



Coláiste Pobail Bhun Clóidí Bunclody Community College SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



CONTENTS

- Welcome to Bunclody Community College 4
- School Ethos and Mission Statement 5
- Teaching and Learning 6
- Support Structures 9
- Our School Community 12
- Student Leadership 13
- Educational Curriculum 14
- Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities 20
- School Tours 30
- School Development Planning 32
- Our School Infrastructure 32
- Why Choose Bunclody Community College..... 32
- A Letter from Chairperson of the Parents Association 33
- Map of the School 34



WELCOME TO BUNCLODY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Choosing the right second-level school is an important decision. The school you select will shape your child’s academic, social, and personal development. At Bunclody Community College, we take this responsibility seriously and provide an environment where every student can flourish. We are very conscious that when a parent/guardian sends their child to our school, they are entrusting us with the most precious thing in the world to them. Providing an educational environment which prepares students not only for academic success, but also for the confidence, resilience, and adaptability to thrive when they graduate from our college in today’s changing world.



We have an extremely dedicated team of teachers who provide a high-quality teaching and learning environment, a modern and inclusive curriculum, a strong focus on academic success, confidence, resilience, and other important life skills. These central elements of the education we provide have been recognised in recent Department of Education inspection on our school, including inspections that took place during the current academic year.

We set high expectations for all learners and carefully monitor their academic progress through assessment, feedback, academic tracking, and targeted support. This approach helps students build on their strengths, overcome challenges, and achieve their goals with confidence. We have a wide variety of academic supports in place to ensure students reach their full academic potential. Some examples include individual Academic Potential Review Meetings with an Assistant Principal, supervised study after school and during mid-term breaks, and extra individual support with Mathematics in Maths Club every morning before school from 8.15 a.m. to 8.50 a.m.

Equally, we know that happiness is central to learning. Strong, supportive relationships between staff and students foster belonging, security, and encouragement. For example, to ensure a positive start, first-year students take part in a three-day induction programme in September, designed to build confidence, connections, and familiarity with their new school.

Education at Bunclody Community College extends beyond the classroom. A wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities, sport, music, arts, debating, maths club, and student leadership opportunities which include Meitheal leaders, Student Council, Ethos ambassadors, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Student Team, allow students to discover new talents, develop confidence, and enjoy success as both individuals and team members.

Underlying all of the above, is a school environment with a strong culture of respect. A central aspect of respect is an appreciation of boundaries, and this is something we place at the core of the educational environment we provide. We are proud to be an inclusive, close-knit community where diversity is celebrated and every student feels valued.

In Bunclody Community College, tradition meets innovation, excellence is nurtured, and young people are encouraged to become the best version of themselves. We look forward to welcoming you to Bunclody Community College and supporting your child’s journey of learning, growth, and achievement. To arrange a tour or request more information, please contact the school office (by email or phone) we would be delighted to assist.

Dr. James Trimble
Principal

SCHOOL ETHOS AND MISSION STATEMENT

Bunclody Community College (BCC) is an ETB schools under the governance of Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB). BCC is a state, multid denominational, co-educational school underpinned by the following 5 core values:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect

Our core values are promoted on a daily basis throughout our school community. Teachers constantly strive for excellence in education in a well-disciplined classroom atmosphere underpinned by care and respect. BCC is an inclusive school that welcomes and caters for all students in our community. We are exceptionally proud of the unique community spirit and the safe learning environment that exists in our school.



Our Mission Statement:

“Bunclody Community College endeavours to provide quality education to all students in a caring, disciplined, and respectful environment. We aim to prepare students for life and responsible citizenship and motivate them towards achieving their full potential”.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

A fundamental aim of BCC is to enable students to engage in independent thinking and meaningful critical reflection on their learning. We aim to intrinsically motivate and engage students with the curriculum by ensuring that they are studying the subjects that are of interest to them. This is facilitated through a bespoke First Year Option Subject Programme. The First Year Option Subject Programme allows students to select the subjects they want to pursue for their Junior Cycle exams. "More details on the First year "Option Subject Programme can be found on the school website

Through the careful structuring of the curriculum, and the nurturing of key skills in our students, we aim to support and develop them throughout their learning journey. Each pupil is treated as a unique individual, capable of growing and developing in the social, academic, innovative, artistic, and physical dimensions. Our dedicated teachers constantly engage in continuous professional development to remain at the cutting edge of changes in their subject areas. We are also very open to the evolving needs of our student cohort. The curriculum, therefore, constantly adapts to suit the career options of our students at any given time. In recent years we have introduced Music, PE, Physics/Chemistry and Agricultural Science. We have also introduced the Leaving Certificate Applied program and a compulsory Transition Year Programme.

The holistic development of our students and their wellbeing is also extremely important to us. With this in mind we offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities to cater for the diverse interests of our student population. BCC also seeks to develop our students as responsible citizens of our country and the world. We have a proven track record of success over many years, and we believe that the academic and holistic development our student's is second to none. We are confident that you will be impressed by our school, if you take the time to truly explore it.

Awarding our Students Achievements

Our Christmas and Summer awards ceremonies provide an opportunity to publicly celebrate students' individual and collective achievements. Awards are bestowed for academic achievement in each subject area in addition to sporting achievements and outstanding school attendance. Students are also rewarded for their participation and achievement in music ensembles. In addition, presentations are made to students who have



excelled in areas of leadership such as the Student Council representatives or those involved in the Meitheal programme. Students who embody the schools core values or who have made a positive contribution to school life are also recognised. Opportunities also exist for students who demonstrate hard work, resilience, and creativity.

Academic Tracking and Student Reflection

Student progress is evaluated using questioning, homework, class tests and by analysing the data from end of term assessments. Formative feedback is regularly provided by teachers, and students are encouraged to reflect on their work with a view to building on what they have previously learned. Students are also encouraged to set target grades and levels for each of their subjects as applicable. The target grades are based on the individuals preferred career path. As the student's work is assessed and feedback is provided the student can gauge if they are on target to achieve their predicted results.

All of our students engage with 1:1 meetings with one of our assistant principals to monitor and track their progress throughout the year to ensure they are continually reaching their potential. There are regular study skills seminars run throughout the year also to support them in how they approach their studies. The school has a student Learning teaching assessment and reporting team which is established annually through an interview process and in addition to this a similar team for teachers who are involved in ensuring that BCC is at the forefront of educational development.

Learning in a Digital Age

Bunclody Community College is committed to providing an educational experience that is in tandem with the technological developments of our time. We believe no student should leave school without the skills required to work in an ICT environment. To support this philosophy, we have introduced timetabled ICT classes. Students are also taught how to research, how to work independently, and how to critically evaluate online material.

We have invested heavily in our ICT infrastructure. We have two fully equipped computer rooms, and each classroom is equipped with a data projector and a secure Wi-Fi network. Each teacher also has a personal device and this allows them to engage remotely with their students using Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Office 365. These platforms allow teachers to share their handouts, videos, Power Point presentations and any other materials they use in the classroom to support teaching and learning. The student therefore has remote access to the materials which can be accessed again and again at a time that is convenient for them.



