



# St Joseph's College

PROSPECTUS 2021



**Senior Leadership Team**  
St. Joseph's College,  
Coalisland



**Mr Desi Mc Neill**  
Principal



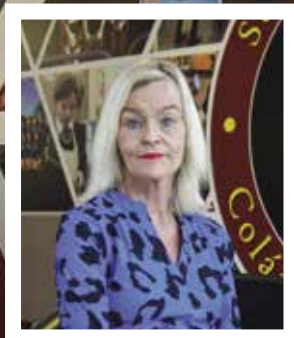
**Mrs Ciara Donnelly**  
Vice Principal



**Mrs Judith Mallon**  
Leader of Learning Support and Welfare



**Mrs Orlagh Barrett**  
Leader of Pastoral Care and Community



**Ms Una Mc Sherry**  
Leader of Learning Centre



**Liam Corr**  
Head Boy



**Annie Barrett**  
Head Girl

**St Joseph's College**

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St Joseph's College is a Catholic Community, Maintained,  
11-16 College catering for pupils of all abilities.  
Integral to our College is our Learning Support Centre,  
supporting students with Autism and Moderate Learning Difficulties.

# Principal's foreword

On behalf of our College community, I want to thank you for showing an interest in our College. In normal times I would have the opportunity to welcome you and prospective students to our popular Open Night but this is not a normal time. All Open Nights have been cancelled for this year due to coronavirus, leaving all post-primary schools to come up with innovative ways of showcasing their schools. Primary 7 pupils have had to deal with a turbulent year and choosing the next school is a massive undertaking. I hope that as you explore and investigate our school, you will realise that we can cater for all children from our local area.

In this prospectus you can read about our College and the various activities and opportunities available to our students. Online we have posted a number of short videos and guides allowing a glimpse into our corridors and classrooms as the current restrictions prevent us hosting you in person.

St Joseph's College has been beside the St Mary and St Joseph's chapel for just over fifty years educating and preparing generations of local people, who have gone on to great success. Over the past seven years as Principal, I have come to appreciate the high value and esteem the College has in the community. I was accepted as a Joe and part of the College community, almost immediately and I am proud to see that this is the same for all students who join us. Being a Joe is more than wearing a uniform and attending the College, it's a state of mind!

Our College currently has five Learning Centres assigned to us by the EA. This has grown from the original 1 over 25 years ago to 2, then 4 when two Autism Specific Classes were introduced 10 years ago to where we are today. All our pupils benefit from the inclusive nature of our College and this will continue to be a focus for us in the years to come.

Coalisland and the surrounding area is a brilliant place to live, work and bring up families because of the welcoming nature of the people and we hope that our College community reflects and nurtures this. Many community groups use our facilities but we want to be able to offer more to our parents, past pupils and the residents of the local parishes. Coalisland deserves better facilities for its inhabitants and the College is looking to be part of the answer. This goal is consistent with our five pillars which are: nurturing our faith, aspirational learning, promoting partnerships, creating a caring community and inspiring leadership.

While 2020 will be written about in the history books for a pandemic that claimed the lives of many, brought lockdowns restricting all our lives and an appreciation for key workers; it will be a benchmark year for our College. The examination results were the best in our history, due to the amazing work and partnership in learning developed over the last number of years between students, teachers and parents. These results highlight the value-added in our



approach to learning and teaching. All our students have shown significant improvement in their final results when compared to when they joined us.

As we leave 2020 and plan for our future I am reminded of a quote from Viktor Frankl's 'Man's Search for Meaning', that he borrowed from St John's Gospel in appreciation of simple things. It is what we strive to do as a College for all our students, staff and the wider community. "Et lux in tenebris lucet"- and the light shineth in the darkness. We strive to be a light in whatever darkness comes in the future.

I hope that you will consider our College and trust that we will work with you in providing the best nurturing and guiding education for the rest of their compulsory education. We cannot make promises about future examination successes or career opportunities, no-one can but we can guarantee that the opportunities, learning and teaching, support and extracurricular will be outstanding. Our aim is to develop a closer working relationship and better engagement with our parents. In doing so, our shared goal of well prepared and skilled young adults who can be the leaders of the future and who have a strong sense of social justice and compassion for their neighbours, local and global can be achieved.

