

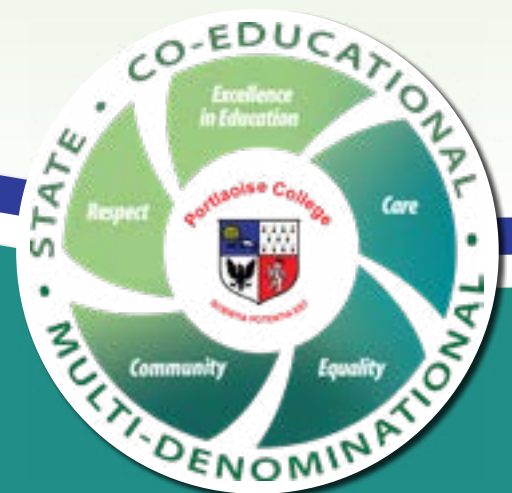
Portlaoise College

Excellence - Opportunity - Community



SECOND LEVEL PROSPECTUS

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 centered environment that celebrates diversity in partnership with all stakeholders.



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WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Portlaoise College, a co-educational, multi-denominational school committed to providing an excellent educational experience for every student. This prospectus offers a glimpse into life in our vibrant school community and the many opportunities available across academic, sporting, cultural, creative, and extracurricular activities.

At Portlaoise College, we believe that education is a partnership between students, parents, and staff. By working together, we create a supportive environment where every student is encouraged to achieve their full potential, develop confidence, and discover their strengths.

We are proud of our inclusive and welcoming community, where students are valued, respected, and encouraged to get involved. Participation in school life helps students build important skills, form lasting friendships, and develop the attitudes needed to succeed in further education, employment, and life beyond school.

The secondary school years are an exciting time of growth, learning, and personal development. At Portlaoise College, students are supported throughout this journey and are encouraged to embrace new challenges, explore new interests, and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

While this prospectus provides an introduction to our school, nothing compares to experiencing our community in person. We warmly invite you to visit Portlaoise College, meet our staff and students, and see first-hand what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

I look forward to welcoming your child to Portlaoise College.

Noel Daly
Principal



Why Families Choose Portlaoise College

- ✓ Academic Excellence
- ✓ Student Support
- ✓ Wide Subject Choice
- ✓ Sport & Culture
- ✓ Strong Community

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Nikola Ilic 613 Points Leaving Cert 2026

Supporting every student to achieve their potential.



Academic Monitoring

At Portlaoise College, helping every student achieve their best is at the heart of what we do. Through excellent teaching, academic mentoring and regular progress monitoring, we work closely with students and parents to support achievement, build confidence and develop positive learning habits.

Our device-enabled learning environment provides students with access to tablets, e-books and digital resources, equipping them with the skills needed for success in both Senior Cycle and further education.

Digital Learning

- 1:1 Tablet Programme
- E-Books & Traditional Textbooks
- Access to SORA Digital Library
- Preparing Students for Senior Cycle Reform





SUBJECT CHOICE

Junior Cycle Core Subjects

English, Irish, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, S.P.H.E., C.S.P.E., P.E., Wellbeing, Religion

Junior Cycle Language Options (Choose 1)

French, German, Spanish, Polish

Junior Cycle Optional Subjects (Choose 2)

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

Transition Year

Transition Year at Portlaoise College is an exciting opportunity for students to grow in confidence, develop independence, and explore their interests beyond the classroom.

Our innovative programme helps students prepare for Senior Cycle by building strong study skills, broadening their understanding of the world, and introducing them to future career and education pathways. Through new experiences and practical learning, students develop the confidence, resilience, and life skills needed for future success.

Highlights of Transition Year

- ✓ Core academic subjects
- ✓ Subject sampling and new learning experiences
- ✓ Unique Transition Year modules
- ✓ Educational trips, workshops and activities
- ✓ Erasmus and European exchange opportunities
- ✓ Career exploration and workplace learning

Transition Year gives students the opportunity to discover new strengths, make informed choices about their future, and create lasting memories along the way.

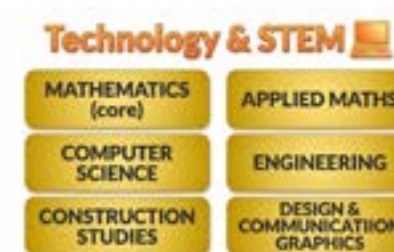


SUBJECT CHOICE – SENIOR CYCLE

A wide range of subjects and pathways allows students to tailor their senior cycle education to their strengths, interests and future goals.

Leaving Certificate

A broad academic programme designed to prepare students for higher education, apprenticeships and employment.



Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

A practical, hands-on programme focused on personal development, workplace learning and preparation for further education, training and employment.

About LCA

The Leaving Certificate Applied programme combines classroom learning with work experience, practical projects and life skills development. It is ideal for students who enjoy active, hands-on learning and want to build confidence, independence and employability skills.

Key features

- Work Experience
- Practical Learning
- Continuous Assessment
- Life & Employability Skills





STUDENT SUPPORTS

Meitheal Leaders 2026/27

STARTING YOUR JOURNEY

Starting secondary school is an exciting milestone. At Portlaoise College, we work closely with students and families to ensure the transition from primary school is positive, welcoming and well supported.

From the moment students join our school community, we aim to help them feel confident, connected and ready to succeed.

BEFORE YOU START

We provide a range of opportunities to help students and families prepare for the move to secondary school:

- Information Evening for incoming students and parents/guardians
- Book and tablet collection days during the summer
- “Working Together” workshop for students and families
- Induction day in May to get familiar with the school

FIRST DAYS IN SCHOOL

Our induction programme helps students settle in quickly.