“The classrooms
all presented as
stimulating print-rich
environments”
Inspectorate



SUPPORT STRUCTURES

At Bunclody Community College, we are committed to supporting each student throughout their second level journey. This is to ensure that they have every opportunity to reach their full potential. Student care, therefore, is at the core of everything we do, and mechanisms are in place that involve the entire school community. Regular parent-teacher meetings are held to monitor pupils' progress. Extensive feedback is also provided via our Winter and Summer Reports. Parents can also request a progress report at any stage during the year if they have any concerns about their child's progress. In addition, parents are welcome to meet the Principal, Deputy Principal, Class teacher or HSCL by appointment. The following will also give you an idea of the range of support structures that are available to our students.

Year Head

Each Year Group is assigned a Year Head who has responsibility for the overall leadership, management, and pastoral care of that year group. The Year Head works closely with subject teachers, class tutors, parents/guardians, the Behaviour Moderator, and the Senior Leadership Team to monitor student progress and address emerging academic, attendance, and behavioural trends. The Year Head holds regular year group assemblies to communicate important information, celebrate achievements, and promote the school's values and expectations. They also meet with students and parents/guardians as required to provide support and guidance and to address any concerns that may arise. The Year Head maintains regular contact with parents/guardians through meetings, emails, and school communications, ensuring that families are kept informed of relevant events, initiatives, and developments affecting the year group. Through collaboration and engagement, the Year Head supports the academic, personal, and social development of all students within the year group.

Class Tutor

Each class group within the school is assigned to a class tutor. This is a subject teacher who takes a special interest in, and responsibility for, a particular class group. The class teacher will meet their class each morning during class assembly. He/she is a vital link between school management, students and their parents/guardians. The class teacher will also liaise with other subject teachers regarding the social and academic welfare of all children in their care. Very often the class teacher will be the go-to person for a student if he/she has any concerns or is worried about anything, however small.

Home School Community Liaison Coordinator

Our Home School Coordinator is Ms A. O Sullivan. Her role at Bunclody Community College includes the following:

- To raise awareness in parents of their own capacities to enhance their child's educational progress and to assist them in developing relevant skills.
- To further develop pupil-parent-teacher relationships so that school becomes a place where all young people feel safe and comfortable and can reach their potential.
- To become familiar with attendance patterns to maximise student attendance, participation, retention, and progression to Further Education and/or employment.
- To work in a supportive and purposeful way with parents and facilitate communication with class teachers, subject teachers, year-head, and senior school management when required.
- To promote positive teacher and staff attitudes towards partnership with parents and adopting a whole-school approach to attendance, participation and retention.
- To provide support during students' transition from sixth class to first year.
- To work directly with the significant adults in students' lives to seek direct benefit for the children themselves.

Guidance and Counselling at Bunclody Community College

Guidance and Counselling are at the heart of the pastoral care system at Bunclody Community College. Our Guidance Counsellor provides a caring and supportive role in the Community and Educational areas as well as with personal guidance and counselling. The Guidance Counsellor also liaises with Universities, Apprenticeships Training Centres, PLC Colleges, Employers, National Learning Network, Institute of Guidance Counsellors, Health Service Executive, National Educational Psychological Service, colleagues and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive network is in place to support all our students in Bunclody Community College.

As part of our guidance programme, students engage in career investigations, study skills workshops, and benefit from a wide range of guest speakers and educational trips. Guest speakers have included representatives from SETU, St. Patrick's College Carlow, the ESB, and experts in financial wellbeing and college planning. Students also learn about bursary options and how to apply for them. Trips have included visits to SETU Carlow and Waterford campuses, the Higher Options event, World Skills Day, the WWETB Apprenticeship Generation showcase in Waterford and IWISH in the RDS, attended by 50 female students to promote women in STEM.

Our 5th Year students also attended JobFest in Wexford, gaining exposure to local employment opportunities and career pathways. A highlight was a panel of past students who met with 6th years to share honest insights into college life—comparing their initial expectations with real experiences. Our Career Guidance Counsellor also organises College Awareness Week each November, which includes a variety of events. Additional wellbeing and career-related sessions include a talk from Carlow Rape Crisis Centre for TY students, and subject options presentations for 1st Year and TY students and their parents.

The school has invested in the reach+ programme for all our senior cycle students this provides students with an opportunity to investigate career opportunities, plan for their future and supports their transition after BCC.

Behaviour for Learning Coordinator

For the small number of students who face behavioural obstacles in a school environment, we provide extra support through a Behaviour for Learning (BFL) programme. This programme is coordinated by our BFL teacher Mr. Hughes. Students selected for this programme may present with behavioural issues, may struggle with their social skills, or may have low self-esteem. Some children may experience complex relationships with adults/peers or have poor concentration and attention difficulties in class. This can often stem from a learning difficulty rather than a student choosing to engage in misbehaviour. Our behaviour for learning teacher works with the selected students using specific programmes designed to meet their social, emotional, well-being, behavioural, and academic needs, so they too can achieve to the best of their ability. We are very proud of the behaviour for learning programme at Bunclody Community College. The early intervention approaches have been very successful in the past for those students who were in danger of dropping out of school. The programme has allowed these students to complete their secondary education and to pursue their chosen course of study or chosen career.

Student Support Team

This team meets weekly to review students who may be experiencing difficulties at school or in their personal lives. Students can self-refer, or be referred by any member of staff. Parents can also contact the school at any time if they feel that their child needs additional support. The function of the Student Support Team. is to ensure that the appropriate short-term or long-term support provisions are put in place for the student. Supports are also discussed with the parents and are reviewed on a regular basis to determine their effectiveness. Our school Student Support Team. includes the Principal, Deputy Principal, Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Behaviour for Learning

Coordinator, Career Guidance Counsellor, School Completion Programme Coordinator, and Home School Liaison Coordinator.

Additional Educational Needs Department

Our school has established a core team of teachers responsible for students who present with additional educational needs. While members of this team have the necessary experience they also engage in ongoing professional development. This ensures that teachers are familiar with the latest developments in education which in turn allows them to support the diverse needs of our students.

BCC has two additional educational needs classes which are of benefit to students with a diagnosis of Autism. Places are limited and can only be offered to students who have an assessment and a recommendation for a special class placement. The core team work closely with subject teachers, parents, and other support structures within the school to ensure that these students are fully integrated into our school. Our Additional Educational Needs Department implements a strategy of inclusiveness. All students are meaningfully integrated into mainstream mixed-ability class groupings where possible with the support of a Additional Needs Assistant. This approach ensures that high expectations are set for all students. It also helps promote the social and personal development of all students.

- Our inclusive culture also ensures the following:
- That a positive environment exists whereby all students, including those with additional educational needs, feel welcome and experience a sense of community and belonging.
 - That all students are encouraged to participate and actively engage in their learning and the life of our school.
 - That staff are committed to developing all students' academic, social, emotional and independent living skills.

Cubbie

A Sensory Cubbie has been introduced to support the wellbeing and inclusion of our students, particularly those in our Autism classes and students with Additional Educational Needs (AEN). This calm, safe space provides students with an opportunity to self-regulate, reduce anxiety, and take a sensory break when needed, helping them to re-engage positively with learning.



While purchased primarily with our autism students in mind, the Sensory Cubbie is available to all students who may benefit from a quiet, supportive space during the school day. This was a significant and valuable investment for our school, made possible through the generous support and sponsorship of a number of local businesses, whose contribution is greatly appreciated.

Check and Connect Mentoring Intervention

Check and Connect is an evidence-based teacher-student mentoring programme that promotes student engagement with their learning and with school. Each mentor teacher links with one student, checking in weekly to discuss how he/she is doing and offering support as required.

