

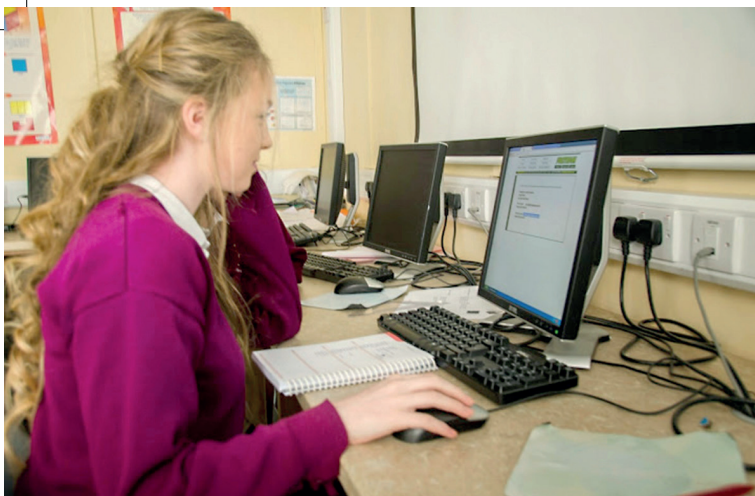


ST. JOSEPH'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Charlestown, Co. Mayo. Tel: 094 9254211 • Email: info@sjcc.ie • Website: www.sjcc.ie



 www.facebook.com/stjosephs.charlestown  @sjcc_ie



Welcome

St Joseph's Community College is a co-educational school delivering educational excellence to the community of Charlestown and the surrounding areas.

Our school is committed to a high quality education and adopts a holistic approach to the education of each student in our care.

St. Joseph's Community College offers an extensive programme of Junior and Leaving Certificate subjects. The wide range of subjects that we have available gives everyone an opportunity of choosing subjects that suit them best.

A committed and dedicated staff encourages every student to reach his/her full potential in every aspect of school life. In addition, students are encouraged to take as many higher level subjects as possible.

We also take great pride in our sporting and extra-curricular activities, these are very important areas for the development of our students and we hope that they find them to be enjoyable experiences.

St Joseph's Community College is a thriving centre for education that can offer your child a safe, modern and nurturing environment to develop into well rounded, responsible and educated individuals.

Elaine Harte

Principal



Elaine Harte
Principal



John Bones
Deputy Principal

Motto:

“Growing in Grace, Age and Wisdom”

Mission Statement

St. Joseph's Community College seeks to create an inclusive school community where values, attitudes and behaviours consistent with its Christian ethos are fostered. In partnership with parents and the wider community, it respects individual self-worth and aims to provide a safe environment in which each student may achieve his/her full potential inclusive of spiritual and academic.





Pastoral Care

The whole school inspection in 2009 describes the school as “a happy, friendly and welcoming environment that positively promotes and supports the holistic development and welfare of all students”. We foster pupil care through taster elements for all subjects in first year, year heads, senior pupils who ‘mentor’ first years, induction days for incoming first years, evening study and a guidance counsellor.

The Pastoral Care structure in St. Joseph’s involves; the principal, deputy principal, year heads, the student council, the senior mentors, the career guidance counsellor, the learning support/SEN room, the SPHE and Religious Education teams. The team all co-ordinate their efforts to ensure that every student at the college has a happy and beneficial school career.

- Each individual first year is assigned a senior mentor for a period of one year.
- Each individual year group is assigned a year head.
- The induction of first year students in September is considered of great importance as students from up to 10 feeder schools get to know each other and adjust to a new school environment.

Aims

- To create a happy, close knit school community.
- To create an environment where respect and care for each individual is experienced as real and practical.
- To create an environment of co-operation and justice.
- To build an atmosphere that stimulates the growth of the whole person.
- To encourage students to reach their full potential and take responsibility.
- To give needful support to all, especially those affected by personal or domestic circumstances.
- St. Joseph’s endeavours to promote and encourage the holistic development of the students, in keeping with the mission statement of the school
- The Ethos of St. Joseph’s Community College is consistent with our Christian past.
- Although a small school in size, we are big in heart and spirit.





