



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

KILKENNY

Founded 1782



SCHOOL HISTORY

St Kieran's College was established in 1782, 'the first Catholic College in the Kingdom' to open its doors after Grattan's Parliament had relaxed the penal Laws in the same year. The College was situated in a number of different locations, Burrell's Hall (now St Mary's Cathedral) before the foundation stone of the present neo-Gothic building was blessed in 1836. In keeping with the aims of the College founders, we, at St Kieran's College strive to prepare educated, committed and resilient young people, keeping in mind its particular role in promoting solid Christian values.

MISSION AND ETHOS

St Kieran's College, as Ireland's oldest all-boys Catholic Secondary School, continues its founding aim of the pursuit of real excellence in education and formation, in the light of the Gospel, so as to allow all our students to realise the fullness of their potential. Academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally our students are encouraged to strive for all that is possible in the relentless pursuit of perfecting their individual gifts and talents. In so doing they bring to life the joy intended by our motto, "Hiems Transiit", for themselves, those they love and the community where they will live, serve and lead.

ST KIERAN'S PRAYER

That I may,
reach as high as is possible;
believe with all my being;
learn with all my power;
give with all my heart;
and pray with all my soul.
That I may teach in ways that are gentle,
and carry victory and loss in perspective.
That I may grow each day,
here - in some new way.
That I may look back in thanks and always forward in hope
And, that I may ever know the steadfast support of you Kieran our Saint,
who came from Cape Clear to Saigher
with faith, trust and hope.
A future yet untold.

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Welcome

PROSPECTUS ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY





A welcome from the Principal



On behalf of everyone at St Kierans College, I would like to welcome you. I hope that this prospectus will afford you an opportunity to get an insight into this wonderful school community and to get a sense of all that St Kieran's College entails.

With a history that dates back to 1782, we cherish our heritage and we are committed to honouring it by continuing to strive for real excellence in education - we are, then, relentless in the pursuit of academic excellence and the development, and maturation, of the whole person of each and every student; supporting them as they nurture their gifts and talents to become the best version of themselves that is possible. We are rightly proud of our immense academic achievements, our records in the areas of the arts, of music, poetry and drama, our strong sporting tradition in athletics, hurling and so many other areas. It is in educating the whole person that school success is found - it is in supporting all students in the development of their individual, and unique gifts that we best fulfil our mission.

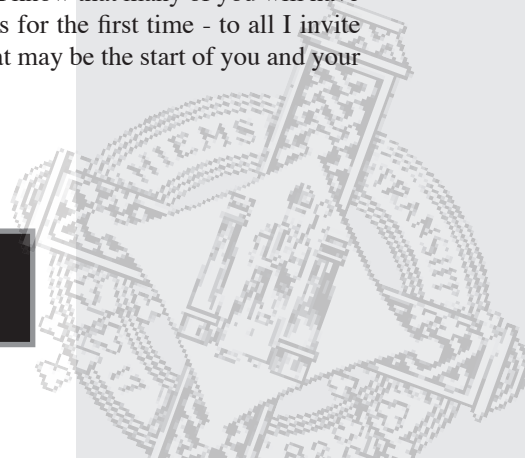
Chasing the best version of each of our students is the task of every member of our school community. I am proud, then, to lead a team of a wonderfully committed staff - each of whom work to support, nurture, and care for all of our students. The pursuit of their best is only as strong as the supports we offer them on that journey and our pastoral and guidance team are but the head of a whole school approach to care. I know that many of you will have had experience of St Kieran's College before, whereas others may be joining us for the first time - to all I invite you to sample a snapshot of life in St Kieran's College in this prospectus, on what may be the start of you and your son's journey in education with us.

Mr Adrian Finan
Principal, St Kieran's College

Welcome

PROSPECTUS ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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A welcome from the President



I am delighted to welcome you to St Kieran's College, our diocesan Secondary School by means of this prospectus. Since we first began in 1782 St Kieran's College has remained faithful to its original mission and ethos: the education and formation of each student to the highest standards, based on the values of the Gospel. We strive, therefore, to provide the opportunity for students who come to St Kieran's the possibility to achieve the fullness of their potential academically, personally, sportingly and spiritually.

