

St. Cuan's College

Castleblakeney





Mission Statement

St. Cuan's College is a Catholic Co-Educational College.

St. Cuan's College is dedicated to the academic, social, cultural and spiritual growth of its students. In this pursuit, we are committed to achieving the highest attainable level of education and promoting the development of young men and women of strong moral character consistent with the school's Christian tradition.

We endeavour to create a stimulating, respectful and supportive environment for staff, students and families in which all are valued and encouraged to develop and share their unique talents. St. Cuan's promotes further education beyond Leaving Certificate, inviting the local community to join us in our pursuit of personal development - mind, body and spirit.

Contact Details

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www.stcuans.ie

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St. Cuan's College

St. Cuan's College was established in 1949 in the East Galway village of Ahascragh by locally based teacher Mrs. Maureen Mellody. In 1959 the college was relocated to the village of Castleblakeney. In 1963 the school was taken over by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. Land was acquired and the main school building was officially opened in 1971. In 1986/'87 the Bishop of Elphin took over the trusteeship of the school and a new Board of Management was formed and Mr. Eamonn O'Donoghue was appointed as Principal in 1987.

During the late 1980's and early 1990's there was a gradual increase in the student population. The curriculum was increased to include LCVP and further adult education. In 2009 two new Science Labs were opened. In 2016 we opened a new Woodwork and Technical Graphics Room and 3 new classrooms.

Earlier this year the Department of Education approved major funding which when completed will have all of the college campus located on the main site. The characteristic spirit of St. Cuan's College is seen in the collaborative way that the entire school community works. The school's vision is seen in the achievement of academic excellence coupled with pastoral support and guidance that underpin the holistic development of each student. The school caters for a wide range of abilities and talents and nurtures students in fulfilling their individual potential.

"To be the best that you can be"



Message from Principal

Here at St. Cuan's College we believe in offering our students the highest quality of education in a safe, happy, caring and challenging environment. All students are valued members of our school community and through the provision of a comprehensive curriculum we ensure that they are given every opportunity to develop to their fullest potential.

Our academic performance is excellent with over 90% of our students entering Third Level education annually.

In the pursuit of academic excellence we never lose sight of the individuality of each student in our care. Our level of care and support for students is unparalleled. Students in St. Cuan's College thrive because they are supported, encouraged, cared for and feel a real sense of belonging.

An important factor in student success in our school is the nurturing of a pro active partnership between the pupil, the teachers and the home. This relationship is especially important in First Year during the transition from Primary to Post Primary education. As a school we encourage regular contact both formally and informally throughout your child's time with us.

St. Cuan's has an enviable reputation in a wide range of extra curricular and co curricular activities which are facilitated by the personal dedication of our teachers and staff.

In choosing to send your son or daughter to St. Cuan's College you are making the best decision regarding their post primary education. This prospectus will give you an overview of our school, if however you require further information please contact us and we will facilitate a more in-depth presentation.

Collette Kennedy Walsh
Principal



Striving for Excellence

The staff and students of St. Cuan's College are known for their continuous pursuit of excellence. In our school every child is afforded the opportunity to achieve their potential.

Academic Excellence

St. Cuan's College believes in holding high expectations of its students in the knowledge that students perform better when they know that teachers and parents believe in them. All subjects are taught at higher level at Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. Students are encouraged to aim high and achieve their best.

The college consistently holds a very high rate of entry to Third Level Colleges. In 2019 78% of the Leaving Cert class went on to further education. Yet again this year we were well above the national average, 10% over 555, 36% over 450 and 71% over 350 points.

The staff of St. Cuan's College are very professional and highly trained. There is a huge emphasis on up-skilling and continuous professional development. This was reflected in the Department of Education Report of our Whole School Evaluation and in recent Science, Maths and English inspections.

Special Educational Needs

Where students have special educational needs there is a dynamic and proactive SEN team headed by co-ordinator Mary Mellody. Last year we introduced Team Teaching and have found this to be very successful.

The SEN team is very dedicated in its work and over the last number of years we have developed resource materials that are of exceptional quality. The college is mindful of multiple intelligences in its teaching and utilises varying stimuli and materials to bring each child's learning experience to life.



"The whole purpose of education is to turn Mirrors into Windows"



School Programmes

The college offers a comprehensive curriculum and additional programmes that support students in achieving their full potential in addition to the traditional Leaving Cert and Junior Cert. Students may opt for additional programmes to meet their academic needs.

