

Welcome from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

It is with great pleasure that I warmly welcome you to our school - Presentation College, Carlow.

This is a very exciting time for all of us here in our school as we enjoy the fabulous new state of the art facilities designed to enhance the high quality of education we provide to all of our students.

As Principal I am hugely impressed by the commitment of the school and the staff to the provision of an excellent all-round education for our students. Under my leadership, and as a team working together, we strongly promote academic achievement among our students. The cultural, sporting and other successes of all of our students and staff are also proudly celebrated together.

Presentation College is an innovative school drawing on the talents and skills of staff, students and parents to provide a host of educational programmes and projects. Wholesome participation is encouraged in the extensive range of extra-curricular activities on offer and care is also taken to ensure the well-being and happiness of each and every student in the school.

With a long and rewarding history of achievement in education behind us, our school community moves forward together with confidence, pride and enthusiasm.

Presentation College, Carlow – “The tradition of excellence is ours; the choice is yours!”

Yours in Education,

Ray Murray
Principal

Our School

Presentation College is a co-educational Catholic voluntary secondary school which caters for pupils of all religions and backgrounds. We aim to provide our pupils with an education that equips them for life and living in the modern world. We aim to challenge students to share with us the Christian vision of life. We have drawn up a Mission Statement that describes the kind of school we wish to be. We hope that every member of the school community will attempt to live by it and we intend that all of our decisions are informed by it and our school development plans based on it.

Mission Statement

Presentation College is, by choice, a truly co-educational school. We aim to prepare all of our pupils, girls and boys alike for the challenges, responsibilities and experience of adult life. All members of the school community - pupils, parents, teachers and other staff - are held in very high regard and their dignity, worth and individuality is respected. We strive to build a sense of community based on Christian values. The school's Code of Behaviour acknowledges this and aims to promote a culture of respect throughout the school. It recognises that good discipline enables good teaching and allows good learning to take place.



Board of Management

Presentation College, Carlow was traditionally under the trusteeship of the Presentation Sisters but in recent years was transferred to the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools' Trust). The school is run by a Board of Management which is composed of parent, teacher and Trustee nominees. The current Board members are: **Mr Rory Healy (Chairperson), Ms Bríd McGrath, Fr. Conn Moloney, Sr. Ann Marie Farragher, Ms Geraldine Doogue, Mr Stan McHugh, Ms Vanessa Byrne and Mr Michael Ryan.**

Parents' Council

Presentation College Parents' Council is a very active body which is kept up to date on all developments within the school and their advice is sought on many issues. The Parents' Council is composed of annually elected parents and/or guardians of pupils currently attending the school. The Chairperson of the Parents' Council is **Mr Stan McHugh**.

Teaching Staff 2013 - 2014

Mr Ray **Murray**
(Principal)

Mr **Billy Delaney**
(Deputy Principal)

