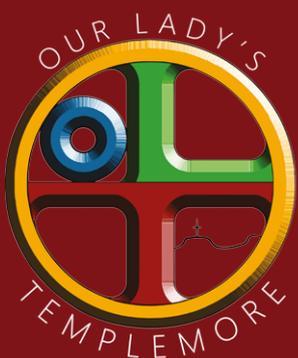


“We provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in which all students are challenged and supported to reach their educational and personal potential.”



Our Lady's Secondary School Meánscoil Mhuire

Templemore / An Teampall Mór

TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF



FOREWORD

As you and your child look forward to the next stage in their education, you will be concerned that the school you choose will suit their individual needs and will provide them with the challenge to reach their full potential. By selecting Our Lady's Secondary School you are making a positive decision for your child's education.

High quality education can make the crucial difference in helping students to develop to their full potential. At Our Lady's we believe that every student in our school can be successful. Through our commitment we provide students with an opportunity to turn their potential into actual achievement.

Our Lady's provides a disciplined, well-ordered, caring and supportive atmosphere in which effective teaching and learning take place. The school has a hardworking committed staff and a wide range of resources and facilities. Our students attain excellent results in state examinations and have an enviable record of success in going on to third level education and gaining employment.

At Our Lady's Secondary School it is recognised that parents/guardians play an integral role in the education process and therefore a partnership approach to education is promoted. Every child deserves and needs a high quality, broad-based education in order to succeed in life. We aim for all our students to leave school with the necessary skills, which will lead them to a happy and fulfilled adult life.

I look forward to welcoming you to Our Lady's Secondary School.

Patricia Higgins
Principal



“We endeavour to provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in which all students are challenged and supported to reach their educational and personal potential.”

HISTORY AND ORIGINS

The history of Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore dates back over one hundred and fifty years starting in 1863 when the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Templemore.

From their early days the Sisters provided second level education and in 1955 the school gained the status of a Voluntary Secondary School catering for 300 girls, 80 of whom were boarders. The Christian Brothers School opened in 1932 and provided secondary education for boys from a wide catchment area, and achieved huge academic and sporting successes.

1985 was a particularly significant year for secondary education in Templemore as the two schools amalgamated to form Our Lady's Secondary School. The philosophies of Sr. Catherine Mc Auley and Br. Edmund Rice were combined; this was a natural progression as there was a long tradition of support and co-operation between the two communities. In 2007 Our Lady's together with 111 other schools transferred to CEIST (Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust).



“At Our Lady's we believe that every student in our school can be successful.”

MISSION STATEMENT

We endeavour to provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in which all students are challenged and supported to reach their educational and personal potential.

It is our aim that students leaving our school should be well adjusted, responsible and enterprising individuals capable of meeting the challenges of a changing society. We strive to further the Christian and moral development of each student within in an atmosphere that reflects the Mercy ethos and long tradition of education.

We are a Catholic school community, under the trusteeship of CEIST. The CEIST core values permeate our work and study:

- Promoting spiritual and human development
- Achieving quality in teaching and learning
- Showing respect for every person
- Creating community
- Being just and responsible

Facilities at Our Lady's



School building

Our Lady's is a modern, state-of-the-art school designed to cater for six hundred students. During the major capital project, the school has been fully refurbished and modernised. Our environment is spacious, bright and comfortable for students and staff. The campus offers endless opportunities for social interaction and relaxation during lunchtime/breaktime with wonderful recreational areas including the social area, a large courtyard and

three ball courts. The accommodation consists of general classrooms, specialist rooms, the practical block, the science block, the canteen and the sports facilities.

General Classrooms

Twenty-three well-equipped general classrooms are occupied by subject teachers and their class groups. The new extension is home to two large classrooms namely the Mathematics Room and the Social Studies Room.



Information Communication Technology (ICT)

The building is equipped with an effective Information Technology Infrastructure. In 2015 the entire ICT system was fully upgraded.

New computers were installed throughout the school and each classroom was equipped with a data projector and integrated sound systems. The availability of 100 MB broadband and WiFi connectivity throughout the building has enhanced the learning environment for students. A range of additional IT equipment (including iPads, laptops, student computers, visualisers, digital cameras and interactive whiteboards) is available for use by staff and students at Our Lady's. The school boasts two new computer laboratories. The business/computer room and the multi-media laboratory are well-designed and equipped with thirty student computers in each.

PRACTICAL AREAS

The entire suite of practical rooms has been fully modernised and finished to an exceptionally high standard. The rooms are well-designed, spacious and well-equipped.

- There are two construction studies/woodwork rooms and an engineering room. This area also houses a machine preparation area.
- The new art room is located towards the front of the building.
- The Home Economics and Dress Design rooms are completed to a very high standard.



