



ST. LOUIS

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Louis Community School is a student-centered, Catholic post-primary school that extends a warm welcome to all. In our co-educational environment we offer a broad curriculum which seeks to enhance the holistic development of all our students in an equitable manner. The cornerstone of our ethos is formed by working in partnership with the community, fostering innovative teaching, good academic achievement, creating a caring atmosphere and the development of self-worth.



OUR AIMS

To provide students with an education that has a sound academic and practical content.

To foster human and spiritual values which will equip students for a full and mature life.

To develop opportunities for students to realise their individual potential and to develop their sense of personal worth.

To develop the physical, intellectual, moral and emotional well-being of our students.

To develop teaching and learning aimed at good academic achievement.

To make reasonable provision for students with special needs.

To foster a sense of community within the school.

To have an open policy of education for the community and to provide in as far as possible for this.

To provide reasonable opportunities for the personal and professional development of our staff.

FOSTER
**HUMAN AND
SPIRITUAL
VALUES**

Welcome to St. Louis Community School



Dear Student & Parents/Guardians,

We want to extend a warm welcome to St. Louis Community School. Every year we hold an enrolment night for students and their parents/guardians, which is one of the highlights of our school year. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, it looks like we will be unable to hold the event this year. However, we hope that through the pages of this prospectus and our school Facebook page, you get a sense of what life is like as a student in our school.

St. Louis Community School has a proud and distinguished history, and it continues to grow and develop to meet the needs of our school community. Last August, saw the completion of our €3.1million extension which included the Louis Bautain room (a multi-purpose hall), seven new classrooms and additional office and storage space. This extension adds much needed classroom capacity to the school which will cater for our students long into the future.

St. Louis Community School prides itself on being a welcoming and inclusive school which promotes the personal and academic development of each student. We are proud of our dedicated and hardworking staff who go above and beyond what is required to assist students reach their full potential. This has never been more in evidence than this year, as we had to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions. It is a pleasure to work with our students every day, they are a credit to their families and their school. We are blessed to have a cohort of students who look out for each other and work together for the good of all in our school community.

From a teaching and learning perspective, we strive to offer a varied subject choice to our students at both Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert levels. The Junior Certificate Schools Programme, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied and the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme form part of a broad curriculum that caters for the wide-ranging interest and abilities of our students.

Our Pastoral Care programme is one of our key strengths. The Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programme helps first years settle into the culture and life in St. Louis. Our Special Educational Needs (SEN) programmes ensure our students with SEN have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills to be active participants in day-to-day school life. The Chaplaincy Team provides opportunities for prayer and reflection for students and staff in the school, and to facilitate spiritual experiences.

Students in St. Louis actively participate in many extra-curricular activities such as Gaelic football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, athletics, performing arts and music. Many students and teams have had much success nationally, and indeed, internationally.

On behalf of everyone in St. Louis Community School, we wish you well as you begin life in secondary school. It will be our constant aim to ensure a happy, positive and enriching experience for you.

Warm regards,

Ms. Regina Anderson, Principal

Mr. Grahame Cleary, Deputy Principal

Ms. Marie Flanagan, Deputy Principal



PICTURED FROM LEFT : MS. MARIE FLANAGAN, MS. REGINA ANDERSON AND MR. GRAHAME CLEARY

JOIN IN

STUDENT SUPPORTS AND GROUPS TO JOIN

THE CHAPLAIN

The Chaplain provides both a pastoral and spiritual support in our school. She facilitates many of the liturgical moments with prayer services and prayer spaces. Her role is to also journey with members of the school community during challenging times that they may be experiencing. This is done confidentially during one-to-one meetings in the chaplain's office.

CAREER GUIDANCE

St Louis CS provides an extensive Career Guidance service to all students to enable them to make informed subject choices and career decisions. The key areas of delivery are Career Guidance, Educational Guidance and Personal Guidance. Career Guidance supports students in choosing the right career path. Educational Guidance equips students with the key foundations to a successful career path. This involves subject choice, study skills and examination preparation. Our philosophy is to be the best student you can. Personal Guidance enables students to see problems from a different perspective. We are particularly proud of our Ambassador School Status in the Cycle Against Suicide Campaign which promotes positive mental health throughout our school.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Special Education or Special Needs Education in St Louis is the practice of educating students with special needs in a way that addresses their individual differences and needs. Ideally, this process involves the individually planned and systematically monitored arrangement of teaching procedures, adapted equipment and materials, accessible settings. These interventions are designed to help learners with special needs achieve a higher level of personal self-sufficiency and success in school and their community, than may be available if the student were only given access to a typical classroom education. Whereas special education is designed specifically for students with special needs, remedial education can be designed for any students, with or without special needs; the defining trait is simply that they have reached a point of under preparedness, regardless of why.

HOMWORK CLUB

The homework club is an afterschool facility for a limited number of students, to assist them with the completion of their homework. It is supervised by various leaders from within the school. It takes place Monday to Thursday from 4.00 to 5.30pm.

EVENING STUDY

Available for all years, evening study is supervised from 4.15- 6.15 each day and 2-4 on Fridays. We provide a silent, distraction free environment for all who wish to join evening study which is of huge

benefit for those who wish to maximize their cognitive development. Up to 100 students attend study each evening.

BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER

'BBBS' is an internationally recognised youth mentoring programme that forms supportive friendships for young people inspiring them to brighter futures. In St Louis all our 1st years are matched with a 5th year mentor volunteers to improve our young people's wellbeing, their social support and relationships with others. This culminates in a trip at the end for the year for all members of the programme.



FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Since January 2016 we have been delivering a My Friend Youth Program to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and TY students. This program aims to teach our students how to recognise, relate and reflect on their feelings and those of others, raise awareness of anxiety / stress in their lives and share coping strategies while at the same time build their resilience. The wellbeing of each and every student is at the heart of St. Louis and learning these mindful habits in these lessons is one way in which it can be addressed.

OUR PASTORAL CARE TEAM

A Group of teachers meet weekly. Every member of staff in St. Louis is dedicated to providing a safe, productive, and holistic environment for students. The St. Louis staff work together to achieve a positive, active, and student-centered workplace. Each class has a Class Teacher who takes a general interest in the welfare of the students in the class. Each year group has a Year Head who is also responsible for the wellbeing of the students and attends to discipline issues and attendance.



THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM

This is a group of students from 1st to 6th Year and staff who meet weekly. They discuss how they can make a difference in the school community by giving that sense of belonging to everyone. They organise a variety of prayer moments during the year such as the "Sunflower of Souls" and the "Pay It Forward" Le Chéile Day just before the Easter holidays. Their main role is to help to provide opportunities for prayer and reflection for students & staff in the school, to facilitate spiritual experiences. They will help to organise prayer gatherings held by the school such as the First Year prayer service, November Remembrance services, Carol Service, Lenten Reflections, exam prayer services etc. They also help in the upkeep of the school chapel – filling the holy water fonts, providing candles for the candelabra and keeping the place generally tidy.



BREAKFAST CLUB:

Every one of our students can avail of a free breakfast every morning in our school. It is served from 8.20 to 8.55am. It is not the full Irish but it is substantial enough to give our students a nourishing start to their day!

GREEN SCHOOLS:

The students of St Louis CS are currently working on their fifth Green Flag which involves biodiversity and raising awareness among members of their school and local communities. Having successfully achieved the Flags for Litter and Waste management, by reducing, reusing and recycling, Energy Saving, Water and travel, the students have continued their ongoing efforts to ensure they are excellent stewards of the environment.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

GCE serves to heighten awareness and understanding of the interdependent and unequal world in which we live, through various processes such as interactive learning, debate, action and reflection. Many subject areas such as CSPE, SPHE, Geography, Science and Religion already incorporate GCE throughout their varied syllabi but this is only the second year that GCE is part of the official school timetable as a module in transition year. The module addresses various issues at local, national and global level and encourages students to appreciate and value what they have in life through actively discussing and analysing such issues. In addition, the GCE Committee organise various events and campaigns which serve



to increase awareness throughout the wider student body of the various issues outlined in the GCE module. As a school, we are proud to display our Global Silver Passport which we received in 2016 for the work we do in GCE across our curriculum and we are currently striving to attain Gold Passport Level in the coming year.

