

O'Connell Secondary School



PROSPECTUS



Est 1828
O'Connell Schools
www.oconnellprimary.ie
www.oconnellschool.ie



Please scan the QR
Code to make an
online application for
the academic year
2027 / 2028

or please contact the schools office to
get a hardcopy of the admissions
application form

t: **01 874 8307**

e: **secretary@oconnellschool.ie**



Message from Leadership Team

Est 1828

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to O'Connell Secondary School.

O'Connell Secondary School is a school with a proud history, a strong sense of identity and a deep connection with its community. For generations, our school has provided young people with opportunities to learn, grow, discover their talents and develop the confidence to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

At the heart of O'Connell Secondary School is our commitment to every student. We believe that education is about more than academic achievement. It is about nurturing the academic, personal, social and spiritual development of each young person and creating an environment where every student feels valued, respected, supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

We are proud of the opportunities available to our students both inside and outside the classroom. Alongside high-quality teaching and learning, students are encouraged to participate in sport, the arts, extracurricular activities, leadership, clubs and the many experiences that make school life memorable.

Our dedicated staff are central to the success of O'Connell Secondary School. They bring expertise, care and commitment to their work each day, ensuring that our students are challenged to achieve while being supported in their personal development and wellbeing.

As a Leadership Team, we are committed to building on the many strengths and traditions of O'Connell Secondary School while continuing to look forward and embrace new opportunities. We want our students to feel a strong sense of belonging, ambition and pride in their school.

We also recognise that choosing a secondary school is an important decision for families. We hope this prospectus gives you a genuine insight into life at O'Connell Secondary School our values, our people, our opportunities and most importantly, our students.

We want O'Connell Secondary School to be a place where every young person can belong, achieve, contribute and thrive.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to the O'Connell Secondary School community.

Ronan Coone: Principal

Mary Timmons: Vice Principal







O'CONNELL Secondary School, *a brief history*



DANIEL O'CONNELL (1775–1847) THE GREAT LIBERATOR

Founder of the Catholic Association to achieve Emancipation, laid the foundation stone for O'Connell School on Monday, June 9th, 1828 – “A Great Day for Ireland”.

Past pupils have had distinguished careers in all walks of life – bhí fonn orthu páirt a ghlacadh sa Státchòras, a bheith gníomhach i saol cultùr-tha na tíre, i saol na hEaglaise chomh maith agus a bheith dílis do thraidisiùn ár sinsear.

Thousands of boys in this country and city were provided with post-primary education by a dedicated staff of Christian Brothers. From the very outset the Brothers worked tirelessly to establish the school with its dream of serving the nation. As time went on they were joined in their work by equally dedicated lay teachers and staff.

The story of O'Connell School and the Christian Brothers on North Richmond Street is beautifully outlined in the text “To the Cause of Liberality” by the Allen Library Project. This book charts the history and emergence of the school from its humble beginnings involving the search for a site, the early building development, life in the 1800's, school times during rebellion and war in the 1900's and the post-war years.

The school (operating within the voluntary secondary sector) is now a member of the ERST (Edmund Rice Schools Trust) Charter which was launched in June 2008 and provides “a framework designed to enable Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition to thrive and grow into the future”.



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís



GEOMETRY
CIRCLE
(0,0) Radius r
 $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$

CO-ORDINATE GEOMETRY
EQUATION OF CIRCLE
Centre (h,k) Radius r
 $(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2$

$$\sqrt{x} = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
$$\sqrt[3]{x} = x^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\frac{1}{x} = x^{-1}$$
$$\frac{1}{x^2} = x^{-2}$$
$$\frac{1}{x^3} = x^{-3}$$

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1997

Chemistry with Computers



2



3



4







SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management of O'Connell Secondary School, Dublin is committed to providing the highest quality educational opportunities and experiences for all students.

The Board of Management, together with the staff and the wider school community, works collaboratively to create a supportive, inclusive, and welcoming environment where every student can thrive and achieve their full potential. Our school is founded on the principles of respect, care, and excellence.

We value and support all members of our school community, including students, staff, parents, and guardians. We are committed to fostering a culture where everyone is treated with dignity, where rights and responsibilities are respected, and where learning takes place in a positive and encouraging atmosphere.

We promote the personal, social, and academic development of every student, encouraging active participation, responsibility, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Through these values, our students develop into confident, caring, and responsible young people who are prepared to make a positive contribution to their school, their community, and society as a whole.







SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Junior Cycle		Senior Cycle	
Core Subjects	Optional Subjects	Core Subjects	Optional Subjects
English	Business	English	Accounting
Irish	Woodwork	Irish	Business
Maths	French	Maths	Economics
History	German	Pastoral Care	Physics
Geography	Science	Religious Education	Biology
Religious Education	Visual Art	Physical Education	Chemistry
P-Tech - Robotics	Spanish	LCW	French
	Horticulture		German
			Art
			P Tech
			History
			Geography
			Spanish

Wellbeing	CSPE, PE, Pastoral Care, SPHE
AEN	Students are provided with additional supports and EAL (English as Additional Language)


Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire


William Butler Yeats.

JUNIOR CYCLE

The Junior Cycle at O'Connell Secondary School offers a broad and balanced curriculum designed to support students in their academic, personal, and social development. The programme places a strong emphasis on the eight key skills of the Junior Cycle, including literacy, numeracy, communication, creativity, and critical thinking.

Assessment in the Junior Cycle includes a range of approaches designed to recognise students' achievements and progress:

- The State Certified Examinations
- Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)
- Assessment Tasks
- Short Courses



The Area of Wellbeing

Students are encouraged to take an active role in their learning, developing independence, confidence, and responsibility. Through project work, presentations, collaborative learning, artistic expression, digital technologies, and problem-solving activities, students gain the skills needed for success both inside and outside the classroom.

The Junior Cycle at O'Connell Secondary School places learning at the centre of the educational experience, fostering student engagement, wellbeing, and achievement throughout the first three years of post-primary education.



IT

At O'Connell Secondary School, digital learning is an integral part of teaching and learning across the curriculum. The school's IT team meets regularly throughout the year to guide the development of technology-enhanced learning.

Students make extensive use of the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), providing access to resources, assignments, and communication tools.

Microsoft Teams is used throughout the school to support collaboration, organisation, and effective learning. O'Connell Secondary School is committed to a whole-school digital learning strategy, with class sets of chromebooks available to enhance teaching, learning, and curriculum delivery.

AEN (Additional Educational Needs)

At O'Connell Secondary School, we are committed to providing an inclusive, supportive, and welcoming learning environment where every student has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We adopt a holistic approach to Additional Educational Needs (AEN), ensuring that students receive the appropriate supports to access the curriculum and participate fully in school life. Our practice is guided by the Department of Education's Continuum of Support framework and focuses on identifying, monitoring, and responding to individual student needs.

Support is provided through a range of models, including:

- In-class support
- Small group intervention
- Targeted individual support where appropriate

The principles of differentiation underpin our approach, enabling all students to engage meaningfully with learning experiences. Collaborative teaching practices are utilised where possible, particularly in key areas such as English and Mathematics, to support the development of literacy and numeracy skills.

Additional supports are available in areas including:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Organisation and study skills
- Social and communication skills

Wellbeing and personal development

Through partnership with students, parents/guardians, and external agencies where appropriate, O'Connell Secondary School strives to ensure that every student is supported, valued, and empowered to succeed.

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year at O'Connell's Secondary School is a dynamic and engaging programme designed to bridge the gap between Junior and Senior Cycle. The programme combines academic learning with personal development, career exploration, community involvement, and practical life skills. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, develop independence, and discover new interests and talents.

A key feature of Transition Year is the wide variety of learning experiences available, including educational trips, work experience, guest speakers, project-based learning, and participation in extracurricular activities. Students also have opportunities to gain valuable certifications and skills that will benefit them in further education and future employment.

TRANSITION YEAR MODULES

Students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning through teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, presentations, creative projects, filmmaking, and the effective use of digital technologies.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

At O'Connell's Secondary School, the Leaving Certificate programme offers students a broad range of subjects, allowing them to pursue pathways that best suit their interests, strengths, and future ambitions. Core subjects include English, Irish, Mathematics, Religious Education, SPHE, and Career Guidance. Students select from a wide variety of optional subjects including Business, Accounting, Economics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, French, Spanish, Art, and Construction Studies, among others. The programme aims to develop students academically while fostering independent learning, personal responsibility, and preparation for higher education, apprenticeships, and the world of work.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED (LCA)

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme is a practical and student-centred two-year programme designed to prepare students for adult life, employment, and further education. The programme places a strong emphasis on continuous assessment, vocational preparation, and the development of practical skills. Students engage in a variety of learning experiences that promote confidence, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Assessment is based on coursework, projects, practical tasks, and examinations, allowing students to demonstrate achievement in a range of ways.

