St. David's College

Artane, Dublin 5 Est. 1966



"Uniting Minds, Inspiring Futures"

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



Michael Nally
Principal



Deputy Principal
Marian Rowan

I would like to welcome you to St. David's and I hope that this prospectus will provide you with a flavour of life at our wonderful school and the various programmes and courses we offer. Choosing a second level school is a very important decision for any parent or guardian. With this in mind, we endeavour to create a school ethos that places caring for and nurturing students at the forefront of what we do. St. David's is an innovative and progressive school and we are fully committed to preparing our students for the demands of the 21st Century.

> ***We are a co-educational Catholic Voluntary Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) and we welcome students from every background and faith community. Our philosophy is focused on supporting and encouraging students in every aspect of their lives, nurturing them into well rounded young adults who will go forward and embrace life with confidence, enthusiasm and a sense of justice.***

We offer the traditional Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate programmes, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA), an ASD class and Special Needs Support. We are also particularly proud of our Pastoral Care structures which ensure that students are cared for and nurtured in a kind and supportive environment. The hard work and commitment of our staff together with the invaluable support from our Board of Management and the active cooperation of our parents and students allow us to provide a 'Quality Education for Each Student'. Our inspirational teachers continually strive for excellence in their teaching and learning. While we have a heavy emphasis on academic achievement we also set out to provide an all-round education for our students. St. David's will provide your son/daughter with the broadest array of opportunities possible, both within and outside the classroom.

I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into our many extra and co-curricular activities and an overview of our broad and varied curriculum. We thank each of our parents for entrusting your child to us for the next five or six years of their education. We will do everything possible to ensure that our students are safe, happy, respected, fulfilled and encouraged to reach their full potential. We invite you to become part of the next chapter of our story as we face the future together with excitement and enthusiasm.

Michael Nally,
Principal

MISSION

St. David's is a Catholic school, promoting Christian values, which provides opportunities for every student to achieve his full potential in academic, artistic, social and sporting spheres in an atmosphere that promotes responsibility, tolerance and respect for others.

KEY ELEMENTS OF
AN EDMUND RICE SCHOOL

Life in St David's is guided by the Edmund Rice School Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership



TRANSITION TO ST DAVID'S

St David's understands that the transition from primary to post-primary school is a time of great change and challenge. All of our first year students are supported and guided through this new phase of their education.

The following lists some of the supports available to our first years:

- An assessment examination in March used to place your son in a class that suits his needs.
- An information evening in May.
- Supporting initiatives such as a friendship form, a transition booklet, a transition module and subject taster programme.
- Induction Day
- TY Buddy Programme - Students will be paired up with a Transition Year student during the induction day.
- Daily contact with the Class Tutor and assemblies throughout the year with the Year Head.



SCHOOL CURRICULUM

JUNIOR CYCLE

Students enrolling in St David's will follow the Junior Cycle Programme for their first three years in secondary school. Junior Cycle students typically study ten subjects for their Junior Cycle exams. Optional subjects are selected in 1st year after students have completed a taster programme, giving them an opportunity to sample all of the optional subjects on offer.

Assessment

English, Irish and Maths are assessed at both Higher and Ordinary level while all other subjects are now Common level. The Junior Cycle is assessed using a combination of continuous and final assessments. This means that during 2nd and 3rd year, students complete a series of Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) and Assessment Tasks. They also sit State examinations at the end of the three year Junior Cycle Programme.

CORE SUBJECTS

English	History	Religious Education
Irish	Geography	Physical Education
Maths	Science	Wellbeing
Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)		
Civic Social & Political Education (CSPE)		

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Business Studies	Engineering
Art	Technical Graphics
Music	Wood Technology
German/French	Home Economics

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

SENIOR CYCLE

Transition Year

The Transition Year Programme is a unique one year optional programme which takes place after Junior Cycle. TY is an opportunity to nurture students' talents and discover new skills, which will better prepare students for Senior Cycle. TY students will study the core senior subjects such as English, Irish and Maths and sample subjects from the Leaving Certificate. Students also become involved in work experience every week.

