



Arklow C.B.S. PROSPECTUS

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Choosing a secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make about their educational future. Through this prospectus we aim to give you an insight into the special qualities of Arklow C.B.S. and the superb all-round education we offer, helping you make that informed choice.

The Ethos of our school is rooted in the tradition of Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers Schools. The holistic education and care of the young people in our community are at the heart of everything we do. Here, at Arklow C.B.S., our priority is to develop academic excellence, independent learning, and a realization in each student of their full potential.

This is a particularly exciting and historic era for our school. **Arklow C.B.S. has officially received approval for our change of status to a co-educational school, and we look forward to welcoming girls into our incoming First Year group from September 2028.**

As we prepare for this wonderful new chapter, our commitment to maintaining a thriving, supportive, and close-knit environment for all our students remains stronger than ever.

At Arklow C.B.S. we offer a broad and comprehensive range of subjects to all our students. This enables them to choose the academic path that best suits their ability, individuality, and ambitions. Coupled with our broad curriculum, we have highly qualified and committed specialist teachers who promote and strive to achieve the highest academic standards. These teachers embrace new teaching methodologies, curriculum reform, and educational initiatives for the benefit of our students. They are passionate about their subjects and profession, maintaining a genuine interest in the development, progress, and wellbeing of each individual. Each year a high percentage of our students progress to Universities and Third-level institutions in Ireland and abroad.

Our school is dedicated to the development and care of each and every student in our community, where mutual respect is cherished. Arklow C.B.S. is a thriving environment where students are happy, challenged, and fulfilled as they pursue their education with us.

The extensive range of extra-curricular activities on offer further signals our commitment to a holistic education. Each student will be offered the opportunity to discover their passion, be it in the area of sport, music, design, literature, or technology. We aim to support our students to develop essential personal and life skills as they prepare to take their places in a challenging, modern society.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to Arklow C.B.S.



Peter Somers
Peter Somers
Principal



Michelle White
Michelle White
Deputy Principal



INTRODUCTION

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2026/27 prospectus for Arklow C.B.S. I am writing to you in my role as Chairperson of the Board of Management.

The Principal and Deputy Principal have outlined the school's nurturing environment and strong values-based ethos. It is encouraging to see the wide range of activities available that not only challenge students academically, but also support their overall wellbeing, personal development, and aspirations.

As we look ahead, a landmark milestone awaits our school community. Arklow C.B.S. is officially transitioning to co-education, with our doors opening to welcome female students into First Year from September 2028. This progressive step ensures our proud traditions and inclusive environment will continue to enrich the lives of all young people in the locality for generations to come.

Having worked closely with Arklow C.B.S. over the years, I have consistently been impressed by the dedication of the entire staff of the school. Their collective commitment to creating a caring, inclusive, and supportive atmosphere ensures that every student feels valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential. This holistic focus on excellence in teaching and learning, and on nurturing the wellbeing of each individual creates a positive school environment where students are given every opportunity to thrive and grow.

It is a privilege to continue my association with such a dedicated school community in my role as Chairperson. I wish Arklow C.B.S. continued success in the years ahead, and every student a rewarding, fulfilling, and positive journey during their time here.

Warm regards,

Martina Deasy
Chairperson, Board of Management



The Ethos of our school is that of Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brother's Schools. Our ethos is one that values and prizes each student as an individual. Arklow C.B.S. recognises that each student in our school has unique talents and gifts to offer to the world around him.

Arklow C.B.S. seeks to develop each boy's talents to his highest potential in a caring environment that continuously respects, encourages and affirms his efforts at achieving his own personal goals.



AIMS

Arklow C.B.S. is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all areas of education. Our aim is to generate and maintain an inclusive climate of learning within which every student is enabled to develop and fulfil his own unique potential.

It is our aim that every student who moves on from Arklow C.B.S. will be equipped not only to make his own way in the world, but also to make his particular contribution to society and at the same time to continue his lifelong learning process.

Arklow C.B.S. aims to foster an atmosphere of respect, understanding and encouragement between all who teach and learn in the school, so that the development and contribution of every individual can be acknowledged and valued, and all can work together to benefit personal growth and the common good.



THE HISTORY OF ARKLOW C.B.S.

Being a student of Arklow C.B.S. is something to be extremely proud of and is something our students remember fondly long into adulthood.

If you choose to become a student of Arklow C.B.S. then you become part of a long-standing tradition of education within Arklow town.

It is important to know something of the history of Arklow C.B.S. so that you can get a sense of the enormity of what you will belong to once you begin your studies here.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1937 the clergy and people of Arklow invited the Provincial of the Christian Brothers to Arklow to discuss the feasibility of opening a Secondary School for boys there. The school would be managed by the Christian Brothers. Although the brothers seemed satisfied with all aspects of the proposition, movement on the project did not materialise and so the local community in Arklow were compelled to resort to an alternative arrangement. They invited Mr. Liam McCarthy M.A., who at the time was a teacher in the De La Salle Brothers' Secondary School in Wicklow, to open a day Secondary school in Arklow. The invitation was accepted and in 1942 Mr. McCarthy began his work in St. Patrick's Academy. Labouring under most adverse conditions, very creditable results were secured at the Academy. However, such conditions were not conducive to advanced Secondary education and so the local committee reorganised for the purpose of approaching the Christian Brothers again. After negotiations involving Brother Dowling, the C.B.S. Provincial, Very Rev. John Pigott, Parish Priest of Arklow, Most Rev. J.C. McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin and other concerned parties, agreement was reached and plans were laid for the erection of a School and Monastery on a five-acre site donated by Rev. Fr. Pigott.