"Et lux in tenebris lucet"-

**Desi McNeill**

**Desi McNeill Principal**





# Our Mission

St Joseph's mission is to provide high quality education in a respectful and caring environment for each individual member of our school community, promoting the development of our core values: honesty, integrity, maturity and compassion.

## Our Vision

We provide equality of opportunity with a broad and balanced curriculum tailored to the needs, interests and abilities of all our pupils. We inspire our pupils to become lifelong learners and contributors to society.

## Our Aims

St Joseph's aims to:

- nurture faith, Christian values and spirituality where everyone is encouraged to be committed to a Christian way of life;
- facilitate learning and teaching in an aspirational environment where our pupils are challenged and supported to reach their full potential both academically and socially;
- promote partnership within the College and the wider community enabling pupils to expand their horizons as global citizens;
- create a caring College community where the uniqueness of every member is celebrated and an inclusive ethos pervades.

## Spirituality at St Joseph's College

Crucial to our well-being is our spirituality. The Catholic values of truth, compassion and faith are an integral part of our school community. Our vibrant RE department nurtures these values through events and activities throughout the year. Days of reflection and meditation, prayer and study of the gospel, and positive relationships based on mutual respect and understanding equip our pupils to lead fulfilling Christian lives as faith leaders.

## Community and Cultural Awareness

St Joseph's has a long and admirable tradition of supporting those experiencing difficult times. We are proud of our students' fund raising efforts and self-less volunteering in the following charities close to our hearts:

Leap For Luke – a local charity supporting research into the severe, progressive, life limiting condition Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Katie-Rose's Journey – St Joseph's College raised £3,010.00 for Katie-Rose's Journey. Katie-Rose, a fun loving 8 year old girl, was diagnosed with High Risk Neuroblastoma and needs to raise £245,000 to access the Bivalent Vaccine clinical trials in New York. A young girl who had already been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 5, has with her family continued to engage her local and wider community with her story and journey.

St Vincent de Paul – Pupils at St Joseph's College always donate generously towards the annual Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers Appeal. Our pupils have been doing this for decades, making this our longest charitable link.

## Zambia Education and Development Project

St Joseph's College have forged very close links with St Monica Parish in Lusaka, Zambia, supporting this developing parish through financial contribution, volunteering visits from the RE department and past pupils. We support the provision of basic educational requirements for the schools in this parish through fundraising during October Mission Month and we are continually building relationships via video link with our pupils and the pupils from St Monica's Parish.

Numerous other fundraising events are carried out throughout the year, supporting pupil ideas and helping them to develop their humanitarian endeavours.





# Why choose St Joseph's College?

St Joseph's is the local school serving the people of Coalisland and Clonoe for over fifty years. The pastoral, academic and extra curricular dimensions of the College have been flourishing over the past couple of years with structures, supports and successes encouraging participation from all.

Our Five Pillars are central to all the great work and improvement we have experienced in the last number of years.

## St Joseph's College

<b>Nurturing our Catholic Faith</b> Dedicated to providing and developing a Catholic education cultivating a living faith and fostering Christian spirituality	<b>Aspirational learning</b> We create an orderly, safe and positive environment. We challenge our students and support them to achieve their true potential	<b>Promoting partnerships</b> Promoting inclusiveness, mutual respect and personal growth. Developing meaningful and engaging relationships in school and outside	<b>Caring community</b> Foster a sense of care, compassion and community characterised by Jesus' life. Stand in solidarity with the powerless, vulnerable and marginalised	<b>Inspiring leadership</b> Encouraging leadership and responsibility amongst all students, to play an active and leading role in school in preparation for a worthwhile contribution to society
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Using these as our guide in everything we do, I am confident that choosing St Joseph's as your next school will result in achieving success, developing skills and being prepared for life in the 21st century.