- The mentor's role is to:
- Build a positive relationship between a young person, including his/her family and the school.
 - Encourage a student's participation in their academic, social, and emotional learning.
 - Keep the student and his/her parents focussed on school progress.

Code of Behaviour: Positive Behaviour System

We insist on a high standard of behaviour at Bunclody Community College to ensure that effective teaching and learning always takes place. The unique school atmosphere that exists in our school is underpinned by positive and respectful relationships between students and teachers. We have a fully integrated 'Positive Behaviour System' that rewards good behaviour within our school. This system is highly effective, and we find it incredibly motivating for our students. However, the support of parents/guardians is essential to maintain the positive atmosphere in our school. A restorative approach to discipline is implemented when required. For full details please refer to our Code of Behaviour which can be found on our school website.

Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)

Bunclody Community College has been categorised as a DEIS school and this allows us to access a wealth of support for our school community. The term DEIS stands for Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools. This is an initiative of the Department of Education and Skills. Each participating school in the DEIS programme is required to set targets for school improvement in the areas of attendance, attainment, retention and progression to further education and employment. Another key aspect of DEIS focusses on partnership with parents and the wider community.

Some of the many additional supports provided to DEIS schools include:

- The Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL).
- Access to the School Completion Programme (SCP).
- Reduced class sizes.
- Additional financial support to target supports at those who need them most.
- Access to a book grant.
- Enhanced ICT grant.
- Access to the school meals programme (Breakfast club and hot lunch)

First Year Induction Programme

In BCC we recognise how daunting the transition from primary to secondary school can be for some students. Several supports, therefore, are put in place to smooth this transition and to help first-year students settle into their new environment. A comprehensive induction programme is put in place each year. The aim of this programme is to ease students into their new environment to allay any fears they may have about secondary school. This two day programme is delivered by various facilitators, including the Principal, Deputy Principal, Class Teachers, Transition Coordinator, HSCL, Guidance Counsellor, Subject Teacher and the Meitheal Leaders.

- The Induction Programme consists of:
- Induction Talks by key school personnel
 - Ice Breaker Sessions
 - Confidence Building Workshop
 - Subject Exploration Workshops in: Art, Music, Drama and Home Economics
 - Creativity Building Workshop
 - Team Building Games
 - ICT Demonstration-Introduction to Microsoft Teams and school email accounts
 - Study Skills Workshop
 - Circle of Friends Workshop
 - Technology-Based Collaborative Activities
 - Team Work Session with the Meitheal Leaders
 - Introduction to The Extra-curricular Activities in the School

At the end of September, a welcome afternoon is held for First Year parents/guardians. This gives new parents an opportunity to meet Class Teachers, Principal, Deputy Principal, HSCL, Guidance Counsellor, Transition Coordinator and The Meitheal Leaders. It also provides parents the opportunity to ask questions and to meet their child's new friends.

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Board of Management

Our active and committed Board of Management is comprised of two parents, two members of our teaching staff, three representatives from WWETB and two community representatives. The school principal acts as secretary to the board. Our Board of Management meets regularly and supports the work of the schools Senior Management Team in running the school. Members of the Board possess a wide range of skills and expertise which are invaluable to the running of our school.

The Parents Association

Our active Parents Association promotes and supports cooperation between school and home and are an integral part of our school community. All parents are welcome and encouraged to join. The parents meet regularly and work tirelessly on behalf of our school. The Parents Association have organised many fundraising events over the years and the proceeds have been used to provide student scholarships and to purchase additional equipment and resources that benefit all students.

“A family experience
from teachers and
knowing your children
feel safe and secure”
Parent



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Buncloody Community College provides a range of opportunities for students to take on leadership roles in our school.

The Student Council

Members of our active Student Council are elected by their classmates on a democratic basis. The elected members provide a direct line of communication between students and school management on matters of interest to them. Elected members develop communication and leadership skills, responsibility, and accountability during the course of their work. All students are encouraged to suggest ways in which our school can be improved. The Student Council, therefore, gives students a voice in the running of our school. They hold regular meetings and discuss various proposals aimed at improving the quality of their education and school experience. Having collated student opinion, the council makes recommendations to school management for their consideration. They also organise various school and charity events to raise money for worthy causes.

The Meitheal Leaders Programme

The Meitheal leaders are a group of senior students whose role it is to look out for the first-year students and to ensure that they have a safe and enjoyable experience settling into our school. As part of this programme, the senior cycle students receive training to equip them with the skills to become mentors for the incoming students. It is a programme based on mutual respect and one that enables the senior students to take responsibility for the safety, happiness and wellbeing of others. The Meitheal Leaders are selected from a stringent application process and the successful applicants undergo a two- day training programme during the summer months. Young people in BCC relate exceptionally well to their peers. The programme has therefore, proven to be very effective in promoting the well-being of students as well as reducing instances of bullying, and/or student isolation. These young leaders are pivotal in our efforts to care for, and support, our new students. Their work is invaluable, and they give our first years a very positive start to Secondary School.



Ethos Ambassador Programme

The TY Ethos Ambassador Programme is a programme that promotes the five core values of the Education and Training Boards Ireland (Care, Respect, Equality, Community and Excellence in Education). Transition Year students are selected through an application and interview process and receive leadership training to prepare them for their role. Working closely with first years, ambassadors actively teach and model our school's ethos and core values in action. They plan and run activities such as competitions and school events, helping to build a strong sense of community while promoting independence and student leadership. Activities to date include leadership training, delivering core values lessons to first years, organising a 'Blue Monday' movie afternoon, preparing exam care packages for exam students, and creating posters showcasing the core values in different languages.

“The teachers were amazing and gave me all the help and support I needed as well as the education I received. The one on one time between teacher and student was second to none and all the extracurricular activities gave many opportunities. It is a really good school and it taught me really well. It prepared me for the world when I left school. It is also a very safe environment”
Past Pupil

EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM

First Year Subject Option Programme

Students study all option subjects in first year, providing them with an understanding and a strong knowledge base in each subject. For clarity, it should be noted that students begin covering Junior Cycle courses in each of the option subjects from the start of first year; as such, the material studied in first year is fundamental in supporting their continued learning in second and third year. Before starting second year, students select four option subjects to continue studying for the Junior Cycle examinations. If a student later decides to take a subject for their Leaving Certificate (fifth and sixth year) but did not select the corresponding subject in second and third year, the material studied during first year across all option subjects is a valuable asset, maximising their opportunity to pursue the subjects of their choice.

Our unique Subject Option Programme removes the stress of having to choose subjects while in sixth class without having had an opportunity to experience them. The Subject Option Programme also provides students with a real opportunity to discover where their aptitudes lie. It also allows our school to offer a bespoke curriculum for Junior and Senior Cycle based on student preferences rather than fixed option bands.

This innovative approach to option subjects in first year has been commended by students, parents/guardians, and the Department of Education Inspectorate.

JUNIOR CYCLE – Key Skills

The Junior Cycle supports active learning experiences that encourages innovation and creative learning in the classroom. The key skills of Junior Cycle underpin all learning across the curriculum. They help students develop the knowledge, skills and aptitudes to face the many challenges in today’s world.

The Key Skills of Junior Cycle are as follows:

Managing Myself	Being Creative	Managing Information and Thinking	Staying Well
Communication	Being Literate	Being Numerate	Working With Others

Subjects offered at Junior Cycle:
Bunclody Community College follows the Junior Cycle programme specified by the Department of Education and Skills. Students will study core subjects and optional subjects over the three years.