Sports Facilities

The school has a large gymnasium, a fitness suite, three courts and playing pitches.

Science Block

The impressive science block houses three fully-equipped science laboratories and a demonstration room as well as two preparation rooms.

Library

The modernised library facility is a welcoming, student friendly space. It offers students open access to a wide range of reading materials. Students can search the electronic database and take out and return books with the swipe of a finger. The library is open to all students at lunchtime each day and it is accessible for the purposes of research and independent learning throughout the school week.

Music Room

The music room is connected to the Social Area which is used as a performance space. The music department is home to an impressive array of instruments including a U Series Yamaha Piano, a class set of Ukuleles, percussion and string instruments.

ICT Laboratories

The business/computer room and the multi-media laboratories are large, tastefully decorated rooms which are fully equipped with thirty new computers in each.

The DCG room is fitted with purpose designed fitted furniture and twenty-four high spec computers.

Canteen

The canteen facility and new social area are two large community areas in the school where pupils eat and recreate during the school day. Students can enjoy low cost healthy meals cooked on site daily. First, second and third year students are obliged to remain on the school premises at lunchtime. Students from other year groups are also welcome to use the social area/canteen at lunchtime.



“At Our Lady’s education is centred on the pursuit of excellence in all areas.”

New Junior Cycle Framework

Our Lady's has embraced the New Junior Cycle Framework with great enthusiasm. Engagement with the eight key principles, the eight key skills and the twenty-four statements of learning occurs through the work of teachers and students in Junior Cycle.



“Students are given opportunities to develop new skills and interests in a range of areas.”



The **Learning to Learn** Committee is focusing on teaching students the skills and techniques required to be effective learners. A wide range of subjects and an extensive extra-curricular programme allows every student to experience success and to reach their full potential.

SENIOR CYCLE AT OUR LADY'S

After the completion of Junior Certificate, students at Our Lady's have a choice of four programmes, namely Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Established, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied. The school hosts an information evening each year to help students and their parents/guardians decide which programme would best meet the needs of the student.



Junior Cycle Results day



Leaving certificate High Achievers

Transition Year

The majority of students at Our Lady's opt for Transition Year after Junior Cycle. "A Transition Year offers pupils a broad educational experience with a view to the attainment of increased maturity, before proceeding to further study and/or vocational preparation. It provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making (Transition Year Programmes –Guidelines for Schools)." Our Lady's offers an imaginative and creative TY programme which enables students to develop a range of learning, research and presentation skills which are invaluable as they move forward on their educational journey.

Transition Year Subjects include: Irish, English, Mathematics, French, German, Chinese, History, Geography, Information Technology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business/Enterprise, Health & Safety, Design & Communication Graphics, Woodwork, Home Economics, Music and Photography. The programme offers endless opportunities for personal growth and the development of team working skills. Students complete work experience placements throughout the year and they participate in an annual excursion to Delphi Adventure Centre.

Leaving Certificate

At Our Lady's we provide a comprehensive and varied range of subjects for study at Leaving Certificate Level. The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is run in conjunction with the Leaving Certificate and is designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate. Students with the required Leaving Cert Subject combination can study the LCVP programme at Our Lady's.

Leaving Cert Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two year Leaving Certificate available to students at Our Lady's who wish to follow a programme with a strong practical and vocational emphasis. The programme has three main elements: Vocational Preparation, Vocational Education, and General Education. Students who opt for this programme at Our Lady's usually do so because they prefer the more hands on, project based approach to the traditional classroom style of learning.



"Leaving Certificate students at Our Lady's achieve good results and transfer successfully to Third Level Education."

Pastoral Care

The school is supported by a strong Pastoral Care team consisting of Teachers, Class Tutors, Yearheads, Guidance Counsellor, Special Needs Assistants, ancillary staff, the Deputy Principal and Principal.



Class Tutor/Yearhead

Each junior class is assigned a Class Tutor. The Class Tutor is a person who supports and encourages positive behaviour in a firm and fair manner. Each year group is assigned a Yearhead. The Yearhead builds a sense of belonging by promoting class and year group spirit, by getting to know students, by engaging students in school activities and encouraging team work. The Yearhead acknowledges student effort and achievement.

Career Guidance Counsellor

The Guidance Counsellor undertakes career, educational and personal counselling. Counselling is offered on an individual and group basis as part of a developmental learning process and at moments of personal crisis or difficulty. The Guidance Counsellor provides support on an individual basis for self –referral and for students referred to her by teachers and school management.

Cairdeas

Cairdeas, our student mentoring system plays an important role in assisting first year students in their transition from primary to post-primary school. We are conscious of the importance of making a good start. First year students receive an induction day at the start of the school year. The new students are given freedom to explore the building layout and to get to know their 'cara' prior to the return of other year groups. Students are given the opportunity to take possession of their lockers and assistance is given with the student timetable.