In recent years, our students have participated in the following:

- Gaisce, The President's Award
- 1st Year/TY Buddy Programme
- School Trips to Causey Farm, Museums, Theatres, Tayto Park, Dublin Zoo, Go Karting, Zip Lining, Paintballing, Ice Skating and Go Quest Adventure Centre
- Howth Hike
- Overnight excursion to Carlingford Adventure Centre
- Orienteering Trips
- Robotics, Forensic Science, Filming, Multimedia, Photography & Sports Inclusion Workshops
- Charity and Community Work
- Debating
- Age Action - Getting Started Computer Training
- Creative Engagement
- Life skills such as Driving, Road Safety, First Aid, Presentation skills, Leadership, Cooking, Information Technology, CV and Interview skills, Career Investigation, Coding, Wellbeing, and Meditation & Mindfulness.
- Mini-company









SCHOOL CURRICULUM

SENIOR CYCLE

Leaving Certificate

The following subjects are offered on the traditional Leaving Certificate course.

CORE

English	Physical Education (non exam)
Irish	Religious Education
Maths	

OPTIONAL

(Students choose 4 of the following subjects)

Biology	Geography
Chemistry	History
Physics	Art
Engineering	Business
Construction Studies	Music
Computer Science	Accounting
German	Design Communications & Graphics
Physical Education	



LIFE, COMMUNITY AND WORK (LCW)

Life, Community and Work (LCW) is a practical Leaving Certificate subject that prepares students for further education, employment and life beyond school. Students develop key skills including communication, teamwork, digital literacy, career planning and personal development through practical, real-world learning. The course explores the world of work, community involvement and future career pathways.

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) is an alternative version of the Traditional Leaving Certificate. LCA students receive a grade at the end of 2 years based on attendance and classwork, a series of projects, as well as exams in some subjects. This makes it a great option for students who find high-stakes exams challenging and learn in a more practical, hands-on way. Students who complete LCA often go on to start apprenticeships or Post-Leaving Cert courses, which can lead to a place at university. Students in LCA spend one day each week on work experience.

In LCA students study the following subjects: English & Communications, Mathematical Applications, Irish, French/German, Science, Religious Education, Graphics and Construction Studies, Craft and Design, ICT, Vocational Preparation, Social Education and Physical Education.

Links with 3rd Level Institutions

St. David's has developed strong links with DCU and all 3rd level colleges to support students making informed choices about their future career. Students' engagement during campus tours, shadowing programmes, and science and computer workshops build on the opportunities created in the Transition Year programme. The school was awarded from Trinity College, 'The School of Distinction Community Award 2021' recognising the school's achievement in providing innovative student centred programmes in supporting students in their career progression to 3rd level colleges.

EXTRA CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Lunchtime Activities

There are lots of fun lunchtime activities taking place every day where students can make friends and develop new skills. These include:

- Chess Club
- Soccer Club
- Art Club to express their creativity.
- Music Club to learn how to play an instrument and sing.
- Gaming Club to play cards and board games.
- Reading Club to relax with a good book.



Charity Fundraising

Our students are involved in many fundraisers both nationally and locally, helping them to become engaged members of their community and teaching them the importance of helping others.

Special Events and Celebrations

Throughout the school year we hold events where the whole school community is invited to take part, such as Maths Week, Reading Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Science Week, Wellbeing Week, Friendship Week, Careers Fair, Debating, Christmas Carols, Awards, Graduation Celebrations and School Talent Show.

Creative Engagement

Since 2016, St. David's has participated in Creative Engagement. A creative engagement happens when a local artist or arts group visits the school and imparts their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to the students. It is an integral part of Transition Year in our school. Being part of Creative Engagement has enhanced our school environment, linked our school with the local community, built confidence in students' abilities and given art a higher level of respect in the school community.

School Trips

In St. David's we try to promote and cultivate learning outside of the classroom; we view this as an essential component of student development. In April we travel on an annual tour, which is open to all junior students. We have travelled to Paris, Barcelona, Madrid and Lake Garda on previous tours.