WELLBEING TEAM

The 'wellbeing team' encourages students to get involve in promoting positive mental health throughout the school through various projects and activities. We have 8 'wellbeing ambassadors' at senior level who lead the team. St Louis CS has received the Amber Flag for positive mental health and is on track to received their 5th Ambassador Award for

the Cycle Against Suicide Campaign-one of 20 schools national wide. We promote the message 'its ok not to feel ok and its absolutely ok to ask for help'.



HEALTHY EATING:

To support healthy living through eating, our Home Economics teacher has set up the "Health Promotion" committee, only the latest part in a long running school campaign surrounding healthy eating, which has included replacing the tuck shop from the canteen with a salad bar, and a selection of fruit available. Also, the

committee have run a competition on the design of "healthy eating" posters along with displaying nutritional information around the school in an accessible way. We were awarded the status of Health Promoting School by the HSE.

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES



METALWORK/ ENGINEERING ROOM IN USE AT ST LOUIS CS

- €3.1 million extension including the Louis Bautain room (a large multi-purpose hall) and seven new classrooms.
- State of the art Sports Hall and Gym.
- Four computer rooms boasting up-to-date software and internet access.
- Wi-Fi throughout the school.
- Fully equipped engineering room.
- State of the art DCG and graphics room.
- Large, fully equipped Home Economics room.
- Computers, data-projectors, and speakers in every classroom.
- Fully equipped Woodwork and Building Construction room with Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines and Computer Aided Design technology.
- Career Counselling Room.
- Fully equipped and modern Science Laboratories.
- Excellently stocked library boasting e-books, a broad range of novels and annuals to suit all tastes and abilities.
- Reasonably priced canteen with a wide range of foods daily.
- Astroturf pitch, basket-ball court, badminton and table-tennis facilities.
- Excellent Special Needs facilities.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

As part of our keen desire to further the holistic development of everyone in our school, St Louis offers a wide range of extracurricular activities for students. These include sports teams like Volleyball, Table Tennis, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Futsal, Basketball and more. These teams have experienced great success, from qualifying for all Irelands in Basketball, Table Tennis and Volleyball, to our male and female Gaelic Football teams winning at county and provincial level. Our soccer teams have also seen success winning at provincial and all Ireland levels, as well as receiving Connaught Telegraph team of the year awards.

The school also offers opportunities including public speaking, Gaisce awards and Pope John Paul II awards. The student council are another

team who are integral to the running of the school. Each class in the school has a representative who students vote in to speak on their behalf. The council act on issues that arise in the school, along with raising awareness for important topics. They also meet with the board of management to discuss student issues.

St Louis students take part in various quizzes and competitions in many subjects. There are also great opportunities to join the school choir, and the traditional music group. These groups take part in school services and masses throughout the year as well as other events. There are a broad range of sports and extra curriculums to suit everyone in the school.



JUNIOR GIRLS ATHLETICS



JUNIOR BOYS BASKETBALL



FIRST YEAR BOYS FUTSAL ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS



GIRLS U-14 GAELIC CONNAUGHT CHAMPIONS



ANY QUESTIONS ?

1ST YEARS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the timetable like?

The school day is from 9-3.50 and we finish at 1.20 on a Friday. All classes are an hour long with a 20 minute break at 11 and a 30 minute lunch at 1.20.

How many are in the school?

Approximately 600 students including Post Leaving Cert courses .

How will I get to know my classmates?

Big Brother Big Sister activities are great, as well as joining the many teams and organisations within the school.

Are there any 1st year trips?