Classroom-based Assessments

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) allow students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in ways that can’t be captured in a terminal examination. During second and third year, students complete several Classroom-Based Assessments across all subject areas. The Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement reports on the students’ performance in the CBA’s and Junior Cycle exams which take place at the end of third year.

Junior Cycle JCSP initiatives

JCSP initiatives are run in the school each year to enhance student engagement in school and enrich their overall education experience. Examples of these include drama, reading challenges, sport and fitness challenges, online maths programmes, history trips,

music workshops, charity initiatives and filmmaking. One of the core principles of JCSP is that learning can happen anywhere, not just in a formal classroom setting.

The JCSP Programme aims to support students access to the Junior Cycle curriculum by:

- Analysing students’ strengths and weaknesses and by noting any specific recurring difficulties.
- Planning programmes built on students’ abilities
- Addressing the main obstacles hindering students’ progress.
- Engaging in frequent dialogue with young people and their parents regarding the students strengths, their needs, and their progress in school.

SENIOR CYCLE

Having completed Junior Cycle students have the option to follow one of three programmes at senior cycle.

a broad, balanced education. Once completed students may go directly into the workforce or can choose to pursue an apprenticeship or higher education/third level options.

The Leaving Certificate

This two-year programme aims to provide learners with

Students will undertake the following subjects:

Junior Cycle Curriculum in Bunclody Community College

What students study in Junior Cycle

Core Examination Subjects

Students study the following core subjects throughout all three years of Junior Cycle.

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- History

Option Examination Subjects

Students study option examination subjects as part of their Junior Cycle.

- Geography
- Science
- French
- Applied Technology
- Business Studies
- Graphics
- Home Economics
- Music
- Visual Art
- Wood Technology
- Engineering

First Year
Students study all option examination subjects.

Second & Third Year
Students select 4 option examination subjects to continue to study and sit for the Junior Cycle examinations.

Non-Examination Subjects

Junior Cycle students take the following non-examination subjects.

- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
- Physical Education (PE)
- Wellbeing Modules

Leaving Certificate Curriculum in Bunclody Community College

What students study in the Leaving Certificate

Core Leaving Certificate Examination Subjects

Students study the following core subjects throughout the two years of the Leaving Certificate.

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics

Optional Leaving Certificate Examination Subjects

Students choose to study 4 subjects from a wide range of optional subjects.

- Accounting
- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry and Physics
- Construction Studies
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Engineering
- French

- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Music
- Politics and Society
- Physical Education (Exam Subject)
- Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work (Previously Link modules)

Students study 7 subjects in total: 3 core subjects + 4 optional subjects.

Non-Examination Subjects

In addition to the above exam subjects all students take the following two Leaving Certificate Non-Exam Subjects.

- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
- Physical Education
- Career Guidance
- Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)



The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is a two-year programme designed to enhance the Community dimension of the Leaving Certificate. It combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate but with a focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, the world of work and the communities in which we live. The primary goal is to prepare young people for adult life by encouraging students to develop skills and competencies fundamental to academic and vocational success. It can also be used for points as part of the CAO system.

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

This two-year course is available to students who wish to follow a more practical Leaving Certificate programme with a vocational focus. There is less emphasis on terminal exams at the end of the two-year programme as students bank credits for the work that they do throughout the programme. The LCA programme emphasises preparation for the world of work and life-long learning. Work experience is therefore a significant component of this programme of study. The programme sets out to recognise students' talents and also provides opportunities for developing personal responsibility, self-esteem and knowledge that helps students apply what they have learned to real world situations.

"A wonderful school where my child feels very included and cared for"
Parent

The Key Underlying Principles of LCA at Bunclody Community College:



At Bunclody Community College, the LCA programme consists of four half-year blocks called sessions. Achievement is credited in each session. Subjects studied during these four sessions are divided into three main areas: (i) Community Preparation, (ii) General Education and (iii) Community Education.

All students study the following subjects:	Two Vocational Specialisms are also chosen from the following list:
- English & Communication - Mathematical Applications - Community Preparation & Guidance - Introduction to ICT - Social Education - Arts Education - Leisure and Recreation	- Horticulture - Hotel Catering and Tourism - Office Administration and Customer Care - Information and Communications Technology

**The above specialisms are subject to change from year to year as the programme will be tailored from year to year to meet the interests of our students.*

**90% attendance is mandatory for all students on the LCA programme.*



TRANSITION YEAR

Our compulsory Transition Year programme bridges the gap between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle, providing students with a rich and varied educational experience. A key aim of our TY programme is to encourage and nurture the personal, social and academic development of every student. Students follow a broad and structured programme that includes core subjects, Transition Year-specific modules and Senior Cycle Tasters

Core Subjects	TY Specific Modules	Senior Cycle Tasters
- English - Irish - Maths - SPHE - ICT - PE - Careers/Work Placement - Reflection/Portfolio - Enterprise and Financial Awareness - Home Economics and Sustainability	- Coaching - Environmental Studies - Future Leaders - Junk Kouture/Art - Crafts - Drama/Film - Woodcrafts - Podcasting - Media - School of Sanctuary	- Biology - Physics Chemistry - Agricultural Science - Art - Music - Engineering - Construction - History - Geography - DCG - Business - Accounting - Politics and Society - Home Economics - LCPE



The Senior Cycle taster modules play a vital role in helping students to make informed subject choices for their future studies. Also, work experience is an integral part of the programme, giving students opportunities to explore careers of interest and gain an insight into the world of work. Students are supported to be better prepared and more confident in planning their future pathways.

While in Transition Year, students are encouraged to make a positive contribution to their school, local community and wider society as they participate and lead many of our school committees, including Young SVP, Amber Flag, Ethos and Green Schools. This involvement helps them to develop a strong sense of responsibility and civic engagement, while also building self-confidence.

Students benefit from a wide range of experiences designed to support personal growth and skill development. These include outdoor pursuits programmes, educational trips and specialist workshops covering areas such as self-defence, mental health awareness, wellbeing, first aid, resilience building and forensic science. Students are also encouraged and mentored to take part in additional competitions, allowing them to develop motivation, a sense of achievement and pursue interests they are passionate about.

Assessment Students sit end-of-term exams in core subjects and engage in weekly reflection activities, allowing them to monitor their own engagement, participation and achievement throughout the year.



"The cross-curricular and co-curricular activities undertaken by teachers assist students in developing business acumen" Inspectorate

VARIETY SHOW AND TY MUSICAL

Each year, all Transition Year students are given the opportunity to step onto the stage as part of our annual Variety Show and TY Musical. Students work alongside a local producer and choreographer, gaining a valuable introduction to theatrical performance and the creative arts. Our TY musicals to date include Greece and Aladdin. In addition to performing, students develop a wide range of skills by taking on roles in event management, prop design and production, lighting and front-of-house duties.

Our Variety Show includes a Junk Kouture fashion show, providing an opportunity for students to present their creative designs to the public. Also, our annual Variety Show gives students from across the school community the opportunity to showcase their talents and musical interests.

While we strive for and encourage performance excellence, the main emphasis of our show is on participation. The experience is inclusive and designed to provide all students with enriching learning opportunities, while building confidence and developing a strong sense of community and teamwork.



CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Bunclody Community College, we value the role that extra-curricular activities can play in our students social, emotional and personal development. We offer a wide range of activities and are proud of our level of participation and achievement over the years. These activities provide excellent opportunities to develop team-working, problem-solving and communication skills whilst furthering friendships and having fun. All our activities are fully inclusive, and all students are encouraged to participate irrespective of their previous experience.

Success to Date:

- 2026 All Ireland An Post School Book Club of the Year
- 2026 South Leinster Senior Hurling Final
- 2026 First and Second Year Football County Final
- 2025 Wwetb Rugby Plate Champions
- 2025 Wwetb Rugby Blitz Champions
- 2025 1st & 2nd Year County Final Hurling Champions
- 2025 1st & 2nd Year County Final Football Champions
- 2025 1st & 2nd South Leinster Football Champions
- 2025 1st & 2nd Year South Leinster Finalists
- 2025 Junior South Leinster Finalists
- Award Winning Big Year For The Boys Gaa 2025
- 2024 Un 18s Girls Football Amy Sunderland & Ciara Ryan Memorial Blitz Champions
- WWETB 2023 Rounders Champions
- 2019 Un19 Girls South Leinster Basketball Champions
- 2019 Un19 Girls Basketball All Irelands
- 2018 Un16 & Un 19 Girls Basketball Leinster Semi Finals
- 2017 Un16 Basketball Leinster Finalists
- 2016 1st Year Basketball Leinster Plate Champions

Basketball:

Basketball training takes place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at lunchtime in school. Additional training sessions also take place prior to matches. During Physical Education classes, students undergo a six-week basketball programme prior to our participation in these competitions. Each year we participate in the Basketball Ireland Post Primary League.

Athletics:

Training for athletics takes place on a seasonal basis and

during the athletics modules on offer during PE classes. Each year we also take part in WWETB's athletics event. Schools across Wexford and Waterford gather to compete in different events such as running, long jump and high jump. Each year BCC students experienced tremendous success at this event. Our most successful year to date saw us take home forty-two medals. We also enter local cross-country running events. All students are encouraged to have fun and enjoy training and the sports events.

Rounders:

Our school proudly fields a Rounders team that competes in the WWETB Rounders competitions each year. We also play a range of friendly and competitive matches against other schools, giving students the opportunity to develop their skills, teamwork, and enjoyment of the game.

GAA: Camogie, Hurling and Football

Bunclody Community College is exceptionally proud of our junior and senior hurling, camogie, and football teams. Last year our boys and girls teams experienced considerable success even against schools with a much larger school population. There are joint training sessions between junior and senior girls' teams. Training takes place at lunchtime for the boy's teams, with additional training offered after school on match weeks. As all our students train together, younger players skill levels are developed as a result of being mentored and challenged by our older students. These sports help to build comradery and friendships which can last a lifetime. The also teach students how to deal with success and defeat.

Rugby:

Rugby in Bunclody Community had a strong start in the 2024 – 2025 academic year, with the school team winning a shield and cup. For the 2025 – 2026 academic year, the school team has been building on this success and the learning gained from the previous year to form a solid team that will engage with Leinster Rugby next year to reach new heights.

Badminton:

For the first time in over 20 years, Bunclody Community College fielded an U19 boys' badminton team in early January. Competing against strong opposition, including Division 1 champions, the boys secured one singles and one doubles victory in their first outing. It was a fantastic achievement and a great day for the team. Badminton is now firmly back in BCC, and we have recently acquired trophies to host in-house competitions to further promote sport.

Volleyball:

Volleyball is offered as part of our school's extracurricular programme. Training sessions take place in the school on Fridays, providing students with the opportunity to develop skills, teamwork, and fitness in a supportive environment

Gael Program:

WWETB has partnered with Wexford GAA to deliver the GAEL Programme. This initiative focuses on developing students' leadership, communication, and personal growth through sport.

As part of the programme, students receive training in GAA coaching and refereeing, equipping them with practical skills and confidence. They then apply these skills by welcoming local primary school pupils into the school, where they organise and lead fun, inclusive GAA activities.

This program provides valuable leadership experience for our students while promoting physical activity and engagement with younger pupils in the community.

Golf:

Golf is a new addition to our extracurricular programme, offering students an exciting opportunity to get involved in a growing sport. The programme aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of golf in a supportive and inclusive environment, with a focus on skill development, confidence, and enjoyment.

Soccer:

Soccer is an active part of our extracurricular programme, providing students with opportunities to develop their skills, teamwork, and fitness. The school participates in blitz competitions throughout the year, allowing students to represent the school in a fun and competitive environment.

Skills Lab and Mentor Programme:

A 2017 study by Lidl and the LGFA found that by the age of thirteen, half of the girls in sports in Ireland have dropped out. They are therefore three times more likely to discontinue sports when compared to boys of this age. This can result from a lack of confidence and selfbelief. The sports department at Bunclody Community College are focussed on addressing this issue, not only to boost playing numbers but also to allow students to develop a healthy lifestyle and to develop their sporting skills, their confidence and teamwork skills. It is also a fantastic way to make new friends. Our skills lab takes place on Thursday afternoons. During our most recent trial with ten first-year students focussing on football skills. nine out of ten students involved continued with the sport and are now playing on the Junior school team. Five students have also joined their local LGFA club. This programme is offered to all students in Junior Cycle. In addition to the sports outlined above, we also offer activities on a seasonal basis in soccer, badminton, equestrian, hockey, golf, tennis and volleyball.

Sample Extracurricular Timetable:

Co/Extra-Curricular Timetable 2025-26					
Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Maths Club 8:15-8:45	Maths Club 8:15-8:45	Maths Club & Games 8:15-8:45	Maths Club 8:15-8:45	Maths Club 8:15-8:45
Small Break	X	X	X	X	X
Lunch	Instrumental Ensemble Practice in the Music Room	UN 16 & UN 19 Boys Basketball Training: Subject to change days (GYM)	X	Un 16 Girls Basketball Training (GYM)	Un 16 & UN 19 Boys Basketball Training (GYM)
	Student Council Meeting Every Third Monday: Keep an eye on class Teacher Notices	Chess & Games Club in the lab		Chess & Games Club in the lab	Chess in the Music Room
	Hurling/ Football Training: Subject to change days (Pitch)	Crochet Training & Crafts club: Room 12: 1:30		County Board GAA Hurling & Camogie: Rotates weekly between both	Book Club: Room 7: 1:30-1:50
	Debating Club: Computer Room 2 1:30-1:50	Nail Art Club: Lab			
After School	X	X	Music Generation	X	Film Club: 4pm-6pm Termly
PLEASE NOTE: For clarity on below please follow our social media pages and listen out to class teacher notices 1. 1st & 2nd year boys & Girl's basketball leagues start after Christmas. 2. Rounders Event is after Christmas 3. Rugby Training times will be updated in coming weeks: Please listen out to class teacher notices. 4. Badminton competitions coming soon also. 5. Crochet Club has now started on Tuesdays in room 12 6. Volleyball club coming soon 7. Gael Program kicking off on Monday 8/12/25 for 5Aah & SLCA and 6Eas & 6LCPE every Monday for 6 weeks 8. More Extracurricular activities will be added as the term moves forward: Listen out to class teacher notices. 9. Weekly different in school events also occur so please listen at class teacher time: Keep an eye on the schools Facebook & Instagram Pages as well as Bunclody Community Colleges Website SEE QR CODES FOR INSTANT ACCESS					



Representing the school with pride every time they hit the court.