Successful completion of the Leaving Certificate Applied equips students with valuable skills for employment and progression to Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses, apprenticeships, and further training opportunities.











STUDENT LEADERSHIP

At O'Connell' Secondary School, Dublin, students are encouraged to take an active role in school life and to develop their leadership skills through a wide range of opportunities. Student leadership is highly valued and plays an important role in fostering a positive, inclusive, and respectful school community.

The school has an established Student Council, which provides students with a voice in matters affecting school life and offers opportunities to contribute to decision-making and school improvement initiatives. Student representatives work closely with school management and staff to promote the interests and wellbeing of the student body.

Students can also develop leadership skills through participation in sports teams, extracurricular activities, mentoring programmes, school events, and community initiatives. Through these experiences, students gain confidence, build meaningful relationships, and make a positive contribution to school life.

Student Council

At OCS, students are encouraged to take an active role in school life and make a positive contribution to the wider community.

Through initiatives such as Culture Week, our Student Council organised a food-tasting event celebrating different cultures and traditions.

Our 5th Year students also took part in the BITC Mentoring Programme, in partnership with Eaton Corporation, gaining valuable skills, experience and insights from the world of work.

Student Council representatives further demonstrated their commitment to equality and inclusion by speaking at the ERST Student Council Conference on the importance of challenging racism and promoting diversity through the Show Racism the Red Card campaign.

“Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge”

Simon Sinek





SCHOOL SUPPORTS

MENTORING

At O'Connell Secondary School, we recognise that strong relationships are central to student success. Our mentoring and pastoral structures provide students with encouragement, guidance and support as they settle into secondary school and throughout their time with us.

Particular emphasis is placed on supporting students as they make the transition from primary to secondary school, helping them to develop confidence, independence and a strong sense of belonging.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Guidance and counselling are an important part of school life at O'Connell Secondary School. Our Guidance Counsellor works with students throughout their time in the school, providing support with personal, educational and career-related matters.

Students are encouraged to seek support when they need it, whether they are considering their future pathways, making important subject and career choices or simply need someone to talk to.

We also work closely with parents, guardians and relevant external agencies to ensure that students receive the support they need.

LEARNING SUPPORT & INCLUSION

O'Connell Secondary School is committed to providing an inclusive education that recognises and celebrates the individuality of every student.

Our Learning Support Team works closely with students, teachers, parents and guardians to identify learning needs and provide appropriate interventions and supports. Individual programmes, assessments and reasonable accommodations are put in place where required.

Our aim is simple: to ensure that every student is supported to reach their potential and feels that they belong in our school community.

WELLBEING & PASTORAL CARE

The wellbeing of our students is at the heart of school life in O'Connell Secondary School. We strive to provide a safe, caring, ordered and happy environment where every young person feels valued, respected and supported. Through our pastoral structures, SPHE, PE, Religion and a wide range of co-curricular activities, students are supported to develop resilience, confidence, positive relationships and a strong sense of self.

We foster a strong sense of community, belonging, and mutual respect, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and positive learning environment.

Our approach reflects the Edmund Rice tradition of **care, compassion, inclusion, justice and service**.

HOME, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

We recognise that education works best when school, home and community work together.

Our Home-School Community Liaison programme plays an important role in building positive relationships with students, parents and guardians and supporting attendance, participation and engagement in education.

Our students are also encouraged to look beyond the school gates and to contribute positively to the wider community through social justice, charitable and community initiatives.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Special Classes

O'Connell Secondary School provides dedicated special classes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These classes offer a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students can develop academically, socially, and personally.

Our ASD provision combines specialist teaching, access to resource rooms, and the support of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs). Individual learning programmes are tailored to each student's strengths and needs, helping them to achieve their full potential while participating in school life.

Our ASD classes are: **Daniel, Edmund and Richmond**.

Through a caring and structured approach, students are supported to build confidence, independence, communication skills, and positive relationships, enabling them to thrive within the wider school community.

