

FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM

In First Year, all students follow a common curriculum, which is designed to allow them experience 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 Junior Certificate Subjects are offered:

Irish, English, Mathematics, History, Geography, CSPE, French, German, Spanish, Science, Home Economics, Business Studies, Art, Music

All students have weekly classes in Religious Education, Physical Education, SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) and Computer Studies. All first years take all subjects at a common level. Students do not have to decide whether to take higher or ordinary level in any subject until second year. Special needs support is available those who qualify for it.



SECOND YEAR SUBJECT CHOICES

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

Subject choices are grouped in a way which enables as many students as possible to study their chosen subjects. While every effort is made to accommodate students' choices, our ability to meet requirements is subject to resources provided by the DES.

Parents and 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 in January or February.

THE NEW JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

September 2014 sees the introduction of the New Junior Certificate on a phased basis. The main changes in the Junior Certificate are concerned with how subjects are taught and assessed. The learning at the core of the proposed new junior cycle is described in twenty-four statements of learning. It is also intended that students will master literacy and numeracy skills and that they will learn six other key skills which will be built into class planning, learning and assessment. These skills are:

- Managing myself
- Staying well
- Communicating
- Being creative
- Working with others
- Managing information and thinking.



In the new Junior Certificate

- English, Irish and Mathematics will be compulsory
- Schools will have the flexibility to decide which other subjects, short courses or other learning experiences will be provided in their three-year programme.
- Most students will study from eight to ten full subjects or their equivalent for examination purposes. A maximum of four short courses (each one equivalent to half a subject) may be included in a schools programme.
- The new curriculum specifications for subjects will be introduced on a phased basis beginning with the implementation of English in 2014. The specification for each subject will be available in schools a year prior to its implementation with first-year students

The Junior Certificate examination will be replaced by a new school-based model of assessment. As the new subjects are phased in, the following arrangements for assessment will be put in place.

- 40% of the marks will be allocated to the school work component completed during second and third year.
- 60% of the marks will be allocated to the actual Junior Certificate Examination taken at the end of 3rd year. This exam will be set by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) but will be taken, administered and marked in the school in May of the 3rd year.
- Standardised testing in English reading, Mathematics and Science towards the end of 2nd year for all schools will be introduced.
- English Irish and Mathematics will continue to be administered and marked by the SEC until arrangements for standardised testing in English reading and Mathematics for all schools and in Irish reading for Irish-medium schools are put in place and have become integrated into the assessment system.
- There will be two levels available in English, Irish, Mathematics and one level for other subjects.
- Short course will be assessed in school.

IMPORTANT DATES

Completed application form should be returned to the school secretary on or before Friday 13th December 2013

1st Year Assessment Saturday 1st February 2014

Eureka Secondary School



Prospectus
2014-2015



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Principal
Ms Caroline O'Reilly

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Ms Gabrielle Moran

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.

In Eureka we strive to create a community where mutual respects reigns, where personal standards of work and behavior are high, and where students grow to recognise fully their responsibilities both to themselves and to others. Our hope is that when they leave school they may be better able to take their place in society as mature and responsible citizens imbued with the Christian values, which are the inspirations of this school.

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.



SCHOOL CURRICULUM

JUNIOR CYCLE: Religion, Irish, English, Mathematics, French, German, Spanish, Science, History, Geography, Home Economics, Art, Business Studies, Music, CSPE, P.E., I.T. & SPHE.

SENIOR CYCLE: Religion, Irish, English, Mathematics, French, German, Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science, Home Economics, History, Geography, Art, Music, Accounting, Business, PE, Career Guidance, Computer Studies.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME: Students taking the LCVP follow the usual Leaving Certificate Programme with an added vocational dimension and focus on enterprise, work and the community. It provides students with the opportunity to develop 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.

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 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, 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 sporting, cultural, social and artistic activities. 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. We encourage all students to become involved in **extra-curricular activities** that help build friendship, develop self-esteem and foster a sense of belonging to the school community.

SPORTING & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Athletics, Badminton, Basketball,
Debating, Camogie, Equestrian, Golf,
Young Social Innovators (YSI)
Soccer, Swimming, Gaelic Football, Tennis
Quiz, Life Saving and Survival

Debating./Public Speaking, Spanish Debates

Gaisce Awards, Art Competitions

HSE Girls in Action

Gael Linn Debates

BT Young Scientist Competition

Public Access to Law



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.

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 reassure First Year students. The Prefects assist the integration of the first years into the school community and their involvement in school activities.