Students have the opportunity to:

- Participate in welcome and team-building activities
- Meet their Tutors, Year Head and teachers
- Get to know their classmates
- Learn their way around the school
- Build confidence and establish positive routines from the beginning

MEITHEAL PEER MENTORING

A key part of the First Year experience is our Meitheal Peer Mentoring Programme.

Our trained Sixth Year mentors provide support, encouragement and friendship to incoming students throughout their first year.

The programme includes:

- Sixth Year mentors assigned to First Year students
- Regular check-ins and informal support
- Social and team-building activities
- Guidance and encouragement during the transition to secondary school

Meitheal helps students develop confidence, make new friends and feel part of the school community from the outset.



WELLBEING & ONGOING SUPPORT

Supporting every student to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

At Portlaoise College, wellbeing is part of everyday school life. Through a strong network of support, we help students feel safe, valued and connected throughout their school journey.



HOW WE SUPPORT STUDENTS EVERY DAY

- Regular wellbeing check-ins
- Support from Tutors and Year Heads
- Open communication with parents and guardians
- Guidance and mentoring when needed
- Clear systems that promote organisation, confidence and personal growth

A CULTURE OF CARE

We help students develop:

- Confidence
- Independence
- Self-discipline
- Respect for others
- A sense of belonging



EXTRA & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Portlaoise College, students are encouraged to explore their interests, develop new skills and become active members of the school community through a wide range of extra and co-curricular opportunities.

Arts & Culture

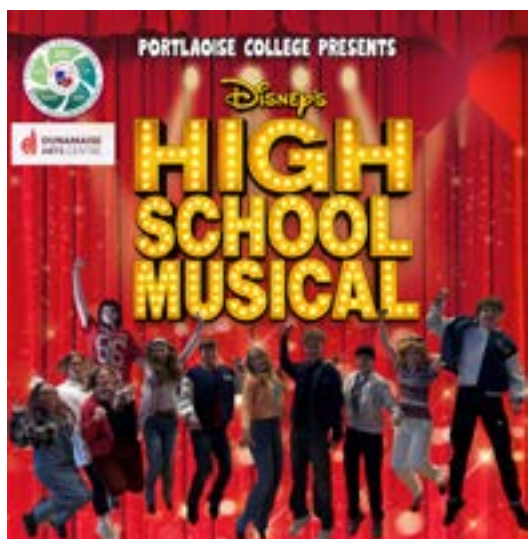
- Lunchtime Music Tuition
- Choir
- Art Exhibitions
- Debating
- Annual Christmas Market
- School Musical (TY Programme)
- Theatre & Cinema Visits
- Gaeltacht Scholarships

Experiences & Leadership

- School Tours (National & International)
- Gaisce Awards
- Student Council
- Third Level Open Days
- Seachtain na Gaeilge Initiatives
- Green Schools Programme

STEM & Academic Enrichment

- Homework Club
- Evening Study
- BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition
- Enterprise Competitions
- Science Week Activities
- Engineering Week Activities
- FIRST LEGO League Team
- VEX Robotics Club & STEM Competitions
- Podcasting
- Film making





SPORT & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Sport plays a central role in school life at Portlaoise College, helping students develop confidence, teamwork, leadership and resilience while creating friendships that last a lifetime.

Highlights

- National & Provincial Success
- 10+ Sporting Activities Opportunities for All Abilities
- State-of-the-Art AstroTurf Facility
- New Fitness Suite
- Athletics track resurfacing approved for development

“Extracurricular activities are where both friendships and skills grow and develop. Sports teach communication, teamwork, discipline and personal growth.”

Yifei Li – TY Year Student

Sports Offered



Soccer



Basketball



Volleyball



Athletics



Spikeball



Rugby



Table Tennis



Hurling



Gaelic Football



Golf



RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Ozanam Scholarship Winner Aoibhinn O'Sullivan with Rose of Tralee Katelyn Cummins

Celebrating Achievement, Ambition and Contribution

At Portlaoise College, we recognise and celebrate success in academics, leadership, sport, the arts and service to the school community.

Scholarship Programme

Supporting and rewarding academic excellence from the beginning of a student's journey.

Third-Level Bursaries

Financial support helping students progress to further and higher education.

Language Scholarships

Opportunities to attend Gaeltacht, French, German and Spanish summer programmes.

Evenings of Excellence

Annual awards recognising achievement, leadership, contribution and commitment.



Investing in Student Potential

Success is celebrated through our STAR Awards



Academic Excellence – Outstanding achievement in studies and learning



Leadership – Inspiring others and taking initiative



Sport – Excellence in athletic performance and teamwork



Creativity – Innovation in arts, design, and original thinking

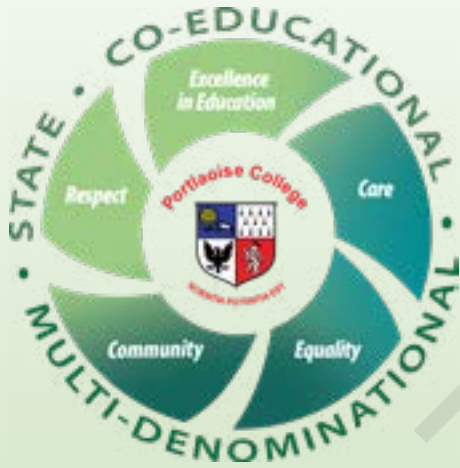


Community Contribution – Positive impact through service and volunteering



Student Mentoring – Supporting and guiding fellow students to succeed

Portlaoise College



Apply online at
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