Transfer Programme

“The Transition from primary to post-primary education has been recognised as a crucial stage in young people’s schooling career”

The Transfer Programme of St. Joseph’s Community College aims to-

- Prepare the students for the challenges they may experience in the transfer from primary to post-primary school
- Integrate students from different primary schools so they have an opportunity to meet and work together
- Ease the transition process to ensure that students are happy in first year and make good progress in their studies

The Transfer Programme for in-coming first years includes:

- Presentation in the feeder national schools about the school, subjects, activities, student experiences, the Open Evening and the Taster Day.
- Open Evening which includes tours, demonstrations, practicals, talks, brochures and interaction between parents and teachers
- Enrolment Evening and meeting with the Principal



Anti-Bullying School

Teachers, pupils and parents have received training in identifying bullying, especially cyber-bullying. Pupils are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying or harassment immediately. All complaints are dealt with in a discrete and sensitive manner. A big emphasis is placed on this when students arrive in first year. Students have been encouraged to watch out for each other and this has been very successfully carried out through the mentoring system for first years. An Anti-Bullying week takes place every year and the students participate in the Cool Schools Programme.

Student Council:

The Student Council consists of a representative body elected from and by the general cohort of students in the school. The Student Council gives the students the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns and also to play an active role in decision making in the school.

All years have 2 representatives, one male and one female. The class reps consult with their class about issues the Student Council are discussing. The student reps act as a conduit for the students to voice their opinions. The Student Council consists of 12 members and the Council comprises of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and a PRO.





Junior Certificate Curriculum

We offer a comprehensive and varied curriculum which provides our students with a range of subjects that meet all learning needs.

Irish, English, Mathematics, French, History, Geography, Science, Business, Woodwork, Technical Graphics, Home Economics, Art, Craft & Design, Religious Education, Digital Media Literacy, C.S.P.E.-Civic, Social & Political Education, S.P.H.E.-Social, Personal & Health Education, Physical Education., Music and Metalwork.

Senior Cycle Curriculum

Each student studies seven or more subjects for Leaving Cert – the core subjects are English, Irish, Maths and four other subjects.

We offer a choice from the following subjects:

French, Geography, Construction, Design & Communication Graphics, Business, Economics, Accountancy, Biology, Physics & Chemistry, Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Art, Career Guidance, Religion/R.E., Computers, Home Economics (Social & Scientific), Music and Engineering, LCVP (Leaving Cert Vocational Programme)





Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (Link Modules)

The LCVP (Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme) Link Modules programme was introduced in 1994. The primary goal of the LCVP is to prepare young people for adult life. It is a 2-year programme consisting of a Portfolio which is worth 60% of all marks and a theory exam worth 40% of all marks.

Portfolio – Divided in to core & optional items:

Core Items (4)

- Curriculum Vitae
- Summary Report
- Career Investigation
- Action Plan

Optional Items (2 out of 4)

- Work Experience Diary
- Enterprise Report
- Recorded Interview
- Report on “My own Place”

Theory – Students must complete 2 theory modules over the 2 years:

- Preparation for the world of work.
- Enterprise Education.

Throughout the programme students are encouraged to develop many skills:

- Be innovative and enterprising.
- Take responsibility for their own learning.
- Develop planning & communication skills.
- Teamwork & organisation skills.
- Investigate local businesses and community enterprises.
- Complete work placement.

Over 80% of students use LCVP as their 6th subject for college courses.

**Revised points for LVCP Link Modules,
introduced in 2017**

LCVP LINK MODULES GRADE	CURRENT POINTS	REVISED POINTS
Distinction	70	66
Merit	50	46
Pass	30	28



Transition Year - 1 year

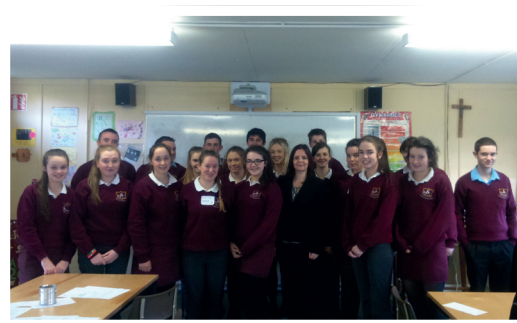
Transition year is available to students who wish to take time before moving into fifth year. Transition year in St. Joseph's Community College strives to provide a learning programme which promotes maturity, builds self-confidence, encourages students to gain competence in the core academic subjects and to develop personal skills. The Transition year programme is more student centered rather than exam focused and aims to strike a good balance between the academic and the practical dimensions.

