



St Leo's College
Excellence in Education



Achieved 11 A's Junior Certificate 2014



Head Girls 2014 - 2015



Leaving Certificate Students who scored more than 500 points

Contents

Message from the Principal	1	Educational Curriculum	7
Mission Statement	2	Junior Cycle Reform	7
Our Ethos	2	Transition Year	7
Our Vision	2	Senior Cycle	8
Introduction	3	Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme	8
Why St Leo's College	3	Leaving Certificate Applied	8
Our Facilities	3	Complementary Activities & Services	9
Support Structures	4	Sporting Activities	9
Induction	4	Choir	9
School Community	5	School Tours	10
Board of Management	5	Guidance	10
Parent's Association	5	Homework & Study	10
Student Leadership	5	Leaving Certificate Class 2014	11
Achievements	6		

Rachel Coyle
600 Points
Leaving Certificate
2014



Message from the Principal

Welcome to St. Leo's College Carlow. I am proud to introduce our school to you and I am pleased that you are considering our school for your daughter. This prospectus will tell you more about the special qualities of our school and the outstanding all-round education we offer.

At St. Leo's College we are proud of the very broad curriculum we offer, our excellent academic results, our first-class facilities and our exceptional array of extra-curricular activities. Our commitment to the individual makes this a happy place to learn. Our girls thrive knowing that they are supported in every aspect of their life by dedicated staff who encourage them to fulfill their potential.

As Principal, I am proud to be part of this school community especially when I witness young girls enter and leave as happy, confident, enquiring young women, determined to reach their potential, to excel in whatever they do and destined to make a positive contribution to the world. Our success is firmly rooted in the excellent relationship which exists between students and teachers and we are especially proud of the atmosphere of trust, support and mutual respect which is evident.

We believe that our students are successful because they are part of a school where every individual is valued and supported, and is offered every opportunity to advance. Our Year Heads and Class Heads move up through the school with students, monitoring progress and ensuring that parents also feel very much part of the learning partnership. For the last number of years we have successfully implemented our Academic Monitoring programme, a system which ensures each student is given valuable one-to-one feedback on her academic performance.

In 2012/2013 our school underwent the formal process of a WSE (Whole School Evaluation). This process was conducted by three members of the DES Inspectorate through visiting classes, interviewing staff, Board of



Management and Parent representatives. Without exception I am proud to affirm that their report was excellent with several citations of excellent practice and I encourage you to read their findings which were published and are available on the DES website at www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/

We hope that this prospectus will give you a taste of the many and varied activities we have on offer and that the information will assist you in deciding on the next stage of your daughter's education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Clare Ryan'.

Clare Ryan
Principal

Encouraging creativity and embracing diversity in a positive learning environment

Mission Statement

Inspired by the vision of Catherine McAuley, St. Leo's College is committed to the holistic development of each student.

As a Catholic school, we pursue excellence in an inclusive, caring and respectful environment.

Our Ethos

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Leo's College is the oldest secondary school in the South East with its origins dating back to 1839. While maintaining a strong Catholic tradition and ethos, we welcome students from every religious tradition as well as students with no religious tradition. We have students of various nationalities, believing that all are enriched by the experience and culture of fellow human beings.

Our Catholic ethos is characterised by our caring spirit, our commitment to pupil and teacher learning, and the provision of a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Students are immersed in rich tradition, where the qualities of commitment, dedication, professionalism and volunteerism are alive and well.

True to the inspiring vision of our foundress, Catherine McAuley, we aspire to foster in all our students a deep respect and compassion for all people, especially those who are most vulnerable and in need of practical help.



Our Vision

St Leo's College is a dynamic centre of Excellence in Education where all students are encouraged to achieve to their full potential and to become active citizens who will excel in their personal and academic lives. St. Leo's College embraces the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access and participation, parental choice in respect of enrolment and a respect for diversity of traditions, values, beliefs languages and ways of life. Students of St Leo's College are asked to uphold two fundamental principles, i.e. Respect for themselves and Respect for others.

