



ST. JOSEPH'S Community College

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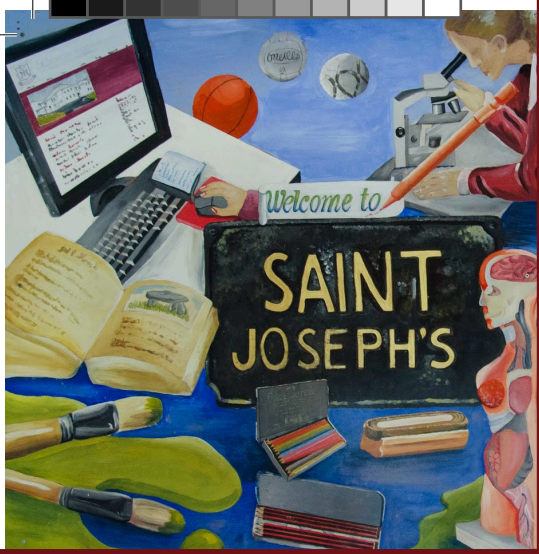
St. Joseph's Community College
is a co-educational school delivering
educational excellence to the
community of Charlestown
and the surrounding areas.



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@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.

John Killeen

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 multi-cultural 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.





Pastoral Care

- Each individual first year is assigned a senior mentor for a period of one year.
- Every class has an assigned tutor who meets students on a daily basis.
- Tutors meet weekly with their respective year head to discuss welfare of students.
- The school also has a Pastoral Care coordinator who looks after the general wellbeing of students.
- The school's Attendance Officer monitors and supports student attendance in school through a rewards system.
- A weekly meeting of our Student Support Team discusses concerns and issues that may arise for students and strategies are devised to help and support students through a particularly difficult period.
- All staff would get to know all students and look out for their welfare informally. This is helped greatly by the relatively small size of our school.
- 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.
- Junior Cycle students have a weekly Wellbeing class, as well as an SPHE class.

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.
- Although a small school in size, we are big in heart and spirit.