The Junior Girls Basketball team at Bunclody Community College showcases skill, teamwork, and determination, representing the school with pride on and off the court. With a strong focus on development and sportsmanship, the team continues to grow and compete with great enthusiasm.



The Camogie Team at Bunclody Community College shows fantastic skill, teamwork, and determination. The players train hard and represent the school with pride in every match. We're excited to see their continued progress this season



The Girls Football Team at Bunclody Community College continues to grow in skill, confidence, and team spirit. With strong commitment and great enthusiasm, the players represent the school proudly in every match. We're excited to see their progress this season.



Bunclody Community College launched its new rugby program, marking an exciting expansion of its extra-curricular sports offerings. The initiative began with a presentation by Leinster Rugby to gauge student interest, which saw a great turnout.



Our first- & second-year boys Football team show great energy, teamwork, and developing talent. They represent the school proudly in every game, and we look forward to seeing their continued improvement throughout the season.



The First & Second Year Hurling team at Bunclody Community College demonstrates great skill, commitment, and teamwork, proudly representing the school in competition. The panel continues to develop their hurling ability while embracing the strong sporting tradition of the college.



The Junior Football team at Bunclody Community College, shows great skill, teamwork, and commitment in competition. The panel continues to develop players while proudly representing the school's strong football tradition.



Bunclody Community College's junior hurling team shows great pride, teamwork, and determination, representing their school with skill and passion on the pitch. With strong commitment and a love for the game, they continue to build for the future of hurling in the college.



The U16 Boys Basketball Team at Bunclody Community College continues to impress with their skill, teamwork, and dedication. Showing great energy and passion for the game, the players work hard at every training session and match. We're proud of their progress and excited to see what they achieve this season



The U19 Boys Basketball Team brings strong skill, leadership, and determination to every match. With great teamwork and commitment, they continue to compete with pride and represent the school at a high level. We look forward to a successful season ahead.



The First and Second-Year Boys Basketball team at Bunclody Community College demonstrates strong teamwork, enthusiasm, and developing skill on the court. The players continue to grow in confidence and ability while proudly representing the school in competition.



The Senior Football team at Bunclody Community College showcases dedication, skill, and teamwork, representing the school with pride in competition. The panel reflects the strong football tradition of the college while striving for high standards both on and off the pitch



Bunclody Community College is proud to support our talented students competing in equestrian events. Our riders show great skill, dedication, and sportsmanship in every competition. We look forward to seeing their continued success throughout the season.



PERFORMING ARTS

Performance at Bunclody Community College is embedded across the school community. Whether complete beginners or highly advanced performers, there is a place where students can nurture their passion and talent for musical performance.

Choir

Bunclody Community College chamber choir is open to every student who wants to sing. No previous choral or musical experience is necessary. There is no formal audition process, and any student interested in singing in a choir is most welcome. Choir members learn good vocal technique with an emphasis on posture, diction and breathing. Students also learn to listen to each other, to sing in harmony, to support a musical phrase and to discover the joy of singing together. The choir is the heart of the school, and it provides the students with an opportunity to sing and make friends with students from other years. The choir gives students multiple opportunities to build their confidence as they perform at various school events throughout the year. The choir performs at the school Open Day, at awards ceremonies, school recitals, variety shows, and at graduation ceremonies.

The choir has taken part in the Kilkenny interschool’s Music Festival and performed at the ETBI national conference. They have performed live on regional radio and at the National Opera House. They regularly sing in the local community and have performed at local events, fundraisers, afternoon tea parties, and in the local nursing home. The choir have recorded two Christmas-themed albums and one popular classical and Musical theatre album. They have travelled to France and performed live at Nantes Cathedral. Every year, the choir attends a show in the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, and they attended ‘Wicked” in London’s West End. Recent popular works performed by the choir include medleys from The Lion King, Annie, Phantom of the Opera, Chicago, Wicked, and Les Miserables.



Traditional Irish Music Ensemble Group

The College Traditional Irish Music Ensemble taps into our student’s wealth of musical talent. The essence of the group is performance development. We are interested in a broad range of Traditional Irish melodies such as jigs, reels, airs and traditional songs. The Traditional Irish Ensemble group quickly build up a varied repertoire and are confident performing at school events such as our Christmas and end of year Awards Day. In the spirit of Christmas, a group of musicians also perform for the residents of the local nursing home.

The College Band

The College Band features an array of Instruments. They perform classical, popular and traditional Irish favourites. They too perform at school ceremonies and events. The group’s ethos is active music making, wellness, and the promotion of performance confidence.

Music Generation

An extensive Music Generation programme is resident at BCC. It offers part-funded lessons on a Wednesday afternoon. Currently, lessons are available in:

- Guitar
- Piano/Keyboard
- Concertina
- Ukulele
- Voice
- Fiddle
- Button Accordion
- Piano Accordion
- Drums

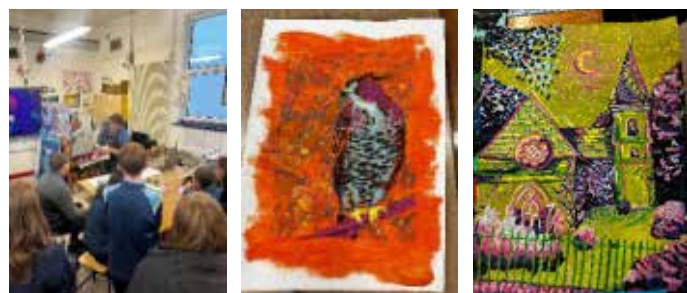
“A very personal and encouraging environment”



VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMME

Artist in the classroom

Students are given opportunities to engage in initiatives such as the Department of Education and Skills Artist in the Classroom programme, as well as the BLAST and Creative Schools initiatives. These experiences allow students to work with practising artists, observe the creative process in action, and develop critical thinking skills through reflecting, analysing and implementing ideas. Artists also share their college experiences, offering insight into further education and creative careers, bringing creativity to life.



Blast artist John Busher visited BCC and led a workshop, sharing his creative practice

Visual Culture outside the classroom

Engagement with visual culture beyond the classroom is valued in Bunclody Community College. Students attend cultural trips to museums, galleries, and exhibitions, including visits to Visual in Co. Carlow, IMMA, and the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin. We also engage with local arts through our partnership with Bunclody's Art Bank, where students can visit exhibitions, take part in workshops, and participate in local festivals.



BCC students photographed at the Irish Museum of Modern Art

Junk Kouture

We are delighted to offer a Junk Kouture module as part of our Transition Year programme. This international fashion competition challenges students to design, create and model outfits using recycled materials, fostering both creativity and an awareness of sustainable fashion.

Each year, entire class groups participate, typically forming approximately eight teams. Our students have been involved since 2019 and have achieved consistent success at the South-East regional level. Following the design and construction process, participating teams are afforded the opportunity to model their creations as part of a professionally organised photoshoot in our film room.

In 2026, two entries were selected for the regional finals, with one progressing to the Dublin City Finals, reflecting a strong standard of creativity and commitment. Participation in Junk Kouture represents a significant personal milestone, and we continue to aspire to reach the national and international stages of the competition.