Additional Programmes Available

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

This is a programme designed to prepare students for life after school focusing on personal enterprise and the world of work. It rewards students with additional certification as part of the Leaving Cert. The LCVP offers students the possibility of 70 points in the CAO scoring.

Transition Year

The school operates a very active and inter-active Transition Year programme which is co-ordinated by Mr. Michael Dillon. Students become immersed in activities developing new skills and talents, engaging in enterprise, becoming socially conscious and responsible while also nurturing their academic capacity.

Students become involved in work experience which assists in their decision making around further education and career choice.

While Transition Year is not compulsory the college recommends that students become involved in Transition Year as it is an ideal opportunity for personal development and maturation prior to the Leaving Certificate. We in St. Cuan's have found that students who complete Transition Year tend to score higher in the Leaving Cert than their counterparts who progress directly to senior cycle.

Junior Cycle Student Award (New Junior Certificate)

2017 saw the introduction of the new Junior Cycle English and over the next number of years all subjects will change. There is more of a focus on literacy, numeracy and key skills and new approaches to assessment and reporting. Schools will have more freedom to design programmes that meet the learning needs of all students. We in St Cuan's College have begun our development of the Junior Certificate programme in line with the national strategy.

The new Junior Certificate very much aligns itself to our ethos and we are excited about the prospects for all our students.



Junior Cycle Curriculum

We offer a taster system in First Year for the whole year of all of the subjects listed below:

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM

Irish	English	Maths	French	Religion	History
Geography	Business	Science	Music	Art	Home Economics
Graphics	Wood Technology	Computers			
Wellbeing Subjects:		SPHE	CSPE	PE	

Plus other Wellbeing initiatives for example The Settling In Programme

All of the above subjects are offered in First Year at the end of First Year students choose five core subjects, English, Irish, Maths, French and Religion plus five other subjects from the above list plus the Wellbeing subjects

OPTIONS

Art	Home Economics	Tech. Graphics	Wood Work
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All of the above subjects are offered in First Year and students choose in Second Year five subjects as well as English, Irish, Maths, French and Religion.

SENIOR CYCLE

English	Irish	Maths	French	History
Geography	Business	Ag. Science	Biology	Chemistry
Home Economics	DCG	Construction	Music	Career Guidance
LCVP	Religion	Art	Physics	Computer Science

Physical Education is offered to all students. It is timetabled and mandatory for all students.

Settling In Programme

St. Cuan's College takes special care to enable First Year students make the transition from Primary to Post Primary. We are aware that this is a big transition and we will do everything in our power to make it an easy one.

Our induction day allows students to meet with their teachers providing an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school and the facilities. They will meet their Year Heads and Prefects who will help with the settling in process.

In addition to all of this we have a Settling In Programme. This programme is designed and delivered by Mr. Liam Moroney, Psychologist. Liam will meet the First Years on their induction day and also for a double class period per class group once a week over four weeks.

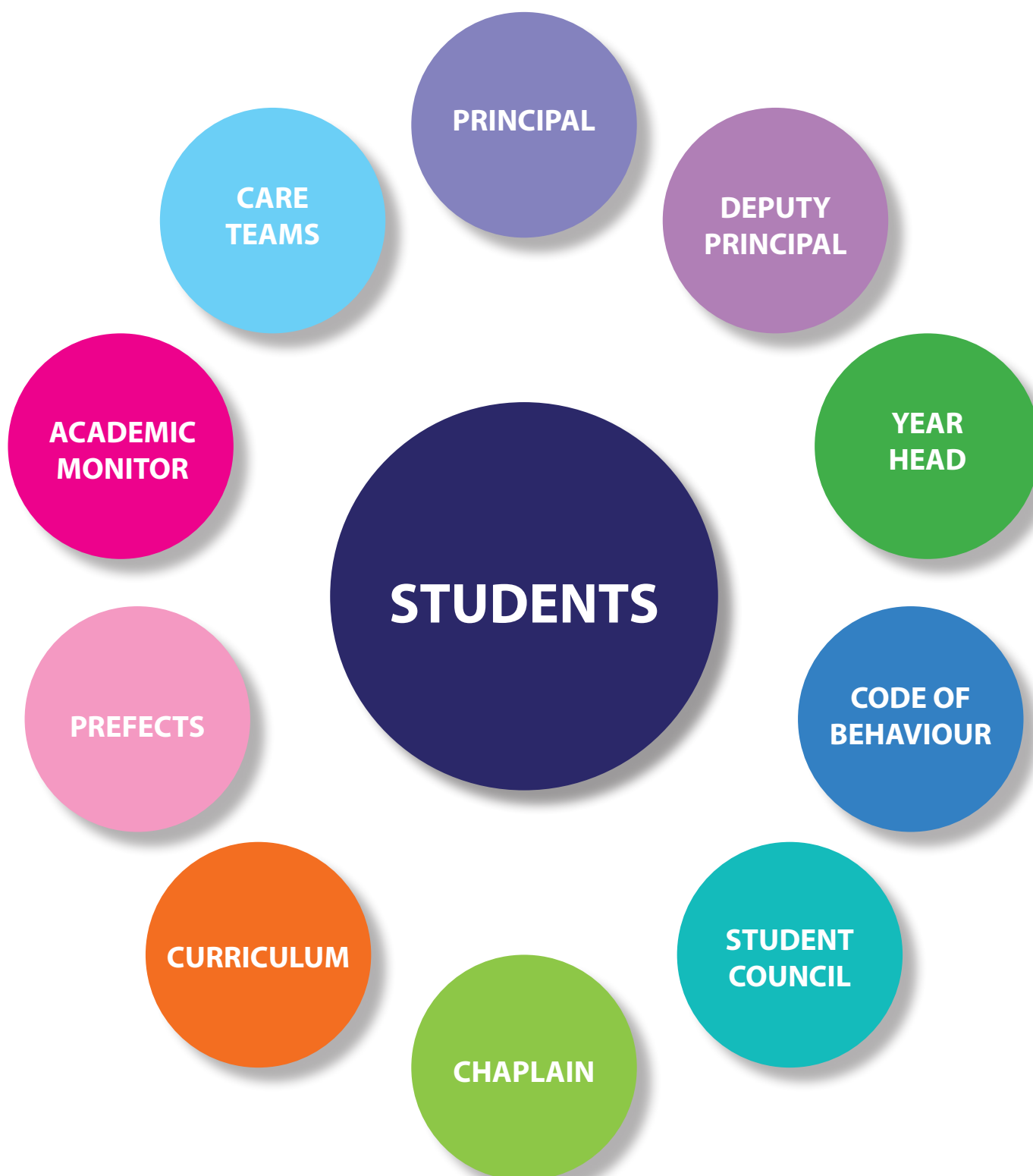
In October a meeting will be held for all First Year parents in order to meet Liam, Principal, Deputy Principal and First Year Year Heads.

We in St. Cuan's recognise that every First Year student is an individual and settle into their new academic life at different rates. As a staff we are here to support students and parents through this settling in time.

School Structures

All of our school structures are student centred. In St. Cuan's College, great emphasis is placed on the welfare of all our students. The school is actively involved in promoting guided student responsibility. Staff members have warm and respectful relationships with students where students know they can look for support, guidance and advice.

The College is very dedicated to the provision of services that foster the development of the whole person, encourage and reward good behaviour and respect for all individuals.



Principal and Deputy Principal

Principal and Deputy Principal oversee the programmes of care for students in the school. They are both available to support students and parents when challenges arise for a child. Similarly, they are a support to students who may need extra assistance in any area of school life.

Year Head

The Year Heads play a very important role in your child's life. The Year Head has responsibility for supporting staff in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. The Year Head also plays a very significant role in Pastoral Care. He or she will have daily contact with your child and is dedicated to making your child's educational experience a positive one. Year Heads are in regular contact with home and are available to meet with parents. They will offer support and guidance to parents as your child passes through the school. Here at St. Cuan's Year Heads stay with their year group all the way from First Year to Sixth Year providing consistency of support.

Student Council

The Student Council plays a very important role in school life. It is the voice of the students. Representatives are elected on an annual basis from each year group. The Council is involved in collaborative approaches to policy making and major changes to school life. Since its introduction we are very proud of the capability and maturity of our students in their role as class representatives.

Career Guidance

The Guidance Counsellor in St. Cuan's College views the development of positive self esteem as essential for students. The Guidance Counsellor works with students in class groups and on a one to one basis. In St. Cuan's we are fortunate to have a fully qualified Counsellor on our staff. Ms. Noreen Coen is available to meet with students outside of class time.

School Uniform

GIRLS

- School Jumper with Crest
- Navy and Red Tartan Skirt worn with heavy black tights
- Navy Pinstripe Trousers
- Red Blouse
- Half Zip to be purchased in school
- Black Shoes

BOYS

- School Jumper with Crest
- Navy Trousers
- Light Blue Shirt
- Half Zip to be purchased in school
- Black Shoes

Transport

Students intending to use CIE School Transport must contact the office in Galway directly by mid March. A Private School Bus also operates, while this is totally independent of the College details can be had from the school office.

Canteen Facilities

A dedicated Canteen has been developed for students. Hot meals are available on a daily basis.





Supervised Study

Supervised Study is available to all students four evenings per week. It is conducted each evening from 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, paid each term. Supervision is by teachers from the school who are very strict on maintaining an environment conducive to study. Evening study offers a tremendous opportunity to establish an organised structural approach to study.

We have Supervised Study in the morning from 8.10 to 8.50 a.m. for students who arrive early in the school. There is also supervision in the evening from 4.00 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. for students who are waiting for transport in the evenings.

Book Rental Scheme

The school operates a Book Rental Scheme for First Year students. The fee depends on the number of school books required. With the taster system we have in place in first year the cost varies. Since introducing this scheme five years ago it has been very successful and defrays a huge cost to parents.

School Timetable

Class Times:

Monday to Thursday: 9.05 a.m. - 3.55 p.m.

Morning Break:

Monday to Friday 11.05 a.m. – 11.25 a.m.

Lunch Time:

Monday to Thursday 1.25 p.m. - 1.55 p.m.

Finish Friday at 1.20 p.m.

House Exams

We value the importance of continuous assessment. Students are assessed by their teachers on an 8 week basis. Apart from this informal assessment in class we organise timetabled exams at Christmas and Easter to familiarise the students with the State Exams system.

Student Leadership

All of our students are encouraged to join in with the development of our school and this takes the form of different student groups.

We offer our students the following opportunities:

- Prefects
- Student Council
- Gaisce - The President's Award
- School Folk Group
- Green Schools

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club options from 7.50 am to 8.30 am daily





Extra Curricular Activities

St. Cuan's College has a very comprehensive menu of extra curricular activities that fosters the talents of our students as individuals as well as teams. All students are encouraged to involve themselves as fully as possible in the life of the school. We believe that education in its truest sense, should aim to develop the whole person.

Consequently, involvement in these activities is seen as an integral part of the holistic education which we endeavour to provide. St. Cuan's College has excellent facilities that include Sports Hall - Gym, access to a local GAA Pitch and outdoor playing areas. Following grant aid received in Summer 2014 we now have a state of the art Astro-turf playing surface and ball wall.

Cultural Activities include Folk Group, Music Group, Debating, Quiz Teams, School Shows and Educational Trips both within Ireland and Abroad.

We have a games room which is available to both Junior and Senior students at Lunchtime in a supervised capacity.

St. Cuan's College has a great history in sporting achievements, these include: Football, Hurling, Camogie, Ladies Football, Athletics, Soccer and our latest venture Equestrianism.

Awards and Achievements

Academic awards are given to students who receive the highest result in the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate.

- The Patron's Award
- The Brid McHale Award
- The Laura Booth Memorial Award
- Bank of Ireland Student of the Year Award
- Application Award

- Cultural Award
- Fiúntas Award
- Attendance Certificate
- Sports Awards are presented to winning teams
- The Seamus Collins Sports Award
- The Catherine Donnellan Sports Award
- TY Awards



Why Choose St. Cuan's College?

- Academic Excellence
- Excellent Facilities
- Progressive in IT
- Variety of Academic Programmes
- Broad Range of Extra Curricular Activities
- Dedicated Pastoral Care Teams
- Strong Work Ethic
- Small Class Sizes
- Excellent Staff Student Relationships
- * Fostering Holistic Development
- * Wide Curriculum
- * Professional Highly Qualified Staff
- * Dedicated Special Educational Needs Team
- * Community Engagement
- * Inclusive Environment
- * Positive Approach to Discipline
- * Socially Conscious, Value Based Education
- * Friendly, Caring Atmosphere

Choose St. Cuan's College

Every day in every way we care about your child

