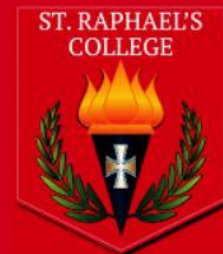




ST. RAPHAEL'S COLLEGE LOUGHREA



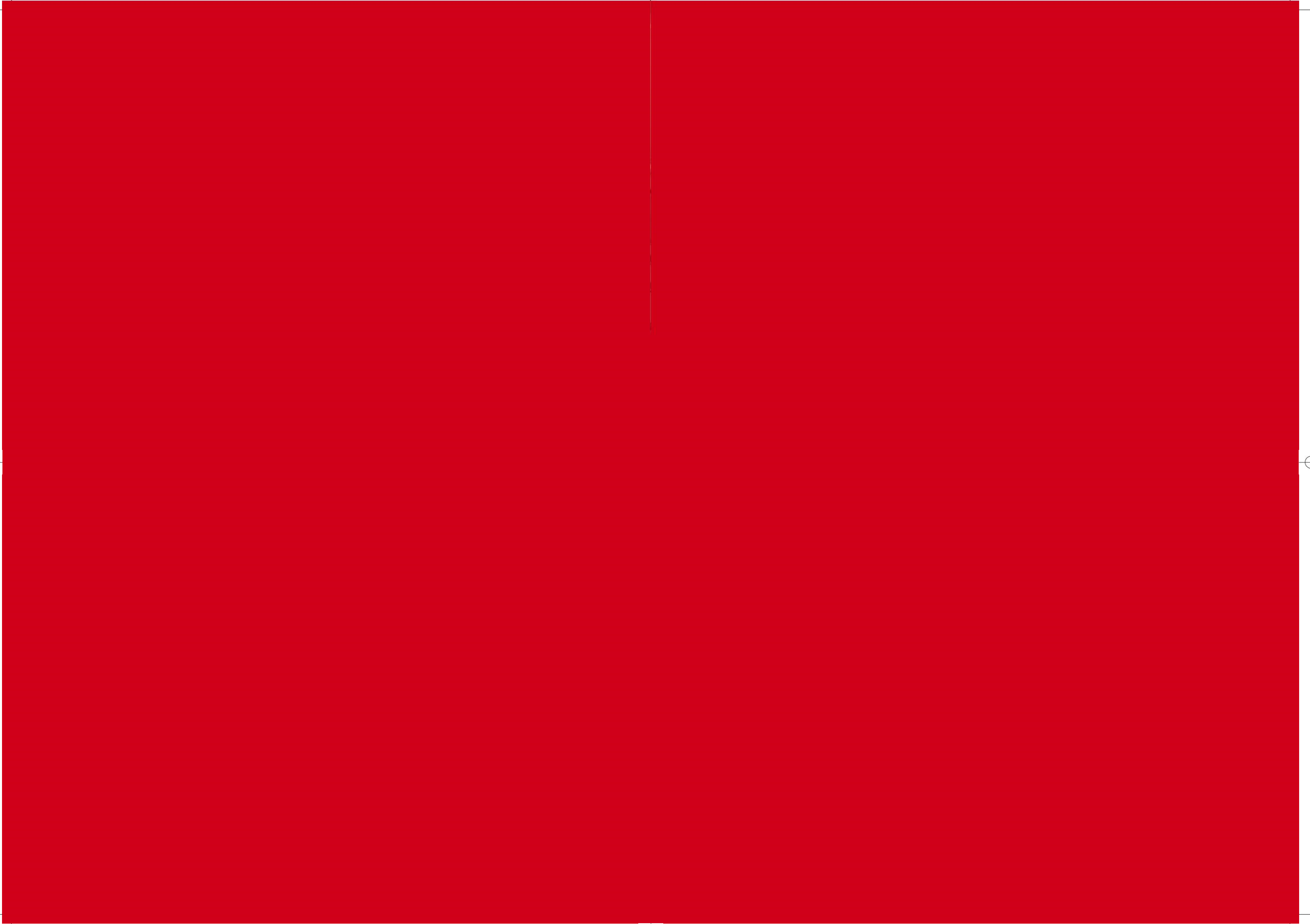
ST. RAPHAEL'S COLLEGE LOUGHREA

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION SINCE 1917



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SINCE 1917

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS





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ST. RAPHAEL'S COLLEGE, LOUGHREA



Message From The Principal

A Chairde,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to St. Raphael's College, Loughrea. I hope that this prospectus will give you an idea of what our school is all about. We are very proud of our school, our traditions, our ethos and in particular, our pupils. Thank you for taking the time to consider our school for your child's secondary education. I hope that the information contained in this prospectus will help you to make your decision.