# Pathways

## PATHWAYS & ASPIRATIONS REVISED YEAR 10 OPTIONS PROCESS

PATHWAY 1	PATHWAY 2	PATHWAY 3	PATHWAY 4
<b>ACADEMIC SUBJECTS</b>	<b>ACADEMIC/APPLIED SUBJECTS</b>	<b>VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS</b>	<b>ENTRY LEVEL</b>
Exam-based at the end of 2 years	Includes academic and vocational	Includes Level 2 courses	Includes a selection of accredited courses
More challenging	Controlled assessments and examinations	Skills based	Combination of assessment and examination
Target – pupils will achieve 8-10 GCSE (A*-C) subjects and progress to AS Level	Target – pupils will achieve 6-8 GCSEs (A*-C) and progress to a combination of Applied and AS Level	Target – pupils will achieve 6-8 GCSEs (A*-C), or equivalent and progress to an apprenticeship or employment	Target – pupils will achieve a minimum of 5 Entry level qualifications and progress either to FE or employment

The variety and range of learning abilities and needs in our College have informed our curriculum and relevant pathways for pupils to follow. In St Joseph's College, not only do we place a large emphasis on maximising academic achievement, but we offer choice and acknowledge the huge potential for employment and further education.

The pathways we offer every pupil allows them to develop 'soft skills' through their learning experiences that assist them to move into further education and employment post-St Joseph's.





# Pastoral Care

The pastoral care and well-being of each and every child at our school is of paramount importance. Every member of staff shares responsibility for supporting our children in a safe and secure environment conducive to raising self-esteem, building confidence and developing resilience in this ever changing, global society.

Our Pastoral Circle illustrates the structures embedded in our policies to support your child. Your child is supported by a team of experienced and caring professionals beginning with his/her form teacher who meets with him/her on a daily basis. The Head of Year 8 Transition and Induction Mr Thornton, Head of Upper Key Stage 3 Mrs McGill and Head of Key Stage 4 Ms Pearce, have the responsibility for supporting and encouraging the academic and pastoral development of all pupils within their year groups. The leaders play a pivotal role in strengthening the relationships between home and school.

Our Leader of Pastoral Care and Community Mrs Barrett, the Designated Child Protection Teacher, looks after the pastoral care and discipline within our school. Mrs Mallon, our Leader of Learning Support and Welfare is responsible for special education needs and Mrs Donnelly, our Vice Principal and Leader of Learning and Teaching, is in charge of academic and curriculum needs.

The Principal, Mr McNeill, leads us all in the pastoral care of our pupils.



**Mrs Orlagh Barrett** Leader of Pastoral Care and Community

# Further Interventions and Support

## Nurture

In St Joseph's College we have introduced a Nurture Teacher, Miss Kerr, to further enhance our pastoral supports. Children can be referred by their Head of Key Stage to help with transitions through difficult periods in their educational journey.

Nurture groups are a short-term, focused intervention for children with particular social, emotional and behavioural difficulties which are creating a barrier to learning within a mainstream class.

Children attending the nurture group remain an active part of their main class, spending appropriate times within the nurture group according to their need.

Activities in the nurture group include emotional literacy sessions, news sharing, nurture breakfast, social skills and regular curriculum activities. As the children learn academically and socially they develop confidence, become responsive to others, learn self-respect and take pride in behaving well and in achieving.

## Achievement and Behaviour Co-ordinator

The Achievement and Behaviour Co-ordinator, Mrs Quinn, supports our students with praise and recognition of their achievements. Students are acknowledged for their internal and external endeavours and gain House Points which result in an end of year reward. End of year excursions, social events and other activities are provided as an incentive. The goal being for our students to be rewarded for excellent behaviour, and to encourage them to participate in more selfless activities where they give back to the St Joseph's College community.

Our Senior and Junior Student Councils, also co-ordinated by Mrs Quinn, allow our students a platform for their "student voice". This enables them, as a major stakeholder in the College community, to feel fully valued in the planning of and introduction of new initiatives.

These structures in our school provide your child with numerous avenues through which to access support as required.