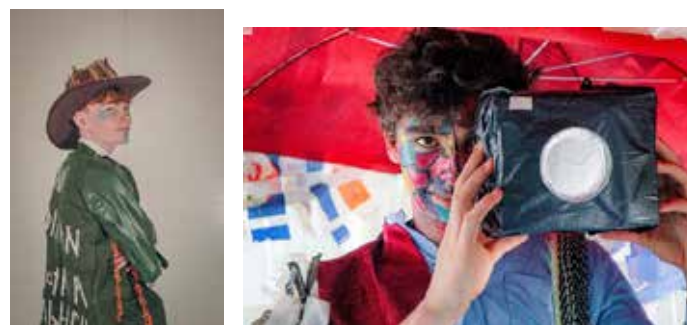


Photo credit: Fionn Jordan

Engaging with the Arts and Cross-Curricular Learning

The arts play a vibrant role in school life, with students encouraged to participate fully in a wide range of creative opportunities. From national competitions such as the Credit Union Art Competition, the Texaco Art Competition, and the Talbot Artist of the Year, to in-school initiatives, students are given regular opportunities to showcase their creativity beyond the classroom.

Creative learning extends across subjects through engaging cross-curricular projects, particularly in poster design for initiatives such as the Amber Flag, Culture fest Bí Cineálta, and Green Schools, allowing students to explore important themes such as wellbeing, culture, inclusion, and environmental awareness in a meaningful and imaginative way.



Students design and create Bi Cienalta posters, combining visual design with creative expression.



Student artwork is also celebrated within the school, with creative displays, and large paintings forming an important part of events such as awards and graduation ceremonies. In the classroom, students explore a rich variety of artistic practices, including drawing, painting, 3D model-making, pottery, lino printing, and design, allowing students to experiment with materials and develop their own unique creative voice.



Book cover designs completed by 2nd year students for their Classroom Based Assessment



Still life completed by 1st year students



Portraits completed by 3rd year students



Famous portraits completed in shade and tone by 6th year students

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

‘Enterprise Programme’

The Enterprise programme is run in conjunction with County Wexford Local Enterprise Office. It aims to foster an enterprise culture among our students. It offers students the opportunity to set up a mini-company and take it from the idea generation stage, through to market research to production, selling, record keeping, management and finally to writing a comprehensive report on the activity. Currently, in Bunclody Community College, the Programme is run with Transition Year Students. We have enjoyed numerous successes in the competition at both Junior and Senior levels.

Gasice

The president award is the most prestigious youth ward in Ireland. It is a challenge to young people aged fifteen to twenty-five years from the president of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, to dream big and realise their potential. The Gaisce award provides students with a structured approach to measuring and recognising their personal development. Bunclody Community College has been a Gaisce Award partner since 2017, and our school’s President award leaders (PAL) have supported students working towards achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

‘Young Scientist Programme’

The aim of the ‘Young Scientist’ competition is to encourage students to explore scientific queries, to develop investigation skills and to conduct research and experiments on topics that may be of interest to them. Students who complete projects may have the opportunity to enter the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition which is held annually in the RDS in Dublin. The competition is open to all post- primary students across Ireland. In recent years our students have received highly commended awards at the BT Young Scientist. Our most recent young scientist project focused on combatting the ‘Firehose of Falsehood’ theory, a concept used to describe the rapid spread of misinformation on social media platforms.

Mathematics Club

Students struggling with a topic in Maths or who may need a little help are encouraged to attend the weekly Maths club. Members of our Maths teaching team make themselves each morning before school to support students in an informal clinic-type setting. In addition to supporting formal classwork, the Maths clinic also

encourages students to study, and challenges them to become independent and collaborative problem-solvers. There are a number of additional clubs running in our school. These include:

- Film Club
- Radio Station
- Walking Club
- Book Club
- School Digital Champions Programme



Champion School of Sanctuary

Over the last number of years, the landscape of education has undergone significant change. We have welcomed a growing number of students seeking asylum, as well as many whose families have arrived on our shores in search of new opportunities and employment.

Through the incredible work of Schools of Sanctuary, we have embraced these changes and opened our doors—and our hearts—to students from around the world. This initiative has supported us on our journey to becoming a recognised place of welcome, inclusion, and compassion—a true beacon of sanctuary for those vulnerable to marginalisation or isolation.

With the guidance of Schools of Sanctuary, we have not only learned to acknowledge and celebrate the richness of our diverse cultures, but also to strengthen the sense of unity that binds us together as a community.

Now, as a proud Champion School of Sanctuary, we are committed to carrying this message forward—to continue promoting inclusion, to advocate for kindness and empathy, and to ensure that every student who walks through our doors knows they belong.

Our school of sanctuary committee demonstrate this message through:

- Culture day
- In November We Remember
- Language Board
- Notice Board
- Wear Red day
- Courtyard Mural



MEDIA HUB

Our state-of-the-art Media Hub is a vibrant creative space where students explore storytelling through film, media, and audio production. It is primarily used for Transition Year Film Studies, offering students a hands-on introduction to the skills that support further study in Drama, Film and Theatre Studies at Leaving Certificate level.

The hub is equipped with professional-standard technology, including a range of cameras such as GoPros and a drone, green screen facilities, studio lighting, costumes, and full video production equipment. Students also have access to professional podcasting gear, allowing them to produce high-quality audio content.

Students regularly apply their skills in national competitions, achieving remarkable success. Our young filmmakers have won the Show Racism the Red Card film-making competition two years in a row 2024 and 2025, earned Best Acting awards in the ReelLIFE Science competition 2025, and were runner-up in the national Walk in My Shoes mental health competition 2025, among many other achievements.

Completed films are often showcased on the school’s YouTube channel, while student-produced podcasts can be shared on Spotify and the school website—giving students the exciting opportunity to share their work with a wider audience.

The Media Hub encourages creativity, collaboration, and confidence, empowering students to develop the storytelling and media production skills that are increasingly important in today’s digital world.

Language and Literature

The English Department at Bunclody Community College is a vibrant and dynamic space where a love of language and literature is nurtured in every student. Our commitment to creativity and engagement is evident in the wide range of initiatives we offer throughout the year. To celebrate World Book Day, students take part in a week-long programme of fun and interactive activities designed to spark imagination and foster a lifelong appreciation of reading. Each year, we also mark Roald Dahl Day with our ever-popular Golden Ticket Hunt, bringing the magic of storytelling to life across the school.

We are proud to be recognised as a “Well Read” school, a national initiative in Ireland that acknowledges and promotes excellence in reading culture. This status reflects our whole-school commitment to developing literacy, encouraging reading for pleasure, and creating

an environment where books and storytelling are central to student life.

Beyond the classroom, students benefit from regular theatre trips, drama workshops, and a variety of creative activities that cater to all interests and abilities. These experiences enrich learning, build confidence, and allow students to explore texts in dynamic and meaningful ways.

The dedication and innovation of the department were recently affirmed through our 2025/26 subject inspection, in which we achieved the highest possible commendation. This recognition highlights the passion, professionalism, and student-centred approach that define English teaching and learning in our school.

Debating

Bunclody Community College proudly supports a very active and successful debating club. The club is committed to fostering public speaking and critical thinking skills by participating in a range of prestigious competitions, including the Concern Debates, the Trinity Historical Society Secondary School Debates, Griffith College National Legal Debating competition as well as Bunclody Library Debates.

Beyond competitive speaking, the BCC Debating club prides itself on being highly inclusive. There is a meaningful role for every student, as those not yet ready for public speaking can contribute through vital research, organizational tasks, and analysis, making them an essential part of the team’s success.