There are trips organised by the teachers for various subjects as well as a Big Brother Big Sister trip at the end of the year.

How will I pick my subjects?

You can consult the school's website or the booklet included in the admissions pack which describes each subject in more detail. Extra information can also be found on www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle.

Who will be in my class?

When you arrive in St Louis you will be assigned a base class group that you will be in for core and compulsory classes. You will also be with various class groups throughout the day depending on what subjects you choose.

Is there somewhere I can eat in St Louis?

You're only allowed off school grounds during lunch if you're in the Senior Cycle. For Junior Cycle, we have a canteen which supplies hot dinners etc. There is a free breakfast for students who arrive in early in the morning. You can also bring your own packed lunch.

Who do I go to if I'm struggling and want advice?

You can go to either Ms Ruane the guidance counsellor, Ms O'Brien the Chaplain, or your year head. You will also have a pastoral care class for an hour a week. You can also speak to your Big Brother or Big Sister as well as any teacher.

Where do I store my books?

There are lockers available in the school so you don't have to carry all your books in your bag.

Are there committees I can join?

Yes. There are many committees you can join, such as Green Schools, the Student Council, Wellbeing team, Development Education Committee, chaplaincy team among others. There are also various teams such as Gaelic, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Table tennis and many more.

When you start a language, are you expected to know any basics?

No. Most other students, will be in the same boat as you, and will have never done this language before.

If you don't enjoy a subject, can you change it?

You can change it within the first 3 months.

Do I need to buy my books?

No. There is a school book rental scheme for 90 euro plus a 30 euro deposit for junior students.

JUNIOR CYCLE

SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

IRISH

MATHS

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

PE

FRENCH

SPANISH

ART (VISUAL ART)

BUSINESS STUDIES

HOME ECONOMICS

WOOD TECHNOLOGY

MUSIC

ENGINEERING

SCIENCE

GRAPHICS

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

CSPE

RELIGION

SPHE

St Louis offers an extensive curriculum which provides students with a range of subjects that meet their needs and builds a solid foundation for subject selection at senior cycle.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

IRISH

MATHS

RELIGION

ACCOUNTING

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

APPLIED MATHS

ART

BIOLOGY

BUSINESS

CHEMISTRY

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

DESIGN /COMM GRAPHICS

ENGINEERING

FRENCH

SPANISH

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

HOME ECONOMICS

LCVP

MUSIC

PHYSICS

COMMUNICATIVE FRENCH/SPANISH

PE

RELIGIOUS ED (NON EXAM)

The school provides a wide range of subjects at all levels which caters for the career progression of students beyond second level.



SUBJECTS

EXPLANATIONS OF PRACTICAL SUBJECTS



TECHNICAL SUBJECTS

All technical subjects are practically based with emphasis placed on basic skills, accuracy, creativity and design. These practical skills are complimented by the theoretical elements of the subjects and technical drawing.

MODULES TAUGHT INCLUDE::

GRAPHICS

(Junior Cert) involves students in the development of a range of skills associated with the management of spatial problems and the graphical communication of spatial ideas and solutions.

WOOD TECHNOLOGY

(Junior Cert) gives students an opportunity to explore their role in making and shaping their environment. Students use practical problem-solving skills and technological knowledge.

ENGINEERING

(Metal) (Junior Cert) Metalwork provides an introduction to materials and process engineering and an insight into associated technology. It is founded in practical activity that seeks to link observation and action with ingenuity and creativity within a problem-solving context.

DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

(Leaving Cert) includes the study of design, freehand drawing, elevation and plans, problem solving, 3D drawing, perspective drawing, computer 3D drawings, Computer Aided Design (CAD), model-making and engineering drawing.

ENGINEERING

(Leaving Cert) Engineering is the study of mechanical engineering for students in the senior cycle of post-primary education. Students develop the skills and initiative in the planning, development and realisation of technological projects in a safe manner.

