoting the message throughout the school community.



# School Day

	8:50 9:05	9:05 9:55	9:55 10:45	10:45 11:00	11:00 11:50
MON	Class Registration	LLW	HOME ECONOMICS	BREAK	TECHNOLOG
TUES	Class Registration	MATHS	ENGLISH		P.E
WED	Class Registration	IRISH	FREE PERIOD		SCIENCE
THURS	Class Registration	FORM PERIOD	P.E		GEOGRAPHY
FRI	R	SCIENCE	LIFE SCIENCE		



	11:50 12:40	12:40 1:15	1:30 2:05	2:05 2:55	2:55 3:15
Y	ART	LUNCH	SCIENCE	RELIGION	Class De-Registration
	P.E		HOME ECONOMICS	HISTORY	Class De-Registration
	COMPUTER TECH		DRAMA	FRENCH	Class De-Registration
Y	GEOGRAPHY		Self study	ENGLISH	Class De-Registration
	ENGLISH		ART	ART	<del>Class De-Registration</del>



# School Uniform & Sports PE Kit

**Blazer:** 1880 Club, Bright Royal Blue

**Jumper Yr 8 - 12** - Deerpark Knitwear or Abbey Knitwear. Grey jumper with blue, white and yellow stripes on V.

**Jumper Yr 13 & 14** - Deerpark Knitwear or Abbey Knitwear. Black jumper with school logo on chest & blue, white & yellow stripes on V.

**Skirt:** 1880 Club. Black

**Trousers:** 1880 Club. Black

**Shirt/Blouse:** 1880 Club. White

**White Shirt**

**Black Leather Shoes**

**Black Socks (Boys)**

**Black Tights (Girls)**

**Tie Yr 8 -12**

**Uniform suppliers:**

- The Sports Company  
(City side Yorkgate)
- The Jeanery Glengormley



*Blazer With school crest*

*V Neck Jumper*

*Tie Yr 8-12*

*Black Skirt & Trousers*

*Black shoes*





Available from  
O'Neills -

Gaelic Top Royal  
& Amber



Royal socks  
with Triple  
Amber stripes  
at top.



Shorts Royal  
with Triple  
Amber stripe  
at sides

PE  
KIT

# Teaching & Learning

Edmund Rice College believes in 'Educational Excellence'. We aim to provide a stimulating, well organised and high-quality teaching and learning experience for every pupil. Teaching and Learning are at the heart of all that we do at Edmund Rice College, the quality of teaching will have a strong impact on the effectiveness of learning. In all lessons in Edmund Rice College, we strive to ensure pupils maximise their full potential and make progress. We employ a wide range of teaching and learning strategies to engage pupils, making their learning relevant and fun.

We have five assessment windows throughout the academic term and pupils are regularly given the opportunity to peer and self-assess their work, allowing them the opportunity to take ownership of their learning. We have high expectations for all our pupils and are committed

to quality teaching and learning strategies that encourage each pupil to strive toward and achieve their full potential. The curriculum at Edmund Rice College, whilst primarily shaped by the Revised Curriculum for Northern Ireland, is designed to reflect the key principles of the school's mission statement. The college is committed to ensuring that the curriculum is challenging, interesting and rewarding.

## Key Stage 3

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum. In KS3 all pupils study- English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science, French, Irish, Geography, Drama, Physical Education, Technology and Design, Information Technology, History, Music, Art, Home Economics, Learning for Life and Work.





# Teaching & Learning

## The Curriculum

### Key Stage 4

At KS4 all pupils follow GCSE courses in English, Maths and Religious Studies. Pupils then choose two single award subjects and two double awards. Some pupils follow a curriculum that includes English, Mathematics at GCSE with one Double Award and Occupational Studies units equivalent to 4 GCSEs in: Bench Joinery, Vehicle Fast Fit Operations, Sport and Business Communication.



	Core GCSEs	Double Award GCSEs	Double Award GCSEs	Single Award GCSEs	Single Award GCSEs	Other
E	English Maths GCSE Religion	Art Sport Construction Hospitality Business Travel & Tourism	Art Double Science Business ICT Sport	Geography Drama Irish French Music Child Development	Art English Literature Technology History Learning for Life and Work Science	Careers PE Form Period
R	English Maths OCN Religion					
C			Occupational Studies (3 GCSE equivalent) in Bench Joinery Car Mechanics Business Learning for Life Work			

## Key Stage 5

Edmund Rice College offers a wide range of Post-16 courses to a high achieving and growing sixth form. Current A levels include: Sports Studies, Art and Design, Design Technology, Photography, Business Studies, Moving Image Arts, ICT, Drama, Philosophy and Ethics (RE), Hospitality, Health and Social Care, Science and Travel and Tourism.