Introduction

St Leo's College Carlow is an all girls secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST. The College is managed by a Board of Management which includes representatives of CEIST, Teachers, Parents and our founding congregation the Mercy Sisters. At St. Leo's College we believe that learning is a very personal journey and as a result of our commitment to Valuing Success for All, we have established a reputation for personalised care and support for every student. Within our school community we have very high standards of achievement based upon our emphasis on a unique combination of leading edge teaching and a traditional set of values. With an open intake of girls we have a large school population however, our culture and ethos of mutual trust and respect makes our "big school" feel like a "small community".

We have high expectations of all our students and proudly celebrate their wide ranging achievements and the fact that in excess of 90% of our students proceed on to third level education.

Why St. Leo's College

Our Facilities

St. Leo's College, Carlow is situated on a large site in the centre of Carlow Town. The site encompasses a main school building which comprises three large buildings linked by corridors, an extensive sports hall and gymnasium, a hockey pitch with a surrounding running track, and a grass pitch.

In 2012/2013, St Leo's College was fortunate to be afforded the opportunity to replace our temporary prefab accommodation with a new stand-alone structure and consequently a building project was undertaken to incorporate an increased sized Technology room and preparation area, six classrooms, a Science

Laboratory and a Library. Whilst the building was taking place, it was prudent to also undertake some refurbishment to the original building and so simultaneously our Music Room and Physics lab as well as development of a Hair and Beauty Salon to offer Hair and Beauty as an elective to our Leaving Certificate Applied class was undertaken. Ahead of schedule, we are thrilled with our new school building Solas and with our state of the art facilities.

Apart from our 40 general use classrooms we also have a number of specialist rooms including 2 Art Rooms, Assembly Hall, Biology Laboratory, Chemistry Laboratory, Physics Laboratory, Agricultural Science Laboratory, 2 Computer Rooms, 3 Home Economics Rooms, Craft Room, Geography Room, Language Laboratory, Library, Study Hall, Music Room, Technology Laboratory, Hair & Beauty Salon and Learning Support area.

The school boasts modern, well equipped networked computer rooms with internet access and appropriate subject specific software. Every student benefits from a carefully selected programme of skills including "hands on" experience word processing, spreadsheets, database, desktop publishing and use of internet.



"Management structures and strategic leadership are of a high quality and are effective in promoting high standards of engagement, achievement and quality improvement"

Support Structures

Each class in the school has a Class Head and each year group has a Year Head. In addition each of the Deputy Principals takes responsibility for students in Junior or Senior cycle. The Principal, Deputy Principals, Year Heads, Class Heads and Academic Monitors all work closely together for the student's general wellbeing with additional supports available from the School Chaplain and Counsellor, where necessary.

We recognise that the change from primary to secondary school is daunting and have put in place a number of supports to assist our junior students settle into their new environment. The Meitheal and Cairdeas group consists of fifth year students who have been selected from a stringent application process to act as role models, mentors and leaders for our First and Second year students. Young people relate exceptionally well to their peers and in this capacity these young leaders are invaluable in caring for our new students, acting as supports and guides and alerting staff to any concerns that arise.



Induction

To ease the transition into their new environment and make it as enjoyable as possible we have an induction programme in place to support and reassure our new students. First Year induction begins in November/December each year when each student, accompanied by their parents/guardians, has an individual meeting with either the Principal, Deputy Principal or senior member of staff. First Year students are the first group to start school at the beginning of the academic year when they undertake an intensive three day programme which is delivered by a range of people including the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Head, Class Heads and Meitheal team.

In late September a welcome evening is held for First Year parents/guardians at which an opportunity exists to meet teachers, Class Heads, Year Head and Principal. It also provides an occasion to ask questions, learn a little more about the school and meet other parents.



School Community

Board of Management

Our active and committed Board of Management comprises of members including Parents, Staff, Trustee Representatives and our Principal. Our Board of Management meets monthly and supports the work of Senior Management and staff in the running of the school. Members of the Board possess a wide range of skills and expertise which are invaluable in the running of a high functioning school.