THE FIRST STUDENTS

Work on the site commenced on October 27th, 1960 and despite inclement weather, proceeded at a steady pace. By the scheduled opening date, September 8th, 1961 the upper storey of

the building was ready for occupation and so on the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity, September 8th, 1961, Ard Scoil Chaoimhin, Arklow, opened its doors for the first time to admit seventy pupils, thirty 1st years, thirty 2nd years and ten 3rd years. They were received on the morning by the newly appointed and first Superior, Brother W.M. Loughnane who was ably assisted by his then two member staff, Brother B. Mullane and Mr. Liam Mc Carthy. The newly arrived students were immediately assigned to their classes and were soon busy at work.

The monastery adjoining the School was occupied for the first time on September 20th 1961.

The school is dedicated to the memory of St. Kevin, whose rocky retreat is close to where the school building now stands.

THE FIRST LEAVING CERTIFICATE

1964 saw the first students of Ard Scoil Chaoimhin sit their Leaving Certificate examination. The class of '64 was comprised of George McCarthy, Patrick Dunne, Robert Hickson, Thomas Keogh, Thomas Cooper, Patrick O' Neill, Donal Keenan, Peter Murphy, Pat McCarthy and John Darmody. In September of the same year, 160 students were on the rolls and this figure increased steadily each year thereafter until a maximum was reached in 1974 when there were 272 pupils enrolled. As early as 1965 the accommodation provided in the original building was found to be grossly inadequate, such was demand for places at the school. In the mid 70's one third of the students were being accommodated in



prefabricated buildings which were acquired as a temporary measure until further extensions could be undertaken. In 1969 Planning permission was subsequently refused because estimated costs were thought too high and in excess of the Departments' maximum rate.

SCHOOL EXTENSION

In October 1975 the long-awaited permission was granted to the School Management and remote preparations for school extension plans were undertaken by Mr. G. Moloney in 1977. In November 1984 tenders for this new undertaking were sought and on October 9th 1985, the successful company, Messrs. Joplin Development Ltd., began marking out the site for the new additions. The then Minister for Education, Mrs. Gemma Hussey officially laid the foundation stone for the new building on November 4th. Work on the site was carried out with great intensity from day one and the new classrooms were ready for occupation for the beginning of the school year 1986/87.

The extension comprised four classrooms and rooms for woodwork, Arts & Crafts, two Science Laboratories, library, Staffroom, offices, gymnasium and Canteen. In addition, there were outdoor facilities for basketball, volleyball and tennis.

The first Board of Management: 1988, was the year that saw the first Board of Management established, this allowed for teacher and parent representation as well as the four nominated representatives of the Trustees of the Christian Brothers. The overall development of the school is guided by the Board of Management and the day to day running of the school is carried out by the Principal with the teaching staff.

LAY MANAGEMENT

In 1988, Charles J. Kavanagh was appointed as the first lay Principal of the school due to the retiring of Brother Atkinson from the position. A native of Co. Wexford, he had taught for several years with the City of Dublin V.E.C. He was ably assisted by Mathun Hickey in the position of Deputy Principal. In 1998 Ollie Wheston took over as Deputy and upon his retirement in 2003, PJ Sheehy stepped

into the role. Under Mr. Kavanagh's stewardship in the nineties the school numbers increased year on year. This was also the period when Transition Year was introduced very successfully to the school. The school name was changed to Arklow C.B.S.

Upon Mr. Kavanagh's retirement in 2007, Peter Somers, a past pupil of Ard Scoil Chaoimhin was appointed Principal. In 2011 Michelle White was appointed Deputy Principal on the retirement of PJ Sheehy.

Over the last number of years there have been several refurbishments to various areas of the school. Amongst these are the Design and Communication Graphics room, the Woodwork room, and the Art Room. In order to ensure that Arklow C.B.S. can offer a fully inclusive education to all students in the catchment area an autism unit has also been opened within the school to offer specialist help and supports to children with autistic spectrum disorders. Four new classrooms have been built along with a new student locker room and canteen. Plans are already underway for a completely new school campus which will be built on the current school pitch.

In order to uphold Arklow C.B.S.'s long tradition of being a central part of the community of Arklow Town, the school over the years has forged links with many different companies and organisations within the town resulting in apprenticeships, sponsorships and scholarships for senior students going to third level.

There is no doubt that since Arklow C.B.S. enrolled its first students in 1961, it has grown in strength, reputation, and standards of excellence to the position it holds in the local community today. Looking to the future, with enrolments steadily increasing, the school is sure to remain an important fixture on the educational landscape of Arklow Town. **This bright future includes a historic milestone, as Arklow C.B.S. has officially received confirmation of our change of status to a co-educational school and will proudly welcome girls into First Year starting in September 2028.**

EXCELLING IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Arklow C.B.S. takes a broad view of education and believes that success in education is measured by much more than results in the State Examinations; nonetheless it strives for academic excellence.

The School has an excellent record in the State Examinations, with the vast majority of its students going on to University and third level colleges.



JUNIOR CYCLE

Students enrolling in **Arklow C.B.S.** will follow the Junior Cycle Programme for their first three years in secondary school.

Junior Cycle students typically study **10 subjects** for their Junior Cycle exams—**7 from the core list and 3 optional subjects**. Optional subjects are selected only after students have completed a **taster programme**, giving them an opportunity to sample all the subjects on offer.

