



PROSPECTUS





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Salesian Secondary College, a co-educational, Catholic secondary school for 12 to 19 year olds, set on nearly 500 acres of magnificent farmland. Our school is located mere moments from the N69, in the beautiful, rolling countryside of Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick. Only 15 minutes from the Dock Road roundabout in Limerick City, we attract students from the city, the immediate locality of Pallaskenry, Clarina and Kildimo, and from Shanagolden, Askeaton, Foynes, Ballysteen, Adare, Patrickswell, Kilcornan, Mungret, Dooradoyle, Crecora and Raheen. We are a real Limerick school! Students of all abilities and faiths choose our school because of our reputation for providing a caring, secure, supportive, ambitious learning environment. In our school, each young person can develop a sense of belonging to the school community.

Our Salesian heritage is the cornerstone of our work with your sons and daughters. The founder of the Salesian Order, St. John Bosco, was a young man when he arrived in Turin in the early 1800s and found young people, struggling to be heard and to find their future. His message to us, as teachers, is to treat the young people with reason, faith and loving kindness and to place them at the heart of all we do. He tells us that your sons and daughters are to be celebrated and encouraged, so that they can reach their emotional, spiritual, learning and physical potential, experience joy and become good Christians and good citizens.

We have a committed, creative and expert teaching and support staff, who strive to make the learning process enjoyable, though challenging, for all students. We offer a wide curriculum of academic, practical and pastoral subjects. We are constantly developing as a school and constantly learning from each other and from the young people. In this way, we stay current and innovative in our approach to providing the best education possible for your child.

We want your child, and your family, to feel part of this great Salesian story and we invite you to explore our school through this prospectus or by logging on to our school website and Facebook or Twitter pages to keep up to date with all that happens in our busy school. You are all welcome to share in the Salesian journey with us in Pallaskenry.

Caitriona Morgan-O'Brien.
Principal

WHY CHOOSE OUR SCHOOL

Our school was founded by the Salesian Order of Don Bosco in 1919. It has a record of excellence based on the following:

- A safe, welcoming environment with plenty of open space, landscaped gardens, pitches, beautiful green lawns, an historic period Community house, in the countryside
- A tradition of excellence in academic achievement and extra-curricular activities.
- A strong Catholic/Christian ethos that promotes the values of self-respect and respect for others, which is student centred, based on the model established by Don Bosco, our founder.
- A modern, progressive, co-educational secondary school
- A comprehensive curriculum including Junior Certificate, new short courses in PE and SPHE, a recently updated Transition Year Programme, Leaving Certificate (traditional) and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP).
- Specialist classrooms in the following areas: Art, Home Economics, Materials Technology, Construction Studies, Technical Graphics, Design & Communications Graphics, Music, Religion, three fully-equipped Science Laboratories, Information Technology and Career Guidance. Our facilities are constantly updated and we are awaiting a new specialist building programme.
- Technologically Advanced – Fully networked with broadband throughout the school with a specialist IT Room.
- A tradition of provision for Learning Support and Special Needs.
- Reputation for supporting the more academically able student
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- A pastoral and spiritual environment, as well as high academic expectation.
- Within close proximity to the western suburbs of Limerick City with a comprehensive school transport system from county and city.
- An atmosphere of friendliness, warmth and personal care and attention where each student is treated as an individual and every effort is made to discover hidden talents and promote their strengths – ‘where students are at the heart of everything we do’.
- An enthusiastic, dedicated and committed staff loyal to our ethos of care and development of all our students, as well as an excellent rapport between student and teacher.
- Excellent relationship with all our partners in education:- students, parents and the wider community.
- A special pro-active policy of Integration of 1st Year Students in making the transition from primary school to secondary school using our excellent Pastoral Care System, as well as our Student Ceangail Mentoring Programme.
- Leaders in the midwest region on the development of improved teaching and learning initiatives
- A diversity of cultural and sporting activities.
- Daily communication with parents / guardians through social media and our school app.
- Supervised Evening Study
- Specialist curriculum for students with ASD; our Den continues in development.
- Online payments facility for parents.



CURRICULUM

Our School offers a six-year post primary education – three years junior cycle and three years senior cycle. Transition year within the senior cycle is optional. We offer the most comprehensive range of subjects to our students in both cycles, subject to minimum numbers in option subjects. All subjects are open to boys and girls.