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

(Leaving Cert) Construction studies provides students with an introduction to the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and processes. Students develop their ability to communicate ideas and information through exploring materials and processes.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

Applied Technology aims to develop the students' curiosity of the technological world while integrating the necessary subject knowledge with the disciplinary skills to investigate and solve real-life problems.

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

Studying science is an excellent way of learning how to appreciate the world around us.

St. Louis Community School boasts three fully equipped science laboratories, each especially suited for the teaching of the four areas of science: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Agricultural Science. These state of the art facilities are fully stocked with all the necessary equipment to encourage students to develop an interest in the various science subjects.

Student participation in practical activities helps foster observation and evaluation skills, as well as the interpretation and understanding of data. This helps students to acquire scientific knowledge while also appreciating the application of science to everyday life.

In year three students choose the level they wish to pursue.

The Science Subjects are an optional choice at both the Junior and Senior levels, and most students choose to study Science for their Junior Cycle. Senior students also have the opportunity to study all four areas of Science to Leaving Certificate Level.



HOME ECONOMICS

Home economics is a valuable addition to our curriculum because it teaches students practical skills for daily living. In the process of transitioning from childhood to adulthood, students need training in practices such as nutrition, financial responsibility, home management and child development so they can lead safe and productive lives. They learn about safety, life skills, nutrition, and the wider community.



ART

St Louis CS boasts a magnificent Art room that used to be part of the original school chapel. Students develop creativity across a broad spectrum of 2D, 3D and craft areas which include drawing, painting, mixed media, graphic design, lino printing, mask making, calligraphy, textiles, clay modeling, cartoons, animation and more. Students also visit art exhibitions /galleries and explore the work of other artists from both a historical and contemporary viewpoint. Art for Junior Cert is 100% practical. Students complete a project in third year and work in second year is also assessed for a Junior Cycle profile of achievement. There is no written exam. For Leaving Cert creativity is further developed across a range of art elements. Students are assessed on their practical components in school time and also have a written art history exam.



MODERN LANGUAGES

St. Louis offers Spanish and French. Transition Year students also get the opportunity to study Chinese Language and culture. Strong evidence shows that time spent on foreign language study strongly reinforces the core subject areas of reading, English language literacy, social studies and mathematics. Foreign language learners consistently outperform control groups in core subject areas on standardized tests, often significantly. Mastering the vocabulary of a modern language enhances student comprehension and abilities in reading, writing, mathematics and other subjects.



IT

Students using one of St. Louis' state of the art computer labs will have the opportunity to achieve computer and internet literacy and be equipped for full participation in the information society before they leave our school. All rooms in the school are networked with broadband access, boast data projectors and classrooms have interactive whiteboards. We have three fully equipped Computer Laboratories and a fully functioning CAD room. ECDL (European Computer Driving License) is available at ordinary and advanced levels and students also have the opportunity to sit Microsoft Office Specialist exams at core and expert levels. We also have a wide range of software to facilitate our students with special needs. The school is equipped with Wi-Fi throughout. Technology has transformed the classroom and changed the way our students learn and our teachers teach!



MUSIC

Learning music helps you make friends, helps build confidence, enhances creativity, develops teamwork abilities, improves cognitive function, relieves stress and is lots of fun!

Learning music is intrinsically motivating, meaningful and a rewarding activity for young people because it is hands-on; fully engaging the students in activities that relate to and have a connection with the world experienced by them outside the classroom. Through movement, sound, symbol and image, engaging with music can transform people's creative ideas into expressive works that communicate feelings, meanings and interpretations to a wider audience.

Throughout both Junior Cycle and Senior cycle student's listening, compositional and practical skills are developed. Both the Junior Cycle exam and Leaving Certificate exam comprise of a practical exam along with a written exam.

Music students in St. Louis are involved in various extra-curricular activities throughout the school year including School Masses, School and Parish Carol Services, Choir, Traditional Irish Group, Graduations, Local Musical events & Musical evenings. There is something for everyone





JCSP | WHAT IS THE JCSP?

