

## **FAQ**

### **What is the fee structure?**

Fees are set annually by the Board of Management. A non-refundable deposit of €1,000 is payable on the offer of a place. The deposit will be offset against the school fees. The fees may be paid in full by 15th August or in 10 monthly instalments, by direct debit, commencing September.

### **How many students will there be in each class and how will they be organised?**

One hundred students are accepted into 1st Year. Places are allocated according to our Admissions Policy which is available on our website. Students are divided into 4 groups of 25 each. Each class has a tutor teacher with special responsibility for her/his class. A Year Head has responsibility for the entire 1st Year. In addition, each 1st Year student is appointed a “buddy” or friend who is a member of Sixth Year and who will take on the role of older sister to her charge, to ease the settling in process. Our Caomhnór (6<sup>th</sup> year student) is responsible for looking after all students new to the school including 1<sup>st</sup> years.

### **Will our daughter be in the same class as her friend?**

Students are placed in classes at random. When a number of students from the same primary school enter the school together, an effort is made to place at least two in the same class. It is not possible, however, to guarantee that particular friends will be in the same group. Students are urged to mix freely and to make a number of friends in their new school.

### **What subjects are studied by 1<sup>st</sup> Year students?**

1<sup>st</sup> year students will study for the new Junior Cycle Student Award. Subjects on offer include English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Religious Education, Science, P.E., French, German, Spanish, Home Economics, Business, Art, Music and I.T, Choir.

### **Are students streamed?**

In 1<sup>st</sup> Year all classes are of mixed ability.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> Year onwards, classes in Mathematics are “set” i.e. students are graded according to ability and classes of all levels run concurrently to enable movement when necessary. Levels are decided based on performance during 1st Year.

From 3<sup>rd</sup> Year onwards, classes in Irish are “set” i.e. students are graded according to ability and classes of all levels run concurrently to enable movement when necessary.

## **How are subjects decided upon for the Junior Cycle Student Award?**

Parents and students are invited to attend an information session on subject options in the Spring prior to entry to 1<sup>st</sup> year. The Guidance Counsellor provides information on the subjects on offer. Students may amend their subject choice at any point up to the October mid term break.

## **Is learning support provided for those who need it?**

If a student has a known learning difficulty, the school should be advised of this, so that learning support can be provided. A meeting will be arranged prior to the student joining the school so that the necessary support is provided. Assessments administered by the school during 1<sup>st</sup> Year may pick up challenges undetected until this point. Communication between the SEN Coordinator and parents about support ensures that the student reaches her potential. Learning support may necessitate a student's withdrawal from class for individual or small group tuition.

## **Is Guidance & Counselling provided?**

Our Guidance Counsellor is available for all students and a comprehensive guidance and counselling programme is an integral part of the school's curriculum. Our Guidance Counsellor and Chaplain meet all 1<sup>st</sup> year students. The Guidance Counsellor and the Chaplain work with the Pastoral Care Team to ensure that our students' pastoral needs are met.

## **Are iPads used in the classroom?**

All students have their own iPad for classroom use which is registered on the school iPad management system - Jamf. Books are uploaded to the iPad for use in school, hard copies of books remain at home, limiting the weight of school bags.

## **Are phones permitted in school?**

Our school is a phone free campus. Phones must be left in student lockers at the start of the school day.

## **What sports are played in the school?**

1<sup>st</sup> Years are encouraged to play a sport. While P.E. is part of the curriculum, sports take place after school and/or on Saturday mornings. Hockey and basketball are the two most popular sports in the school with Gaelic football, camogie, soccer, badminton, lacrosse, cricket, tennis, athletics, swimming and soccer also available.

## **What other extra-curricular activities are available?**

1<sup>st</sup> Year students are encouraged to involve themselves in a range of extra-curricular activities.

We offer:

- Book Club
- Science Club
- Debating
- Mission Possible Social Outreach
- Enterprise Club
- Green Schools Committee
- Chess Club
- Art Club
- Drama Club
- Library Committee

Students with musical ability are encouraged to join one of our musical groups. While choir is part of the curriculum, we also have Ceiliúr and an Orchestra. Additionally, members of the Folk Group meet at lunchtime on a voluntary basis.

### **Is supervised study provided?**

Given the length of the school day combined with the need to make new friends and acclimatise to second level we do not provide supervised study for 1<sup>st</sup> years.

### **What do students do during lunchtime?**

All students other than Sixth Years remain in school for morning break and during lunch. Students are encouraged to bring healthy food and drink for break times, or avail of the wide variety of hot food and snacks available to order from Food Village, our in school food provider. Lunchtime activities including some sports, clubs and committees provide an opportunity for students to become engaged in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities as well as make friends.

### **What is the length of the school day?**

Classes begin at 8.45 a.m. There is a short break from 10.45 to 10.55 a.m. Lunchtime runs from 12.55 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays school finishes at 3.45 p.m. On Wednesday classes finish at 12.55p.m.

### **How is contact maintained between school and parents?**

Communication is via email or the school app. Formal Parent/Teacher meetings are held once a year. Written reports are issued each term. The website contains updated information on the school.