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme

This is an enhanced programme offered alongside the traditional Leaving Cert. Places on this programme are allocated on the basis of each student's subject choices at senior cycle. Candidates study two modules over the two years: Enterprise Education and Preparation for the World of Work. Students then take an extra exam at the end of 6th Year with the possibility of achieving a further 66 points.

Transition Year

Transition Year is an optional one year programme offered to all students after completing their Junior Certificate. This year offers students the opportunity to bridge the transition from Junior to Senior Cycle. The focus of the year is on providing the students with a wider educational experience and a balance between academic and practical studies. It encourages personal and social development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence. The TY programme in Salesian Secondary College has been very successful over the past number of years and the feedback from students and parents alike has been very positive. The development of our students confidence, maturity, team-working skills and communication skills are particularly evident.

JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

- Religious Education
- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Science
- Civic, Social & Political Education
- Physical Education
- French/Spanish/German
- Home Economics
- Business Studies
- Materials Technology (Wood)
- Music
- Technical Graphics
- Art, Craft & Design
- Guidance
- SPHE
- Information Technology

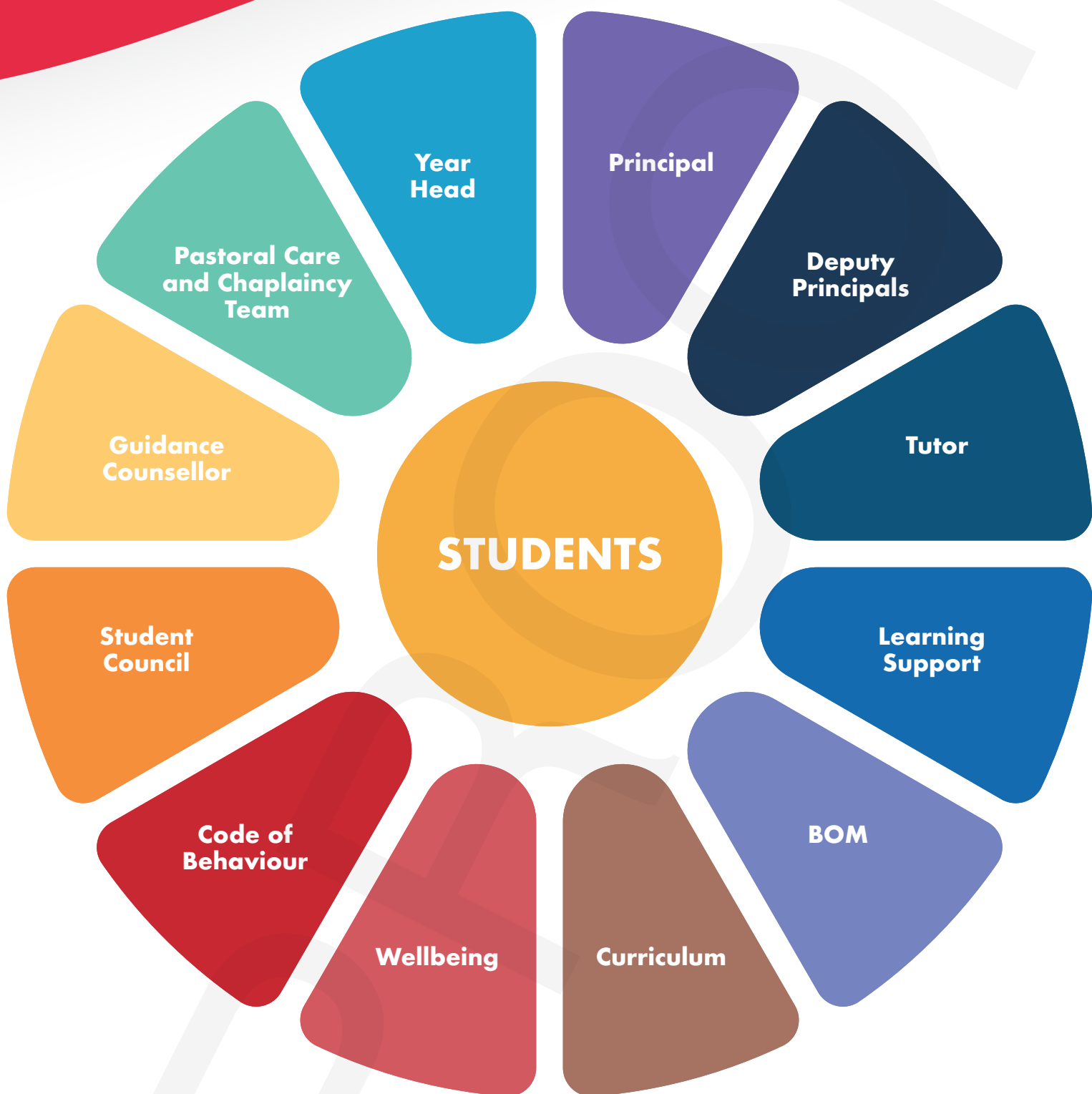
SENIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

