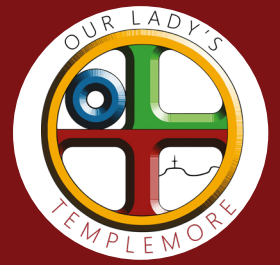


# Welcome

## TO OUR LADY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL TEMPLEMORE



Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore is situated in the shadow of the Devil's Bit mountain in the heart of the premier county, Tipperary. We are a co-educational school, under the trusteeship of CEIST with a student population of 640 students.

As you plan with your child the next stage of their education journey, by selecting Our Lady's Templemore you will be ensuring a fulfilled experience where they will be at the centre. At Our Lady's we believe that every student in our school can be successful. Through our commitment and in partnership with parents/guardians we provide all students with the opportunity to turn potential into achievement.

Our Lady's offers students the highest quality education in a safe, caring and supportive environment where effective learning and teaching takes place. The school has a highly committed staff, modern, comfortable, safe facilities and a range of programmes, subjects and extracurricular activities to engage students in their learning. Our students attain excellent results in state examinations and have an enviable record of success in third level, further training, and employment.

Our school places the student experience and welfare in central focus. The student is scaffolded by strong positive relationships between all the stakeholders, Teachers, Parents/Guardians, Board of Management and Trustees. We provide a safe quality teaching and learning environment where students can grow, develop and be the best they can by participation in a broad range of academic, cultural, music, spiritual and sporting activities.

We look forward to welcoming you to Our Lady's Secondary School



Paul Fogarty  
Principal



Martina Butler  
Deputy Principal

### TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF



## HISTORY AND ORIGINS

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

From their early days the Sisters of Mercy 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 McAuley 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

*Our Lady's is a Catholic co-educational secondary school committed to embracing Gospel values. As a school community we nurture the moral, spiritual, social and academic development of each student. We are dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence and to quality in teaching and learning. Through the academic, pastoral care and extra-curricular programmes we strive to create a love of learning, enhance student wellbeing and build resilience. We foster a culture of respect for all and we support our students in becoming independent and successful learners.*

*The school adopts a student-centred approach which nurtures the talents and potential of all, in a positive, safe and inclusive environment. Students are inspired to become just and responsible citizens who will care for and protect the environment. Our hope is that this mission will be fulfilled in a spirit of partnership with students, staff, parents/guardians and the wider community.*

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 was 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, Sports' Field, Astro Ball Wall 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.





### Sports Facilities

The school has a large gymnasium, a fitness suite, three courts, Astro Ball Wall 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. 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 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.



## TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Our Lady's is committed to achieving quality in teaching and learning. A variety of teaching methodologies including the use of technology and Assessment for Learning techniques are used to facilitate learners. The Teaching, Learning & Assessment initiative is embedded in the culture of the school and it supports all students in their learning.

Our Lady's Teaching, Learning & Assessment Committee meet once a week. This group of teachers help students to maximise their full academic potential. They work with different groups of students helping them with their study plans, teaching them study skills and offer support to students on their learning journey. The Teaching, Learning & Assessment Committee focuses on teaching students the skills required to be effective lifelong learners.

## JUNIOR CYCLE

Our Lady's offers a broad range of experiences in the Junior Cycle provision. All students study a core programme which includes the Wellbeing programme. Students will sample every subject that Our Lady's offer within their 1st year. Students will then choose from our choice programme the subjects which they will complete over their three year cycle.

The sampling of all subjects in First year affords students and parents the opportunity to make a fully informed decision about what subjects students should continue to study. As students progress through their Junior Cycle experience, they will develop each of the 8 key skills embedded at the core of the Junior Cycle programme.

### Core Programme

Irish  
English  
Maths  
History  
Religious Education

### Wellbeing Programme

SPHE  
CSPE  
PE

### Option Programme

French  
German  
Business  
Science  
Music  
Wood Technology  
Engineering  
Home Economics  
Visual Art  
Geography  
Graphics

## 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.

## Leaving Certificate Results 2025

30% of our Students scored over 500 points

**National Average: 22.5% in 2025**

60% of our Students scored over 400 points

**National Average: 50.7% in 2025**

87% of our Students scored over 300 points

**National Average: 75.6% in 2025**

## 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 studies 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 Podcast. 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.

## Leaving Certificate Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two year programme available to students at Our Lady's who wish to follow a programme with a strong practical and vocational emphasis. The course 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 with continuous assessment to the traditional high stakes Leaving Certificate Examination at the end of two years.



# Student Support Team

The school is supported by a strong 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 Counselling

Our Guidance Counsellors undertake 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. Our Guidance Counsellors provide support on an individual basis for self-referral and for students referred to her by teachers and school management.

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

## Student Support Team

The Student Support Team meets weekly at Our Lady's Templemore to provide assistance to students referred by the school's support structures. The team maintains regular communication with teachers, parents/guardians, and external agencies to ensure that referred students receive the necessary support to achieve their best.

## 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 explore the facilities and assistance is given with the student timetable.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The school seeks to promote the spiritual and religious growth of our students by living out Gospel values. 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 into 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.



## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Our Lady's has an open Admissions Policy and we welcome applications from all students.

Mainstream classroom teachers and the Special Education Team (SET) including Special Needs Assistants provide support for Students with Special Educational Needs. The work of the SET is coordinated by the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo). Through effective planning and collaboration, the needs of the students are identified, and strategies are put in place to ensure that each student reaches his/her potential.

The school implements the Continuum of Support in line with Department of Education Guidelines to support students with Special and Additional Educational Needs. Support is provided with literacy, numeracy, personal development, social skills, digital literacy and personal care. Students have access to individual, small group tuition and team teaching.

A wide range of supports are available at whole school level for example: a student buddy system (Cairdeas), comprehensive



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



Sensory Garden

## 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.

transition programme, Learning to Learn initiative, Wellbeing Programme and a Student Awards System. Additional supports are provided for some students including: differentiated curriculum, study skills, modified assessments and the implementation of Student Support Plans. The school offers two classes for students on the autism spectrum and the Level Two Learning Programme is provided for a small number of students.



## 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 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' Council 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 Programme

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.

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 punctuate 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.