English, Irish, and Maths are assessed at both Higher and Ordinary level. **All other subjects are Common level.**

The Junior Cycle is assessed using a combination of continuous and final assessments. During 2nd and 3rd year, pupils complete **one Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA) per subject**. They also sit final exams (maximum of 10) at the end of the Junior Cycle Programme.

Students' achievements, including other areas of learning such as **Leadership and teamwork**, are recorded on their **Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)** and presented to pupils upon completion of the programme.

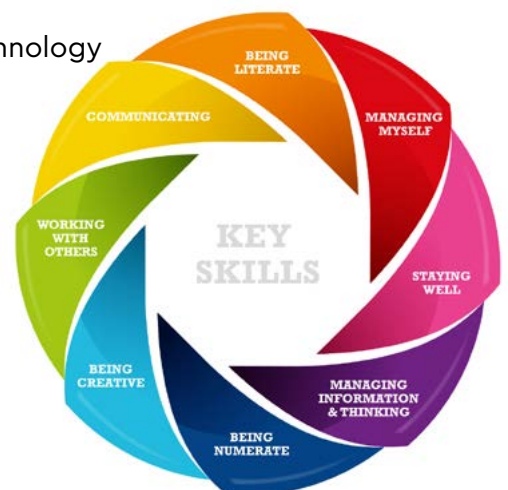
All Junior Cycle students also follow a comprehensive **Wellbeing programme**. Wellbeing is a combination of PE, SPHE, CSPE, Guidance, and ICT.

JUNIOR CYCLE CORE SUBJECTS

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- History
- Geography
- Science
- **Wellbeing:** Physical Education (PE); Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE); Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE); Guidance; Life Skills; ICT

JUNIOR CYCLE NON-CORE SUBJECTS

- German
- French
- Business Studies
- Graphics
- Visual Art
- Wood Technology
- Music



Transition Year in Arklow C.B.S. is an optional year full of possibilities and unique learning experiences which offers students space to mature and develop through a broad range of learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. It allows the student to grow into a more self-regulating and self-directed learner ready to face the demands of Senior Cycle.

Our Transition Year Syllabus is unique to our school. This allows us to deliver a programme which boosts variety in teaching and learning, educates for maturity, promotes independent learning and allows for education through the experience of adult and working life.

Our Transition Year maintains a compact academic base through continued emphasis on the core subjects while also offering the opportunity for students to develop their involvement of education through exploring their creative, physical and problem-solving skills. It is learning led rather than exam driven and learning also takes place outside the classroom in the form of field trips, charity work, workshops, school trips and work experience.

Students are fortified and supported to uncover their individual talents skills and abilities. The curriculum is diverse and is

frequently reviewed by both teachers and students. This allows the curriculum to grow and change year on year to meet the growing needs of students entering senior cycle and adult life.

The aim of Transition Year at Arklow C.B.S. is improve skills and encourage maturity by providing a variety of opportunities to allow for the students to discover their personal strengths, working as part of a team, sample and discover new subjects. It enables students to develop enterprising skills, knowledge of the working world and discover career opportunities. Overall students explore their talents and abilities beyond the classroom and can be expected to take on a responsibility for themselves and their future.



*Ciara Garvey, TY year
head & coordinator*



Some student experiences of Transition Year and why they chose it.

JAMES O' TOOLE

"I decided to join Transition Year in Arklow CBS because I wanted to take a break from the normal school routine and experience something different before starting my Leaving Certificate. I thought TY would give me the opportunity to try new subjects, develop new skills and take part in different activities that I would not normally get to do. I also wanted to become more confident, meet new people and gain some experience that could help me in the future. Overall, I felt that Transition Year would be a good opportunity for me to grow as a person and prepare myself for the next stage of my education."



TAOFIG AMINU

"I chose to join Transition Year at Arklow CBS because I wanted a year that would give me more than just exams and textbooks. I was eager to try new subjects, gain real work experience, and develop skills that aren't always covered in the regular junior cycle."



CORMAC O'DONOHUE

"I chose the option of doing TY for many reasons. Firstly, the program offers unique trips to places that you wouldn't normally go. What makes these trips even better is that you go with your friends. Secondly, the break after the Junior Cert is vital and a relief, meaning you don't go straight from one exam year to another. In addition, the year allows you to make decisions on how to choose your subjects for the Leaving Cert by trying all options out. This is helped by the workshops that the school provides such as law and podcasting."



All in all, TY is a great opportunity for students to have fun and learn about their future. "

DOMINIK SWIERGOCKI

"I chose transition year because I wanted to learn different sorts of skills and I feel like ty was able to do that. It also gives the chance to make more friends make memories and be able to travel with the school all in all I feel TY is a must do for the experience."



PIOTR KNOIECZNY

"I chose TY for many reasons. Firstly, I wanted to participate in work experience and get a feel for what life would be like after leaving secondary school. I thought that the work experience I did was very interesting, and it gave me firsthand experience of what I want to do when I leave school. I also chose to do TY because I wanted to take part in the TY mini company project. After completing this project, it gave me a real insight into the world of business and what goes into running and managing a business. The other reason I picked TY was for the trips and amazing experiences we had going to places from Avondale to Berlin on our foreign trip. In my opinion TY was really beneficial as it gave me the experience and maturity that is needed to progress into the Leaving Cert and life after school."



SENIOR CYCLE CURRICULUM

In 5th and 6th Year, students begin working towards their Leaving Certificate Examinations.

They choose an average of seven subjects, which must include Irish, English, and Mathematics. Additionally, all students have classes in PE, RE, SPHE, ICT, and Career Guidance. Students can also select Life, Community and Work (LCW) as an additional subject option.