It is humbling to witness the variety of the gifts and talents of our students. They are as many as the pupils we educate - from music to drama, debating to maths, poetry to science, languages to sporting successes and so much more... It is a privilege for us to journey with these men as they hone their talents through practice and commitment. Educating them is a sacred duty, guiding them is an honour, coaching them is a privilege, encouraging them is a simple task and enjoying the fruits of their gifts - a joy.

As the oldest Catholic Secondary School in Ireland, we are very proud of our past; and of those who left here carrying that tradition with them, we are immensely proud! But it is the future that we think about most: how can we continue to best prepare our students to serve as leaders in the Ireland of tomorrow?

I know you will find in St Kieran's College a community that is welcoming, supportive and encouraging. Maybe this is the continuation of your family's tradition with St Kieran's or maybe it is the beginning of a new one ... which ever it may be, you are most welcome.

Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan
President, St Kieran's College



WSE

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION

Recently, a team of Inspectors from the Department of Education and Skills conducted a Whole School Evaluation in the school. It is tremendously gratifying for everyone involved in the St Kieran's College community that the findings are so positive and are a glowing endorsement of what the school seeks to achieve. The following are some of the key findings from the WSE Inspection:

- The Inspectorate observed that our mission, which states that our students are encouraged to strive for all that is possible in the relentless pursuit of perfecting their individual gifts and talents, “is lived out in practice.”
- The Inspectorate recognised that “the Board of Management and the Senior Management Team promote excellence in teaching and learning” and “promote a culture of learning”.
- They observed that “very well-organised student support structures are in place” and that, as a result, our “students were very focused and able to work purposefully.”
- “In all lessons, there was a good atmosphere for learning, students were motivated to learn and showed high levels of respect towards their teachers and each other.” This is very affirming of the dedication and commitment of our students, staff, management and parents who all work so closely together to create this positive school environment.
- “Student successes are celebrated in many ways, including on visual displays around the school, at assemblies, on the school website and at the end-of-year awards. The school has recently achieved the Amber Flag in recognition of its commitment to mental health awareness.”

The full report is published on www.education.ie

Whole School Evaluation (WSE)

PROSPECTUS ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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JUNIOR CYCLE

CORE SUBJECTS

English
Geography
History
Irish
Maths
Modern Foreign Language -
French or Spanish (compulsory
for Junior Cycle)
Religious Education
Science

ELECTIVES

(with tasters in First Year)

Applied Technology
Business
Music
Technical Graphics
Visual Art
Wood Technology

Wellbeing

CSPE
PE
SPHE



SENIOR CYCLE

CORE SUBJECTS

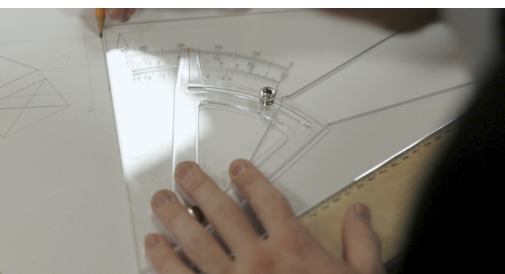
English
Irish
Maths

ELECTIVES

Accounting
Agricultural Science
Applied Maths
Applied Technology

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Construction Studies
Design and Communications
Graphics
Economics
Engineering
French

Geography
History
Home Economics
Music
Physical Education
Physics
Religious Education
Spanish



A Broad Curriculum

PROSPECTUS ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY



EXTENSIVE EDUCATION FACILITIES

- Twenty Two acre campus
- Information Technology rooms
- Fully equipped suite of iPads on trolley
- Dedicated Career Guidance Room
- All classrooms have digital projector, speakers and computer