The Junior Certificate School Programme is a national programme sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. It originated in the early school leavers' programmes initiated by the Curriculum Development Unit. Currently the programme is operating in 240 schools throughout the country. It is a social inclusion programme that is aimed at students who are identified as being at risk of being socially or academically isolated or at risk of early school leaving before the Junior Certificate has been achieved. The Junior Certificate School Programme aims to provide a curriculum framework that assists schools and teachers in making the Junior Certificate more accessible to those young people who may leave school without formal qualifications. It attempts to help young people experience success and develop a positive self-image by providing a curriculum and assessment framework suitable to their needs. On completion of the programme students receive a profile which is an official record of their achievements from the Department of Education and Skills.

WHAT DO STUDENTS GAIN FROM BEING IN THE PROGRAMME?

Students get an opportunity to become more involved in their own learning, discussing statements and meeting targets. Through engagement with this learning process, students begin to succeed and go on to build on this success. Throughout their time on the Programme the JCSP team seeks out opportunities to reward and praise students and to give them useful feedback on their performance. In addition, the JCSP team tries to make positive contact with the students' families. When the students sit their Junior Certificate exam they also get a certificate from the Department of Education and Science and a profile listing all they have achieved while on the Programme. JCSP teachers have found that involving students in monitoring their own progress gives them an increased sense of control over their own learning and leads to greater motivation in achieving learning targets. Experienced JCSP teachers report that this involvement is an important aspect of the delivery of the Programme. It lets the students know how they are getting on regularly and rewards their success with encouragement and praise.

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year is a one-year optional programme available to take time before moving into 5th year. It is an opportunity to try out a range of subjects before Leaving Certificate as well as a variety of short courses including Speech and Drama and Creative Skills. It is an opportunity for a year away from the pressures of examinations giving time to consider which career path they would like to follow. The Programme encourages critical thinking, independent thought, self-regulated learning, and entrepreneurial skills.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- 3 weeks work experience
- TY tours abroad: previous tours include Paris, Rome, Madrid, Lake Garda, Belgium and other destinations in Europe
- Guest speakers- eg. positive mental health promotion, road safety etc.
- Trips around the country (ploughing championship, Tochair Walk, Galway Christmas Markets, St. Petersburg Adventure Centre, Bord Gais theatre, TY retreat, among others)
- Gaisce, JPPII and Leadership Awards- great advantages to your CV, life skills development
- Wide sample of all the 17 subject modules available in school to help you choose subjects
- Projects and teamwork
- Peer for peer-training in the area of Communication / Friendship Making Moral Decisions / Smoking / Drinking which you will teach to 6th class students in the National Schools. This incorporates many different skills together in a fun and enjoyable environment.
- Voluntary, charity and community work such as the parish calendar (raising funds for various charities)
- Health and road safety courses
- Career guidance and support with decisions regarding subject choice from leaving cert
- IT skills- Moss and using E-portfolios to document work
- Public speaking and debating (soroptimist and concern debates)
- Enterprise and mini company creation- a chance to explore the experience of working in a small business, improves your teamwork skills and even a chance to make some profits!



LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a self-contained two-year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme is offered as an alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate.

It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed.

The Leaving Certificate Applied is intended to meet the needs of those students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes. The programme is ideal for those who would be motivated by continuous assessment, students who want to get work experience to help them with their career choice, someone who wants to develop skills which will help them in their future career and students who prefer more practical courses.

The advantage of Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student. The LCA Programme has a practical basis, with students applying their knowledge, skills and experience to practical tasks at school, in the work place and in the wider community.

With a certificate in the Leaving Certificate Applied students may do a Post Leaving Certificate course and then continue on to IT colleges or third level equivalent. Students can also go on to do apprenticeships and apply to the Public Service, Banks, the Defence forces and An Garda Síochana.

One of the biggest differences between the established Leaving Certificate and the Leaving Certificate Applied is the system of continuous assessment. Students are assessed on project work and tasks completed over the two years and the final examination accounts for approximately one third of the overall marks.