- Religious Education
- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- Applied Mathematics
- Politics and Society
- History
- Geography
- Design & Communications Graphics
- Construction Studies
- Physical Education
- French/Spanish/German
- Home Economics
- Business Studies
- Music
- Art, Craft & Design
- Guidance
- Accounting
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- L.C.V.P
- Agricultural Science.

All efforts are made at both Junior and Senior Cycle to offer students the best level of choice. The subject groupings are not predetermined at Senior Cycle but are decided annually through consultation with the students. The range of subjects offered is also partially dependent on the provision of funding and resources by the department of Education and Skills.

TRANSITION YEAR SUBJECTS

Our TY Programme offers taster courses in all of the Leaving Certificate subjects, enabling students to make informed choices for the senior years. In addition, we offer courses in Film, Philosophy, Craft, Electronics, Dance, Games, Sport Leadership, Young Scientist, Gaisce, Debating, Life Skills, Safe Food, Nutrition, Hair and Beauty, Design and many, many others depending on what students ask for and need, fully utilising the talents, interests, training and expertise of our wonderful teaching staff. TY offers the perfect opportunity for our most ambitious students and our most vulnerable students to get extra supports as they get ready for the challenge of Leaving Certificate



SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Salesian Secondary College is a Christian Catholic school, which aspires to the full development of all its members according to Christian Principles. Our system of education places the young person at the heart of all that we do. We want and encourage all our students to have respect for themselves, respect for others and develop the necessary skills and talents that will enable them to live life to the full in pursuit of their dreams.

PASTORAL CARE SYSTEM

Each class within a year group has a specific teacher assigned to it as a Class Tutor. The Class Tutor meets his/her class at Tutor Time each week where Student Journals are checked and signed, and students get an information up-date on all of the happenings within the school. The overall care of each year group is co-ordinated by a Year Head. Students' progress and behaviour are monitored, and regular contact with parents is made through use of the Student Journal and Parent Teacher Meetings. We have a system of continuous assessment where students are assessed regularly, i.e. on a weekly basis or at the end of a topic/chapter. Full reports on academic progress in each subject are sent to parents at Christmas and Summer. A special Induction Evening is held in September for parents of our 1st Year students to welcome them into the Salesian Community, outline our Salesian Ethos, meet with Principal, Deputy Principal, Career Guidance Counsellor, Year Head and Tutors. An Introduction to Study Skills is also presented.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSES.

These Student Mentors (our "Ceangail" Team) work with their younger counterparts, helping them settle in to school and leading activities throughout the year which encourage the new students to meet and mix with their classmates and to become involved in extra curricular activities. We aim to bring out leadership ability in all our students.

STUDY ETHOS

We recognise the need to encourage and support effective study habits. We have a study policy whereby students receive guidance: -within the classroom environment and - by providing seminars and information evenings for students and their parents for all year groups.

SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY

We operate supervised study each evening after school for a nominal charge. Study is supervised by our own teachers and an atmosphere conducive to study in the school is maintained.

CANTEEN

Our modern kitchen with three chefs and five catering staff provide meals for our students each day. Breakfast is served each morning from 8am to 8.50am. Hot food is also available at lunch time.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Partnership is central to our school philosophy. We welcome the active participation of parents through their involvement with the Board of Management, Parents Association and their support in school policy and school development.