SENIOR CYCLE CORE SUBJECTS

- Career Guidance
- English
- Irish
- Information Technology
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Education (non-exam)
- SPHE

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- Accounting
- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Construction Studies
- Design & Communication Graphics
- French
- German
- Geography
- History
- **Life, Community and Work (LCW)**
- Music
- Physical Education (Exam)
- Physics
- Polish



First Years – My Top Three Favourite things about Arklow CBS!!!!

JAMIE KAVANAGH

- The Lunch
- The donuts
- Playing football

HARRY ALEXANDER

- The canteen
- Half Day Friday
- The teachers

MICHAEL WEADICK

- The canteen...amazing
- Great atmosphere in the school
- Teachers are very nice, they are interested in hearing our stories

CILLIAN LAWLOR

- How kind and understanding the teachers are
- Freedom in the school
- Subject choices are good

DARAGH CAULFIELD

- Food
- School football
- Half Day Friday

DEVON FORD

- The P.E. uniform
- Woodwork
- Teachers

OLLY RYAN

- The teachers
- Football on breaks
- Everything around the school

SEOIRSE CURTIS

- Football on break and P.E.
- Pancakes and donuts at lunch
- Half day Friday and all teachers

JEFF CRAINE

- The teachers are really nice
- Canteen
- The sports teams

NATHAN WOGRALIK

- Playing football during lunch
- All the teachers
- The canteen food

XAVIER PANECZKO

- Science
- Really nice staff
- P.E.

JOEY KEOGH

- Canteen
- Staff
- Woodwork

DONNACHA MURPHY

- Thursday's dinners
- Half day Friday
- Freedom

JACOB HEFFERNAN

- The sports
- Woodwork
- Canteen

CORI GALLAGHER

- The sports teams
- New subjects like woodwork
- Moving classrooms

CHARLIE GILVARRY

- Food in the canteen
- Free food in the morning (breakfast club)
- Woodwork

VINH LE

- Canteen
- Woodwork
- Football

HEAD AND VICE HEAD BOYS ON WHY THEY CHOSE ARKLOW C.B.S.

PETER LAPPIN (HEAD BOY)



"The transition from primary school to secondary school is a big moment in everyone's life. I remember my first day in the C.B.S. very well, and I knew without a doubt that this was the school for me.

When making such an important decision, I can't think of anywhere better than Arklow C.B.S. School is about growing, learning and flourishing as a person, and I found that there was no better place for me to do that than here. The friendships, opportunities, learning and care within the C.B.S. are a true testament to the people who make this school what it is.

What I love most about the C.B.S. is the opportunity to always go after what you want. Whether it's achieving high points, finding sporting success, joining the chess club, getting involved in drama, or simply making memories and enjoying your time at school, there is no better place than Arklow C.B.S. to express yourself and discover what you are capable of.

At the C.B.S., you become part of something bigger. You make friendships, create memories, discover new talents and grow into the person you want to be.

Like all the students who have gone before you, you will leave the Brothers with your head held high, proud of what you have achieved and proud to have worn the crest."

RUAIRI O' NEILL (VICE HEAD BOY)



"Coming into Arklow C.B.S. from 6th class was a big change, but I settled in quickly and have made some great memories since. One of the things I enjoy most about the school is the amount of sport and activities you can get involved in. I've always been into sport, and

there are plenty of opportunities to get involved, whether that's playing football, basketball or taking part in other activities around the school. What I like most about Arklow C.B.S. is the

people. You meet loads of different people when you come in, and some of them end up becoming really good friends.

For anyone coming into 1st year, I'd say don't overthink it. Get involved, give things a go and enjoy yourself. You'll probably be surprised by how quickly you settle in, and before you know it, you'll be the one giving advice to the next group of 6th-class students.."

PHILIP MICHTA (VICE HEAD BOY)



"When I was in 6th class, I was trying to decide which secondary school to go to. Unfortunately, I was starting secondary school during Covid, so I never got the chance to visit Arklow C.B.S. for an Open Day like most students normally

would. Instead, I had to attend an online Open Day and get a feel for the school through a screen.

Even without being able to see the school in person, I had a good feeling about Arklow C.B.S. and decided to give it a chance. Looking back now, I can honestly say it was one of the best choices I could have made.

Over the years, I've had the chance to get involved in all sorts of things, from football and basketball to chess, while also meeting some of my closest friends along the way. There is always something to get involved in, and you can find your own place whether you're into sport, academics or something completely different.

The teachers have also made a big difference to my experience in Arklow C.B.S. Over the years, they have helped me when I've struggled with work, encouraged me to push myself and supported me through the different challenges of secondary school.

If I could give one piece of advice to anyone coming into 1st year, it would be to get involved and make the most of it. You're lucky enough to get the chance to see Arklow C.B.S. in person before making your decision, so take it all in and don't be afraid to ask questions. Try new things, meet new people and enjoy it, because the years really do go by faster than you think."



TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY

At Arklow C.B.S. we are very aware that the transition from primary school to secondary school can be a very daunting step in a young person's life. We make every effort to ensure that this step is an exciting and positive one.

Each pupil is assigned a base class for the year. Each class has its own tutor, an experienced member of staff whose role it is to look after the well-being of each pupil in that class group. First Years are assigned to liaison students who act like buddies and mentors and who liaise with students and tutors daily. Junior students also have a Year Head.

STUDENT SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Helping our incoming first year students to settle in and achieve their potential is a priority at Arklow C.B.S. To this end, we have put in place a comprehensive set of support structures. These include:

SUMMER PROGRAMME

This programme is for students with additional needs and is offered to incoming students as well as our existing ones. The activities within the programme provide students with the opportunity to get to know their new school and participate in engaging, team building tasks. Incoming students and their parents find this opportunity to become familiar with the environment, future classmates and a selection of the teaching staff, very reassuring.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

All Junior Cycle classes in Arklow C.B.S. are mixed ability. In order to best assess the needs of our students and create classes in which each student can reach their optimal potential, students sit an entrance assessment. Other assessments may be carried out based on students needs and are used to inform in-class supports.

STUDENT TASTER PROGRAMME

To help our First Years make an informed decision regarding which subjects will best suit their interests and abilities, they get an opportunity to sample the entire suite of optional subjects during an 8-week Taster Programme.

STUDENT INDUCTION DAY

On their first day in Arklow C.B.S., First Year students are the only students in attendance. This gives them a chance to become familiar with the school building and meet their fellow classmates, liaison students, teachers, tutors, year head and other members of staff.

LIASION STUDENTS

Liaison students are senior students who have received specific training in leadership and mentoring. They are each assigned a group of first years and their remit is to look after them during break times and to be available should one of their assigned students need advice or assistance. These Liaison students also attend tutorial class with the first years every morning. Through this co-ordinated programme, friendships are forged between the students and it ensures that the First Years always have someone to ask for advice or a friendly face to turn to if required.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework club is a free lunchtime club, that is open to all First Years. Students eat their lunch and can then complete their homework under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff.

Students are encouraged to actively pursue a wide and varied range of in school and after school activities throughout the year.

WHAT SOME CURRENT STUDENTS THINK...

SYLVESTER BURKE

I chose Arklow C.B.S. because I wanted a school that would push me to be my best, and it has. From day one I felt welcomed, and the teachers know their students by name.



"Great school for sports!"

"Really like the woodwork room!"

"Great canteen with great selection of food!"

"Nice teachers!"

I take great pride in my education and my achievements here. The teachers set high standards but back them up with real support, and there's always someone willing to help when a subject gets tough. That has given me the confidence to aim higher.

Outside the classroom, the extra-curricular activities have taught me teamwork, responsibility and leadership, and I'm proud to represent the school.

If I had to choose again, my answer would be the same: Arklow C.B.S.

ROSS DOYLE ROCHE

I chose to come to Arklow C.B.S. because I had heard many good things about the school from other students. A big reason I chose it was because some of my friends from primary school had also decided to come here, so I knew I would already have people I knew. I also liked that the school has a strong focus on sports, good teachers and a friendly atmosphere. I felt that there would be lots of opportunities to get involved in different activities, make new friends and enjoy my time at school.



"The PE classes!"





DR DARRAGH GILLEECE

Performance Tutor & Music Examiner

Since leaving Arklow C.B.S., I have pursued a career in music and education. I am currently a Performance Tutor at Maynooth University and a Music Examiner at the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM). After my Leaving Cert, I completed a BA International from Maynooth University (with an Erasmus in Vienna), followed by a Master's degree. I recently achieved a PhD in Musicology, awarded as part of the John and Pat Hume Scholarship. I also hold an Associate Diploma in Piano Pedagogy from RIAM and a Licentiate Diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College London.

Following my passion for education, I tutored for several years in Maynooth University's Writing Centre and completed a Certificate in Third-Level Teaching and Learning. As a performer, I've had the opportunity to perform as a soloist internationally, including at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna and the University of Wrocław in Poland, and at events hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Institute of Culture. As a composer, I led the development of several piano books currently in use at RIAM, and my works have been published in various exam syllabi internationally. Two of my solo-authored piano books for learners will be published in 2025 by Forsyth Publications (UK). My career path has also led to consultancy work on various music syllabi, participation in quality assurance reviews for third-level courses in liaison with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), and placement on the deputy panel of piano lecturers at TUD Conservatoire and Sing Ireland's panel of piano accompanists.

I remain grateful to the staff at Arklow C.B.S. for their support. The music department in particular was very encouraging — whether it was playing or singing for concerts, or facilitating my piano practice before the school day began, their support is still very much appreciated!

STEPHEN LEE

National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) in Ringaskiddy, Cork

I completed my secondary education in Arklow C.B.S. and since then I have graduated with a degree in Marine Engineering from The National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) in Ringaskiddy, Cork. During my third year in college, I was lucky enough to be interviewed and then sponsored by Seapeak LLC for my remaining time in college and completed the required sea time training with them as a Cadet, as part of my course.

Once I graduated, I began working with Seapeak on a LNG (liquid natural gas) tanker as a third engineer. I am away deep-sea for 3-4 months, which is tough, but then home for about 2 months, which is great.

I am grateful to the C.B.S. for their support and guidance throughout my school years, without which I wouldn't have gotten into college and study further to do the job I have.



LUKE DELANEY

News and Sport Broadcast Journalist

I graduated from Arklow C.B.S. in 2019. I thoroughly enjoyed my years at the school and had a great relationship with all the teachers. Their help and guidance throughout my Leaving Certificate years were vital in helping me go on to achieve results I was happy with.

I also had a memorable experience on the sporting field, with great success in both GAA and football teams. After my time in Arklow C.B.S., I studied Journalism in DCU where I graduated in 2022.

During my time in university, I worked as a sports reporter for a number of Irish websites and papers. I am now a News and Sport Broadcast Journalist with Dublin radio stations FM104 and Q102 where my day-to-day duties vary. I can be heard reading the news or sports bulletins across the capital or interviewing and attending markings with sports stars, politicians, musicians or actors.

Arklow C.B.S. undoubtedly helped me carve my way into this field and I'm grateful for all of their help and advice through my time on Coolgreaney Road!

DR. JACK JAMESON

PD Ag. Science



My time in the C.B.S. instilled a passion for science in me that laid the groundwork for where I am today. After completing my Leaving Certificate in 2016, I went on to study Agricultural Science at University College Dublin which has afforded me some amazing opportunities. During that time, I was fortunate enough to study abroad for a semester at Purdue University in the USA which is one of the world's leading agricultural universities. I then spent part of my professional work

experience working in different parts of the agricultural sectors in both New Zealand and Australia.

After graduating with a BAgSc, I completed a PhD with University College Dublin whilst being based at the National Crops Research Centre at Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow. After my PhD I took up a post-doctoral fellowship in plant pathology in Oak Park. I am now a Research Officer and lead a team in applied crop agronomy research at the Centre. My research aims to improve the sustainability, resilience and productivity of Irish cropping systems and has been presented at scientific conferences across Europe.

My time in the C.B.S. laid the foundation for where I am today, and I am grateful for the opportunities it has provided me.

BRIAN FENNELL

Historian and PhD Researcher



I really enjoyed my time in Arklow C.B.S. and look back on it with great fondness. I chose C.B.S. as it was my local school, and I was fortunate to have supportive teachers who encouraged me throughout my time there. I made great lifelong friends, and I am still in contact with many of my former teachers, which is something I greatly value.

A special mention must go to Mr Cosgrove, who fostered my interest in history. What began as a school

subject developed into a lifelong passion and has ultimately shaped my career.

After completing my Leaving Certificate, I studied History at Maynooth University, where I later completed a Master's degree in Irish History and am currently undertaking a PhD.

Alongside my academic work, I have published several articles on Irish and local history. In 2026, Four Courts Press published my first book, *The Political World of Sir Thomas Henry Grattan Esmonde of Ballynastragh, Co. Wexford, 1862-1935*. I have also written for RTÉ Brainstorm and presented research at conferences and historical societies in Ireland and Britain.

The encouragement I received at Arklow C.B.S. played an important role in setting me on this path, and I remain grateful to the teachers, staff, and friends who made my years there so memorable.

BEN FENNELL

Maths, Business and Economics Teacher



I look back on my time as a student in Arklow CBS with incredibly fond memories. I thoroughly enjoyed my years in the school, where I made lifelong friendships, created fantastic memories and was fortunate enough to be taught by teachers who had a lasting impact on me. Arklow CBS was a brilliant place to grow up, and I will always be grateful for the experiences and opportunities I had during my time there, both inside and outside the classroom.

After completing my Leaving Certificate, I went on to study Mathematics and Economics at the University of Limerick, where I spent four fantastic years. Following this, I decided to pursue a career in teaching and completed my Professional Master of Education at Dublin City University (DCU).

During my master's degree, I was fortunate enough to return to Arklow CBS as a student teacher for one of my teaching placements. It was a particularly special experience to return to the school where I had spent so many happy years, this time on the other side of the classroom. I thoroughly enjoyed my year teaching there, gaining invaluable experience and developing great friendships with members of staff, many of whom had previously been my own teachers. The support and guidance I received throughout that year played a huge role in my development as a teacher.

I am now in my second year teaching in Dubai, where I teach Business, Economics and Maths. It has been an incredible experience so far, giving me the opportunity to teach students from all over the world, experience different cultures and work alongside some truly outstanding teachers from a wide range of backgrounds. I am constantly learning and developing professionally, and I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work in such an international environment.

Looking back, I have no doubt that my time in Arklow CBS helped shape the person and teacher I am today. If I were to give any student advice reading this, is to enjoy your days at school because they really are the best days. Have a laugh but also know when to get down to business.

Sean O' Donovan, Degree in Sustainability, UCD

Darrah O' Murchú, Ag Science, UCD

Airas Slaitas, Design for Film, IADT

Gavin Walker, Aviation Management, DCU

Sergei Larionov, Computer Science

Diego Akut, Electrical & Control Engineering

Kian Scanlon, Irish Army

Philip Banduna, law with Economics in UCD

Jack Burke, Engineering DCU

John Clune, Law in Trinity

Ryan Gleeson, Pyhsiotherapy with Chevron College

Cormac O Donohue, Architecture in SETU

Shane Gregory, Data Science and AI in DCU

Sean Redmond, Electrical Apprenticeship with CPC Ltd.

FOSTERING STUDENT WELLBEING

While Arklow C.B.S. is committed to ensuring that each student achieves their academic potential, this is never at the expense of a child's social and emotional development. In order to ensure that students are healthy and happy during their time at school, whilst still striving for academic excellence, a large array of student supports and services are in place.

A few words from Marcus Cosgrove – Year Head



As Year Head, students will always be at the centre of my role. With an excellent team of tutors, we offer our students encouragement at all times. As a team, we try to establish and maintain a high standard of

discipline and foster a positive attitude among pupils towards achieving their academic goals.

I place a very strong emphasis on how students can reach their full potential during their time at Arklow C.B.S., let it be academic or through extra-curricular activities. By recognising the unique nature of every student, I feel it is my job to prepare them for the next stage in life.

While I feel strongly about academic achievement, I am equally passionate about the wellbeing of the students. My role as Year Head is to work closely with the wider school community to ensure that every level of the student's development is supported. Where positive relationships exist, the learning and teaching environment is enhanced. As Maya Angelou said, 'People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel'.