Within the North Belfast Area Learning Community pupils can access additional A levels including Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, French and Politics.

*"Were we to know the merit and value of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than silver and gold."*

GCSE		LEVEL 3 COURSES GCE A Levels - BTEC National Diplomas - Cambridge Technical Diplomas				Career Pathway
<p><b>7+ A*-C at GCSE usually with a C or better in English and Maths</b></p> <p><b>5+ A*-C at GCSE usually without English and/or Maths</b></p>	<p>Pick any 3 courses</p> <p>→</p>	<p><b>BUSINESS STUDIES</b></p> <p><b>Life Science</b></p> <p><b>SPORT</b></p> <p><b>Photography</b></p> <p><b>Design &amp; Technology</b></p>	<p><b>Art</b></p> <p><b>Religion</b></p> <p><b>HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL CARE</b></p> <p><b>TRAVEL AND TOURISM</b></p>	<p><b>BUSINESS STUDIES</b></p> <p><b>ICT</b></p> <p><b>SPORT</b></p> <p><b>HOSPITALITY</b></p> <p><b>Moving Image Art</b></p>	<p><b>NBALC</b></p> <p><b>English Literature</b></p> <p><b>Biology</b></p> <p><b>Geography</b></p> <p><b>Drama</b></p> <p><b>History</b></p> <p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p><b>French</b></p> <p><b>Politics</b></p> <p><i>Other subjects available</i></p>	<p>→</p> <p><b>University Further Education Degree Level 4</b></p> <p><b>Apprenticeship</b></p> <p><b>Gap Year Employment Volunteering</b></p> <p>→</p> <p><b>Further Education</b></p> <p><b>Employment Level 3 Apprenticeship</b></p>

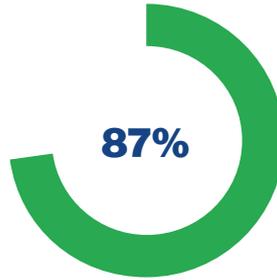
**\*BTEC Courses are shown in CAPITALS**

# Pupil Success

Percentage of pupils attaining 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C



Percentage of pupils attaining C or above in at least 3 A level subjects



Percentage of pupils achieving 2 A Levels 100%



# Edmund Rice College WINS Silver Award in The Lockdown Hero Award for Learner and Community Support

Selected from thousands of nominations, Edmund Rice College were honoured as one of 102 Pearson National Teaching Silver Award winners across the country in May 2021. Edmund Rice College was honoured with a Silver Award in The Lockdown Hero Award for Learner and Community Support for “outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children they work with every day” Pearson May 2021.

We were recognised for how we responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by introducing a range of initiatives to provide support to pupils, parents, and the wider community, including the Online Community Hub which provides a digital toolkit of support on issues such as Special Educational Needs, Wellbeing and Mental Health.

Edmund Rice College travelled to London in December to the Gold Awards ceremony, in a programme that was broadcast on the BBC. This was a great opportunity to celebrate the exceptional school staff across Northern Ireland and the UK who have worked wonders during an incredibly challenging time for educators across the country.

The Silver Award winners were honoured as part of the wider celebrations for ‘Thank a Teacher Day’, a national campaign to honour and recognise school staff for their incredible work. The celebrations follow new data which shows how the previous year’s lockdowns have significantly changed how families across the country view the role of teachers.

*Paul Berne, Principal of Edmund Rice College said: “**This award is testament to the hard work, dedication and most importantly care demonstrated by the whole school community during an incredibly challenging time. I am very proud of our staff, pupils and families.**”*

PEARSON  
NATIONAL  
TEACHING  
AWARDS



# SEN Provision

## What is our SEN provision at Edmund Rice College?

Ethos

**1** The Learning Support department at Edmund Rice College is a dedicated, hardworking and caring team that strives to do the best for our pupils to enable them to become independent and active contributors in our society. Learning Support provision in our school follows a holistic approach; everyone works together to maximise the development of our students. We firmly believe in working as a team and liaise with home regularly so we can ensure that everyone at home and at school are working together to best cater for the needs of our pupils.

**2** Differentiated lessons to suit our student's needs. This means that each student will have access to the curriculum at the appropriate level. Teachers tailor lessons to support each student appropriately, largely dictated by the needs/targets set out on their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Homework is also appropriately set for each student based on their level of learning and to ensure that success is possible to build on self-esteem and confidence. Reduced homework timetables can be arranged based on the specific needs of the pupils.