# Curriculum

The curriculum in St Joseph's College aims to equip our young people with the wider skills and attributes to become learned individuals who will contribute to society, the economy and the environment. We aspire to empower

our pupils as digital collaborators, creative thinkers and independent learners so they may thrive in the 21st century workforce. We provide guidance and support to pupils in order to overcome the barriers to learning by identifying

their strengths and difficulties.

The school's Learning and Teaching provides consistent and effective classroom practice and accentuates the importance of the pupils as confident, curious and participative learners who are challenged using a range of methodologies incorporating digital technology. Pupils are encouraged to strive towards agreed targets and are tracked regularly throughout the year. Teachers endeavour to ensure value added in pupil attainment yearly, ultimately leading to academic success at Key Stage 4. In the past 7 years we have dramatically moved from **22% of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE passes (A\*-C) to 70% in August 2020.**

At key stage 3 St. Joseph's College offers:	
Art & Design	Learning for Life & Work
Drama	Mathematics
English	Moving Image Arts
French	Music
Geography	Physical Education
History	Religious Education
Home Economics	Science
	Technology Design

Digital Technology plays a key part in and out of the classroom across Key Stage 3 & 4. All pupils and teachers are highly competent in using iPads as effective tools in learning and teaching. This allows our pupils to connect their learning experiences and apply to all studies, reinforcing subject knowledge,

understanding and application.

We currently follow a 2-week timetable with 50 minute periods, thus allowing for a more in-depth learning and teaching experience in all subjects. All pupils in Key Stage 3 & 4 study a wide range of subjects to meet the statutory requirements

of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and the Entitlement Framework. We review our curriculum annually to suit the dynamic and ever-changing career opportunities in the local economy and beyond. St Joseph's College plays an integral role in the Dungannon and Cookstown Area Learning Community.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum offers our pupils choices from both general and vocational subject areas:			
General Subjects	Vocational Subjects		
GCSE	BTEC	OCN	Occupational Studies
Art	Engineering	Religion	Bench Joinery
Business & Communication Systems	ICT	Science	Carpentry & Joinery
Child Development	Sport		Contemporary Cuisine
Contemporary Crafts	Travel & Tourism		Creative Styling on Long Hair
Double Award Science			Creative Styling using Blow-Drying Techniques
Drama			Digital Imaging
English Language			Electronic Circuit Construction
French			Electrical Wiring Installation
History			Facial Skincare
Hospitality			Manicure and Nail Art
Irish			Patisserie & Baking
Mathematics			Running a Leisure Event
Music			Sports Leadership
Religious Education			TV & Film Production
Single Award Science			





# Personalised Learning

Upon entry to St Joseph's College, pupils will sit baseline testing. This provides standardised scores on current ability, future potential and attitudes to school life. The data from the testing allows the College to make informed decisions on the pathways that pupils can follow. Pupils will be set targets and assessed at regular intervals throughout the academic year. Pupils and parents will be made aware of targets and these will be reviewed tri-annually. Intervention will be employed and specific to pupil learning styles and needs.

Tracking assessments take place three times a year for Years 8-12. Year 12 will also have mock examinations prior to external formal sittings.

Parents will be reported to three times throughout the year. There will only be one summative report for each year group. Year 10, 11 & 12 will receive a report in January and Years 8-12 will receive a report in June.





# Digital Technologies

Since September 2014 St Joseph's College has embarked on a journey which has embraced fully twenty-first century learning. This 'iPad Initiative' where students are working on a 1:1 iPad basis is now fully embedded in the College. Intensive training programmes have been undertaken with the dedication and enthusiasm of all staff and this continues annually. Many of our teachers have undertaken extra training and have become certified 'Apple Teachers'. In 2019 Mrs Kerr, our Digital Technology Leader, was recognised by Apple as an Apple Distinguished Educator for her work in using technology to transform teaching and learning in powerful ways for our students.

Today we have every pupil in Years 8-12 enhancing their learning experiences through the use of iPads. Teaching has been enhanced to meet the ever changing needs and demands of new technologies in our rapidly evolving global community. Digital Technology permeates every subject area in St Joseph's and takes many different formats. Pupils are stimulated and learning continues very easily outside the classroom via connectivity and collaboration. None of this could have been achieved without the support of our parents, governors and staff.