PASTORAL CARE SYSTEM

The Pastoral Care Team, supported by the entire school community, work to create a positive atmosphere where student welfare, safety and happiness take centre stage. The Pastoral Care Team is supported in its work by a dedicated team of year heads and tutors who are there to offer support and guidance to the young adults in their care.

A few words from Eleanor Kinsella – Year Head & Head of Restorative Practice



The Senior Cycle marks an important stage in our students' educational journey, bringing both opportunities and challenges as they prepare for life beyond school. My primary focus is to support and guide

each student through these pivotal years, encouraging them to make thoughtful academic and personal choices that will shape their futures.

Working closely with class tutors and the wider school team, we place strong emphasis on key values such as commitment to learning, consistent attendance, punctuality, and personal well-being. We also encourage students to develop resilience, independence, and responsibility – qualities that will serve them well both in their studies and in life after school.

Central to our approach is the nurturing of a positive and inclusive school community, where students feel supported by their peers and respected by staff. In addressing challenges, we prioritise a restorative practice model, ensuring students have a voice, take responsibility for their actions, and develop empathy and emotional intelligence.

Our ultimate aim is to ensure that every Senior Cycle student is equipped not only with the academic skills to succeed in their examinations, but also with the confidence, maturity, and life skills to thrive in whichever pathway they choose after secondary school.

A few words from Laura Levingstone – Year Head



As Year Head, I have the role of overseeing the social, emotional, and educational welfare of every student in my year group.

With a dedicated team of tutors, we endeavour to promote academic excellence, excellent punctuality, and attendance, and strongly encourage extra-curricular activities. As a team, we strive to establish a high standard of discipline and work to help students to discover and improve personal standards and set themselves high standards of achievement.

Our aim is that the students at Arklow C.B.S. receive a well-balanced, holistic education and that they develop core values which will stand to them for life. As Year Head, my role is to offer support to students, their families, and the wider school community, to provide a safe, welcoming environment for all.

It is a privilege to lead an eminent year group as we face into a world of new and exciting challenges and opportunities for the young men in our care at Arklow C.B.S. In the words of Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."



CHECK & CONNECT

The Check and Connect programme at Arklow C.B.S. is managed by Ms. Andreina Kinsella. It provides vital support for students who may need extra guidance during their school journey. Through this initiative, each student is paired with a mentor who meets with them regularly to discuss any challenges or concerns they may be facing, both inside and outside the classroom. This consistent support helps to promote student wellbeing, build confidence, and ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive and make the most of their school experience.

LIBRARY

Arklow C.B.S. offers students an extensive and ever-expanding stock of library books, which they are encouraged to borrow and read at their leisure.



GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

Arklow C.B.S. provides a very caring and nurturing environment. Ms. Sarah Rooney, the guidance counsellor in the school provides constant care, support and guidance for the students. Students have careers classes in Junior and Senior Cycle, allowing time for their wellbeing and development, along with in depth exploration of different career paths which they may be interested to pursue.

Students are made aware from the time that they start in Arklow C.B.S., that if they have any issues or concerns that they will have somebody to talk to. The wellbeing and care of our students is at the heart and forefront of our school.

Our comprehensive guidance programme commences the instant a student enters First Year and is initially designed to fully support students in their transition from primary to post-primary school. This guidance programme continues throughout the student's entire time in Arklow C.B.S., with all students receiving both in-class and individual support covering areas like study skills, aptitude testing, pathways to third level and advice on career options.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is an intrinsic part of the school community. It gives students an important voice in matters pertaining to the student body and the general running of the school. It is a democratically elected council, representing students from every year group in the school. It provides a direct line of communication between students, management, staff and parents/guardians and offers valuable leadership experience for students elected to sit on the council.

SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY & HOMEWORK CLUB

Arklow C.B.S. offers all students an opportunity to avail of supervised study for two hours after school from Monday to Thursday. Evening study is run under the supervision and guidance of the teaching staff.

LEARNING SUPPORT

A support structure for students with additional learning needs is provided through our Learning Support Programme. The Learning Support Team assess the needs of individual students and where appropriate design a programme for those students with specific needs. These supports are offered following formal and informal assessments with parents, primary school teachers and other relevant educational professionals.

LIAISON STUDENTS

Liaison students are a team of trained senior students who act as mentors and buddies for the new first years, so helping them with settling into secondary school. Becoming a liaison student forms a valuable part of a student's personal development, giving him an opportunity to develop skills pertaining to communication, leadership and responsibility.

CANTEEN

Canteen facilities are available. Students can avail of a wide variety of hot and cold lunches, provided at a subsidised cost. All students are welcome to attend Breakfast Club, which is open every morning before school, providing free tea and toast, for students arriving to school early.

STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

We offer annual awards to each year group to acknowledge student achievements across the board in all areas of school life. We also offer annual awards for student achievements in the state examinations.

GREEN SCHOOL'S COMMITTEE

The Green Schools Committee at Arklow C.B.S. plays an important role in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness within the school community. By taking responsibility for initiatives such as litter management, recycling, and the return scheme, they ensure that everyday actions contribute to protecting the environment. Their work not only helps keep the school clean and eco-friendly, but also encourages everyone to play their part in caring for the planet. Most importantly, the committee's efforts help preserve our natural resources for future generations, showing the value of teamwork and responsibility in creating a greener, more sustainable future.



The partnership that characterises Arklow C.B.S. promotes inclusiveness, mutual respect and a sense of inter-dependence for the development of the school as a community.