St David's teachers and students have also been involved in six Immersion Projects to Embulbul, the small slum settlement near Nairobi since 2007. The teams have helped the impoverished children of Brother Beausang School. The group worked on a range of skills such as teaching, singing, home visits, painting, cleaning, caring, and most importantly, reflection every day. Many memories and thoughts of Africa are a huge part of the team's lives that they will always cherish.

There will be a Ski trip and an Orlando trip in early 2027.





Sports in St David's

Sport is an integral part of life at St David's. We take pride in sport and encourage each student to be physically active in some way. We cater for all types of talents and abilities. We offer a wide range of sports such as Gaelic football, hurling, rugby, basketball, soccer, athletics, badminton and rock climbing. We have great facilities for sport in our school with our all-weather pitch, grass pitch, our indoor basketball court and a gym.

Our sports teams compete at all ages in both Dublin, Leinster and All-Ireland competitions. St David's Sports Department organises an eventful and enjoyable Sports Day every May for students and teachers to get involved in.

Our annual Sports Awards take place in May, where we recognise all sporting achievements throughout the year.





















SCHOOL FACILITIES

ALL WEATHER PITCH

— PLAYING PITCHES —

FULL SIZE SPORTS HALL

FULLY EQUIPPED WEIGHTS AND EXERCISE ROOM

2 CLIMBING WALLS & **4** SCIENCE LABS

2 METALWORK ROOMS

2 WOODWORK ROOMS

→ 1 COMPUTER ROOM ←

DESIGN COMMUNICATIONS AND GRAPHICS ROOM

READING ROOM AND LIBRARY

2 ART ROOMS

MUSIC & KEYBOARD ROOM

LUNCHROOM

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

ASSEMBLY HALL

6TH YEAR **ATRIUM**

LIFT ACCESS FOR STUDENTS OR STAFF WITH A DISABILITY

Walking Path, Snooker table

→ HOME ECONOMICS ROOM ←

Use of technology to support learning

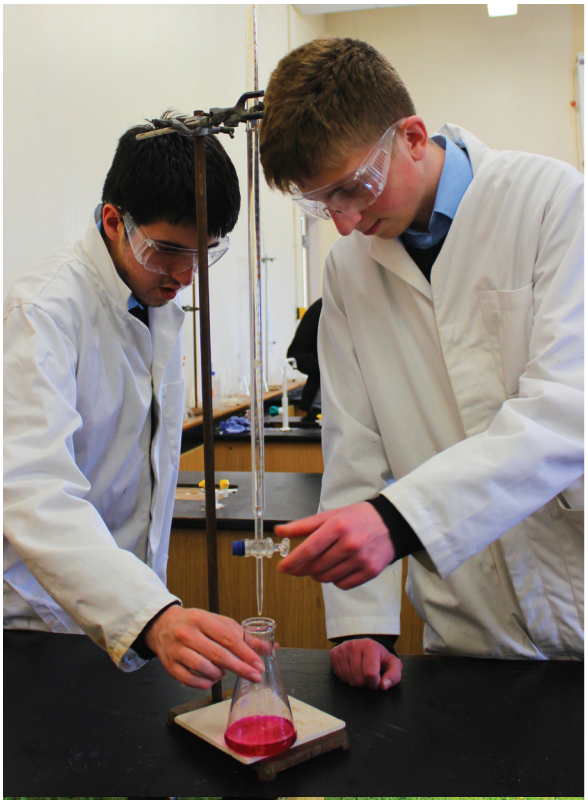
In St. David's we strive to enrich our students' education through the use of various digital supports. Our chromebooks have become a staple in supporting education and helping to develop a student's digital literacy. Google classroom has become embedded in our day-to-day lives. Each student is a member of a digital classroom that allows for the submission of proj ects and provides an accessible space for classroom notes and homework, which parents can also access through a class link.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Our school has qualified Special Educational Needs Teachers who identify and support all students with special and additional educational needs. The SEN Support Team works closely with students, parents or guardians, teachers, the SENO and other professional agencies to ensure that our students can enhance their academic, social and personal achievements. St David's has an ASD class, consisting of students who attend regular mainstream classes. Our Special Needs Assistants play an important role in assisting the



teachers to optimise the teaching and learning process and ensuring our students with Special Educational Needs reach their full potential.