Ms Vanessa **Byrne**

Ms Sinéad **Cadinot**

Ms Elaine **Cardiff**

Mr Fergal **Clonan**

Ms Ann **Coburn**

Ms Phyllis **Daly**

Ms Caitlín **De Burca**

Ms Karen **Donnelly**

Ms Siobhán **Doorley**

Ms Anne Marie **Doyle**

Ms Mary **Dunne**

Ms Sinéad **Egan**

Ms Edwina **Gibbons**

Ms Mary **Harney**

Ms Alexandra **Jully**

Ms Karen **Kavanagh**

Ms Sarah **Kirwan**

Ms Maeve **Lyons**

Ms Georgina **Maher**

Ms Elaine **Malone**

Mr Melvyn **McDermott**

Ms Claire **McHugh**

Ms Eleanor **McLean**

Mr Seán **Moran**

Ms Edel **Murphy**

Ms Ciara Ní **Mháirtín**

Mr Frank **Nolan**

Mr Declan **O'Connor**

Ms Lucinda **O'Connor**

Ms Orla **O'Driscoll**

Ms Noreen **O'Looney**

Ms Amanda **O'Mahony**

Ms Carmel **O'Neill**

Mr Noel **O'Neill**

Ms Christine **O'Sullivan**

Ms Martina **Owens**

Ms Jacqui **Quinn**

Mr Michael **Ryan**

Ms Mags **Territt**

Mr Séamus **Walshe**

Ms Gillian **Ward**

Secretarial Staff

Ms Patricia **Whelan**

Ms Majella **O'Shea**

Caretaker

Mr Tom **O'Sullivan**

Special Needs Assistants

Ms Heather **Grant**

Ms Gill **Molyneaux**

Ancillary Staff

Ms Liz **Condron**

Ms Emilia **Kulik**

Ms Agnes **Sen**

Guidance Counsellors

Presentation College has two Career Guidance Counsellors - **Ms Noreen O'Looney** and **Ms Phyllis Daly**.

In her work as Guidance Counsellor, Ms O'Looney helps to assess the strengths and aptitudes of each pupil, provide information on careers and courses of further studies and provide personal counselling where appropriate. Many very important choices have to be made throughout secondary school and the Guidance Counsellors help students to develop their decision making skills. The Counsellors also help each individual to develop a positive healthy self-image and confidence in their own abilities and talents. Ms O'Looney also helps to place students on work experience and arrange Mock-Interviews for Leaving Certificate.

Both Guidance Counsellors are members of the **Pastoral Care Team** and as such meet students in class and individually.

Curriculum

Presentation College offers a wide range of subjects at both **Junior and Leaving Certificate** levels. Students are strongly encouraged to take as many subjects as possible at **Higher Level**. Subjects at Foundation Level are no longer provided to incoming students. The curriculum offered in the school provides a broad range of educational experiences ensuring breadth and balance in each student's education.

The Curriculum is constructed on the basis of core and optional subjects.



Choosing Subjects going into First Year

Junior Cycle	Core subjects	and a choice of four of the subjects below
Three years	Irish English Maths History Geography CSPE	Art, Craft and Design Business Studies French German Home Economics Materials Technology (Wood) Music Science Technical Graphics Technology
Students also study Computers, PE, SPHE and Religion as non-examination subjects. <i><u>Students keep the subjects chosen in First Year until the end of Third Year.</u></i>		

- Pupils are asked to complete a subject choice form and to return it to the office by the closing date specified.
- Subjects should be put in order of preference.
- Students are required to take either Science or Business Studies because of the range of options these subjects create at Leaving Certificate level. They may choose both.
- Students are also required to take either French or German because of the educational and career benefits of having a modern language. They may choose both.
- No pupil may take both Materials Technology (Wood) and Technology because they are very similar.

Transition Year



On completion of their Junior Certificate, pupils are given the option of proceeding directly into Fifth Year to begin their Leaving Certificate programme or they may opt to follow the Transition Year programme for one year before then proceeding to Fifth Year. During Transition Year, pupils are encouraged to move from a state of dependence to take a more participative role in their own future. Because the atmosphere is free of the pressures of external exams more attention can be paid to the personal growth and development of each pupil. Class size is limited to twenty-four students.

The programme was designed by our own teachers and has been running very successfully. The Co-ordinator of the programme works closely with all of the teachers and students involved. The grouping of subjects and the number of subjects offered may vary somewhat from year to year but the list below is typical.

<i>Transition Year Modules</i>		
Irish English Maths French or German Computers Technology/Const. Computer Aided Design Religion Art	Physics Business Home Economics Agricultural Science Career Guidance Geography Health Education Young Social Innovators Development Education	PE Music Social Action Project Chemistry Biology Enterprise–Mini Company Accounting History
Currently, all students study the same set of modules, some of which are for the full year and others for half a year.		

Work Experience placements are an integral part of the programme. Each student spends one day per week, Wednesday, on placement at a work-place of their choice – this enables them to observe and interact with adults at work.



Leaving Certificate

Core Subjects	Students take four examination subjects from the list below	
English Irish Mathematics <u>Non-examination</u> Computers Guidance Physical Education Religion	Accounting Agricultural Science Art Biology Business Chemistry Construction Studies Design and Communication Graphics French	Geography German History Home Economics Music Physics Technology
Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) students study, <u>in addition</u>, Link Modules – Preparation for Work and Enterprise		

Information Technology

Presentation College is fully equipped with 120 computers. All classrooms are networked both wired and wireless, forty data projectors are installed and each member of staff has received up to date training in Virtual Cloud Technology, allowing students to access their work online.

This year sees the second year of our “Microsoft Academy” – the only school in Carlow to have students enrolled in Microsoft Office Specialist exams – and numerous students from First Year to Sixth Year are preparing for their respective exams. This is a unique opportunity for students to gain an IT qualification directly from Microsoft.

Our Computer Club allows students to access computers for games, e-mail, projects and web design daily at lunchtime. With over fifty students the club continues to grow and encourage students. Our Formula One in Schools teams meet here regularly to prepare their projects over the course of the competition.

ICT skills are essential for students in all areas of education. Proper use of computers encourages a skilled, knowledge-based society. ICT enhances all teaching in a positive way in Presentation College.

Since the beginning of this school year, a new education experience has been introduced for First Year students. This year, most First Year students have replaced their heavy books with lighter, easy-to-use iPads and eBooks. Not only has this change lightened the heavy loads of schoolbags of the past, but now students can access all school online facilities with ease. With the school having set up facilities such as “SchoolWise”, which allows students to retrieve missed work, or present finished work, the use of iPads means that this facility is not only something in the background, but now it is used every day.

We look forward to continuing the advancement of ICT in Presentation College.





The **Meitheal Youth Leadership Programme** was introduced into our school in September 2008. Meitheal is a structured programme whereby a group of **ten Sixth Year students** will work to make the school a caring environment. In particular, they will work towards the **integration of First Year students**, making their transition from primary to secondary easier.

The Meitheal leaders for the current year are: **Kathryn Bermingham, Niamh Buggy, Daragh Byrne, Siobhán Dowling, Chloe Doyle, Lisa Doyle, Stephen Hanlon, Daniel Lawler, Keith Noctor and Peter Thompson.**

Religion

Religious Education means educating people about themselves at the deepest possible level. It means enabling the students to see the presence of God within themselves and in the life of the community. In Presentation College this work is facilitated by a systematic Religious Programme related to the students' needs, coupled with opportunities for prayer and reflection in prayer meetings, class liturgies, masses and retreats.

Handing on the faith in Presentation College is a vibrant part of the school life. While the ethos of the school is essentially Catholic we are enriched by the presence of students of many denominations. The religious belief of all students is respected and while they are encouraged and welcomed to share their faith in the religion classes their wishes and the wishes of their parents are respected.



Competitive Sports

Students have also been very successful on the sporting front. A broad range of sports are offered to students, boys and girls, including **Athletics, Basketball, Gaelic Football, Hurling, Rugby, Soccer** and **Table Tennis**.



Sports Hall and Gym

The school has the benefit of very modern indoor sports facilities. Students have access to a full-size **Sports Hall** for all of their P.E. classes and also to the aerobic machines in the **Fitness Suite**. Such are the sports facilities available to our students that several outside bodies currently hire them.

Presentation College received the Active School Flag on 27th January 2012 from the Department of Education and Skills in recognition of our school's endeavours to achieve a physically active and physically educated school community.

An Active School like Presentation College:

- Provides **all** pupils with the appropriate timetable provision for P.E.
- Makes a range of extracurricular activities available on both an individual and team basis.
- Promotes physical activity during lunchtimes.
- Works with external agencies such as National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships to promote physical activity.
- Organises an "Active School Week" which includes a Sports Day for all students every year.
- Includes pupils in the decision making process in terms of provision and promotion of physical activity.
- Has adequate resources and facilities to provide pupils with comprehensive P.E., physical activity and sports programmes.