The structure of the programme is:

- 3 x 10 week blocks
- 3 x 1 week work experience.
- A credit system is in operation.

Our students experience a varied programme with activities which include:

- Team Building
- First Aid Course
- Guest speakers: Aware, Road Safety talk, Health,
- GAA & Spike ball Coaching
- Poetry Slam
- Public Speaking
- Bodyworks
- Personal Safety
- Gaise
- Knock Youth Congress
- YSI: Young Social Innovators
- John Paul II Awards
- BT Young Scientist
- TF Road Safety Exhibition
- Trip to National University of Ireland Galway (Careers)
- Community Involvement: St Attracta's Nursing home, Carol Singing, Traders, Charlestown Community Futures and Traders Bag Packing-St Vincent de Paul
- Outreach Programme: Aras Attracta
- Mini Company, School Bank
- Trip to the Dail,
- Law Workshop
- Music: Drumming, Music Generation, Choir
- Gold of Desert Kings Workshop
- Disability Awareness Training
- Cultural Trip to Dublin
- International Tour





National Literacy Strategy

For many years St. Joseph's has focused on the importance of literacy.

- In line with the national strategy all first years are tested for their reading ages and these are compared to the national average and happily our pupils are well above average.
- Twice yearly we hold a Reading Week event where pupils read for pleasure one class per day every day. This has been a great success in the school. Every English teacher promotes reading by having boxes of books in their rooms.
- We use a literacy noticeboard to display items of interest to pupils such as competitions and subject-based material. This display changes regularly.
- Each classroom has been decorated with posters and displays in order to create a print rich environment for the pupils to enjoy.
- The teachers use a Keyword strategy in all classrooms in order to teach subject-specific vocabulary.

Career Guidance

- A comprehensive career guidance counselling service is available to all pupils in St. Joseph's Community College.
- The Guidance Counsellor helps pupils with queries, subject choice, planning and study, course selection and in their transition to further study or work etc.
- Career trips are organised by the Guidance Counsellor with all senior pupils availing of one per year. E.g. NUIG open day, careers fair, Higher Options.
- By senior cycle all pupils have sat aptitude tests and received feedback on their personal profile.
- A number of visiting speakers visit the career guidance classes and speak about various colleges and courses etc.
- All senior pupils receive one class of career guidance per week and can conduct their own research in the computer room. Priority is given to CAO/UCAS forms, grants, scholarships, apprenticeships, PLCs etc.
- All 6th years are allocated a one to one interview with the Guidance Counsellor.
- Good cross-curricular links exist with LCVP where pupils prepare a career investigation and undertake work experience etc.

Learning Support and Special Educational Needs

The school caters for all pupils regardless of ability. It offers a secure, safe environment which supports pupils who have medical, learning or physical disabilities etc. The teaching staff is warm and welcoming, adapt their lessons and offer great personal attention in small classes.

- Screening tests take place for all incoming first years in order to identify areas of concern.
- Strong links exist between the local national schools and information is gathered about incoming pupils.
- Dedicated Learning Support room.
- Individual meetings with parents where appropriate.
- Detailed records kept on each pupil.
- Staff briefed at the start of each year about the accommodations needed for each pupil concerned.
- IEPs devised and a term plan for pupils.
- Experienced resource teachers and SNAs



Sport

The Sports Programme at St Joseph's Community College is an important part of the school curriculum and caters for the sporting interests of all our students, both male and female.

- Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Handball
- Spike Ball
- Basketball
- GAA Coaching
- Spike Ball Coaching
- Futsal

Sporting modules have also included:

- Goal ball
- Zumba
- Yoga
- Pilates
- Boxercise
- Circuits



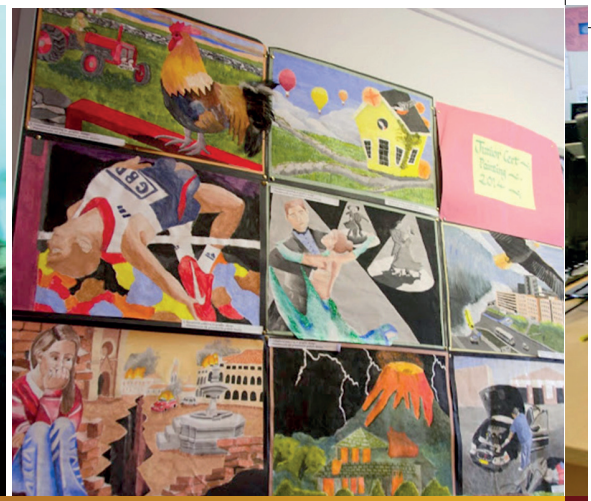
*U-16 Girls Basketball B All Ireland
Semi-Final 2014*