- Fully equipped Science Laboratories
- Dedicated Art room
- Fully stocked Library
- Specialised Construction/Woodwork rooms
- School Chapel

more >>>>>



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Our Facilities

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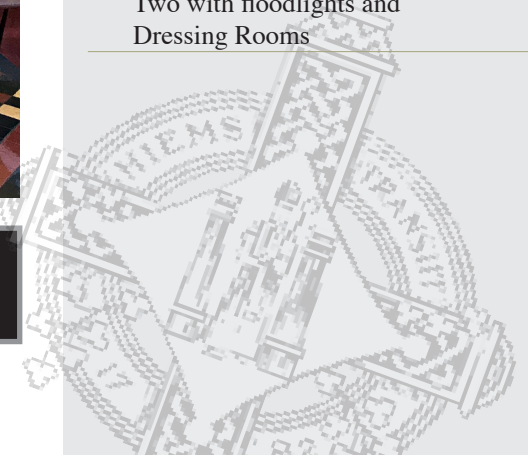


EXTENSIVE EDUCATION FACILITIES



- Pastoral Care Office
- Two Technology rooms
- Specialised Design & Communication Graphics room
- Fully equipped Gym
- Specialised Music room
- Study Hall
- Weights room
- Four Indoor Handball/Squash courts
- Canteen
- Five outdoor playing fields -
Two with floodlights and
Dressing Rooms

Our Facilities





Brian Dowling



Fergal Brennan



Anne Wemyss

WELLBEING AND PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care in St Kieran's College has evolved over the years in providing a whole school approach to caring for our students. Pastoral Care supports and strategies have been implemented and developed to care for students before they arrive in St Kieran's and long after they leave us.

Our Pastoral Care team is made up of our School Chaplain and the Guidance Counsellors who are supported by Year Heads, The Additional Needs Department, teachers with supporting roles of responsibility, Form teachers and all classroom teachers. Our Pastoral care Team meet on a weekly basis to discuss supports for students in need. They are a point of contact, a place to go for help for all in our school community.



The Wellbeing of all members of the St Kieran's College community is of paramount importance to us and therefore we have developed many structures and programmes over the years, aimed at protecting and supporting student wellbeing. We provide a wide range of co-curricular activities such as History excursions, the Amber Flag Programme and Mental Health Week to name a few. Guest speakers regularly visit students to discuss Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience. In addition, we have a wide range of extra-curricular activities promoting wellbeing in our school community. Our Student Council, an intrinsic part of the school community, gives our students a voice in matters pertaining to the student body and the general wellbeing of students in our school community.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

ASSESSMENT

Throughout the academic year, all year groups (excluding TY) undertake formal assessments. These assessments take place during the final week of each term at Halloween, Christmas, Easter and Summer. State Examination Students in Third and Sixth Year also sit Mock Examinations. Transition Years are assessed on an ongoing basis culminating in an end of year Interview with portfolio.

FEEDBACK

Each House Exam is reported on by the subject teacher and these reports are made available to all parents. Every year, parents also have an opportunity to meet with all subject teachers and the Year Head at their assigned annual Parent/Teacher Meetings

INFORMATION EVENINGS FOR PARENTS - SUBJECT CHOICE

During First Year and Transition Year, students must make decisions regarding the subjects they wish to sit for their Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations. Students will make their decisions in consultation with their teachers and parents. In order to help both parents and students, information evenings take place for the parents of those students where advice and assistance is given.

SUPERVISED STUDY

Supervised study takes place after school each day Monday to Friday.

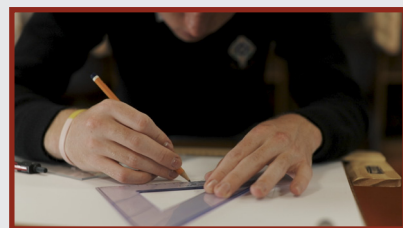
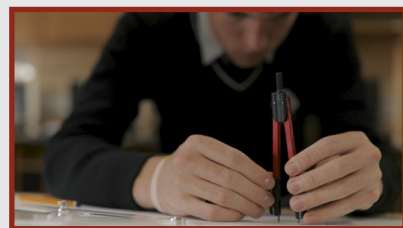
ONE HOUR LONG CLASSES

In St Kieran's College, we have adopted a One Hour Class Timetable. The one hour class enhances and facilitates active teaching, learning and assessment and allows for the use of digital technologies in the classroom.