Parents' Association

Our active and enthusiastic Parents Association forms an integral part of the school community and parents are welcome and encouraged to join. This committee, formed to promote and support co-operation between school and home, meets once a month and work tirelessly on behalf of the school. Activities include assisting at Parent evenings, Open Evenings, Musicals etc. and also undertaking fundraising events which supports student scholarships and has recently funded the purchasing of a school bus.



Student Leadership

St. Leo's College has a strong reputation in the field of student leadership and promotes active involvement and participation in a range of leadership programmes. Committees are selected on a democratic basis and officers are elected. The aims of such programmes is to provide a line of communication between students, management, staff and parents and represent the views of the student body on matters of concern to them. Each year the students elected as members are afforded the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, as well as responsibility and accountability.



Results from student questionnaires and interviews indicated high levels of satisfaction with their school. Students are proud of their school, feel cared for, encouraged and well supported to achieve to their potential" Whole School Evaluation

– March 2013

Achievements

At the end of May each year our Awards Day is held to showcase and celebrate the success of our students throughout the year. We recognise academic achievements with the awarding of scholarships in each subject area, athletic and sporting achievements, outstanding attendance at school as well as personal attainments. Presentations are made to those students who have excelled in areas of leadership and made a positive contribution to school life. Opportunities exist at all levels for students to become involved and be recognised at this ceremony.



Educational Curriculum

Junior Cycle Reform

With effect from the academic year 2014-2015 the Junior Certificate Examination is being replaced with a school-based model of assessment with an emphasis on the quality of students' learning experience. Schools will deliver programmes that will enable students to develop a wide range of skills, including critical thinking skills and basic skills such as numeracy and literacy.

Most students will generally take no fewer than 8 subjects and no more than 10 full subjects for certification purposes in the new junior cycle. Students can also choose to substitute two short courses for one full subject, allowing schools the flexibility to tailor the programme to the needs of students.

The revised curriculum will be introduced on a phased basis from 2014 with English being the first subject to be undertaken by First Year students. From 2014, students in second year will sit standardised tests in English reading and Maths, and from 2016 standardised testing in Science will also be included.

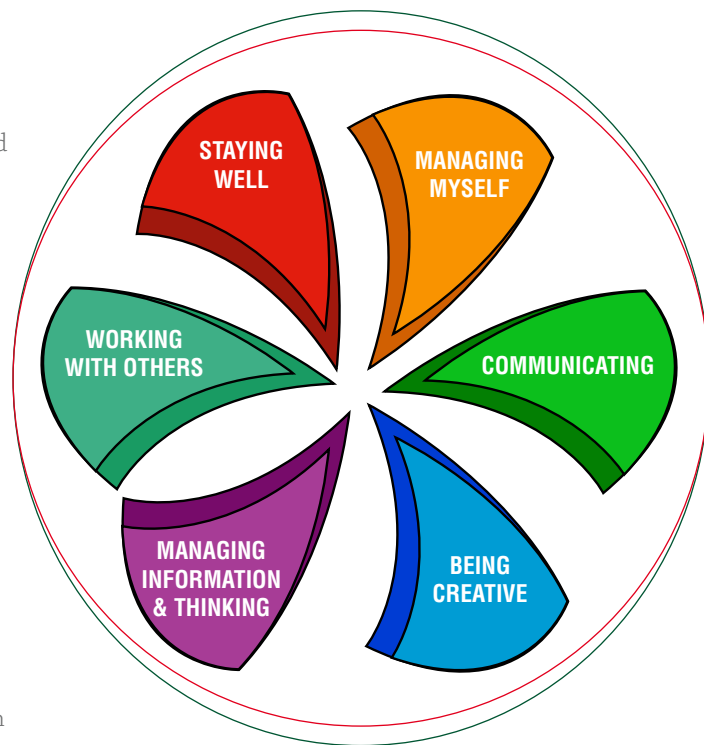
At present there is a dedicated committee in place, chaired by the Principal, to oversee the introduction of this new programme. We welcome the opportunity to be one of the pilot schools inputting into the Junior Cycle reform which allows us to, once again, be at the forefront of new innovative educational initiatives.