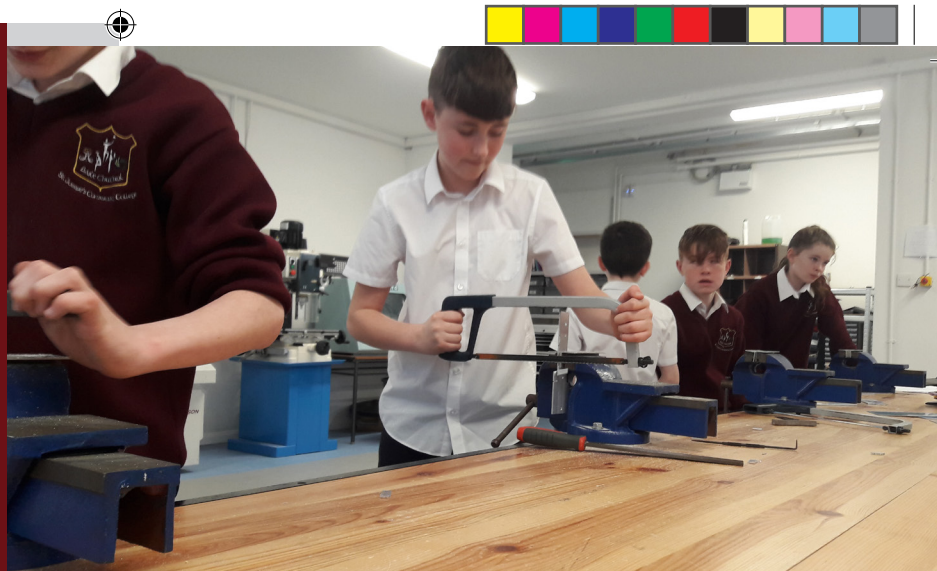


My Typical Day At School

- 8:45:** First morning bell. Get your books for the first three classes from your locker.
- 8:55:** Second bell. Go to the first class of the day.
- 9:35:** Go to second class. If it's a double, stay in the same room. If it's single, move to the other classroom.
- 10:15:** Last class of the morning. Don't forget to go to your tutor!
- 10:55:** Tutor time. Depending on who your tutor is, go to their room. If you have any notes, you need to present them! The tutor checks your uniform and signs your journal.
- 11:03:** Break time! Go to your locker and put away the last three class' books and get the next three. Head to the Lunch Hall to Breakfast Club to get free food but be quick because they might be gone as they are so nice!
- 11:18:** Go to your fourth class of the day. Because you have had a break you will have more energy to be able to learn more.
- 11:58:** Go to your fifth class. Remember, don't go to your locker in between classes. There is plenty of time to do it at lunch or break.
- 12:33:** Go to your sixth class. You might be getting hungry by now but it will be soon lunchtime!
- 1:18:** Lunch. On Fridays we finish at this time. On other days you go to your locker and get your books. Make sure to get something to eat. It might be a good idea to sort out the books you have for homework so you will be able to get them fast.
- 1:48:** Go to class.
- 2:28:** Go to second last class. Well done, you're nearly finished!
- 3:08:** Last class. Make sure you give it one hundred per cent!
- 3:48:** Home time! Get all your books from your locker that you will need for homework.

Bronwyn Fleming, 1B 2018-19





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
- Open Evening which includes tours, demonstrations, practicals, talks, brochures and interaction between parents and teachers
- Taster Day, where enrolled students come to school for a day in May

Anti-Bullying School

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.

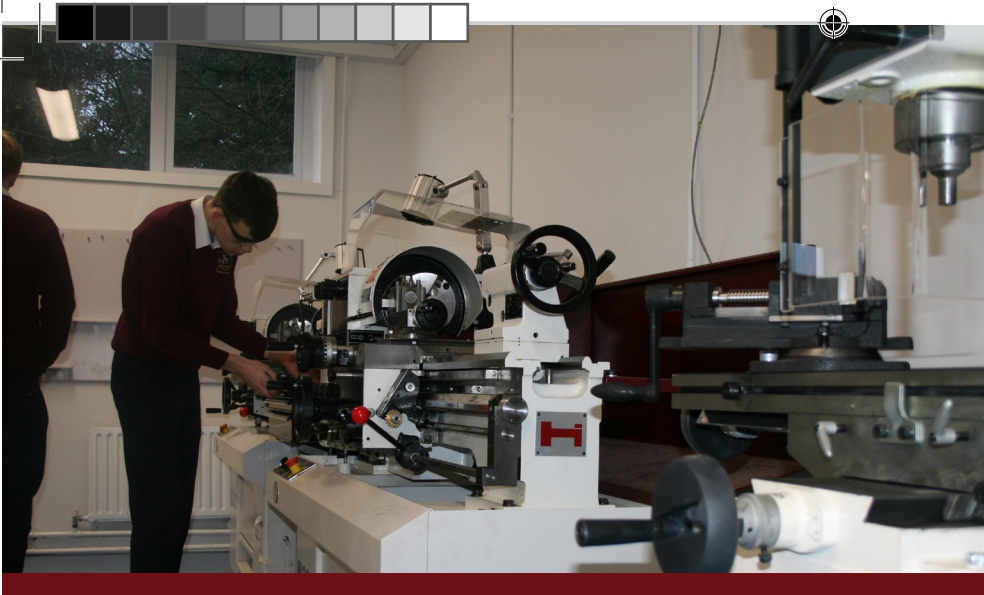
Student Council

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 consults 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 wide range of subjects that meet all learning needs.