For further information and details on admissions please contact the school.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

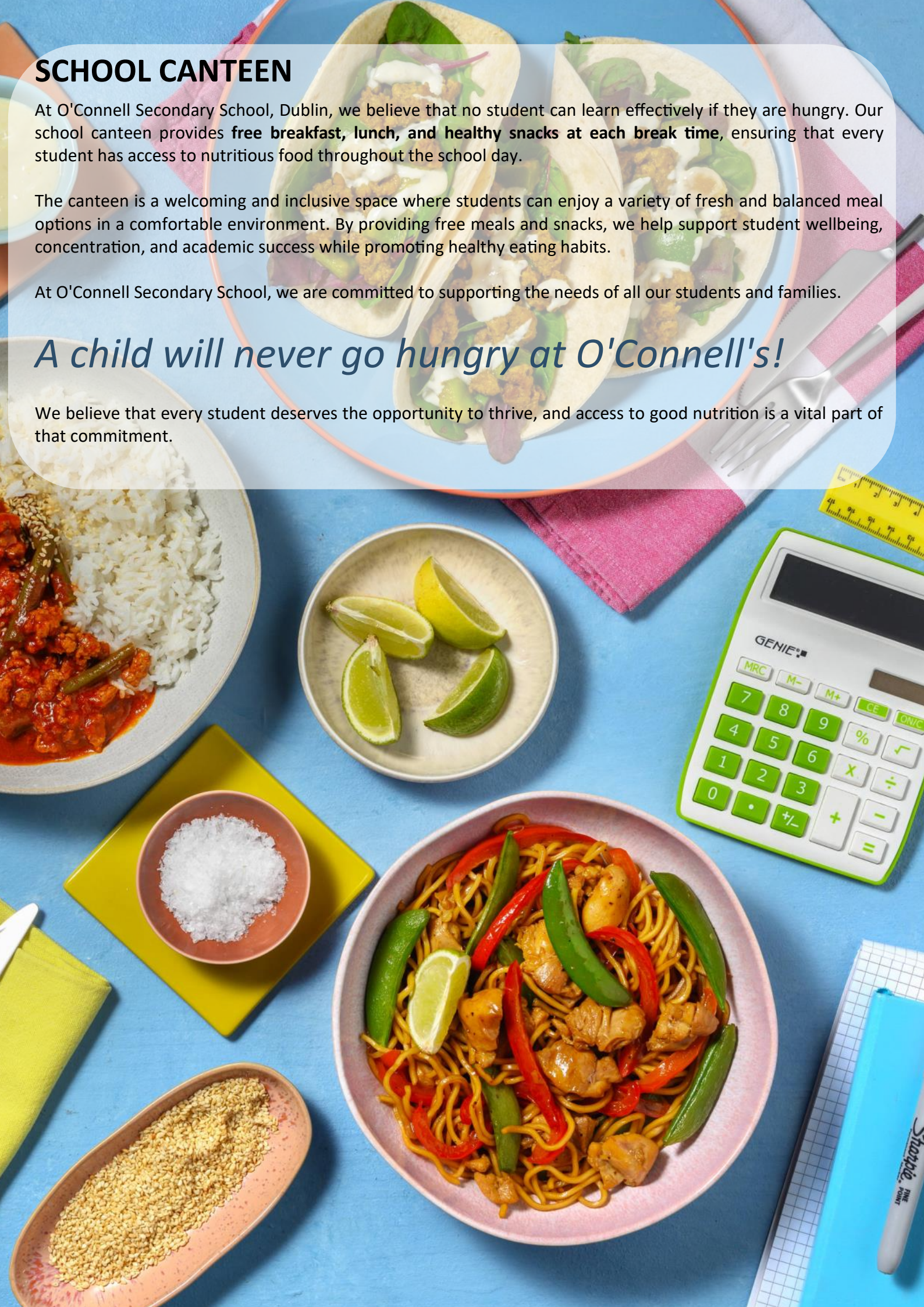
At O'Connell Secondary School, Dublin, we believe that no student can learn effectively if they are hungry. Our school canteen provides **free breakfast, lunch, and healthy snacks at each break time**, ensuring that every student has access to nutritious food throughout the school day.

The canteen is a welcoming and inclusive space where students can enjoy a variety of fresh and balanced meal options in a comfortable environment. By providing free meals and snacks, we help support student wellbeing, concentration, and academic success while promoting healthy eating habits.

At O'Connell Secondary School, we are committed to supporting the needs of all our students and families.

A child will never go hungry at O'Connell's!

We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to thrive, and access to good nutrition is a vital part of that commitment.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At O'Connell Secondary School, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities that promote teamwork, leadership, creativity, confidence, and personal development.



Activities include:

- Student Council
- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Traditional Music
- Creative Writing
- Photography Club
- Chess Club
- Environmental Committee
- Charity & Community Projects
- Educational Visits and Tours
- Cultural Events

PAST PUPILS

As O'Connell's approaches its two hundredth anniversary, it can boast of a long list of past pupils who have made their mark on Irish society from Politics, Sport, Science and Art and Entertainment.