Transition Year

Transition year is an optional one year programme offered to all 4th Years students following completion of their Junior Certificate. This year offers students the opportunity to bridge the transition from

Junior to Senior Cycle and generally over 90% of our students choose to follow the programme. Strongly advocated by the Department of Education & Skills this year encourages personal and social development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence and so special emphasis is placed on self directed learning.

The programme is offered through a broad and balanced curriculum with students combining academic subjects with wide and varied activities including the opportunity to participate in a musical production, travel, sporting qualifications and personal skills.



Junior Cycle Key Skills

“The learning atmosphere was characterized by very positive, affirming and respectful interactions between students and their teachers” Whole School Evaluation – March 2013

Senior Cycle

Students at Senior Cycle follow a two year programme leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination. All subjects are offered at all levels with students being encouraged to pursue subjects at higher levels. We take a student centred approach to subject options with the opportunity being afforded to study an extensive curriculum. Students are surveyed well in advance of entering senior cycle and every opportunity is taken to ensure student preference is met resulting in the highest possible satisfaction rating.

**CORE SUBJECTS
taken by all students:-**
Irish
English
Mathematics
European Language

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS INCLUDE:

Accounting	Economics
Agricultural Science	Applied Maths
Home Economics	Biology
Business	Physics
History	Chemistry
Geography	Music
Art	

In addition students avail of PE, ICT, Religion and Career Guidance.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The LCVP is an enhanced Leaving Certificate Programme. Students who have specified subject combinations (as laid down by the DES) qualify to take the “link modules”- Enterprise Education, Preparation for work and Work experience. It is a worthwhile programme that combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate with a dynamic focus on self directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. Assessment is by written examination (40%) and by Portfolio of coursework (60%). A Distinction in this programme is the equivalent of a grade ‘C’ on a higher level paper and is therefore very valuable.

Leaving Certificate Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year senior cycle programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence, which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. This programme is designed to meet the needs of students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes. Grades are allocated on a continuous assessment method over the two years of the programme with Practicals/Interviews and terminal written papers among the different forms of assessment used. The Leaving Certificate Applied is acceptable for most Post Leaving Certificate Courses. Completing these courses will allow a student to progress to third level Institutes of Technology.

Since 2013 St. Leo’s College has included “Hair & Beauty” as an elective of the modern LCA programme.

Complementary Activities & Services

Sporting Activities

A long and proud tradition of sporting and extra curricular achievements can be participated in at St. Leo's College. For those active students each year we field teams in a variety of sports including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Equestrian Events, Gaelic Football, Hockey, Squash, Golf, Rowing and Volleyball.

The sporting facilities and resources within the school include a Sports Hall with five badminton courts, two Volleyball Courts, full size Basketball court, Indoor Soccer and Olympic Handball court. In addition we boast a Hockey Pitch, an Athletics Track as well as outdoor grass pitches used for Gaelic, Camogie, Soccer and Rounders and our very own fitness suite equipped with a full range of state of the art leisure equipment.

In addition to the many sporting events on offer a huge array of clubs and societies are in operation at our school. Clubs with a social justice theme include St. Vincent de Paul, Goal, Amnesty, Green Schools etc. while other clubs like Hip Hop Dance, Traditional Music Group, Debating and Public Speaking give the opportunity to gain confidence in performing for their peers.

Choir

St. Leo's College Chamber Choir and Folk Choir are open to all students. Our Folk Choir performs at school masses, carol singing and other school related events. Our Chamber Choir is often for the more dedicated vocalists and they perform in a number of choral events throughout the year. For the past number of years they have claimed numerous national titles and have performed in the All Island Choir Competition.