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- French
- History
- Geography
- Science
- Business
- Wood Technology
- Engineering
- Graphics
- Home Economics
- Art, Craft and Design
- Religious Education
- Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE)
- SPHE
- Wellbeing
- Physical Education (PE)



Senior Cycle Curriculum

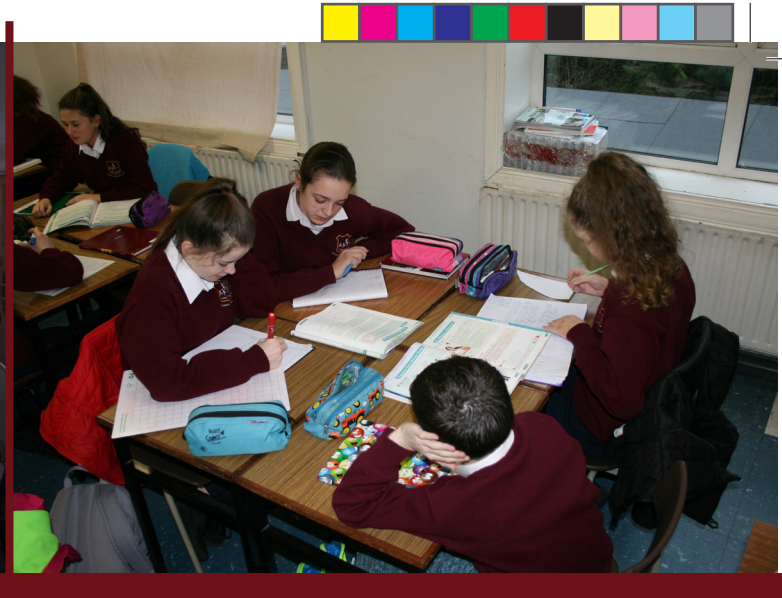
Each student studies seven or more subjects for Leaving Cert – the core subjects are Irish, English, Maths and four other subjects.

We offer choice from the following subjects:

- French
- Geography
- Construction Design
- Communication and Graphics
- Business
- Economics
- Accounting
- Biology
- Agricultural Science
- Chemistry
- Physics and Chemistry
- Art
- Career Guidance R.E
- Home Economics
- Engineering
- Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

LCVP Programme

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.



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 in operation
- TY Mentor System in place (2019) with staff

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
- Exercise Module
- Poetry Slam
- Public Speaking
- Develop Me Workshop
- Bodyworks
- Manners For Life Workshop
- Personal Safety
- GAISCE
- Bódhron Workshop
- YSI: Young Social Innovators
- CSI Experience (one day workshop)
- BT Young Scientist
- TF Road Safety Exhibition
- Community Involvement
- Young SVP Programme
- Mini Company – School Bank
- Trip to Dáil
- Law Workshop
- 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.

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.

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.



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

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.





Leaving Cert 2019

Three of our students got near or above 600 points. Ruth Duffy is now studying the BEd in DCU and has been awarded the JP McManus All Ireland Scholarship and a DCU scholarship. Aideen Mahon is studying law in UL, where she also received a scholarship. Alex Fleming is studying Animation in AIT where she received the Academic Scholarship of Excellence.



Projects & Competitions

- BT Young Scientists
- Art Competitions
- Subject Competitions

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

Charity Events & Activities:





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
- School Hall
- NEW Metalwork/Engineering Room

Communication with Parents/Guardians

St. Joseph's strives to make communication between school and home as open as possible. In light of this, the school launched its new school app in September 2018. This is free to download and keeps everyone up to date on school news and can be used to submit absence notes. The school will be rolling out new features on the app in the coming months.

Recent School Building Developments

The school has just recently opened its new state of the art Metalwork/Engineering room to facilitate the growing demand for this subject. We are delighted to have the most up to date machinery and equipment to deliver a key subject, much in demand by the SMART economy for its problem solving and practical skills.

We also have developed a new Art room to further enhance the delivery of this already very popular subject.

Our basketball courts/playground has a new look after its resurfacing and replacement of basketball equipment.



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