

# *Eureka Secondary School*



# FIRST YEAR PROGRAMME



## THINGS TO REMEMBER!

- All first years take the same subjects at a common level. Students do not have to decide whether to take higher or ordinary level in any subject until second year. Teachers will advise you.
- Students can take all or some of your subjects at a higher or ordinary level.
- Help and support are available in the first year for those who need it.
- The Entrance Assessment is on \_\_\_\_\_. The assessment helps us to identify those pupils who need learning support in first year. It also gives us an idea of your abilities so that we can check, as you go through secondary school if you are doing as well as you should.
- On the day of the Entrance Assessment, students will receive information on uniform, books, school rules, and school transport forms.
- Students will also be given a date when parents will be invited to the school for an information evening.

# FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM



In first year, all students follow a common curriculum, which is designed to give them experience of all the subjects available. This means that they are able to make an informed choice when choosing subjects (towards the end of first year) for the Junior Certificate. The following subjects are examined at Junior Cert. Level:

1. Religious Education
2. Irish
3. English
4. Mathematics
5. History
6. Geography
7. CSPE, (Civic Social and Political Education)
8. Two Languages (French and German or Spanish)
9. Business Studies
10. Science
11. Home Economics
12. Art
13. Music

*All students have weekly classes in Physical Education, SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) and Computer Studies. They will also have the opportunity to become involved in games at lunchtime and after school.*

# SUBJECT CHOICES



Towards the end of the first year, students are given plenty of time to choose subjects for second year, and they receive advice from their teachers and from *Career Guidance Counsellors*. They are given lists of subjects and choices that they may take home to consult with their *parent/guardians*.

Students continue with the compulsory subjects (1-7 inclusive) and choose up to three other subjects from the remainder.

Subject choices are grouped in such a way as to enable as many pupils as possible to study the subjects of their choice. However, it may not be possible to accommodate every pupil in this way. Account must also be taken of the numbers of students opting for a particular combination of subjects, limitations on class size in practical subjects, and the availability of teachers.

Parents/Guardians who have any queries regarding choices of subjects may consult with the teachers at the *Parent Teacher Meeting* for parents of first years, which is usually held during the second term in January or February.

# 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 daily tutor programme.
- Trained **School 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** who looks after students who may be having problems and help put support structures in place for them.
- **Threads** a peer-peer support group for all students working under the direction of the Care Team.
- **Prefects & Mentors** are specially selected and trained Senior students who **support and encourage** First Year students. They represent them on the school council and generally ensure their **safe integration** and involvement in school activities.
- Students are encouraged to become involved in **extra curricular activities** that help build friendship and develop self esteem thus preventing them from feeling isolated or threatened.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:** There is a Parent School Committee operating in the school. We welcome parents' involvement and value their ideas and suggestions to make the school a better place for all. There is a Board of Management in the school, on which there are two elected parents. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in the school.

**PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS:** Formal Parent/Teacher meetings take place once a year. A parent can meet the Class Tutor, Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal at any time by appointment.

**GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING:** The school provides Guidance and Counselling as an advice service to pupils and parents. This is available individually or in class groups.

### **CURRICULUM:**

**Junior Cycle:** Religion, Irish, English, Mathematics, French, German, Spanish, Science, History, Geography, Home Economics, Art, Business Studies, Music, CSPE, P.E., SPHE.

### **Senior Cycle:**

**Traditional Leaving Certificate:** Irish, English, Mathematics, French, German, Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science, Home Economics, History, Geography, Art, Accounting, Business, PE, Religion, Career Guidance, Computer Studies (ECDL optional)

**Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme:** Students taking the LCVP follow the usual Leaving Certificate programme with an added vocational dimension and a focus on enterprise, work and the community and provides students with the opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills which are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

**Leaving Certificate Applied Programme:** The Leaving Cert Applied Programme is organised in Modules. The programme includes: Communicative Irish, Mathematical Applications, English & Communications, Social Education, Vocational Preparation & Guidance Information Technology, Community Care, Hotel & Tourism, Arts/Visual or Drama, Religion, PE. The course also included one day per week Work Experience.

**Transition Year** is an optional one year programme which acts as a bridge between Junior and Senior Cycle. The programme is designed in Eureka to meet the needs of our students. In addition to the core subjects of Religion, Irish, English, Mathematics, European Language, PE and IT, students study a taster module of the Leaving Certificate subjects available in the school to help them to make informed choices when making their subject choices for Leaving Certificate. Transition Year in Eureka offers many opportunities to develop new skills and interests such as Driving & Road Safety, Legal Studies, Hair & Beauty, First Aid, Drama, Film Studies, Italian and Young Social Innovators (YSI). The highlights of the year include work experience, trips, visiting speakers and producing the annual school musical.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** We offer an extensive range of activities including sporting, cultural, social and artistic. These include athletics, badminton, etc (see list) together with a full Physical Education Programme. Co-curricular activities are also central to the student experience in Eureka. Some of these include public speaking, debating, poetry and essay writing competitions, fieldtrips, art competitions, Gaisce Awards, Young Social Innovators (YSI) and BT Young Scientist Competition.