

# Eureka Secondary School

Kells, Co. Meath



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# Fáilte

We are delighted to welcome you and your daughter to Eureka Secondary School!

We hope this prospectus will answer some of the questions you may have about our school and that it will give you a good insight into the range of curricular and extra-curricular areas we offer.

Our key aim in Eureka is to provide a quality and holistic education to meet the needs of all our students. We have a very committed and enthusiastic staff who work exceedingly hard to help students make the best of their time in the school. We set out to ensure that our students work and learn within a positive and encouraging environment where everyone is treated with consideration and respect. Our school focuses on achieving academic excellence and students of all abilities are enabled to reach their full potential. We are extremely pleased with the top grades and points achieved in the state examinations - our results at Junior and Leaving Certificate Levels are consistently above the national average. The uptake of higher level subjects at Eureka is also above the national average. In addition, students are encouraged to get involved in sporting and various extra-curricular activities - we regard these as an integral part of their development.

It is our vision that your daughter will emerge from Eureka as a mature, confident and well educated young lady equipped with a breadth of skills for the future and motivated to play an active, caring and responsible role in society.



**Caroline O'Reilly**, Principal



**Gabrielle Moran**, Deputy Principal

# Mission Statement

Eureka Secondary School is a voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of Ceist. Founded in 1924 the school continues the philosophy of care and education initiated by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy.

Eureka Secondary School aims to provide the highest quality of education possible to meet the needs of all students, within the limits of available resources and within an environment and ethos that promotes Christian values, mutual respect and responsible citizenship.

The staff, the school's most valued resource, are supported and encouraged in their work, and we aim to promote their individual and corporate development through supportive structures and in-service training, both internal and external.

The school is committed to maintaining a supportive partnership with parents who are the primary educators of their children; with employers, schools, the local community, and the parishes from which the pupils come.





# Curriculum

## Current Junior Cycle

Students study 6 compulsory & 3 optional exam subjects.

- Irish, English, Maths
  - History, Geography, CSPE
  - Religion, SPHE
  - PE, Computer Studies
- } **Compulsory**

- French, German, Spanish
  - Art, Business, Music
  - Home Economics, Science
- } **Optional (Language & 2 Others)**

## First Year Curriculum

In first year, students follow a common curriculum where they experience all subjects.

At the end of the year they then make a more informed choice regarding optional subjects they wish to continue with into junior cycle.

Career Guidance Counsellors/Subject Teachers provide advice to students on their choices.



## Transition Year Programme (Optional)

Transition Year is an optional one year programme which acts as a bridge between Junior and Senior Cycle. It enables students to develop skills and initiatives in a way that may not be possible in more exam-oriented contexts. Students complete modules in a wide range of interesting areas. Highlights of the year include work experience, trips, guest speakers and the school musical.

- Irish, English, Maths
  - European Language
  - Religion, PE, Computer Studies
- } **Compulsory**

### Modules on Offer

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Anthropology          | • History                 |
| • Art                   | • Home Economics          |
| • Business              | • Legal Studies           |
| • Chinese               | • Music                   |
| • Drama                 | • Photography             |
| • Driving & Road Safety | • Politics                |
| • Film Studies          | • Public Speaking         |
| • First Aid             | • Science                 |
| • Hair & Beauty         | • Young Social Innovators |
| • Health & Well-Being   |                           |

## Senior Cycle

Students study 7 exam subjects at senior level.

- Irish, English, Maths
  - Religion
  - PE
  - Computer Studies
  - Career Guidance
- } **Compulsory**

### Optional (4 subjects)

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| • French               | • Chemistry      |
| • German               | • Geography      |
| • Spanish              | • History        |
| • Accounting           | • Home Economics |
| • Art                  | • Music          |
| • Agricultural Science | • Physics        |
| • Biology              |                  |
| • Business             |                  |

## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Students taking LCVP follow the usual Leaving Cert Programme with an added vocational dimension and focus on enterprise, work and the community. They must include specific and relevant subject combinations in their choice of subjects for the Leaving Cert.



# Extra & Co-Curricular Activities

- Sports Activities:

Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Camogie, Equestrian, Gaelic Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis

- Art Competitions
- Book Club
- Ciorcal Comhrá
- Comenius – International Léargas Project
- Debating & Public Speaking
- Dissolving Boundaries – Cross Border Initiative
- European Language Exchanges
- Fieldtrips
- Film Club
- Gaisce Awards
- Gael Linn Debates
- Green Schools
- Healthy Eating
- HSE Girls in Action
- Life Saving & Survival
- Musicals
- Photography
- Poetry & Essay Writing Competitions
- Spanish Conversation Class
- Talent Show
- Vincent de Paul Group
- World Book Day