We currently deliver Computer Science as a discrete subject to all Key Stage 3 pupils. Mrs Kerr has devised a programme that builds upon the digital skills of our pupils which facilitates bringing technology into other subjects and in addition prepares our students for the world of work. The aim of this programme is not to simply have children who are digital users but digital makers.





# Learning Centre

The Learning Centre at St. Joseph's has been in existence for 30 years. We presently house 3 ASC classes and 2 Learning Support classes. We have a very experienced team of 5 full-time teachers and 10 classroom assistants to meet the variety of needs we cater for. Within the Autism class we develop social communication, social interaction and social imagination – The Triad which contributes to pupils on the Autism Spectrum.

We also offer a broad and balanced curriculum which we have developed via our functional integration programme throughout the entire school.

This allows all our pupils to experience the mainstream setting and be taught by specialist subject teacher.

It also lends itself to allow high achievers to access GCSE programmes at Keystage 4.

We are very proud to be presently the largest Learning Centre within EA.

We are planning to increase our provision in the very near future due to the demands within the local community and further afield.

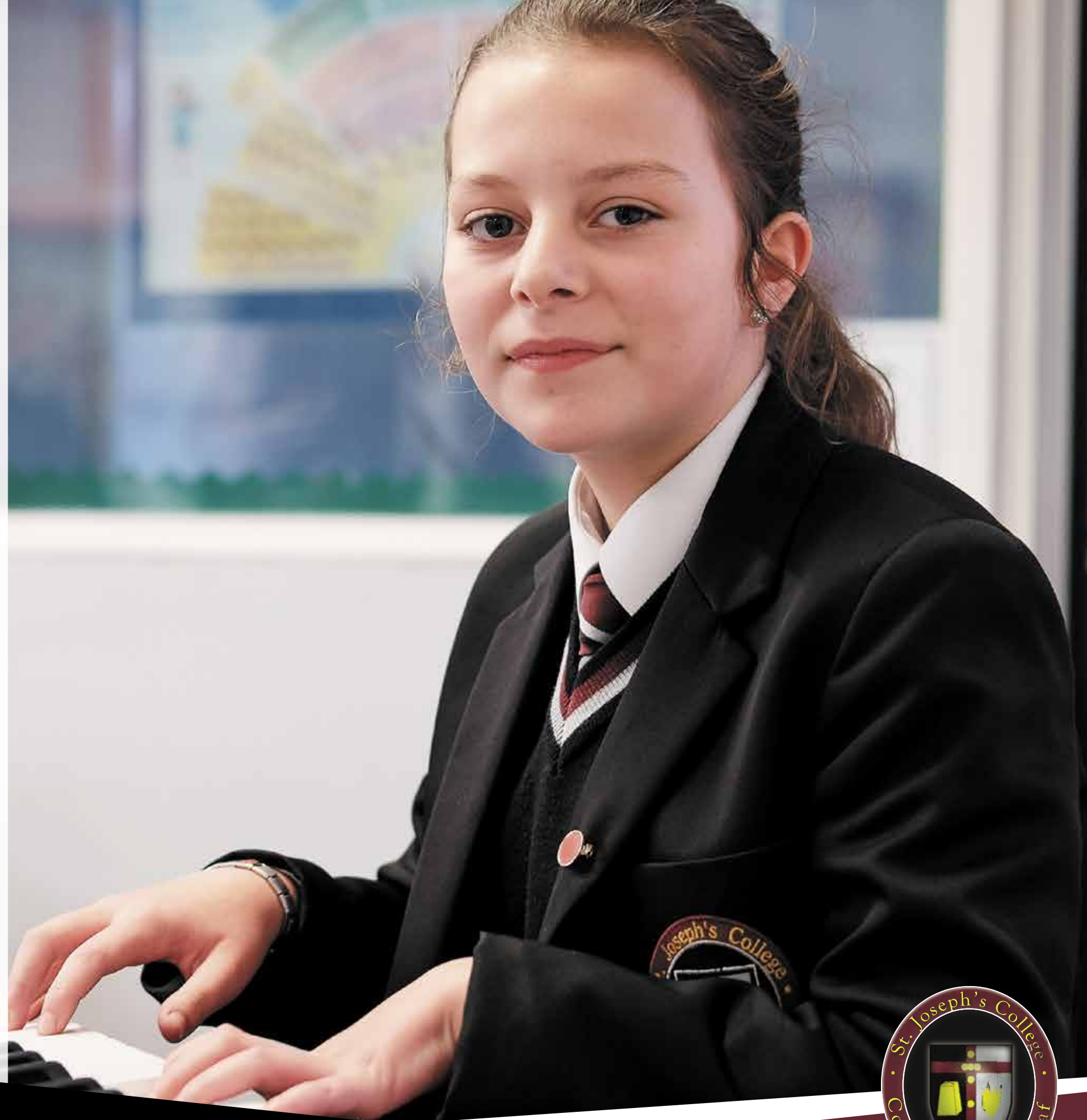




# Music and Drama

The Music and Drama departments at St Joseph's facilitate the expression of the talented and gifted young people of the area. Our traditional group has evolved into a thriving and energetic ensemble of young musicians infused with passion and dedication. Partnering with community groups such as Ceoltas and Craic Theatre has enabled our pupils to develop their skills and talents and perform to a wider audience. Our musicians contribute regularly to many community and charity events as well as school events: prize giving, open days and liturgical celebrations.

St. Joseph's has produced many memorable and enjoyable public performances and pantomimes over the years including: St Joseph's Got Talent, Cinderella, Snow White and Blood Brothers.





# Enriched Curriculum

At St Joseph's we offer a rich and varied programme to enhance pupil experiences. We are an Extended School with a comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities to suit all abilities and interests.