ACADEMIC TRACKING

Our aim in St Kieran's is to track academic, personal and learning progression of our students throughout their time in school with us. There is a dedicated Position of Responsibility for co-ordinating the tracking and monitoring of academic performance. The co-ordinator works with a team of committed teachers who track progress, motivate students and suggest improvements so that students can fulfil their academic potential.

Academic Tracking



MUSIC AND DRAMA



Music plays an integral role in the life of the school. Choirs, jazz bands and traditional Irish music can often be heard around the corridors of the school. All First Years study Music and have the option of continuing to study it for their Junior Cycle and in turn, for the Leaving Certificate. All students can also participate in the wide variety of extra curricular music on offer in the school. In recent years, our Junior, Senior and Chamber Choirs have had much success representing the school in various competitions in the highest grades. Our Jazz Band performs at major local events, particularly at Christmas and at the end of the school year. The Traditional Irish Music Band has also grown in popularity in recent years and their performances have entertained both the school and local communities in recent years. We have also been blessed with some fine individual musicians through the years, all presented with the opportunities to allow their talents to flourish as they grow.

The Drama Society is our most recent group to be formed in the School. This group brings Transition Year students together to act and perform a school musical. In recent times, the school has produced and prepared for famous musicals such as “High School Musical” and “Grease”. We have also enjoyed much success over the years in Poetry Aloud competitions, debating and public speaking competitions. Indeed, many such competitions have been hosted by the school. We are also proud to have hosted many Writers in Residence, giving students the opportunity to meet and work with creative writers and poets in order to develop their creative writing skills.





EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities have always played a vital role in the life of St Kieran's College. Participation is encouraged for all students in all years. Each one of these activities contributes to the overall wellbeing and holistic education of our students but also forms part of their memory of their student days. Five playing pitches within a city campus affords our students great outdoor spaces. Involvement in sport contributes to our students physical and mental wellbeing.



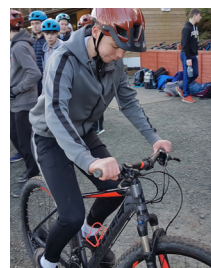
Extra Curricular Activities



TRANSITION YEAR

The Transition Year (TY) is a One-Year programme that forms the first year of a three-year senior cycle. All students are expected to complete the Transition Year programme. It is designed to act as a bridge between the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate programmes. Transition Year offers learners an opportunity to mature and develop without the pressure of any State Examinations. It also provides an opportunity for learners to reflect on, and experience, an appreciation for the ever-changing demands of the adult world of work. Some of the courses that our students study and experience as part of the Transition Year Programme include:

- Work Experience
- European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)
- Charity Fundraising and Collections
- TY Truck and Tractor Run
- Young Social Innovators
- First Aid Course
- School Musical - Drama
- Variety/Talent Show
- GAA Future Leaders
- Car Safety and Driving Simulation
- Driver Theory Test Preparation
- President's Gaisce Award
- TY Retreat
- Field Trips
- Cookery
- Yoga
- Coding
- Enrichment Activities
- Diocesan Trip to Lourdes
- Hillwalking
- Surfing



ST KIERAN'S DAY



On March 5th every year, the St Kieran's College Community celebrates the feast day of our patron saint with Mass in St Mary's Cathedral, the original site of St Kieran's College, for the whole school community, past and present.

Mass is followed by a day of activities for all. Students can sign up to an array of activities planned by school staff both on the college campus and elsewhere. Activities vary from Golf to surfing, paint ball to playstation and darts, hurling to indoor games. It is a fantastic opportunity for both students and staff to celebrate all that is great about our identity and tradition.



St Kieran's Day

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LIFE AFTER ST KIERAN'S

Our College past pupils can be found every walk of life - in every part of the Diocese, country and the world... be it an apprenticeship, a position at work or the so many options at college, in 3rd level and way beyond - our students, the students of St Kieran's College, excel in each and every option given to them. We are fortunate that so many follow their sporting, music, and arts dreams to national, European, and international and even olympic success - but more important is that each and every student follows their dream - what ever that may be - so that they realise the fullness of their own potential.