In St. Raphael's we attempt to provide the broadest possible education, in line with our mission statement as a catholic school. Our objective is to work hard to ensure that each one of our pupils gets every possible opportunity and assistance to achieve his/her potential in all aspects of school life. We have a long and proud tradition of academic excellence with our state examination results being among the best and most consistent in the entire country. The majority of our pupils advance to third level where the benefits of the education received in St. Raphael's continues to be seen. We are very proud of all our pupils, many of whom excel in many different areas such as sport, music, art, debating, drama, quizzes and much more besides.

We are also very proud of our facilities here at St. Raphael's College. There is a great sense of excitement around the college at present as we occupy our state of the art extension and our fully refurbished Senior Building. Over the past two years eight million has been invested in the college. Students can now avail of first class facilities to enhance their learning experiences.

St. Raphael's College was founded in 1917 by the Mercy Sisters. Over a century later, we continue to

work hard to maintain and develop the Christian ethos established by the Mercy Sisters. As part of that legacy, we strongly encourage our pupils to make a positive contribution to society. Part of this contribution is seen in the significant contribution our school makes to many community initiatives.

St. Raphael's College is a Catholic school and we base our values on the teachings of the Gospel. We welcome pupils of all faiths and of none. Everything we do in the school stems from these Gospel values and they permeate all aspects of school life. Our priority, therefore is the care and welfare of our pupils. One practical example of these values is seen in our school's anti-bullying policy. This policy was devised by our pupils, through the student council. It was ratified by teachers, parents and Board of Management and every pupil signs a pledge to abide by this policy. The result is that we have very few incidents of bullying in our school and we continue to work to make St. Raphael's a 100% bullying-free school.

I invite you to visit St. Raphael's to see for yourself what our school has to offer.

Le gach dea-ghui,

John Hardiman
(Acting Principal)



Facilities

We are very fortunate in having excellent facilities which allow us to deliver the school curriculum to the highest standards:

- Science Labs
- Home Economics Kitchens
- Design and Communication Graphics Room
- Construction Studies Room with Adjacent Machine Room
- Information Technology Rooms incorporating a Multi Media Language Centre
- Religion and Meditation Room
- Music Rooms
- Demonstration Room with tiered seating
- Learning Support Rooms
- Brendan Resource Room.
- Canteen Area for Students
- Lift Access for Students with a disability
- Career Guidance Suite
- Art Room
- Sports Hall
- Fully equipped Fitness Suite
- Full Size Playing Pitch
- Outdoor Ball Courts
- Assembly Hall, fully equipped for stage productions





School Musical

Since 1956 school musical productions have been an integral part of St Raphael's College. Since the production of 'Maid of the Mountain' over 60 years ago, many hundreds of pupils have enjoyed the unique camaraderie and unforgettable joy of being part of the cast of a school musical. St Raphael's College has achieved the highest standard in the last

reputation for excellence in all of its musical productions. Over the years there have been some amazing shows, 'Maid of the Mountain', 'My Fair Lady', 'Annie', 'Grease', 'Oliver', 'Annie Get Your Gun', 'Hairspray' and many more besides. 'Les Miserable' was chosen for our centenary show, this was the perfect way to celebrate both our school centenary and 60 years of school musicals.



School Staff 2017/18

Mission Statement

St. Raphael's College is a Catholic co-educational school which aims to provide a Christian education designed to help each pupil achieve his/her potential. Administrators and teachers see themselves as supporting the Parents who are the primary educators of their children. The broad education offered strives towards not only academic achievements, but the complete development of each pupil.