The Active School Flag remains valid for a period of three years.

We are very proud of our achievement in securing the Active School Flag and firmly believe in the importance of physical exercise as part of our students' lifestyle contributing to their overall health and well-being.

The School Show

Presentation College actively supports and encourages students to develop their creative and artistic talents. One fantastic outlet for this creativity is the magical school musicals which have enthralled Carlow audiences over the years. Previous productions have included **The Wizard of Oz**, **The Nightmare before Christmas**, **The Blues Brothers**, **Blood Brothers**, **West Side Story**, **Belle and the Beast** and **Bugsy Malone** which have allowed the talents of past and present pupils to flourish and take expression. Our students are also actively involved in local music schools and societies.



Musical Notes

Presentation College has a long and fine tradition of music-making. Students learn about and perform in a variety of musical genres, such as ethnic, traditional, pop, classical music etc.

The School Choir involves students from all year groups and no audition is required – just turn up and sing! Choir members will learn to sing in 3-4 part harmony and can develop their solo voice if wished. The choir will perform at various functions throughout the year, including school masses, Open Night, carol singing and more. Instrumental groups are being put together and will be given the opportunity to perform at a concert in spring.

Involvement in music-making develops self-confidence and provides a safe and supportive environment for students to develop their creative and artistic talents

As of September 2013, Presentation College is delighted to be part of Music Generation, an exciting programme that aims to provide music education to young people in Carlow. We will be running two strands – a Junior Choir and a String Programme.

School Uniform

Girls	Boys
<p>Navy and green plaid kilt* or Air force blue trousers</p> <p>V-neck jumper with red stripe and crest incorporated</p> <p>Light blue blouse</p> <p>Dark navy tie</p> <p>Navy tights or knee socks</p> <p>Black or navy shoes - Please note that runners, coloured shoes or boots are <u>not</u> acceptable as uniform. (Note: Shoes with pointed heels which damage floors are not allowed.)</p> <p>School Jacket – available in the school only</p>	<p>Air force blue trousers</p> <p>V-neck jumper with red stripe and crest incorporated</p> <p>Light blue shirt</p> <p>Dark navy tie</p> <p>Black or navy shoes - Please note that runners, coloured shoes or boots are <u>not</u> acceptable.</p> <p>School Jacket– available in the school only</p>
<p>P.E. Uniform - Girls and Boys: Navy polo shirt with school crest incorporated. Blue sweatshirt with school crest incorporated. These are available in Shaw's of Tullow Street. Tracksuit bottoms - Colour: Navy or Black</p>	
<p><u>Note:</u> Jewellery and hairstyles must be discreet, as determined by the Principal, and in keeping with the school ethos and uniform. <u>No garish hair colouring is allowed. Students may not wear make-up.</u> Students may wear one pair only of stud earrings, one in each ear. <u>Students may not wear jewellery for facial or tongue piercing.</u> Excessive or indiscreet jewellery may be confiscated. <u>Students will be sent home immediately if co-operation in this area is not forthcoming.</u></p>	
<p><u>Note re kilt:</u> The kilt length should be below the knee. It may be necessary to purchase a kilt an inch or two longer than this to allow for growth during the year.</p>	

ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM AND JACKETS MUST BE MARKED WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME

Presentation College - A Brief History

- 1775 The Presentation Sisters were founded by Nano Nagle
- 1811 to 1947 The Presentation Sisters in Carlow cater for Primary pupils only.
- 1947 Secondary Top opens and students are prepared for the Intermediate and Leaving Certificate exams.
- 1971 Presentation Convent becomes a full Secondary School for girls.
- 1982 Presentation College is built by the parish, in response to the demand for greater facilities for boys and girls and aware of the value of co-education. The Presentation Sisters take over the functions of the Trustees.
- 1987 A Board of Management is set-up.
- 1994 Transition Year introduced.
- 2005 Major Extension approved
- 2007 Completion of New Extension
- 2008 Official Opening of New Extension



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