“The Pastoral Care Team works hard to ensure the well-being of all students.”

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council represents the voice of the students and brings student concerns to the attention of teachers and management. Members are elected by students and teachers at the beginning of each school year. Each year group is represented on the Student Council.



SPECIAL NEEDS PROVISION

The Learning Support Team is coordinated by the Learning Support Coordinator. The Learning Support Teacher and other teachers provide assistance with literacy and numeracy. The additional classes usually take place during Irish and European language time when students are given an exemption from these subjects. SEN students have access to one-to-one tuition, small group tuition and team teaching. Students also receive support from the Special Educational Needs Assistants.

Every effort is made to support and include students with learning difficulties. Information regarding Special Education Needs is sought during the application process. On receipt of psychological assessments, the school makes an application for additional resource hours and for special concessions in state examinations each year. Other students, who in the view of the school, formed on the basis of assessments carried out by the school, may also be deemed to have Special Educational Needs. In this instance the parents/guardians are contacted and support is provided.



“A strong partnership between school and home contributes to student success at Our Lady’s.”



STUDENT BOOKS' SCHEME

A sale of new and second-hand books is organised in the school each June. The school operates a grant scheme towards the cost of providing school textbooks for eligible students.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The policy and operation of Our Lady's Secondary School is guided by a Board of Management comprising of four nominees of the Trustees (CEIST), two elected parent/guardians and two elected teachers. The day to day running of the school is the responsibility of the Principal who acts as Secretary, to the Board of Management.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

The Constitution recognises parents as the primary educators. At Our Lady's Secondary School it is recognised that parents/guardians play an integral role in the education process and therefore a partnership approach to education is promoted. This is characterised by a shared sense of purpose and mutual respect. Positive links between home and school are maintained and developed through the Pastoral Care system and communication between the school and the home.

There is an active Parents' Association in the school, which aims to promote the educational development of our students and to assist with the various school activities. A Parents' Council is elected every three years. Two parent/guardian representatives are elected to the Board of Management for a three-year period.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The school offers an extensive extra-curricular programme. Students are encouraged to take up new activities as well as continuing to pursue the interests which they developed during their primary school years.



Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat



“A happy, caring environment where students can grow to their full potential.”

We regard participation in sport as invaluable because it promotes physical development and qualities of endurance, reliability, co-operation and team work. Students participate in hurling, football, camogie, basketball, athletics, badminton, golf and equestrian events.

The music department continues to expand its horizons at Our Lady's. The highlight of the music calendar is the annual production of the school musical. A rich variety of other musical projects in various genres punctuates the school year. These include Siansa Gael Linn, Carol Singing, Talent Search and participation in many school and community events.

Students participate in a variety of co-curricular activities including Gaisce, debating, public speaking, quizzes, charity events, excursions and trips during the school year.

Extra-Curricular Activities



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The school seeks to promote the spiritual and religious growth of the students by creating a Christian atmosphere. It leads them to maturity within the context of the Christian faith, which should inform and colour their lives during their school days.

This foundation continues to guide their conduct in adulthood. The Religion Team forms an integral part of school-life, yet we acknowledge that spiritual and moral development is not the exclusive responsibility of religious education. Each subject offers opportunities

to promote and consolidate gospel values. To best promote and foster the religious growth and development of the students, opportunities for prayer, celebration of the sacraments, retreats and meaningful liturgies are provided during the school.



Conor Shanahan Top Performing Leaving Cert student 2017

AWARDS

At Our Lady's merit stickers and merit cards are awarded to students in Junior Cycle for;

(a) behaviour and cooperation in class, (b) academic excellence, (c) willingness, initiative and enterprise, (d) sustained improvement in attitude/performance and (e) good citizenship. Students accumulate merit cards which are used to claim Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards. Students are presented with certificates and prizes at Award Ceremonies each term.

Each May the school hosts an award ceremony for senior cycle students. At this important event students

are awarded for academic excellence, embodying the characteristic spirit of the school, attendance, making an exceptional contribution to a particular area of school life and outstanding performance in State Examinations.



Junior Cycle Awards



“Positive acknowledgement of good behaviour is a very effective way of influencing and promoting good learning behaviour.”

(Guidelines for Developing School Codes of Behaviour, NEWB, 2007)



Our Lady's delivers

- An excellent academic education
- A bright, modern well-equipped school
- A highly committed team of teachers and support staff
- An extensive and varied extra-curricular programme
- Consistent high performance in sport and music
- Full integration of ICT in teaching and learning
- Opportunities to develop new skills and interests in a range of areas
- A happy, caring environment where students can grow to their full potential



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