History of St. Raphael's College

St Raphael's College was founded by the Clonfert Sisters of Mercy in 1917. Up to 1974 the school provided education for day-girls and boarders from both the local area and many different parts of the country. In 1974 St. Raphael's amalgamated with St. Brendan's De La Salle School, which had been founded in 1947. For the first time there was a mixed staff which since then has offered co-education to boys and girls in this area.

The Aim of the College

The aim of St. Raphael's College is to provide a Catholic education designed to help each pupil achieve his/her full potential as a unique worthwhile person. The school is a community where pupils, teachers and parents share the Christian vision and are guided by the principles of the gospel. Administrators and teachers see themselves as

supporting and supplementing the parents who are the primary educators of their children. The scope and depth of the education offered ensures thorough preparation for career choices at varying levels. Our concern is not only for achievement in public examination but for the 'all round' development of each pupil.

ST. RAPHAEL'S COLLEGE, LOUGHREA



Board of Management

The Board of Management consists of eight members nominated as follows:

- Four member nominated by the Trustees
- Two members nominated by the Parents
- Two members nominated by the Teachers

The current Board of Management is as follows:

- Mr. Mattie Quinn (Chairperson), Sr. Anne Farrell, Mrs. Breda McGuinness
- Mrs. Maura Loughnane, Mrs. Catherine Moore, Ms. Eileen Joyce, Mr. Sean Parr and Ms. Marie Deegan.

The Principal acts as secretary to the Board of Management.

Parents' Association

The role of the 'Parents' Association' is to support the school management, principal, staff and students. The association will adopt a programme of activities that will promote the involvement of parents, in consultation with the Principal, in the operation of the school. Meeting generally take place on a monthly basis.

CEIST

(Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust) are the owners and trustees of St. Raphael's College.

The Trustees delegate the management of the College to a Board of Management, which is responsible for the ethos and direction of the school.



'Scifest' & 'BT Young Scientist'

The 'BT Young Scientist' and 'Scifest' competitions are brilliant ways for students to display hands on research. It shows real passion for science and an ability to think for yourself. A strong emphasis is placed on promoting STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In 2017 St. Raphael's presented ten projects at 'Scifest' GMIT with Celine Brady (Leaving Cert) winning

overall runner up from over 100 schools. The school also organises whole school Science week, Maths week and Geography week. Field trips, guest speakers and student quizzes are just some of the events regularly organised in the school. Interested students are mentored by experienced teachers in our state of the art science laboratories.





First Year Hurling Panel



Senior Camogie



Under 16 Volleyball



The visit of the Liam Mc Carthy and Irish Press Cups to St Raphael's. Mr Forde & Sr Anne Farrell of St Raphael's College, pictured with Minor Hurling Champions, Conor Caulfield (Leaving Cert 2016/17), Caimin Killeen and Darren Morrissey (Leaving Certificate Class 2017/18). (Absent from photo - Martin Mc Manus Leaving Cert 2015/16).



Academic Excellence

This academic excellence is not only evident in the Junior and Leaving Cert results achieved by our students but can also be seen in their success in other academic areas aside from examinations. Competitions such as 'SciFest' and 'BT Scientist' present students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge learned in the classroom to the wider world.

As part of the College's self-evaluation policy students are encouraged to self-evaluate their assessments and monitor their results from term to term. Year heads and tutors also track student progress through the use of the school journal. Additional supports are provided such as evening study and learning support to help students reach their potential.



ST. RAPHAEL'S COLLEGE, LOUGHREA



First Year Students

The Curriculum

In keeping with the College's mission statement, the curriculum offered at St Raphael's is designed to give each student the opportunity to realise his / her full potential and to develop their skills and talents. Students follow a broad range of subjects and benefit from a wide range of learning experiences.

The new 'Junior Cycle Programme' places students at the centre of the educational experience, enabling them to actively participate in their communities and to be resourceful and confident learners.

The world is changing at a rapid rate and the curriculum must adapt in order to best prepare pupils for their future and their ability to take on these challenges.

As part of the new Junior Cycle students will experience a new area of learning called 'Wellbeing'. This builds on the work we are already undertaking in support of students' wellbeing.