The programme is split into three key parts: projects (which include key assignments and tasks), work experience (eight weeks of work experience over a two-year period) and, finally, the written exams. Students are awarded credits for coursework.

What are credits ?

- Credits are marks that are given to the student after completing a key assignment
- Each subject has Modules (topics)
- Each module without an exam is worth 2 Credits
- To earn these credits you must have 90% attendance and all four key assignments
- There are 200 credits overall in LCA.



A LEAVING CERT APPLIED STUDENT WORKING WITH A BLACKSMITH



ART WORK COMPETED BY STUDENTS



A CHRISTMAS CRIB CREATED BY STUDENTS

LCVP

LCVP is a Senior Cycle Programme of the Department of Education and Skills, designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate. The programme combines the virtues of academic study with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. Link Modules in St Louis teaches the skills and knowledge needed to understand how a business works as well as local enterprise and community development work.

Students taking the Leaving Certificate Examination will follow two Link Modules over the course of the two years in addition to their other subjects.

LINK MODULE I Preparation for the World of Work

Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them. They will then report on aspects of the world of work and examine their career choices against their proven skills.

LINK MODULE II Enterprise Education

Students will be involved in organising visits to local businesses and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills. They may also carry out fundraising for local charities.



CERTIFIED IRISH ANGUS BEEF SCHOOLS COMPETITION WINNERS AT THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



MUSIC STUDENTS AT MIDWEST RADIO



NEW STUDENTS ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



STUDENTS MAKING INK IN HISTORY CLASS

THIRD LEVEL

DIRECTION FOR OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

SUBJECT CHOICE

THIRD LEVEL / CAREER DIRECTION

Languages:

A modern language is essential for entry to most courses in the National University Colleges (UCD, DCU, Trinity, UCC, and Maynooth). A third language is no longer required for entry into Science and Engineering Degrees in NUI Colleges.

Sciences:

Science degrees, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacology, Dentistry, Agricultural Degrees, Nursing, Radiography, Physiotherapy.

**Business and
Accounting:**

Commerce & Finance Degrees, Business Studies, Office Information, Banking, Accountancy.

Technology:

I.T. courses, apprenticeships related to the Leaving Certificate choice.

Home economics:

Teacher of Home Economics, Catering & Tourism Courses, Social Studies Course, Food Technology, Nursing.

**Wood tech/
Construction:**

I.T. courses and other third level courses related to Construction & Wood Technology Apprenticeships.

**Metalwork and
Engineering:**

I.T. and University Engineering courses and apprenticeships related to electronics, metal fabrication, plastics, etc.

Art:

Fine Art, Design (Graphic, Fashion, Interior, Product, Industrial, Web, costume, Stage and Set), Art Teaching, Film making/TV production, Animation, Advertising, special effects, Art Therapy, Media Studies, Photography, Craftsperson, Art conservation, Community Art, Architecture, Book Illustration, Make up artist and many more!

Music:

Teacher of Music, Music Performance, the Music Industry.

**Design communication
Graphics:**

Graphics, Engineering, Architecture



TEACHING & LEARNING IN ST. LOUIS

Teachers in St Louis aim to promote a positive learning environment in their classes. We are practitioners of student centred learning and try to make classes as active as possible. To date, 15 members of staff have engaged in the Instructional Leadership programme run by leading educational expert Dr. Barrie Bennett. We have also had teachers attend workshops with educational consultants Graham Powell and Mike Hughes and we have previously been engaged in an active teaching partnership with Carrick on Shannon Community School. The addition of Wi-Fi throughout the school has added a new dimension to our capabilities, as staff and students embrace technology and improve their digital skill set.



Handwritten mathematical notes and a graph on grid paper. The notes include:

- $x, x \in \mathbb{R}$
- ≤ 64 *Input same as * Normal
- eg 2^{2^x} $(2^x)^2$
- Points: $(4, 1)$ $(16, 2)$ $(32, \frac{3}{2})$ $(64, 3)$
- Graph showing a curve on a coordinate system with x-axis values 4, 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64.
- Graphs of a^x and $\log_a x$ are shown, with a note "NB".