Our Alumni Association is very active in organising events to bring together friends - St Kieran's men from various years - generations... Past pupils who play a round together, who just chat together, who open doors for each other and who, most importantly of all - recall what makes Kieran's men - generations aside - all one.

Past Pupils



TRANSITIONING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

We understand that the transition from Primary school to Secondary School can be a very daunting prospect for all students. The transition journey to St Kieran's College begins once the offer of a place has been accepted. Primary Passports are sent to the school from each of the relevant primary schools. Incoming students will sit an Entrance Assessment Test. The Entrance Assessment Test is a CAT4 Cognitive Ability Test. Information from this test, combined with the extensive information provided from the primary school, helps the induction team to create mixed ability classes for all First Year students. A Parents Information Meeting is usually held for the parents of incoming First Years on the day of their Entrance Assessment Test in the Spring.



The first day for first Years usually takes place in late August, marking a new milestone in the lives of each new student to the school. On that day, First Years will meet the induction team, including their Year Head, Form Teachers, Guidance Counsellors, Chaplain and Cairdeas Leader. Orientation will take place and students will be given their timetable. In the days that follow, students will continue their induction receiving their school diary, locker, a map of the school and will have numerous meetings with the many people in the school who will support them in their process of settling in. Many activities are also planned with the sole intention of helping students to get settled. A soccer blitz, a sports day and a table quiz with their Cairdeas leaders are just some of the activities planned to allow students opportunities to get to know each other.

The First Year induction process in St Kieran's College plays a key role in the life of First Year students in helping them to feel safe, secure and happy in their new learning environment. We believe this process is worth investing our energy and time in, so as to make the transition to secondary school a seamless one.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT



DAILY ROUTINE

- Rise early
- Dress in full uniform
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Arrive at school before 8:45am
- Chat to friends and wait for the first class
- Sit at your desk with the correct books
- Actively participate
- Actively listen
- Engage with your teacher
- Ask questions
- Use homework diary to record all homework
- Be on time and enjoy lunchtime and after school activities
- Eat a healthy Dinner
- Complete homework in a quiet place free from distraction
- Prepare school bag for the next day
- Prepare lunch and gear bag for the next day
- Get lots of sleep for another busy day tomorrow

Transitioning to Secondary School

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR FIRST YEARS

OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform consists of a black V-necked pullover with white band inset on V, College Crest on pullover, mid grey pants, hopsack material, light grey shirt, College tie and College jacket.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

Our Timetable consists of six one-hour lessons per day, Monday to Thursday. There are four lessons on a Friday. School begins at 8:50 with a break at 10:50, lunch is from 1:00 - 2:00pm. Students remain on campus during lunch hour and are encouraged to get involved in the many activities available. School finishes at 4:00pm Monday to Thursday and 1:00pm on Friday. Junior students remain on the school campus for the duration of the school day.

CANTEEN FACILITIES

The school canteen is located in the old College Refectory. St Kieran's College operate a Healthy Eating Policy. Snacks are available for sale at break times each day. Lunch is served in the canteen from 1pm daily Monday to Thursday.

LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES

All students are encouraged to partake in school activities. A variety of sports are available for First Years including



the Lunch Time run to the Castle Park, Football and Hurling Class Leagues and First Years can avail of the playing fields. First years can also avail of board games available in their social area each lunch time. The school gym, and handball alleys are also available to students during supervised times.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a lock and a locker at the start of the school year. Students are encouraged to use the lockers in order to organise their day and limit the number of books in their bags. If a student brings a mobile phone/device to school, they must lock it in their locker unless it is requested by their teacher for class (as per the our Mobile Phone Policy). Racks are available for sports bags and PE gear.

SCHOOL DIARY

Each student is given a school diary at the beginning of each year. Including the key dates for the school year, it is used not only as a calendar, but also as invaluable tool for communication and organisation. Teachers and parents can use it to communicate with one another. Students use it to record their homework and plan study which enhances their organisational skills.

Harry Clarke windows in the Chapel of St Kieran's College
Inset: shows St Kieran's College crest in the windows of the Chapel