Assessment will comprise of state exams at the end of third year in conjunction with 'Classroom-Based Assessments' and 'Assessment Tasks.'

Homework

Homework is an integral part of school life and the learning process. It is important that parents ensure that homework is completed every evening. Homework should be written into the school journal at the end of every class. Journals should be checked by parents every evening and signed at least once a week. Tutors will check student journals regularly and they may also be collected from students prior to Parent Teacher Meetings. It is important that students get into good study habits from the beginning of first year. They should have a quiet place free from distraction where they can study.



First Year Students



First Year Students

Special Educational Needs

St. Raphael's College welcomes pupils with Special Educational Needs. Using the College's personnel and resources, we endeavour to accommodate pupils to reach their full potential. While recognising and fully supporting parents' rights to have a school of their choice for their children, the College's ability to accept pupils with particular needs is dependent on the supply of resources, suitable to the needs of the individual pupil, being provided by the Department of Education and Skills. In 2016 we established a special class to cater for students with physical disabilities. If parents have any further questions they can contact the College's 'Additional Educational Needs Department'.



Senior Volleyball



Mr John Hardiman, Acting Principal, Leaving Cert Students Darren Morrisey & Caimin Killeen, Mr Sean Parr, Acting Deputy Principal.



First Year Basketball



Senior Hurling Panel



Under 16 Basketball



Katie Lynch, winner of Techno, Wearables Prize, Junk Kouture

Lunch Time

Junior students must remain on the school grounds at lunch time. All students have a choice of bringing their own lunch or using the canteen service. Extra-curricular activities are arranged for lunch time.

Extra-curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are very important in the life of St. Raphael's College. We offer a wide variety of activities in both a competitive and recreational context. We encourage all students to take part in extra-curricular activities.

The following are some of the extra-curricular activities enjoyed by students:

- Hurling
- Camogie
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Golf
- Debating & Public Speaking
- Poetry Aloud Competition
- Athletics
- Spelling B
- Chess
- Book Club
- Local and National Fund-raising events
- School tours at home and abroad
- School Fitness Challenge
- School Musical
- Trips to Adventure Centres
- Seachtain na Gaeilge activities
- Visits to Theatres, Concerts, Museums
- School Choir
- BT Young Scientist
- The Gaelbhrtach - The Irish Flag
- Junk Kouture
- Super Chef Competition
- Traditional Music Group
- Quizzes
- Doodle4google competition
- Credit Union Art Competition

Sport

We have a strong tradition of excellence in a wide variety of sports. We compete successfully in hurling, volleyball, camogie, basketball, rugby and athletics. We also have non-competitive programmes in soccer, spikeball, badminton and table tennis. We have a proud history of success in competitive sport. We remain the only school in Connacht to have won the 'All Ireland Colleges Senior Hurling Title!' We hold many All Ireland titles in both boys and girls Volleyball and we have won many local, provincial and national titles in Athletics.

Junior Cycle Subjects

Gaeilge	French
English	German
Maths	Business Studies
History	Music
Geography	Art
Science	Home Economics
Physical Education	Materials Technology (Woodwork)
Religion	Technical Graphics
Computers	Music
Civics, Social & Political Education (C.S.P.E)	
Social, Personal & Health Education (S.P.H.E)	



First Year Students



First Year Students

Leaving Certificate Subjects

Religious Education

P.E.

Languages

Irish, English, French, German

Science

Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Agricultural Science

Business Studies

Business, Accounting, L.C.V.P.

Practical

Construction Studies, Home Economics, Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)

Social Studies

Geography, History

The Arts

Art, Music





Transition Year

Our Transition Year Programme promotes many aspects of a student's development, including, their personal, social, vocational and educational development. Activities such as work experience, 'Gaisce', 'Young Social Innovators' and mini-company encourage growth and teamwork within the student body as well as community involvement. It can give students previously unknown confidence in themselves. The programme also allows students to work independently.

They are encouraged to develop a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem solving skills through project work. Volunteering forms a significant part of our Transition Year programme; students have the opportunity to work with the elderly and those with disabilities through 'CASA', St. Brendan's Home, Youth Centre and in charity shops.

