

*Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.*

# EUREKA

SECONDARY SCHOOL





# 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



**David Wright**  
Deputy Principal



**Mary Mullaghy**  
Deputy Principal

**EUREKA**  
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## Our Crest

In 2017, a new crest was created for Eureka representing the many aspects of the school. The crown at the top, originally found on the shield of the Mercy Order who established Eureka in 1956, is symbolic of Our Blessed Lady as our Queen. The open book signifies teaching and learning; it simultaneously provides a reference to the famous Book of Kells, which was completed in the local Columban monastery, itself a centre of learning in the early Christian period in Ireland. Rays of light shine on the book; these represent the enlightenment and inspiration provided by education. This theme is echoed in the school's motto "Lux et Veritas", meaning "Light and Truth". The salmon of knowledge further relates to the importance of learning. Finally, the triple spiral, a notable Celtic motif which originated at Newgrange, signifies the three core values of Eureka: **learning, respect and community.**







## Aims of the school



To provide an environment that will enable us to recognise the individuality and uniqueness of each student and to cater for her specific needs.



To promote and support the Catholic ethos of the school, while facilitating the spiritual and personal development of all students, whatever their religious experience.



To provide a comprehensive social, personal and health education programme that will enable students to be, well-informed, responsible, healthy and well-adjusted adults.



To provide a variety of programmes in order to cater for the different needs of students.



To provide the best possible facilities for Physical Education so as to enable students to pursue a healthy life-style, encourage teamwork, learn social skills, build resilience and be aware of the importance of work and recreation in their lives.



To provide as wide a range as possible of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.



To provide opportunities for staff to enhance their professional and personal development so as to achieve the above aims.



To provide channels of communication to parents so as to keep them informed, to invite feedback, and to foster mutual support and partnership in achieving our aims.



## Our School

Eureka is a voluntary Catholic Secondary School for girls, operating under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust). Our current enrolment is over 700 students with a dedicated staff of 50. Our teachers are a highly qualified, dynamic group who inspire our students to succeed. The Board of Management manages the school on behalf of the patron and is accountable to the patron and the Minister. The Parents' Association is the structure through which parents/guardians in the school can work together for the best possible education for their children.





## Promoting spiritual and Human Development

We believe a knowledge of and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ give meaning and purpose to our lives.

## Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning

We are committed to excellence and to continually improving the quality of teaching and learning.

## showing Respect for Every Person

We respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person.

## Creating Community

Our schools are faith communities of welcome and hospitality where Gospel values are lived and where there is special care for those most in need.

## Being Just and Responsible

We seek to act justly and responsibly in all our relationships.



# State-of-the-art Facilities

- 5 Science Laboratories
- 2 Home Economics Kitchens
- 2 Art Rooms
- 2 Music Rooms
- 1 Technology Room
- 2 Information Technology Rooms
- 1 Religion and Meditation Room
- 1 Multi-Media Language Centre
- 1 Library
- 1 Demonstration Room
- 30 General Classrooms
- 2 Career Guidance Offices
- 1 Learning Support Room
- 6 Pastoral Rooms
- 1 Parents' Room
- 1 Large General Purpose Area
- Spacious Corridors
- Championship Sports Hall (including changing facilities)
- Performance Area
- Outdoor Seating Areas
- Landscaped Courtyards and Gardens
- Organic Garden
- 1 Staffroom
- 1 Meeting Room
- Reception & Administration Suite of Offices
- First Aid Room
- 9 Student Toilet Blocks
- Lift access for students or staff with a disability
- Outdoor basketball and tennis courts
- Full playing pitch
- Soccer pitch
- Canteen facilities
- Supervised Evening Study





# Curriculum

## Current Junior Cycle

Students study 6 compulsory & 3 optional exam subjects

### Core subjects

Irish, English, Maths
History, Geography
Religion

### Short Courses

Wellbeing
SPHE
Drama
Choir
IT
PE

### Optional subjects

Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)
Art, Business, Music
Home Economics, Science
Technology, Technical Graphics

## First Year Curriculum

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

## Key Skills



## Transition Year Program

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. Work Experience is an integral part of the TY Experience in Eureka with the opportunity to source placements for four assigned weeks. Highlights of the year include Trips, Guest speakers, the Musical, and a Fashion Show.

### Core subjects

Irish, English, Maths
European Language (French, German, Spanish)
Religious Studies, Physical Education, Information Technology, Microsoft Office Suite
Career Guidance

### Modules on Offer

Accounting	Film Studies	Mini Company
Agricultural Science	Food Studies	Music
Applied Maths	GAA Future Leaders	Peer Mediation
Art	Geography	Physics
Biology	Gender Inequality	Politics & Society
Business	Hair & Beauty	Psychology
Chemistry	Health & Well-Being	Public Speaking
Community Care	History	Sociology
Craft	Home Economics	Technical Graphics
Design, Communication & Graphics	Horticulture	Wellbeing
Drama	Interior & Textile Design	Young Social Innovators
Environmental Studies	Legal Studies	





## Senior Cycle

Students study 7 exam subjects at senior level.

### Core subjects

Irish, English, Maths
Religion
PE
Career Guidance

### Optional choices (4 subjects)

Accounting	German
Agricultural Science	History
Applied Maths	Home Economics
Art	Links Module
Biology	Music
Business	Physics
Chemistry	Physical Education (PE)
Design Communication & Graphics (DCG)	Politics & Society
French	Religion
Geography	Spanish

## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme/ Links Module

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 Certificate.

## Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical programme with a strong practical and vocational emphasis. It is one of three Leaving Certificate options offered by the Department of Education and Skills. There is a strong emphasis on Continuous Assessment and Work Experience is an integral part of the programme.

### Subjects include:

English and Communications
Mathematical Applications
Vocational Preparation and Guidance
Social Education
Introduction to Information Technology
Leisure and Recreation
Childcare and Community Care
Hotel, Catering and Tourism
Hair and Beauty
Religious Education
Career Guidance
Visual Art



# Extra & Co-curricular Activities

- Sports Activities: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Camogie, Equestrian, Gaelic Football, Golf, Rugby, GAA Referee Coaching, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis
- Art Competitions
- BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition
- Book Club
- Careers Fair
- Choir
- Ciorcal Comhrá
- Debating & Public Speaking
- Erasmus - International Léargas Project
- European Language Exchanges
- Fashion Show
- Fieldtrips
- Film Club
- Foreign Tours
- Gaisce Awards
- Gael Linn Debates
- Green Schools
- Healthy Eating
- Horticulture
- Life Saving & Survival
- Musicals
- Orchestra
- Photography
- Poetry & Essay Writing Competitions
- Rotary Club Leadership Awards
- SciFest
- Ski Trip
- Spanish Conversation Class
- Spanish Debating
- Talent Show
- Tráth na gCeist
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- World Book Day
- Young Entrepreneurs
- Youth Ministry Initiative











## Achievements/ Awards

- Excellent academic reputation in State Examinations
- AILLO (All Ireland Linguistic Olympiad) National Finalists 2019
- Top Meath feeder school to Irish Universities
- Student Enterprise National Final Award 2019
- Young Social Innovators (YSI) – Bring Organ Donation into Education, All Ireland Winners, 2013 & It's the Yes, not the Dress, All Ireland Winners, 2016
- PAL (Public Access to Law), All Ireland Winners 2011, 2014 and 2015 and represented Ireland at World Mock Trial Final 2011-2014 and 2016
- Mock Trial Award 2019
- Age Action Ireland Award 2018
- Business Enterprise Awards 2018 & 2019
- All Ireland Scholarships – JP McManus Award
- Naughton Science Scholarships
- BT Young Scientist & Technology Finalists
- Regional Winners of the ISTA Senior Science Quiz
- Regional Winners of IMTA Maths Junior Cycle Quiz
- SciFest Regional Winners
- Chemistry Olympiad in DCU
- Aerprize 2018
- John Hooper CSO Awards 2019
- Webwise Ambassador Awards
- IoPI School Student Physics Award
- National MATHletes Finalists
- Green Flags – Litter, Water, Energy and Transport
- Eco-UNESCO Finalists
- Concern Debating Competition Finalists
- Continued success in numerous national Art Competitions, e.g. Credit Union, Bank of Ireland Student Awards, Doodle4Google
- Long History of Successful School Musicals
- Annual recipients of University Entrance Scholarships



## Outstanding recent sporting achievements including:

### Athletics & Cross Country:

- All Ireland Finalists, 2013 – 2019
- Meath Athletics Championships – Frank Fagan Memorial Cup 2018

### Badminton:

- Leinster Finalists, 2014

### Basketball:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Years, All Ireland Qualifiers, 2010-2014, 2016, 2018
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year All Ireland Semi-Finalists 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Years, All Ireland Qualifiers, 2010-2014, 2016
- Senior All-Ireland Semi-Finalists 2018 & 2019

### Gaelic Football:

- U16 All Ireland Champions, 2010 & 2014
- Leinster Finalists 2011, 2013, 2016
- Leinster Champions 2018 & 2019

### Golf:

- East Leinster Senior Champion 2014, 2018

### Handball:

- Leinster Finalists, 2016

### Rugby:

- Junior & Senior Leinster Finalists

### Soccer:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Leinster Finalists 2019
- U15 and Senior Leinster Champions, 2012 U19 Leinster Finalists, 2014 Meath Futsal Champions, 2014 U19 Leinster League Div 1 Champions 2015

### Swimming:

- Leinster Winners, 2015, 2016
- All Ireland Schools Senior Relay Champions 2015 (for both Freestyle and Medley relays)



# Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

*“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. Pastoral Care activities available in our school include:

- Mental Health Awareness Week / World Mental Health day - Keeping active and connected
- Study Skills Workshops for all years both inhouse and with outside agencies
- Anti-Bullying Week/ Stand Up Awareness Week
- Healthy Eating program
- Internet Safety Awareness Week/ Cyberbullying

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

**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.

**Anti-Bullying** system Guidance Counsellors are available to meet students who may be experiencing difficulties.

**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.

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

**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.



## Student Leadership

Student Council – Student Voice

Head Girl & Deputy Head Girl

Prefects

### 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
- Careers Fair
- Information Nights for Parents, e.g. 'Bridging the Transition from Primary to Post-Primary' for 1<sup>st</sup> Year Parents, 'Subject and Programme Choice for Senior Cycle', 'Pathways after Leaving Cert – CAO, UCAS & FETAC Information', 'TY Information Night' and 'Study Skills' for Junior and Leaving Cert Students

## Learning Support & Differentiation

- 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.
- 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 employ Team Teaching/ Co-Teaching and Differentiated Learning Methodologies.





## Looking At Our School

School Self Evaluation Literacy, Numeracy, Assessment for Learning, Digital Learning Framework

## Global Education

The **Erasmus** program helps students study abroad for a more rounded global education experience.

**Youth Ministry Initiative** – some students accompany the parish pilgrimage to Lourdes as helpers.

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KELLS, CO. MEATH

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