*1st & 2nd year Girls Regional Spikeball
Finalists 2015*

Connacht Juvenile Final winners 2016

*St. Joseph's Community College won
the Flanagan Cup Final in 2014 and the
Edmund Rice Cup Final in 2016*





Extra-Curricular Activity

St Joseph's Community College provides a wide range of co-curricular activities for all our students, these include:

Drama:

- Trips to the theatre to see plays on both the Junior and Leaving Certificate courses
- Visits from local poets, poet in residence, writers
- A trip to Dublin to engage in the short story writing workshop 'Fighting Words'
- World Book Day/National Poetry Day

Religion:

- Trips to the local church
- Interview with Parish Priest
- Liturgical Services (Lent, Advent, Confessions, etc.)
- World Religion Projects
- Research Various Charities/Guest Speakers
- Meditation/Taize
- Annual visit from Bishop Kelly.

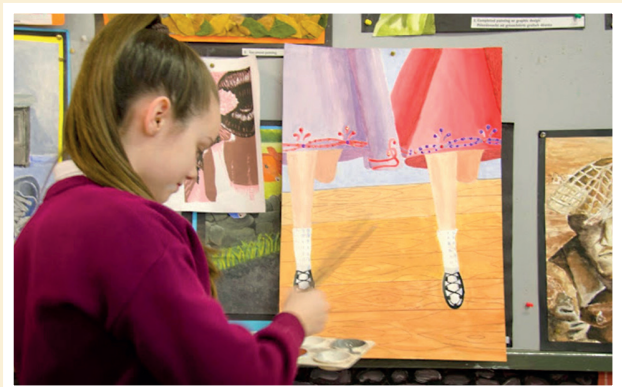
Charity Events & Activities

1. St Vincent de Paul-
 - Action for Social Justice Youth Project
 - Hamper Appeal
 - Bag packing
2. Age Action
 - Innocent Big Knit
3. MS Readathon- First year Reading
4. Team Hope- Shoe Box Appeal (first-third year students)
5. Community Futures-
 - Bag pack
 - Santa's Grotto
 - Community Day



Projects & Competitions

- BT Young Scientists
- Art Competitions
- Subject Competitions





Information and Communication Technology

Information and Communication Technology has become an intrinsic part of school life in St Joseph's Community College. I.C.T facilities have been upgraded and include a networked computer suite of 30 work stations, printers and over-head projectors. We also have a fully equipped Design and Communications Graphics (D.C.G.) room, upgraded in September 2015. All our classrooms have a networked workstation and data projector with high speed broadband. The school's buildings are covered by a state of the art Wi-Fi system.

Staff and students have their own Microsoft Office 365 account. This allows, all users to engage in resource sharing, cloud storage, collaboration and communication including access to Office Online (Word, Power-Point, Excel and OneNote). Office 365 is web based, making it accessible from anywhere.

We are a pilot school for Ongoing Assessment for Transition Year using E-Portfolio.

School Uniform

Girls

- Plaid skirt or navy trousers
- Maroon V-neck jumper with school crest
- White shirt with collar
- Plain black tights or knee length socks
- Plain Black leather/leather type shoes
- No Ugg boots, runners or canvas shoes

Boys

- Navy Trousers
- Maroon V-neck jumper with school crest
- White shirt
- Plain Black leather/leather type shoes only.
- No runners /canvas shoes



School Journal

All students must have a school journal. The journal contains the code of behaviour and is used to record homework. It also forms an important communication link between home and school.

School Facilities

Along with the general classrooms, St. Joseph's Community College also has:

- Science laboratory
- Art room
- Woodwork room
- Design and Communication Graphics room
- Computer room
- Kitchen
- Sewing room
- Music room
- School Hall
- Metalwork/Engineering room.

Student Council:

The Student Council consists of a representative body elected from and by the general cohort of students in the school. The Student Council gives the students the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns and also to play an active role in decision making in the school.





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