Logs and Indices

Practical Problem

A population of bacteria grows exponentially according to the model $p = 6000e^{0.1t}$ where t is minutes.

- i) size of $p = 6000$?
- ii) size of $p = 10000$?
- iii) $t = 10$ $p = 6000$?

Solution

- i) $p = 6000$ $0.1144(10)$
- $p = 6000e$
- $p = 6000(1) = 6000$
- $p = 6000$ $0.1144(10)$
- ii) $p = 6000$ $0.1144(10)$
- $p \approx 1884$ $0.1144(10)$

Other notes include $n = \log_e$ and $\log_{10} = \log$.

WHAT THE STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY...

HANA UENO, HEAD GIRL, LEAVING CERT

Has it already been six whole years?! The time has absolutely flown; a testament to how amazing the school is to me and to all its students. I feel so lucky to have had such a progressive, enjoyable and unforgettable school experience here in St. Louis. I can vividly remember my first day here. No one from my primary school joined me, but this truly didn't matter. I was happy and eager to make new friends and everyone was so kind and easy to approach. To me, this school feels like another home. Gaining a 'big brother' in First Year and proud to later be a 'big sister' myself, in Fifth Year. There is such an inviting atmosphere that radiates out of the students and staff. We are allowed to flourish in all aspects of life (academically, with sports...), through the efforts and care of the staff, enhanced by the joys/excitements provided by our peers. I can safely say that each day I come into school, I am enthusiastic to learn and see my friends. There is one year that I will forever hold dear to my heart : Transition Year. A year dictated by you. There was no doubt in my mind about doing TY, and it was one of the best years of my life to date. A lovely break from study, to explore my interests and have a blast. Our unbelievable trip to Amsterdam, speeding down the mud slide of Tannagh, the excitement in the dressing room before our play.... there are so many memories that I will cherish! (I even wrote a book all about my TY journey! -I know, crazy right? But that's because I loved it so much). Now begins a new chapter for me, for all of us. Just chip away and enjoy the ride.



HANA

NIAMH MCNICHOLAS, FIRST YEAR

I have to admit I was quite nervous starting St Louis, especially since I went to a small country primary school with no more than 36 pupils in the whole school. I was worried I would get lost or forget some of my books within the first few days. On the first day all the prefects and some of the staff were waiting for us at the gates. They helped everyone get used to life at St Louis. When we met our big brother or sister, they also helped us settle in. One of the many good things about secondary school is the variety of subjects, but if you don't enjoy what you're doing you can swap it. Since becoming a student of St Louis I have joined the Green Schools Committee and the Chaplaincy Team. Due to Covid 19 the sports teams have not started again so I was unable to join them but hope to next year. My class are very funny, and we always have a bit of craic, while always making sure to do our work. I am looking forward to my next 5 years at St Louis CS!



NIAMH

SEAN NILAND, HEAD BOY, LEAVING CERT

To say I have thoroughly enjoyed my six years in St. Louis would be an understatement. Being an anxious twelve year old entering this big school with so many people, you think would be a struggle to adapt, but I found the opposite was true. The brilliant Big Brother Big Sister programme was instrumental in both getting used to secondary school life and making new friends. The highlight year for me was Transition Year. From travelling to Amsterdam to creating a small business and winning Mayo enterprise awards, it really was a tremendous experience. Also, in that year, a group of us TYs helped coach the first year futsal team, who won the All-Ireland after a trip down to Waterford, with the group winning at the Connacht Telegraph young sports star awards following their success. In the same year we won St Louis' first Connacht senior A title ever! This school has provided an endless amount of opportunities for me and has helped guide me on my own pursuit of success. The sense of respect and wellbeing that is present in the school has given me morals I will carry with me for life. I am truly grateful to be given the title of head boy in my final year, and I'll look back on my time in the school with thorough enjoyment.



SEAN



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COMMUNITY, RESPECT, INCLUSION, HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

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