The College looks forward to encouraging and facilitating student involvement in these valuable activities for years to come.



EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL TOURS

Buncloody Community College provides many opportunities for students to travel on school tours both in Ireland and abroad. Such events are worthwhile for their cultural benefits, and they often lead to the development of lifelong friendships. They also contribute to the unique student-teacher relationship that exists in our school in our school. In addition, we believe there is excellent educational experiential value in off-campus trips. All our school tours have an educational objective and provide the students with opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. The benefit to be gained by students from social and interactions with their peers is priceless. Above all, they provide students with some of their most memorable experiences of school. These will live with them beyond school when they leave us to pursue further studies and their careers.

Over the years trips have been organised to a premiership match in the UK (sometimes with a visit to a museum and other activities). Other tours have included trips to Oakwood or Alton Towers, France, Edinburgh, Austria, Italy, Germany, Poland, Barcelona and London. All students are encouraged to travel on these tours, and plenty of advance notice is given. Students can use the School's Credit Union to help them save for such school events. In recent years our Music Department recorded an album. The proceeds of this initiative part funded a trip for many of our students.

In addition to overseas tours, class teachers and subject teachers organise day trips for educational and/or team building purposes, e.g., the annual history tour to Belfast, trips to the Board Gais Energy Theatre or day trips to Emerald Park.



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

At Bunclody Community College, we are dedicated to the School Self-Evaluation (SSE) process. This as a whole school endeavour where we reflect on our school practices and constantly strive to improve all aspects of it. We work tirelessly therefore with the interactive SSE cycle to continuously reflect on, and improve, our practice. As part of this process, we engage with all members of our school community. This involves regular consultation with parents and students on all matters that affect them. The student's voice is front and central to all our SSE work, and our student's well-being is at the heart of all that we do. The careful triangulation of our findings has resulted in policies and procedures that are accepted by all. It has also resulted in excellent relations between students, teachers and parents.



OUR SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE - SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

We are committed to continuously investing in and enhancing our current school infrastructure to ensure that every student benefits from an exceptional educational experience.

Our subject specific facilities include dedicated rooms for Science, Engineering, Construction Studies, Art, Home

Economics, Library, Horticulture (Poly Tunnel), Media, Technology, and Music. These purpose-built spaces provide students with access to high-quality resources that support practical, engaging, and innovative learning experiences. Our sports facilities include a multi-purpose sports hall, a grass pitch, and two outdoor basketball courts, offering students excellent opportunities to participate in physical education and extracurricular activities. We have dedicated offices for Learning Support, Pastoral Care, and Guidance, as well as teacher offices, together with canteen facilities and a Boardroom for meetings and administrative purposes. All classrooms are equipped with modern teaching and learning technology, including data projectors, interactive displays, and sound systems. In addition, we have three modern computer rooms: two located on the Main Campus for Junior and Senior Students and one on the Senior Campus for Senior Cycle students.

Looking to the future, we have been granted and planning permission is in place a multi-million-euro approval for a new school building on our current site. The new building will include state-of-the-art facilities for all subject departments. The build includes a generous provision of specialist rooms, general-purpose classrooms, an allweather outdoor sports surface, and a fully-equipped gym and sports hall. There will also be a performance space for concerts and school events. The new school also features a spacious library, canteen area and an array of student recreational spaces. The school will also have extensive outdoor leisure and recreation facilities.

SUMMARY: Why Choose Bunclody Community College?

- Dedicated teaching staff who have high expectations for all students
- Proven track record of success over many years
- Excellent results in State Exams
- Small student-centred classes
- Excellent school facilities (multimillion-euro extension also on the way)
- Unique school atmosphere - close-knit student body
- First Year Subject option programme in the first year where students study all subjects- optional subject bands are developed based on student preferences at Junior and Senior Cycle
- Comprehensive support structure for all students
- Broad evolving curriculum with all subjects offered to higher level at Junior and Senior Cycle

- We promote the holistic development of all students
- No voluntary contributions
- We value the student's voice
- We are an inclusive non-denominational school that welcomes and respects all students
- We offer a comprehensive range of extra and co-curricular activities to suit the needs and interests of all students
- We deliver a superb learning support and resource programme
- We provide an excellent career guidance programme across the six years of school
- Active Parents and Student Council
- Free Evening Study
- Complimentary breakfast and hot lunch provided
- Numeracy, literacy and the use of ICT embedded in our teaching and learning

A LETTER FROM CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Working together towards a bright
future in Bunclody Community College

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the Parents Association of Bunclody Community College we would like to draw your attention to the many benefits to be gained by students who attend our school. With our close-knit school community, our school enjoys one of the lowest teacher- pupil ratios in the county. This valuable asset allows our teachers to spend more individual time with each student, thereby increasing the likelihood of all pupils reaching their full academic potential. We encourage parents/guardians to consider Bunclody Community College as an option for their son's or daughter's second-level education. Many pupils who have attended Bunclody Community College have excelled both academically and in sports. Additionally, our small student body means that students have the opportunity to participate fully and represent the college in a wide range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that interest them.

Our graduates progress to Universities, Colleges of Further Education, apprenticeships, and directly into employment. Our graduates have gone on to be leaders in careers across all aspects of society. This success is supported by the

numerous resources and supports we have in place to help each student thrive.

Our students have also achieved recognition through awards in county, provincial and national competitions, for example in these first few months of 2026, the school won national and international awards including in the Young Scientist, Junk Kouture, Desmond O'Grady International Poetry Competition 2026. The school has also received many national awards for student projects in subjects such as Technology, Woodwork, and Engineering.

Our dedicated teachers, parents, school management, and the Board of Management continually strive to ensure that the best resources are available to support student learning, by continually upgrading the current school facilities. All students have access to excellent computer facilities, and all classrooms are equipped with the latest in IT equipment.

It is no coincidence that our students achieve their potential. While our teacher-pupil ratio is a key factor, our school also offers a well-disciplined, child-centered environment that fosters a safe and friendly atmosphere conducive to learning.

Furthermore, Bunclody Community College remains at the forefront of educational development. We have embedded the new Junior Cycle Curriculum and are currently focusing on the Senior Cycle Review. Our school has also participated in Irish and European research projects related to student well-being and the use of digital media to develop the Key Skills of the Junior Cycle.

The school has invested in the Parenting & Technology Institute (PATI) course for Parents/guardians which takes place over four nights and the course is run twice (spring and Autumn) a year. The Parents' Association works closely with the school and is eager to progress several exciting initiatives in the near future.

As parents, we strongly encourage you to consider Bunclody Community College as the ideal place to continue your child's education. Should you choose to enrol your child, we hope you will also become actively involved in our Association. We invite you to attend our upcoming Open Evening, where you can learn more about what our school has to offer. This event provides an excellent opportunity to speak with students, parents, and teachers. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact the school at any time to arrange a visit or to seek further information.

Yours sincerely
Parents Association

MAIN CAMPUS



"Small, personal environment for a child's education, overall a friendly enjoyable experience for both student and parent"
Parent

SENIOR CAMPUS



"Homework was frequently assigned and the quality of students' work, particularly when they used hardback copies, was very good"
Inspectorate



"Helpful teachers make happy students"
Parent

"Bunclody Community college has helped me a lot in terms of realising how much I preferred technical subjects such as Technology and Engineering. These subjects were my best performing at second level. There were many trips that were organised which was great for building morale in the classroom"
Past Pupil

