

# MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL BALLYMAHON

Main Street,  
Ballymahon,  
Co. Longford



**PHONE:** +353 (0) 9064 32267

**WEBSITE:** [www.mercyballymahon.com](http://www.mercyballymahon.com)

**TYPE OF SCHOOL:** Co-educational, Day pupils

**STUDENT NUMBERS:** 620 pupils

## UNIFORM

### Boys

<b>Trousers</b>	Navy
<b>Shirt</b>	Blue
<b>Jumper</b>	Navy round neck with School Crest
<b>Shoes</b>	Black or navy



### Girls

<b>Trousers</b>	Navy Trousers or Plaid Uniform Skirt
<b>Shirt</b>	Lemon Blouse
<b>Jumper</b>	Navy round neck with School Crest
<b>Shoes</b>	Black or navy flat heeled shoes (pumps are not allowed)



## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Mercy Secondary School was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1924 and became Co-Educational in 1959. We operate under the Trusteeship of CEIST. We are a Catholic School but we welcome students of different faiths. We aim to provide a caring atmosphere in which each student is encouraged to reach their full potential, develop a positive self-image and strive for academic excellence. We also have a proud tradition of fostering extra-curricular activities.

## **JUNIOR CYCLE CURRICULUM**

The following are the core subjects which are examined in the Junior Certificate:

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Civic, Social & Political Education
- Religious Studies

## **OPTIONS SUBJECTS**

In addition, students select five subjects from the following:

- Business Studies
- French
- Spanish
- Science
- Technology
- Technical Graphics
- Music
- Art, Craft and Design
- Home Economics

## **NON EXAMINATION SUBJECTS**

- Physical Education
- S.P.H.E. (Social, Personal & Health Education)

## **TRANSITION YEAR CURRICULUM**

Transition Year is a one year programme. It provides a bridge to enable students make the transition from Junior to Senior cycle. It encourages personal and social development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence.

Transition Year fosters academic achievement as students prepare for a Leaving Certificate Programme, further study and adult and working life. It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.

There is growing evidence that students who have taken Transition Year Programme are more self-reliant learners when they enter third-level education than their peers.

The ESRI study "The Transition Year Programme - An Assessment" 2004 has established that students who had taken the T.Y.P. had a higher Grade Point

Average in the Leaving Certificate as well as increased entry level to higher education. Students were also found to take a broader range of courses at third level than non TY students.

The NCCA conducted an Independent longitudinal study on the performance of Leaving Certificate students and found that those who had taken the Transition Year Programmes "were likely to be educationally adventurous than those who chose not to follow the programme. That is, they were more likely to retain subjects at Higher level, to move up from Ordinary to Higher level and from Foundation to Ordinary level. They were also more likely to take up subjects which they had not taken before."

Transition Year has many benefits for students. It helps them:

- discover** more about their personal strengths.
- develop** maturity and self-confidence.
- improve** their self-esteem.
- build** interpersonal and team skills.
- make** wiser subject choices for Leaving Certificate and Further Education.
- extend** the learning experience beyond the classroom.
- catch up** with remediation and compensation.
- develop** study skills for Leaving Certificate.
- develop** entrepreneurial skills.
- explore** the working world.
- extend** their repertoire of learning skills.
- achieve** improved Leaving Certificate results.

## SENIOR CYCLE CURRICULUM

The following are the core subjects which are examined in the Junior Certificate:

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics

## OPTIONS SUBJECTS

In addition, students select four subjects from the following:

- Accounting
- Business Studies
- Economics
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- French
- Spanish

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Agricultural Science
- Technology
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Music
- Home Economics

## NON EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

- Physical Education
- S.P.H.E. (Social, Personal & Health Education)

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A wide range of extra-curricular activities is catered for in school. They include Football (girls & boys) Basketball (girls), Soccer, Badminton, Hurling, Indoor Soccer, Uni-Hoc, Tennis, Volleyball, Fencing, Athletics, Art, Debating, Quizzes, Drama and Singing. There's more information under the Extra Curricular section on our website. Outdoor pursuits include trips to outdoor Pursuit Centres for Transition Year Students. Educational Tours/Outings are organised as appropriate for various groups of students.



## FACILITIES

- Sports facilities
- Canteen
- Chapel
- Art room
- All weather pitch & front courts
- Science labs
- Music room
- Technical Graphics & DCG Room
- Computer labs

The facilities in the school are excellent. We are constantly updating and upgrading in order to provide an educational setting for the students which matches and indeed surpasses most. Along with excellent educational, cultural and sports facilities the school also has a fully functioning canteen serving, hot breakfast, lunch and dinner menus.