"An exemplary array of opportunities is provided for students to assume leadership roles that positively contribute to school life." Whole School Evaluation – March 2013

School Tours

The opportunity afforded to students to travel abroad is welcomed by many families. School tours include trips to London, France, Italy and Germany with students availing of the chance to get in some skiing practice or visiting sites of historical or geographic interest.

Guidance

The Guidance department at St Leo's College views the development of positive self-esteem as essential for students. The department works with all year groups and is involved in classroom activities, one to one guidance, career planning, assessment of educational and vocational abilities, alongside other related supports. The Guidance department works with all senior students on an individual basis working on both study plans, college applications via CAO and UCAS route as well as career options.

Homework & Study

Research shows that a good study routine leads to good results and so every effort is made to facilitate and promote teaching and learning, both during and after school. Supervised study and assisted study



provide an environment to improve study skills for those who participate and the school provides facilities for study from 4.15pm until 6.15pm Monday - Thursday.

A qualified teacher is present at Assisted study, providing guidance if and when required. Transition year students, having applied in writing and successfully gone through the interview process also assist with study.

Saturday study and Easter study is also an opportunity offered to exam students.

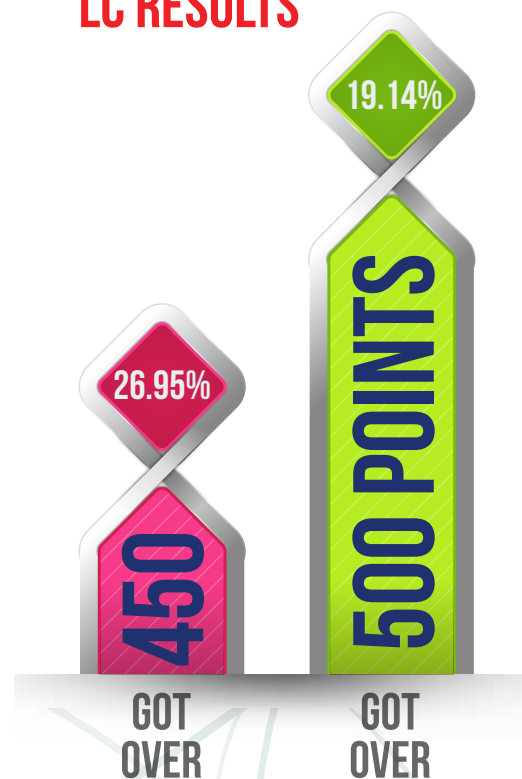
Leaving Certificate Class of 2014

19% got A's in Honours Irish
15% got A's in Honours English
11% got A's in Honours Maths
60% got A's in Honours Physics
22% got A's in Honours Accounting
16% got A's in Honours Ag. Science
36% got A's in Honours German
18% got A's in Honours Geography
17% got A's in Honours Music
19% got A's in Honours Business

Vs National Average 14.2%
 Vs National Average 9.9%
 Vs National Average 10.2%
 Vs National Average 19.7%
 Vs National Average 19.8%
 Vs National Average 4.5%
 Vs National Average 14.7%
 Vs National Average 9.1%
 Vs National Average 17%
 Vs National Average 3.3%

UPTAKE OF SUBJECT at Higher Level Vs National Average		
SUBJECT	St. Leo's Higher Level	National Higher Level
Accounting	78%	71%
Agri. Science	100%	80%
Art	95%	79%
Biology	90%	74%
Business	89%	71%
Chemistry	90%	84%
Economics	92%	84%
English	79%	67%
French	55%	57%
Gaeilge	44%	40%
Geography	67%	78%
German	100%	69%
History	80%	70%
Home Econ.	90%	71%
Mathematics	27%	27%
Music	100%	92%
Physics	83%	75%
Technology	100%	89%

CLASS OF 2014 LC RESULTS





St Leo's College, Dublin Road, Carlow

Tel: (059) 914 3660

Fax: (059) 913 0114

Email: info@stleoscarlow.ie

www.stleoscarlow.ie

Príomhoide: Ms. Clare Ryan

Leas Príomhoide: Ms. Helen Regan & Ms. Lillian Fogarty