Below is a short summary of our illustrious alumni.

Sports

Troy Parrott

Well, what can we say about Troy that hasn't already been said. Troy captured the imagination of an entire nation with his exploits on the pitch in Ireland's qualifiers for the World Cup in 2026.

The future looks bright for Troy and Ireland, as he has continued his excellent form, scoring twice for his new club, Real Betis, in the past week, on the highest stage, against Real Madrid in the Champions League.

Troy is a past pupil who excelled in school both at sports and academics. It all started in OCS. Here are some pictures of Troy leading O'Connell's to sporting success. His exploits generated huge excitement in the school during Ireland's qualifying campaign.



Keith Treacy

Another notable footballer from O'Connell School Keith Treacy had a long career in the England with clubs including Blackburn Rovers, Sheffield United, Preston North End and Burnley.

Keith is a much sought after soccer pundit, both on radio and television.



Ronnie Delany

He is best known as the winner of an Olympic Gold medal at the 1956 games in Melbourne. He was also one of the first elite runners to run a mile in under 4 minutes.

Having moved from Wicklow to Dublin at a young age, Ronnie attended O'Connell's up to 3rd year in the Secondary School.

Ronnie was a proud OCS past pupil and, along with his brother Joe, kept a close connection to O'Connell's. In 2010 he was honoured with the Past Pupils Hall of Fame award, while Joe was celebrated as the Past Pupil of the Year in 1998.

In recent years the OCS PPU supported the Ronnie Delany mural which can be seen in the school yard outside the astro pitches, also named after Ronnie Delany.



Arts & Entertainment

Barry Keoghan

A more recent graduate, Barry Keoghan, made his breakthrough in the RTE production Love / Hate. He has since gone on to star with many of the big names in Hollywood.

In 2023, he won the Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture, for his performance in The Banshees of Inisherin.

In 2023 he also won the BAFTA for his role in The Banshees of Inisherin. In his acceptance speech he dedicated his win to his son, his Mother and all the **'kids that are dreaming to be something from the area that I came from...'**

His speech provided great inspiration for the OCS students, some of whom were interviewed on RTE the following day with their teacher Mr Conor Flood.



Colin Meaney

Colm has starred in many films from Star Trek to Roddy Doyle's Barrytown Trilogy and is one of Ireland's most successful contemporary film stars.

He attended O'Connell School and often discusses playing for the O'Connell School Gaelic football team in his youth.



Thomas Kinsella

Irish poet, translator, editor, and publisher

Thomas Kinsella spent most of his childhood in the Kilmainham/ Inchicore area of Dublin, and was educated at the Model School, Inchicore, and at O'Connell's.

Following his time at O'Connell's, he studied science at University College Dublin. He joined the Civil Service, the Department of Finance, writing poetry in his spare time.

In the mid-1960s, he moved into academia, relocating to the United States, where he spent many years teaching English at Southern Illinois University and Temple University in Philadelphia.

His most significant works are *The Tain*, the definitive translation of the Old Irish prose epic *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (The Cattle Raid of Cooley), his breakthrough poetry collection, *Another September*, and *Butcher's Dozen*, a satirical, political poem written in response to the Widgery Tribunal's report on Bloody Sunday, where 13 civil rights demonstrators were shot by British troops.



Science

Peter Gallagher

This year, 2026, the Past Pupils Union recognised Peter Prof. Peter T. Gallagher as our Past Pupil of the year. Peter Gallagher graduated from OCS in 1991 and has had a stellar career in all things space related ever since. At school, he developed a keen interest in Science, Maths and Technical Drawing, but by his own admission, probably spent too much time, trying to get his heavy metal band off the ground! Despite not taking the subject for his Leaving Certificate, Peter went on to major in Physics at University College Dublin, where he met his future wife and fellow scientist, Emma Teeling. On graduation, he went to Queen's University of Belfast, completing an MSc in Optoelectronics, and a PhD in Solar Physics. It was then off to the US for the young Dr Gallagher, working at Big Bear Solar Observatory in California and then at NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre near Washington DC.

Pat Kenny

One of our best known past pupils is Pat Kenny. He is one of Ireland's best known television and radio broadcasters.

During a 41-year high-profile career at RTÉ he presented his radio show 'Today with Pat Kenny' on RTÉ Radio 1 each weekday morning 2013.