Transition Year provides students with a wide range of opportunities to broaden their educational experiences. Students have the opportunity to study leaving certificate subjects which they would not have had the opportunity to do if they had progressed to Senior Cycle. They also undertake modules in different subject areas such as Well Being, Spanish, Public Speaking, Road Safety and Green Schools. Additionally, students have the opportunity to travel abroad, experience outdoor pursuits, team building, kickboxing, movie making, song school, first aid, dance, debating, road safety, safe pass, IT, theory test training, photography and law to name but a few. Students' progress is assessed throughout the year. A new credit system has been implemented this year.



General Information

Contact Information

The school can be contacted at (091) 841062. School news and information is also available on our new school website; www.saintraphaels.ie. We have also introduced the St. Raphael's school app. The app can be downloaded for free from any of the main app stores. Look up "St. Raphael's College, Loughrea App".

School Uniform

School uniform helps create a sense of identity and pride in students and they are expected to wear their full school uniform every day including during state examinations.

The school uniform consists of:

Boys: Grey uniform pants

Green jumper with school crest

Grey shirt

Black shoes / Dubarry deck shoes

Girls: Uniform plaid skirt / grey uniform trousers

Green jumper with school crest

Grey shirt

Green knee-high socks / black tights

Black shoes / Dubarry deck shoes

In the interests of Health and Safety, students are only permitted to wear one stud in each ear; other jewellery or body piercing is not allowed. Make up is considered inappropriate. Students who do not wear full school uniform and who do not present a note of explanation from parents / guardians will be expected to attend a lunchtime detention at a time designated by the Deputy Principal.

Book Rental Scheme

The College recognises the costs associated with returning to school in September. To help alleviate back to school costs, the College continues to operate a book rental scheme for Junior Cycle students. Parents / guardians pay a contribution in first year followed by a smaller contribution in second year.



Supervised Evening Study

Supervised evening study is available to all students.

Monday & Tuesday:

4.30pm - 6.30pm (Session 1)

6.30pm - 6.45pm (Break)

6.45pm-8.00pm (Session 2)

Wednesday / Thursday / Friday:

3.45pm - 5.45pm (Session 1)

5.45pm - 6.00pm (Break)

6.00pm - 7.00pm (Session 2)

School Timetable

9.00am - 9.40am - Class

9.40am - 10.20am - Class

10.20am - 11.00am - Class

11.00am - 11.15am - Morning Break

11.15am - 11.55am - Class

11.55am - 12.35pm - Class

12.35pm - 1.15pm - Class

1.15pm - 1.55pm - Lunch

1.55pm - 2.35pm - Class

2.35pm - 3.15pm - Class

3.15pm - 3.55 - Class

School finishes at 3.55pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and at 3.15pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Cáirde Nua 2017

'Gaisce', The President's Award

All Transition Year students are presented with the opportunity of participating in 'Gaisce', Ireland's most prestigious and respected individual award programme. This national programme is a challenge from the President of Ireland and it is designed to encourage students to push their boundaries and gather experience in areas they would not otherwise explore.

Guided and encouraged by their teachers, students set themselves a number of challenges that they complete in the areas of Community Involvement, Personal Skills, Recreational and Venture Activity. In order to obtain a Bronze medal, students must commit dedicating one hour per week in each area for thirteen weeks.

Young Social Innovators

Young Social Innovators is a national programme that is offered to Transition Year students to invite them to be challenged to look at the world around them and to identify and explore issues affecting them, their friends, community and wider society. More than just coming up with a solution, they will be asked to put their innovative ideas into action and to create change. It is an opportunity for the students to see other perspectives, using their own expertise and creativity to design solutions based on real human experience and need.



Presentation ~ Cycle Against Suicide. Ava Matthews, Kayleigh Cullinan, & Chloe O'Connor.

Student Support

Pastoral Care

It is our concern that all pupils should feel respected and should develop a tolerance of and respect for the values and beliefs of others in the school community. All teachers extend their interest in pupils beyond the confines of the class room and formal instruction.