Facilities

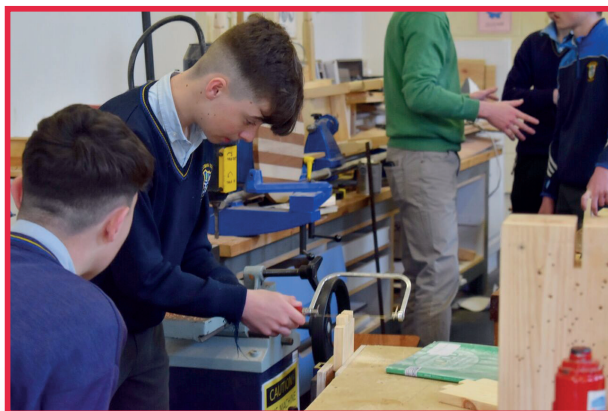
Salesian Secondary College has some of the best facilities available to a secondary school in the region. These facilities are being constantly up-graded and improved upon. Facilities include:

- Gym/Hall with Stage
- Shop
- Two all-weather hardcore playing areas
- Four tennis courts
- Two handball alleys
- Six basketball courts
- Four football and hurling pitches
- Church
- Canteen – breakfast and lunch served daily
- Information Technology Centre
- The Den: A specialist unit in development, which aims to cater for the needs of students with ASD (Common Application System and our School Admissions Policy apply.)

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are many opportunities within Salesian Secondary College that help in the development of skills and talents of our students. This is an aspect we promote very strongly in our ethos that gives a commitment to the all round development of each of our students. The Salesian approach to education is holistic and person centred, where education comprises growing in mind, body, heart and soul. Some of the activities include:-

- First Aid
- Music/Folk Group/Choir/Liturgy Services
- Youth Leadership Training/Student Mentoring
- Outdoor Pursuits Weekends and Annual Ski Trip
- Two week French Exchange for Transition Year students
- One week Spanish Exchange for 2nd Year students with a Salesian School in Granada every second year
- An active Student Council that participate in matters relating to the school
- An active Green Schools Committee comprising of students, teachers and parents who promote respect for the environment within the school and monitor our Green School Policy.



SPORTS

All students are encouraged to join the wide variety of Sports Clubs that exist at Salesian Secondary College. The school has representative teams in the following National, Munster and County Competitions:

- Gaelic Football
- Hurling
- Camogie
- Soccer
- Athletics
- Horse Riding
- Athletics
- Rugby
- Basketball
- Orienteering
- Sailing
- Rowing

CULTURE

Students participate in drama, music, creative writing, folk group, choir, theatre and film visits with associated workshops.



STUDENT VOICE

"Teachers get on really well with students which makes coming to school enjoyable"

"Salesian College is not judgemental: all students have an equal chance"

"The School gives me the opportunity to experience many different extra-curricular activities."

*"Teachers are relatable & treat you with respect
The school has a lovely atmosphere & high standard of teaching"*

"Salesian College is a place I can be myself and I am always encouraged to be the best I can be"

"Salesian College is a place where I know I will make lifelong friends."

Prayer for our Salesian School

Loving Father, whether we look back in gratitude for how you have walked by our side, or forward into how you will lead and comfort us, we know we are your beloved children.

We thank you for Don Bosco, an educator filled with a Spirit of fire and gentleness who continues to inspire us with confidence in ourselves and in our ability to act justly, to love tenderly and walk respectfully on the earth.

As we celebrate the promise of the Salesian story, may we live in communion with all our sisters and brothers together with Don Bosco and with Mary, the Mother of his dream.

We pray in the name of Jesus who shows us the way.
Amen.



LINKS WITH HOME

There are several opportunities for parents to link with the college formally throughout the academic year:

- Parent/Teacher Meetings
- Assessment Reports
- Information Evenings
- Parents' Council
- Email, text message, Facebook and Twitter notifications
- School App downloadable from the App Store and Play Store
- Customised Student Journal specifically designed for daily communication between school and home.
- VS Ware online platform. Each parent has access to their child's account.
- Google Classroom virtual learning environment (VLE). Homework and class notes are exchanged between student and teacher on the VLE.

The college operates an open door policy where a parent can make an appointment to meet with a Year Head at any stage if they have concerns. The Principal and Deputy Principal are also available to meet with parents should the need arise. We focus on partnership with the parents and believe that a co-operative relationship between the college and home best fosters the development of the student.



Copsewood, Pallaskenry, Ireland
7th May, 2019



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