Additional Educational Needs Support

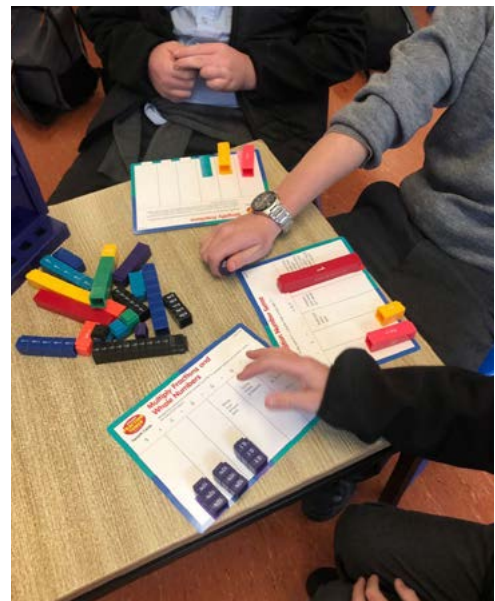
Arklow C.B.S. values each student as an individual within an inclusive and supportive school community dedicated to each student reaching their potential. Mutual respect, professionalism and a shared understanding of students' needs inform planning and specific interventions.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D.) Class

Here at Arklow C.B.S. we have two A.S.D. classes. We offer additional support to students diagnosed with A.S.D. by adopting an inclusive approach which encourages and allows them to access the state curriculum in a mainstream post primary setting. The A.S.D. class is integrated into the mainstream timetable. So, students enrolled in this A.S.D. Class follow the mainstream timetable for much of the school day and attend the A.S.D. class as an alternative to certain subjects.

Areas of Support given to students enrolled in the A.S.D. class:

- S.N.A. support
- Additional Educational Needs classes
- Social skills
- Literacy skills
- Numeracy skills
- Computer skills
- Social stories
- Specific subject support
- Personal skills
- Organisational skills
- Time management
- Self-management
- Study skills
- Anxiety management
- Student support based on specific recommendations from class teachers and/or professional reports.



We strongly encourage parental involvement, and in a partnership between home and school we work together to ensure the best education of the child.

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Arklow C.B.S. is very proud of the strong links we have forged with businesses and organisations in the community. These links provide our students with invaluable real-world experience and are a huge asset to them in their future endeavours. The skills gained by students from these experiences are innumerable but include enhanced communication skills, greater empathy, leadership skills and the ability to be organised and problem solve in a real life, working environment.

LINKS WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Acknowledging that parents/guardians are a vital partner in providing quality education, Arklow C.B.S. is dedicated to forging strong formal and informal links with home. The Parents Association has a vital role to play within the overall school community. The school also has an open-door policy in relation to parents/guardians and appointments can be scheduled to discuss any aspect of a child's educational life.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



In order to provide students with a broad and varied experience in secondary school, Arklow C.B.S., delivers a comprehensive and ever-evolving extracurricular programme.

Opportunities available to students include:

- School tours
- Debates – through English, Irish, French & German
- Quizzes – through English, Irish, French & German
- Sci fest
- Music
- Gardening – polytunnel
- Arklow Music Festival
- Essay & Poetry Competitions
- Gaelbhreach
- Gaeltact Trips
- Irish club
- Mental Health Week
- Science Week
- Maths Week
- Green Schools
- Chess Club
- Library Club
- Brass Band

SPORT

At Arklow C.B.S. we encourage our students to get involved in a variety of sporting and extra-curricular pursuits to complement their academic studies. Such activities are very important in promoting well-being and in fostering friendships across year groups. Sport encourages students to work as a team, to develop discipline and to meet and interact with fellow students. Participating in sport plays a key role in the development of crucial life skills. We are proud of our sporting heritage and we are delighted by the continued success of our students in all sports.

SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

- Athletics & Cross-Country Running
- Basketball
- Gaelic Football
- Hurling
- Soccer
- Rugby

NEW SCHOOL CAMPUS

The new school campus will be a state of the art facility and will have a total floor area of 6913m². It will consist of the following rooms:

19 General Classrooms

- 1** Specialist Music Room
- 2** Specialist Information Technology Room
- 2** Specialist Design & Communication Graphics Rooms
- 1** Specialist Textile Room
- 4** Science Laboratories
- 2** Science Preparation Rooms
- 1** Home Economics Room
- 1** Arts & Crafts Room
- 1** Engineering Room
- 1** Construction Room
- 1** Technology Room
- 1** Technology Preparation Room
- 1** Library
- 1** Full Size PE Hall with Fitness Gym
- 1** PE Equipment Store
- 1** Cleaning Equipment store
- 4** Outside Playing Courts
- 1** External Store

13 Standard Offices

- 3** Mediation, General Office & Meeting Rooms
- 1** Staffroom
- 1** Photocopy room
- 2** Project Storage Areas
- 1** General Purpose Dining Area
- 1** Catering Area
- 1** General Purpose store
- 1** Student Social Area
- 1** Student Locker Area

Special Education Needs Suite

- 1** Central Activities Space
- 2** Base Classrooms
- 2** Withdrawal Rooms
- 1** Multisensory Room
- 1** Para Education Room
- 1** Practical Activities Room
- 1** Daily Living Skills Room
- 2** Storage Areas
- 1** Office

AECOM have been appointed as the Project Management and Design Team to deliver our new school campus.



Arklow C.B.S.

Coolgreaney Rd, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 RV04

P: 0402 32 564 E: admin@arklowcbs.ie

www.arklowcbs.ie