He hosted 'The Late Late Show' from September 1999 until May 2009, then returned as a stand-in host in January 2013. He presented the current affairs programme The Frontline from 2009 until 2013.



Paul Harrington

Singer-songwriter and Eurovision winner, Paul Harrington is a former student of O'Connell Schools, both primary and secondary. He left O'Connell Secondary School in 1979.

He is a musician who along with Charlie McGettigan won the Eurovision Song Contest for Ireland in 1994, with their song 'Rock and Roll Kids'.

In 2019 Paul received the OCS Past Pupils Union Hall of Fame Award. For the last five years, Paul has had a regular slot on The Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk



Following six years in the US, Peter took up a Lectureship at Trinity College Dublin, where he rose through the ranks to eventually become a Fellow and Associate Dean of the College.

It was at Trinity that Peter built a large radio telescope called LOFAR in the grounds of Birr Castle in Co Offaly. The telescope is now part of the largest low frequency radio telescope in the world, stretching from Ireland to Poland, giving scientists new insights into solar flares, stars, galaxies, and the early universe.

Always keen for a new challenge, Peter was appointed a Senior Professor at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies in 2018 by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Based at Dunsink Observatory, his research now focuses on understanding the Sun and its impacts on the Earth, working with the European Space Agency, NASA and LOFAR.

He continues to enjoy playing his electric guitar and coaching the U16s at Clontarf Rugby Club, with his two teenage boys, Luke and Finn Teeling-Gallagher.

Irish Politics

Since its foundation in 1828, OCS has played a key role in the events leading up to the birth of the new state in 1922.

Many OCS students and past pupils were participants in the 1916 Rebellion. The most famous OCS ex-pupils of 1916 were Eamonn Ceannt, Con Colbert and Seán Heuston, all later executed in May 1916.

Eamonn Ceannt was one of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation read out by Patrick Pearce outside the GPO in Dublin.

Colbert was under command of Ceannt, and Sean Heuston was under command of James Connolly, another signatory of the Proclamation.

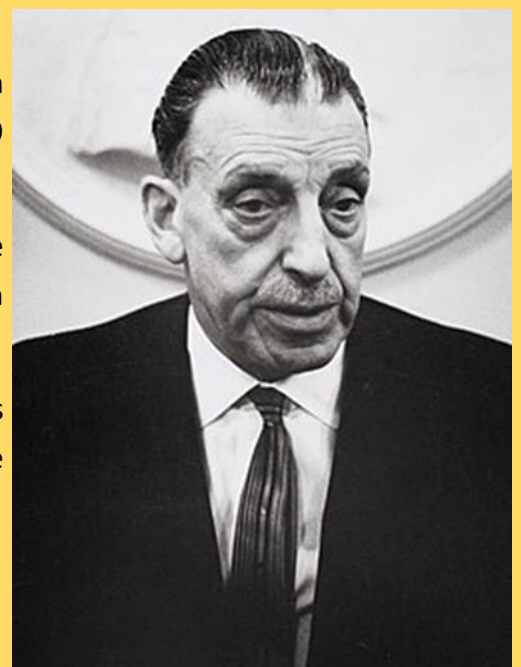
Seán T. O'Ceallaigh, also a past pupil had a part in the rising, in later years he became Second President of Ireland (1945–1959).

The names of 134 past pupils who participated in the Rebellion were collected from school records and can be seen in a commemorative plaque at the school entrance.

Brothers Sean and Noel Lemass also took part in the Rising, with Sean Lemass later becoming Taoiseach and Leader of Fianna Fáil from 1959 to 1966.

Lemass is credited with bringing foreign direct investment into the country and forging permanent links between Ireland and the European Communities.

One of the most important modernizing reforms during Lemass's tenure was the introduction of free secondary education, an initiative that took effect shortly after Lemass retired as Taoiseach.











Horticulture

The horticulture programme in O'Connells Secondary School has been a central part of our school community since 2019.



The garden in early 2019



Volunteers from Mathesons who offer a mentoring module for our TYs



Every class up to and including transition year have an hour long period a week where they receive 15 minutes theory and are actively involved for the rest of the time in seasonal gardening activities . They learn how to grow and eat their own food, plants and flowers from seed in a sustainable way.



SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Athletics
- Rugby
- Fitness and Wellbeing Programmes

Through participation in these activities, students build friendships, discover new talents, and develop skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



O'Connell Secondary School

Richmond Street North
Dublin 1 D01Y4A9

t: 01 874 8307

e: secretary@oconnellschool.ie

w: www.oconnellschool.ie