Clubs and Societies	Sport	Educational Visits/Trips
Public Speaking	Ladies Gaelic Football	Armagh Planetarium
Art Club	Boys Gaelic Football	Art Exhibitions
Music	Camogie	Cookery Demonstrations
Drama	Hurling	Engineering Field Trips
Hot Chocolate	Hand Ball	Gaeltacht
Gardening	Athletics	Geography Field Trips
STEM	Swimming	Navan Centre
	Orienteering	Hill of O'Neill Ranfurly House
	Rugby	Ski Trip
		Seamus Heaney Home Place

Free GCSE tuition classes for the following subjects:

- Art and Design
- Drama
- English
- Hospitality
- ICT
- Maths
- Media Studies
- Motor Vehicle Studies
- PE
- RE
- Technology and Design
- Science
- Business and Communication Systems
- Irish
- Engineering





# Sports at St Joe's

Steeped in Gaelic culture, St Joseph's has built an outstanding reputation for producing some top sports people in the country.

We have enjoyed considerable success over the years in various fields showing true athleticism, skill and determination competing at all levels. Although small in numbers St Joseph's has achieved the height of success at county, provincial, All Ireland and international levels.

Our more recent Under 16 and Under 14 Ulster titles in 2010 and 2019 respectively, shows the continued endeavours of our young men to achieve at the highest levels. With Mr Ronan O'Neill, Tyrone Senior Player, joining the PE Department, no doubt the energy and enthusiasm will continue to grow.

Alongside them, our young ladies achieving their first Ladies Gaelic Ulster title in 2018 proves the strength within our sporting fraternity.

Our camogie teams have been regenerated with the expertise of Miss Megan Kerr, Derry Senior Camogie Player, and it won't be long before a few more titles are achieved.

We are especially proud of our 1992 and 2001 Under 16 Gaelic All Ireland Champions, our Irish International cross country champion Teresa McGrath, super featherweight professional boxer Fearghal McCrory, and Emma-Jane Gervin, All Star and All-Ireland Medal winner with Tyrone in the 2018 Ladies Football Final.

Former pupils have excelled not only on the field but also on the side lines. Former Tyrone Senior Coach, Peter Donnelly, and now Ulster Rugby Coach, has been pioneering the way forward in athletic performance coaching.









