

Portlaoise College



SCIENTIA POTENTIA EST

Portlaoise College Second Level Brochure



www.portlaoisecollege.ie

VISION

Our vision is for Portlaoise College to be an excellent school, where outstanding practice, equality and well-being are at the heart of all that we do.

MISSION STATEMENT

Portlaoise College is committed to providing all students with a high quality holistic education that enables them to achieve their maximum potential in an engaging, challenging and student centred environment that celebrates diversity in partnership with all stakeholders.



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WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Portlaoise College is a co-educational, multi-denominational school delivering excellent education provision in Portlaoise. This prospectus will provide you with a flavour of life here in our school and the opportunity to view the array of pursuits from the academic to the liberal, from sporting to musical and from individual to team pursuits. I hope that you take the time to view the pages to get a sense of the wonderful school that we have.

In Portlaoise College we have a strong tradition of students, teachers and parents working together to encourage students to reach their potential. We encourage participation in a wide range of activities to develop skills and attitudes that will assist students as they go on to thrive in further education and in the world of work.

In Portlaoise College, friendships are made, unbreakable bonds are formed and the exciting world of knowledge, success and endeavour is open for all our students. Have no fears about Secondary School, it is a time to be embraced, and enjoyed. Every student will progress through the years and leave as bright, confident, happy people. That is indeed my wish and I hope we can accomplish that goal together. Of course, this prospectus cannot take the place of visiting our school, I warmly welcome you to make contact and visit Portlaoise College in person and discover first-hand what makes our school community so special. Alternatively, you are welcome to book a guided tour of the school with a member of management by contacting the school.

I look forward to welcoming your child to Portlaoise College.

Noel Daly





At Portlaoise College academic achievement and excellent exam results are our primary focus.

This is achieved by providing:

- Excellent and dedicated teachers
- A caring and inclusive environment
- A positive reward system
- A strict but fair learning environment
- Academic monitoring

Academic Monitoring

Academic monitoring at Portlaoise College is a very involved and inclusive process.

Through the use of innovative and proven academic tracking software your child's progress towards achieving their potential is monitored by teachers, Tutors and Year Heads throughout the academic year.

Year Heads and teachers share this information with students and parents numerous times during the year; at parent teaching meetings, during target setting week and academic mentoring meetings facilitated by our team of academic mentors, Tutors and Year Heads.

In collaboration with parents and students our Year Heads, teachers and academic mentors discuss student's performance, homework and study habits and together they set target grades and SMART goals which assist each student achieve their academic potential.

The academic monitoring and mentoring that each student at Portlaoise College receives contributes positively to the fostering of a college going culture that our School of Distinction programme has embedded within the school.

Digital Learning

Technology is a method which facilitates and enhances excellent teaching and learning. Our ethos at Portlaoise College is to make sure that our students are prepared for learning and working in a technology dependant society. E-books along with paper books are mandatory for all 1st year students in Portlaoise College. All 1st years receive a tablet pre-loaded with a complete bookshelf.





SUBJECT CHOICE

Junior Cycle Core Subjects

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- SPHE
- CSPE
- PE
- Wellbeing
- Religion

Junior Cycle Language Options

- French
- German
- Polish and Spanish (Short Courses)

Junior Cycle Optional Subjects

- Art
- Business
- Home Economics
- Engineering (Coding Included)
- Music
- Graphics (Design & 3D Modelling included)
- Wood Technology

Transition Year

At Portlaoise College we have developed a vibrant and innovative Transition Year programme based on the following principles:

- To develop independent work and study habits appropriate to Senior Cycle
- To become familiar with workplaces outside school and possible career paths
- To become more informed about society and more skilled in dealing with people

Transition Year at Portlaoise College includes:

- Core Subjects
- Subject Sampling
- TY specific modules
- Many educational trips and activities





SUBJECT CHOICE

Leaving Cert Subjects

Core:

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics

Optional:

- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Art, Craft & Design
- Business
- Politics & Society
- Home Economics
- History
- Geography
- Engineering
- Construction Studies
- Design & Communications Graphics
- French
- German
- Music
- Link Modules (LCVP)
- Computer Science

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

The Leaving Certificate Applied programme at Portlaoise College is a two year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical Leaving Certificate with a vocational emphasis.

The programme also focuses on the preparation for the world of work and life-long learning.

The learning experiences are active and practical where students apply their knowledge, skills and experiences to real life situations in school, in the workplace and the wider community.





STUDENT SUPPORTS



First Year Support Structure

We have developed a comprehensive induction programme from primary to secondary school.

- Our induction programme begins in January where students and parents are invited into Portlaoise College for an information evening.
- Parents and students are also invited into Portlaoise College to collect their books and E-learning tablet devices over the summer months.
- During the first day of school students engage in team building activities, meet new friends and teachers and learn the geography of the school.
- Within the first two weeks of starting school parents and students are again invited to attend our unique "Working Together" workshop.

Meitheal

A group of 6th year students are assigned to 1st year students. The Meitheal leaders help the 1st year students settle into Portlaoise College by meeting them regularly and organising bonding events. These senior students help first years feel safe and secure by providing support and encouragement for all our new students.



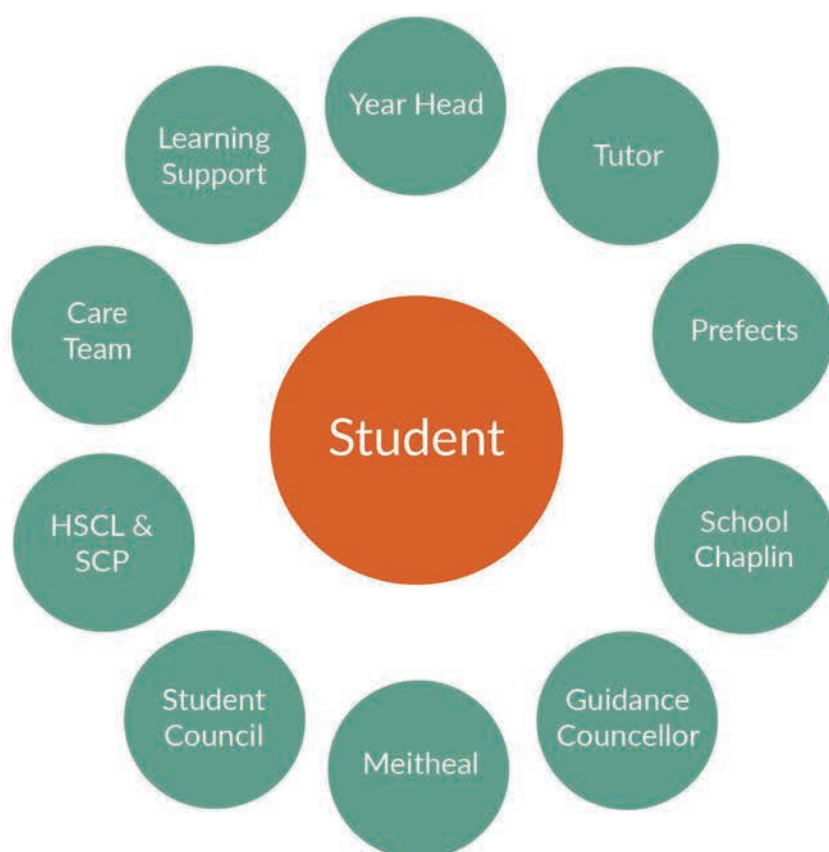


STUDENT SUPPORTS

All our structures at Portlaoise College are student centred. At Portlaoise College there is a great emphasis on the welfare and well-being of our students.

Portlaoise College aims to:

- Create a caring environment that is favourable to student learning.
- Provide a safe environment where our students have a voice, high self-esteem and good mental health.
- Provide a Pastoral Care/Wellbeing and discipline programme that emphasises the importance of relationships and respect for all.
- Instil confidence, self-discipline, self-direction and integrity in every student.





EXTRA & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Arts & Culture

- Lunchtime music tuition
- Choir
- Gaisce Awards
- Art Exhibitions
- School Tours, Nationally & Internationally
- Gaeltacht Scholarships
- Outings to Theatres, Cinemas and Third Level Open Days
- Debating
- Annual Christmas Market

Academic

- After school Homework Club
- After school evening study
- B.T. Young Scientist
- Enterprise Competitions
- Seachtain na Gaeilge initiatives
- Science Week activities
- Green Schools
- Engineering Week Activities
- Student Council

School Musical

Each year our school produces a school musical. Our recent productions include:

- The Wizard of Oz
- Grease
- Around the World in 80 minutes

All First Year students have the opportunity to participate in these musicals





SPORTS

The role of exercise and sport in a child's life cannot be underestimated and we in Portlaoise College offer a very broad and balanced curriculum in that regard. Every evening after school and at lunchtime there are a large range of activities offered. We challenge for honours in numerous sports throughout the year and in recent years we have won All-Ireland and provincial titles in Athletics, Gaelic Football, Spikeball and Volleyball.

At Portlaoise College we provide a wide range of sporting activities including:

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Table Tennis
- Gaelic Football
- Athletics
- Spikeball
- Rugby
- Hurling



"The Extra-Curricular activities on offer at Portlaoise College are fantastic. I play Gaelic Football, Basketball and Spikeball. It has been a great decision to come to Portlaoise College" Fionn Abbey – Student



RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

At the heart of our policies is a genuine concern for the holistic development of each student. The welfare of your child is placed at the hearts of all our practices.

We strive, in partnership with parents and guardians, to challenge those who are gifted and we encourage those who need extra support to realise their full individual potential.

Portlaoise College is a school that constantly recognises student contributions to excellence in and outside the classroom.

1st Year Scholarship Programme

Portlaoise College offers a scholarship programme to our incoming 1st Years. Students who sit the entrance exam are then invited to sit a separate exam for a scholarship programme. The scholarship programme was introduced to reward excellence and high academic standards.

Third Level Bursary Programme

The Parent's Council at Portlaoise College have financially supported student's third level progression by sponsoring a bursary. Through this bursary, students receive a financial contribution towards their third level education fees.

Irish and French Scholarships

Portlaoise College in association with Laois/Offaly ETB offer a scholarship programme to the Gaeltacht and French summer schools to students who excel in these subjects.

Evening of Excellence

Portlaoise College recognises the achievements of students by operating a Merit System, which is recorded in the student journal. Students receive merits of achievement from their teachers, tutors and Year Head throughout the year. Students who achieve the most merits in a subject or excel in an extra-curricular activity may be rewarded with an end of term "STAR Award". However, there is no greater honour at Portlaoise College than to receive an academic or extra curricular award at our annual "Evening of Excellence". This event is held at the end of the academic year, in May and is attended by many distinguished guest speakers from the world of politics, television and sport.



Portlaoise College



CONTACT DETAILS

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