Class Tutor & Year Head

Tutors are appointed to each class group. This teacher has regular class contact with the students. First year tutors play an important role in helping new students adjust and integrate to school life at St. Raphael's.

Each year has a 'Year Head' who has overall responsibility for the year group. Our central concern revolves around pastoral care and student welfare. Working with tutors, the 'Year Head' also monitors areas such as attendance, discipline, and homework.

Chaplain

The Chaplain's office provides an open door where students can come and receive support in a confidential, supportive and friendly atmosphere.

Religious Education

Liturgical celebrations are an important aspect of the 'Religious Education Programme'. Pupils are given opportunities to participate in para-liturgies, liturgies, and meditation experiences.

Retreats

Retreats suitable to a particular age level of pupils are carefully planned as part of the R.E. programme. These retreats provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their relationship with God and his meaning in their lives today. Retreat centres include, Knock, Esker, Ballintubber and Tobar Nua.



Peer Mentor Group



Amber Flag Presentation.
Ms. Kavanagh, Emer O'Brien, Keith Dervan, Cathal Bryan & Ms Healy.

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of Christian life. A special meditation room is set apart within the school where each student is given the opportunity to participate in mindfulness and meditation exercises. Throughout the school year we welcome parents to participate in special masses for different year groups.

Bullying

No form of bullying is tolerated in St Raphael's College and preventative strategies are in place. The school's anti-bullying policy was developed with the help of the 'Peer Mentor Group' and student council members. The 'Peer Mentor Group' organise and facilitate an anti-bullying week each year. Positive behaviour is emphasised and the supports available to students are outlined. As a result of this peer mentor led initiative, every student in St. Raphael's College is encouraged to sign the school's anti-bullying pledge where students promise not to partake in any form of bullying in school.

Well-Being

Promoting the mental health and well-being of our students is of prime importance in St Raphael's College. The school aims to provide a safe, caring and comfortable environment in which all students can function and receive the education they deserve. All aspects of a young person's life, including their experiences and interactions in school, have an influence on their mental health and well-being. Positive mental health enables our students to live fulfilling lives. The school hosts a mental health day every year, organised by the student council. The student council organise events, activities and guest speakers and in the afternoon some form of physical recreation is completed by the whole school, for example a run or a walk. All aspects of the day are solely dedicated to promoting the well-being of our students and the promotion of positive mental health is key. Due to the vast work completed by the student council in the promotion of positive mental health within the educational system they were awarded the 'Amber Flag' and also became an Ambassador School for 'Cycle Against Suicide' through spreading the message that, **"It's OK not to feel OK; and it's absolutely OK to ask for help."**

Student Leadership

Students participate in a wide range of activities which develop and enhance their leadership skills.

Areas include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Student Council | Gaisce |
| Cairde | Mini-Company |
| Peer Mentor Group | Work Experience |
| Young Social Innovators | Green Schools |

Student Council

The student council is a student led body who have a huge role to play in the work of the school. The student council is made up of students elected by their own class group and coordinators to act as student liaison officers. Each tutor group elects one representative to the student council. The council meets every week to discuss the development of the school and the welfare of its students. Any item discussed at the meeting is brought to the attention of the Principal and all meetings are reported to the tutor groups, by their representatives.

The key functions of the council are to:

- Work closely with school management and teachers.
- Consult regularly with students in the school.
- Involve as many students as possible in the activities of the Council.
- Work with other organisations and outside agencies to help involve young people in schools and in society.

Cáirde Nua

Starting secondary school is a challenging new experience for First Year students. The building of each child's self-esteem is of prime importance. The school aims to provide a safe and caring environment where First Years can adapt to their new school environment. A mentoring programme, known as 'Cáirde Nua' consists of a group of Leaving Certificate students who help First Year students to integrate into the school community, making the transition from primary to post-primary school easier.

Peer Mentoring Programme

The peer mentoring programme in St. Raphael's College helps to match Leaving Certificate students with young students in one-on-one relationships. They meet regularly and mentor them during challenging or difficult situations. Through this special relationship, peer mentors provide advice, support, attention and guidance. The peer mentor programme provides positive influences for younger students and they serve as role models in the school.