

# Curriculum & Academic Organisation

The school curriculum fosters the ethos of "Fully Alive". Through the planning and implementation of the curriculum, each student is encouraged to reach her potential and nurture her own particular talents and abilities. Teaching is organised through academic areas led by a Head of Department. The school's consistently excellent academic results reflect the high standards of teaching. Schemes of work which comply with current statutory regulations are also designed to ensure a breadth and depth of knowledge, a zest for learning and the development of skills and values necessary for life. There is a culture of self evaluation within all departments which ensures that they remain responsive to changes in education and open to the individual needs

of pupils. The school operates a Quality Assurance Policy which incorporates Pupil Voice. Our new building allows both curricular and extra-curricular learning to take place in a twenty-first century environment in which students benefit from excellent facilities and emerging technologies. The school holds Specialist Status in Music with PE. The core aim of our school is "To develop the whole person through a Christian Education" and as a specialist school we have been able to foster our ethos, maintain our exceptional academic standards and share our excellence all areas.

### Key Stage 3

At this stage, we aim to foster an early interest in a wide range of subjects and begin the process



## AREAS OF LEARNING (AoL)

- **The Arts**  
Art & Design  
Drama Music
- **Language and Literacy**  
English
- **Mathematics and Numeracy**  
Mathematics
- **Modern Languages**  
French  
Irish  
Spanish
- **Environment & Society**  
History  
Geography
- **Science & Technology**  
Technology & Design  
Science
- **Learning for Life & Work**  
Home Economics  
Relationships & Sexuality Education  
Personal Development  
Local & Global Citizenship  
Education for Employability
- **Physical Education**  
Physical Education
- **Religious Education**  
Religious Education
- **Additional Subjects**  
Latin ICT

All Year 8 girls receive chorale singing modules and there is a music theory course available to Year 9 and 10 pupils who receive instrumental lessons. Latin is delivered as part of our KS3 provision.

of preparing the girls for the challenges of a modern world. All pupils are given an introduction to ICT and the school virtual learning environment. The creative and expressive areas of Music, Drama, Art and PE form a significant part of the curriculum.

The pastoral dimension includes Relationships and Sexuality Education, Education for Employability and Local and Global Citizenship.

The cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT are developed across the curriculum. Our curriculum is designed to develop each of our pupils as: individuals; contributors to society; and contributors to the economy and the environment. Each Area of Learning (AoL) will develop the necessary skills and capabilities which allow the 3 main curricular objectives to be met (See Appendix: "School Information".)

#### Key Stage 4

In their final year of Key Stage 3, pupils choose an individual package of subjects which enables them to develop their particular strengths and opens to them a wide range of career options. Assessment at the end of Key Stage 4 is through GCSE examinations. An increasing number of Key Stage 4 students are taking 11 or 12 GCSEs by availing of early morning or after school classes. Music is offered as an early morning GCSE and Statistics as an after school option. We also offer Music GCSE to local post primary schools. All pupils take non-examination courses in Relationships and Sexuality Education, Citizenship, Education for Employability and Physical Education. A GCSE course is also offered in Learning for Life & Work. (See Appendix:



"Curriculum Details" for subjects available.)

#### Sixth Form

Girls enter Sixth Form after successful completion of GCSE. An extensive range of 30 subjects (including both general and applied) is available and pupils choose 3 or 4 of these to AS and A2 level. The Sixth Form curriculum is designed to give students maximum academic opportunities in subject choice and careers options. While there is a strong emphasis on the academic side of the student's life, we also aim to develop the skills and personal competencies necessary for the vocational/ applied dimension. Over and

above these, we look for the emergence of a mature, well balanced and happy individual. Pupils are encouraged to maintain breadth of interests through the curriculum enrichment programme which we offer. This includes a range of courses: Survival Cookery ; First Aid; Beauty Science; Leadership Training (ASPIRE); Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (COPE) and Leisure Activities which include Aerobics, Bowling, Ice Skating, Horse Riding, Swimming and Fitness Training. (See Appendix: "Curriculum Details" for subjects available.).

Pupils are prepared for entry into universities and colleges of further education. Over 90% proceed to higher education. A number of Sixth Form pupils are accepted for Oxbridge Universities. The school has an excellent academic record of pupil success in examinations and in additional competitions. In addition to GCSE and A Levels, pupils are prepared for various other external qualifications such as Associated Board Examinations of the Royal Schools of Music and accredited courses in Personal Effectiveness. A summary of last year's results is appended to this prospectus.