**5** Numeracy support classes are offered after school in the form of our Numeracy Club. Again, students in need of support are identified via STAR Numeracy testing and support is offered through our Numeracy Ninja programme in school. In our after school sessions, students work in smaller groups, which means they can get practice with essential Numeracy skills in a more focused scenario away from traditional classroom teaching styles. We aim to make these classes engaging and enjoyable and offer a hands-on approach, where students learn and have fun at the same time. For students who are well below average in their numeracy attainments, we also offer Numeracy intervention during school time in small group sessions with a specialist support teacher.

**3** We have smaller sized classes in Years 8-12 made up of groups of specially chosen students based on varying Special Educational Needs. The classes are small in size to allow for more specialist learning support to be given where required, and students benefit from access to increased additional adult attention. Students placed in these classes can move to larger mainstream sized classes when they reach their IEP targets and staff are confident of the progress they have made. Progress is carefully monitored via Key Assessments as well as standardised STAR Literacy and Numeracy data.

**4** Literacy support classes are run in school and after school in our Literacy club. Students in need of support are identified via STAR Literacy testing and support is offered through our Accelerated Reader programme. In these literacy classes and after school sessions, students are taught Literacy skills and given additional support to assist them with any Literacy difficulties they may have. For students who are well below average in their literacy attainments, we also offer Literacy intervention during school time in small group sessions with a specialist support teacher.



Miss C. Deery SENCO |

*Behaviour and Well-Being*

**6** We also run small specialist classes which focus on supporting students with behavioural and/or emotional and well-being difficulties. Social, emotional and behaviour intervention groups assist students that need extra assistance with their social skills and communicating emotions and behaviours effectively. Students have the opportunity to socialise and build on their own self-esteem and/or work on managing their behaviour in a safe and nurturing environment. Students with behavioural difficulties are brought out in short 1:1 sessions and follow a behaviour programme adapted from resources provided by the Post-Primary Behaviour Support Service (EA). Students in emotional and/or behavioural need are also provided with a Time-out card and given access to our Learning Support respite facilities when required. Finally, we have quiet and calm areas designated for respite required during unstructured times; break and lunch. Confidence and self-esteem building is paramount for success. We believe when the students see you have faith in their ability and achievable opportunities are created, their confidence will grow. All teachers and learning support staff are committed to ensuring the development of self-esteem and positive behaviour where necessary, via the student IEP and in conjunction with our Pastoral Care Team.



**7** Classroom Assistant support is also widely used across the school. Classroom assistants are directed by Mrs Cust but largely by the subject teacher in terms of their role within the classroom. This includes:

- Keeping the students on task.
- Helping with organisational skills.
- Giving comfort and reassurance where needed.
- Assisting with the tasks given by the teacher. Their role is primarily to ensure the student can fully access the curriculum and fulfil their potential.
  - \*Provide exam support in the form of reader/ scribe/prompter during exam season.
- Build up a rapport with their students once they are assigned. This can take the form of some light-hearted card and board games in the Learning Support Hub at appropriate times of the day/ year. It is important that good mutual working relationships exist between our assistants and our students; but mostly that our students can develop trust and feel safe and content with the adult looking after them. We enjoy a hive of activity in our Learning Support Hub day-to-day where we are proud to say our children feel safe, secure and surrounded with love.



*Additional Adult Assistance*

*After school*  
**Extra**  
**Curricular**  
**Activities**

**Homework Club**

**Maths Club**

**Numeracy Club**

**Choir**

**Soccer**

**ICT Club**

**Board Games Club**

**Hurling/Camogie**

**Gaelic Football**

**Basketball**

**Netball**

**Boxing Club**

**Literacy Club**

**Language Club**

**GCSE Booster**

**Revision Classes**

**History Club**

**Dance Club**

**Art Club**

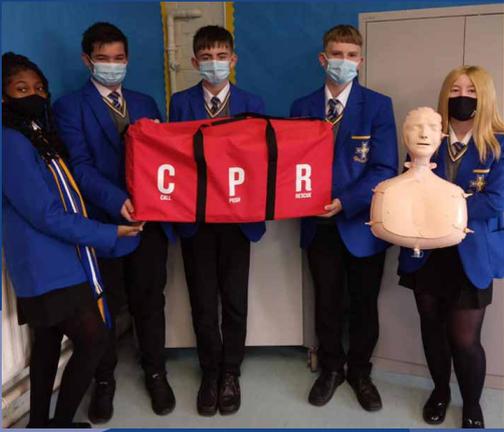
**Technology Club**

**Lego Club**

**Golf Club**

**Eco Club**





*"If you only acquire humility, it will always guide you safely."*

# Sport

The PE department at Edmund Rice College seeks to provide health-related exercise and sporting opportunities to all pupils, laying the building blocks to a healthy lifestyle and the opportunity for sporting excellence. The PE department seeks to deliver our objective by providing a range of sporting and active opportunities that pupils can enjoy. We seek to encourage participation, identify talent and develop performance in an attempt to promote healthy lifestyles.

The PE department also offers a pathway in academic classes, to encourage career paths in the sports industry. This is provided through the BTEC syllabus. At Key Stage 4, the pupils follow BTEC sports Level 2 and at Post 16 we offer the Level 3 course.

This has provided the route for many of our pupils to continue their enjoyment of sport and have a career doing what they love.





# Careers Education, Advice, Information & Guidance

Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance (CEAIG) in Edmund Rice College provides students with the opportunity to complete effective research, discuss with tutors any issues relating to career choices and assist them in their decision making throughout the key transition stages during their school years.

A structured programme has been developed to ensure that careers education is fully integrated into the curriculum and meets the needs of all pupils. The Careers Team within Edmund Rice College aims to assist all students to find the most appropriate pathway for them and welcomes contact with parents during this sometimes difficult period.

The boys and girls have the support and help from all staff members and they have the opportunity to cover a variety of topics including:

- Learning about different job roles
- Creating CVs
- Becoming familiar with recruitment procedures
- Carrying out research
- Developing and building on a personal profile
- Taking part in role play interviews
- Planning and carrying out relevant
- Work Experience
- Visiting workplaces to gain insight into the working world
- Listening to guest speakers
- Attending careers events
- Completing application forms
- Researching and applying for university.



Careers in Edmund Rice has increasingly become much more high profile throughout the school and indeed plays a vital and prominent role in all subjects. Each year we enjoy a 'Careers Awareness Week', during this week we invite past pupils into our classroom to talk to the students about their chosen career path and the ups and downs they have encountered on their way. They continuously provide valuable advice to our students and some go the extra mile to lend one to one guidance and support in their area of expertise. These past pupils are an invaluable resource within our school.



# ERC at the Heart of the community

In 2017 we launched our physical, face-to-face community hub based on the school site.

The aims of our hub are adapted from our "ERC" ethos:

*Engage all  
Reach out  
Care for Community*

We aim to provide a support network for the local community and offer a range of services to meet the community needs. In the beginning, we offered a series of night classes and training sessions for the community ranging from Dyslexia and ASD awareness sessions, to training on the use of assistive technology, and we also set up a very successful ASD youth club. Furthermore, we organised a number of social events in collaboration with our PTA such as a Halloween disco, Christmas Fair and a Summer BBQ.

Unfortunately, everything was put on hold in March 2020 with the Covid19 pandemic and as Lockdowns and restrictions continue, the decision was made to move to an online support platform. We put out a survey into the community and the vast majority returned a response in favour of the creation of an online hub and included an insight into their local needs. The overarching need for support at this time is surrounding Mental Health. To that end, we decided to put together a range of support resources and programmes and launched on Friday 5th February to mark the final day of a very uplifting Children's Mental Health week. We were given a free pre-recorded training session on Identifying and Dealing with Anxiety

by Caroline Bell of cbtrainingservices; a friend and past parent of ERC which marked our launch and we hope provides support and useful information to the public.

We want to raise awareness on a wide variety of community matters ranging from Health & Wellbeing, Careers, eSafety, Additional needs and more. We hope to offer a range of online learning skills programmes, adult GCSE classes, a book club, language classes, cookery classes and meet as many of the community needs as possible. We welcome individuals and organisations to come on board with us and get involved to help us grow and further develop this online platform.

There is a "Get involved" tab on the website to allow anyone to provide details of what skills and talents they'd like to offer.

In summary, with our move to an online platform we aim to Engage and Reach a wider audience and provide a Digital Toolbox of support and care for the community. While we cannot meet face to face, we can offer people support and care remotely from the comfort of their own home, at a time when a sense of community, connection and togetherness is needed more than ever before.



EDMUND

FRANCIS

1903

RICE COLLEGE





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Newtownabbey  
BT36 7AU

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[EdmundRiceCollege.co.uk](http://EdmundRiceCollege.co.uk)