# Achievements



- Excellent academic reputation in state examinations
- One of the top Meath feeder schools to Irish universities
- National MATHletes Final, 2014
- Kangaroo Maths Award, 2014 – 3 Gold Certificates
- Eco- Unesco Finalists 2010-2013
- Concern Debating Competition Finalists 2013
- PAL (Public Access to Law), All Ireland Winners 2011, 2014 and represented Ireland at World Mock Trial Final 2011-14
- Irish Beaver Computing 2014, Gold Certificate Winners
- Continued success in numerous national Art Competitions, e.g. Credit Union, Bank of Ireland Student Awards, Doodle4Google
- Young Social Innovators (YSI) – Bring Organ Donation into Education, All Ireland Winners, 2013b
- Recipient of All Ireland Scholarships – JP McManus
- Recipient of Naughton Science Awards
- 3 Green Flags – Litter, Water & Energy
- University Entrance Scholarships to UCD, Trinity and Maynooth
- Long History of Successful School Musicals
- Outstanding sporting achievements including:
 

Gaelic Football	U16 All Ireland Champions, 2011 & 2014
Soccer	U15 and Senior Leinster Champions, 2012 U19 Leinster Finalists, 2014 Meath Futsal Champions, 2014
Basketball	1st Years, All Ireland Qualifiers, 2013 & 2014 2nd Years, All Ireland Qualifiers, 2013 & 2014
Athletics	All Ireland Finalists, 2013 & 2014
Swimming	Leinster Finalists, 2013
Badminton	Leinster Finalists, 2014

## Pastoral Care

*"A positive school climate encourages good relationships among students and between students and teachers" – (Moving Up, NCCA, 2004)*

The well-being of our students is of paramount importance and is enshrined in a well-structured Pastoral Care Programme.

**A Year Head** is in charge of each year group and is responsible for the general progress and discipline of students.

**A Tutor** takes care of each class. They offer support and encouragement to students in their care through a dedicated tutor programme which includes a comprehensive Anti-Bullying system.

**Guidance Counsellors** are available to meet students who may be experiencing difficulties.

**A School Chaplain** offers support and a listening ear and organises Liturgical Celebrations which mark many of the key points of a student and school life.

**A Special Needs Team** looks after and provides for students with Special Educational needs.

**A Care Team** looks after students who may be having problems and helps put support structures in place for them.

**Threads** is a peer-peer support group for all students working under the direction of the Care Team.

**Prefects** are specially selected and trained 6th Year students who support and encourage First Year students. The Prefects ensure their safe integration and involvement in school activities.



## Career Guidance & School Counselling

At Eureka, we are committed to offering a comprehensive Career Guidance and Counselling service to all our students. While we fully prepare our students for the transition from primary to post-primary school, we also equip them with the information and guidance they may need for entering university both in Ireland and across Europe.

**Our key services include:**

- **Counselling**
- **Careers/Colleges Information**
- **Assessment**
- **Advice on Subject Choices & Levels**
- **Study Skills**
- **Information Nights for Parents, e.g. 'Bridging the Transition from Primary to Post-Primary' for 1st Year Parents, 'Subject and Programme Choice for Senior Cycle', 'Pathways after Leaving Cert – CAO, UCAS & FETAC Information', 'TY Information Night' and 'Study Skills' for Leaving Cert Students**

## Learning Support

- The Learning Support Department offers provision for those pupils who have a learning difficulty and/or disability.
- We offer such students the appropriate support, tailored to their specific needs so that they have the opportunity to achieve their full, individual potential.
- We follow the ethos of Eureka Secondary School's mission statement and raise the self-esteem and confidence of students who have Special Educational Needs.
- We work in close collaboration with teachers of all subject areas, and parents, to facilitate the inclusion of all students with SEN into the school; this enables them to have access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum.



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# Looking at Our School - DES School Inspections

The following comments have been made by DES Inspectors following visits to our school in recent years.

*The care structures and delivery of care to students in Eureka Secondary School are a conspicuous strength of the school.*

*High quality learning and teaching were evident in all lessons observed combined with a positive classroom atmosphere.*

*There is a strong sense of ownership and commitment of the school among the entire staff.*

*Teachers are strongly committed to providing a quality service to students in the delivery of the curriculum.*

*Students' written and practical work indicates that very good progress is being made and students are very well organised and purposeful in their work.*

*There is good liaison between each subject department and teams supporting students with additional educational needs.*

*Very high expectations of the students were set in all lessons observed.*

*In all lessons, students were able to demonstrate clear knowledge and understanding of the topics.*

*An awareness of the pleasures and benefits of reading and writing is well promoted through the activities of the book club in the excellent school library.*

## New School 2016


We are pleased to announce that our new school is due for completion at the end of 2016! It will consist of a state-of-the-art two-storey building on the Cavan Road and will cater for a student population of 800, serving the town of Kells and its hinterland.

3D Image of New School







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