STUDENT SUPPORTS

St David's provide the following supports for our students:

- Career Guidance and Counselling
- Pastoral Care Team
- Tutor and Year Head System
- Meditation and Mindfulness
- School Chaplain
- Home School Community Liaison Coordinator
- Supervised After School Study
- Homework Club
- Study Skills Programme
- Wellbeing Coordinator
- First Year Transition and Induction Programme
- Behaviour for Learning Teacher
- School Completion Programme Coordinator



STUDENT VOICE AND LEADERSHIP

The Student Council

The main role of a Student Council is set out in the Education Act: "to promote the interests of the school and the involvement of students' voice in the affairs of the school, in cooperation with the board, parents and teachers". The Student Council comprises Class Captains and Vice Captains, who are elected yearly within their class group. They meet regularly with a class teacher to discuss matters arising in the school. The Student Council regularly receives training from the ISSU (Irish Second Level Students Union) and from ERST (Edmund Rice Schools Trust).

> *"The school listens to students with ideas that benefit everyone"*

Prefects

The Prefect system recognises the important leadership role that senior students play in the growth and development of the school. They are key representatives of the student body in the school, acting as role models for the younger students. Each Prefect works with a first year or second year group. They build a rapport with their base class and meet with them as often as they can. They also volunteer to help out on days in the school calendar that require a little extra support.

Digital Ambassadors

Our Digital Ambassadors provide peer support for fellow students by acting as an ambassador for digital skills and sharing what they learn with others. As a digital ambassador, students have the opportunity to get involved with many different types of work allowing them to develop new skills. Digital ambassadors are confident, dynamic and strong communicators. They are able to work collaboratively with staff and students.

Parents Council

Parents and guardians play a very important role within our school community. We strongly value our parents' input into their son's education and as primary educators, parents play a key role in supporting their son to reach his full potential here with us in St. David's.

Our parents council plays a very active role in many aspects of the school life throughout the year.

- Provides advice and input on school policies
- Consultative and advisory role on school planning
- Provides a regular forum for discussing school issues that may affect parents
- Assisting in paired reading initiatives, new events and school programmes in the school
- Supporting our annual student award ceremony and graduation ceremony

> *"There is a strong link between the teacher/student/parent and this encourages a holistic approach regarding the student's education".*



School Awards

The school is committed to a policy of recognition, encouragement and reward of positive behaviour. The St David's Student Excellence Awards in May is our chance to celebrate Excellence within our School Community. It is a day when all the elements of our school are represented as students, parents and teachers are present. Students are given recognition for outstanding achievements, attendance, volunteering, student of the year and other categories on the day.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

REASONS TO CHOOSE ST DAVID'S

- We promote the social and personal development of each individual student
- Students are encouraged to strive for academic excellence and give their absolute best
- Professional and highly dedicated teachers
- Inclusive environment
- An excellent Learning Support and Pastoral Care Team
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Excellent facilities
- Promotion of high standards of behaviour
- A broad range of subject options in Junior, Transition and Senior Cycles
- 1st Year Subject Taster Programme
- 1st Year TY Buddy Programme
- Links with 3rd Level Institutions
- Parents Council and Student Council
- Annual Student Excellence Awards Ceremony
- Canteen - free Breakfast Club and healthy snacks during small break
- Subsidised rate for hot lunch time dinners
- Each student is seen as unique and their individual potential is prioritised
- Free After School Study
- Homework Club
- Lunchtime Activities
- The Post-Primary Schoolbooks Scheme
- Strong tradition of sports
- Good public transport connections







St. David's College

Artane, Dublin 5

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INCOMING 1ST YEARS

Application forms and information regarding our Admission Policy will be delivered to our local primary and feeder schools.

Alternatively, information is available directly from the school office and via the enrolment page on our school website.

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01 831 5322

Email: office@stdavidscollege.ie
Instagram: stdavidscollegeartane

Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust