



# St. Ailbe's School



*Rosanna Road, Tipperary Town*





# St. Ailbe's School

## Prospectus

### Message from the Principal



St. Ailbe's School has a long tradition in providing a broad curriculum to both boys and girls. With its own unique spirit and style, St. Ailbe's School is a welcoming educational community that provides each student with opportunities and support to reach their full potential.

St. Ailbe's School is fortunate to have a very professional teaching and auxiliary staff who take great pride in their work to achieve outstanding academic results .

Each year, our students enter the top universities and colleges in Ireland, well prepared for the challenges ahead.

St. Ailbe's School has a very structured pastoral care and discipline policy. This code is followed in a very fair but firm way to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn, grow and develop in a safe and caring environment. The school recognises and encourages the tremendous value of parental involvement in education and operates an open door policy for all parents and guardians.

We in St. Ailbe's School are very proud of the fabulous achievements of our students in extracurricular activities. Participation in sport, music and other cultural activities draws on the many talents that our students possess. This will be very much evident in the large scale musical that our school will hold each year in our new PE hall.

St. Ailbe's School possesses outstanding facilities and I believe, has the personnel and the resources to nurture the development of responsible young adults who will be willing, able and happy to contribute in a variety of ways to the Ireland of the twenty first century.

Peter Creedon

Principal



## History of St. Ailbe's School

St. Ailbe's School is under the auspices of South Tipperary VEC. The original school pre-dated the 1930 Education Act which established Vocational Education.

The school moved to the new building in 1977 where it resides today.

Throughout its development, St. Ailbe's School has been to the forefront in educational advancement. It participated in the pilot programme for Transition Year which is now offered in almost all schools in the country. The school was one of the first in the country to offer Vocational Preparation and Training courses. Senior Certificate was a programme that was also piloted in St. Ailbe's and gained national acceptance and was later replaced by the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. The school was also one of the first to offer the restructured Leaving Cert. now termed the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme also now nationwide.

Several adult courses are also offered in the areas of childcare, office technology and health studies. These courses offer school leavers and mature adults the opportunity to join or re-join the national workforce.

Many new programmes, such as CSPE, were trialed in St. Ailbe's School and have subsequently been introduced nationally. St. Ailbe's School was one of the first to introduce an elected Student Council something that is now required in all schools.

The school was fortunate to have had two long serving and very innovative former principals in Pat Moroney and Paul O'Callaghan. Both served as engines of innovation and leaders for the school and the wider community.

The new principal Peter Creedon has proved to be an able successor and since his appointment has made some changes in curriculum and has brought his passion for sport and music to the school.

## Mission Statement

### Our Mission is to:

- \* Provide **quality education** that **meets the actual needs of young people** in the best **quality learning environment**.
- \* Create an **atmosphere of trust and confidence** between students, parents, community and staff **which enhances self-esteem and self-worth**.
- \* **Help pupils reach their full potential in *all areas of life***, both social and moral, recognising that there is no single standard that applies to all.
- \* Help pupils grow in confidence **with a positive outlook on life and with due consideration for others and their property**.

# Curriculum

The school provides the following programmes of education for its students:



- \* **The Junior Certificate Programme**
- \* The Junior Certificate Schools Programme
- \* The Transition Year Programme
- \* Leaving Certificate Programme
- \* Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- \* Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

## Junior Certificate Programme:

All incoming students will take the following subjects as part of our Junior Certificate Programme.

English, Irish, Maths, French, Geography, Science, CSPE, Religion, SPHE and PE



**First Year Students** study the following subjects as part of a **taster programme** and pick one subject from each block

Art  
Music  
Technical Graphics

Materials Technology Wood (Woodwork)  
Home Economics  
History

Business  
Materials Technology Metal (Metalwork)  
Materials Technology Wood



Junior Certificate

Transition Year

**Transition Year**- There is a strong **academic focus to the programme**, e.g. students take 5 Maths classes per week in preparation for their Leaving Certificate. Other aspects to the programme include: triple PE classes, triple Music, triple Activities

## Highlights of Transition Year



Three day outdoor pursuit trip to Kenmare, trip to Phantom of the Opera, trip to Glenstal Abbey, trip to Limerick Jail, Build a Bank Challenge, UL Nuclear Fusion Lectures, Mental Health Awareness Programme, School Musical, First Aid Courses, GAA Coaching Courses, Rugby Coaching Badges, RSA Car Safety Course.

# Leaving Certificate

## Subject Choices

The following subjects are offered to students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year.

English, Irish, Maths, PE and Religion are core subjects and the following subjects may be offered based on demand:

**French, Art, Music, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Business, Geography, History, Design and Communications Graphics, \*Engineering Technology, Home Economics, Construction Studies, Agricultural Science,**

**\*Engineering Technology**– *St Ailbe's is the only school in Tipperary town offering this subject.*

## Uptake of Subjects at Higher Level:

Our policy in St. Ailbe's School is to challenge all students to take higher level options. National figures for those taking higher level Maths in the Leaving Certificate in 2012 were 22%. In St. Ailbe's 37% of the current intake of Leaving Certificate students are taking higher level Maths.

*In subjects such as Materials Technology Metal, Materials Technology Wood, Home Economics and Art the **percentage of students taking higher level at St. Ailbe's School well exceeds the national average.***

## Continuous Assessment

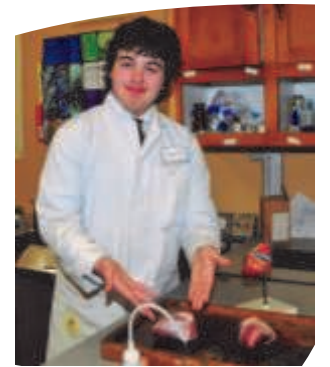
Four sets of formal exams are held each year to ensure that students work consistently throughout the programme. St. Ailbe's School holds two Parent Teacher meetings per year and **regular feedback regarding homework is given via our Student Journal.**

**Small class sizes are an unique feature of 5th and 6th year in St. Ailbe's. Many of the subject options have less than 15 students per class allowing for more effective teaching and learning.**

## Leaving Certificate *Applied Programme (LCAP)*

As part of our tradition for catering for the needs of all our students, we also offer the LCAP for students who wish to follow a **practical programme with a strong vocational emphasis.** It is an innovative approach to the way students learn and the way they are assessed.





Dilseacht don Fhior agus don Dúchas!

# School Life



Board of Management

Parents' Council

Student Council

student

HOME

SCHOOL

teacher



# School Facilities

St. Ailbe's School can proudly state that it's facilities are amongst the best in the country

**Over €1 million has been spent recently to ensure that our students are provided with exemplary infrastructure to support learning.**







WOODWORK ROOM



Home Economics Room



2

CONSTRUCTION ROOMS



STUDY HALL



Reflection Room



3

SCIENCE LABS



\*Canteen

\*Our students can avail of free breakfast each morning and subsidised meals at lunchtime. Tea and scones are also provided free of charge before evening study.

# Academic *Excellence*

St. Ailbe's School has a **long tradition of achieving academic excellence.**

Every year Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students continue to keep up this high standard with their excellent results.

Students from this year's Leaving Certificate class were very pleased with their results and have taken up a diversity of college placements and employment.



**In House Exams**  
All 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year classes sit 4 formal exams each academic Year.  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year students sit formal tests in November and their Pre Exams in February.  
Regular reports will be issued to Parents/Guardians for these exam classes

**Fionuala McGeever** (CEO, South Tipperary VEC) with **Etáin Ryan** '2012 Student of the Year' (Currently studying Engineering in UCC). Etáin was a member of the VEC group that climbed Kilimanjaro in 2011.



**Dean Browne**  
'Cuisle' Poetry Festival Winner, represented Ireland in Vilenica, Slovenia. In 2012  
(Dean is now studying English in UCC )





Students undertake a study skills course to improve their learning

### Scoláireacht

(Irish scholarship to Ring College for 3 weeks for 2 students)

### The John Ryan Scholarship

(3rd level bursary available to Leaving Certificate students)

### Student Achievement

The achievements of students as individuals and as a class group are celebrated in the school. This year our Junior Cert Students celebrated their results on a three day trip to Kenmare

28 students took the Leaving Cert exam in our school in 2012 . Of these, 10 students achieved more than 420 points with 2 students achieving over 500 points!



Students and staff enjoying the scenery in Kenmare

# Sporting *Facilities*

The school is just completing the construction of our new PE Hall.

**This will be fully operational in May 2013 and will add greatly to our existing sports facilities.**

*Famous past pupils: Brian Fox current Tipp Senior footballer, Edel Hanley Ladies Football Allstar 2010, Christopher Higgins Irish International soccer player, Marian Riordan Junior Ireland Golf International*

- \* Indoor basketball courts
- \* Indoor fitness studio
- \* Astro-turf Pitch
- \* 2 outdoor basketball courts
- \* Gaelic Games Pitch and Soccer Pitch
- \* Direct access to 400 metre running track

Boys & girls teams from St. Ailbe's School compete in many interschool competitions. Training takes place during lunch and after school. With our new PE Hall St. Ailbe's School will again be striving to reach All Ireland Basketball finals. St. Ailbe's School values it's links with the GAA and other sporting organisations.

# Sporting activities



A dedicated and motivated team of staff members organise training and competitions for each of the following sports- Gaelic Football, Rugby, Basketball, Athletics, Hurling, Soccer.



## Sporting Engagement

*Sport for All: Students are encouraged to participate in sporting activities. Sport provides an ideal opportunity for social interaction and promotes physical & mental health.*

CSPE Students painting their award winning 'Mind Your Rights' mural

# Art

The decision-making process developed in Art class (which colour?, what material to use etc...) contributes to the development of refined critical thinking skills in students, skills which are key to success post graduation.



Christmas Puppet Show



**Music is part of our school curriculum.** The school choir sing at local Mass and other events. They enter choral competitions. Students are encouraged and prepared to enter national competitions.

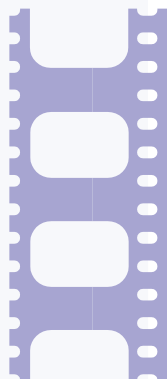
The Music Department produces an annual whole school musical which is a highlight of the school year.

Music lessons are also available during lunchtime & afterschool.



## Cinéma Français

As Part of The Transition Year Programme our students study French Film & Culture



# Culture



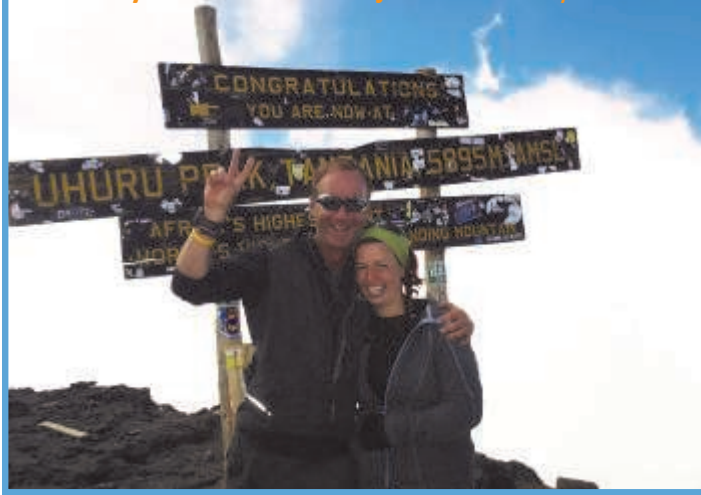
Little Shop of Horrors (2012)



# Tours



Etáin Ryan climbs Kilimanjaro for charity 'Aware'



Transition Year Trip to Rome



Glasgow Rugby Tour



Science Trip To Tipperary Institute



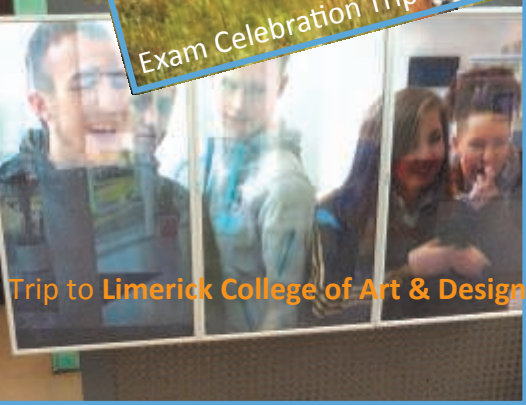
Trip to The Bernabeu, Madrid>>>



Exam Celebration Trip to Kenmare



Trip to Limerick College of Art & Design



Athletics Trip



Music Tour



# Student Support

## Pastoral Care



Mr Creedon

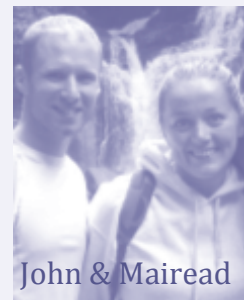
The school Principal leads St. Ailbe's School Pastoral Care Team. This team meets once a week to ensure that student welfare and wellbeing is addressed in an appropriate manner. Each Year group is assigned a Year Head, who meet with the Principal and liaise with all subject teachers. All members of management and staff exercise a caring role towards our students.

## Learning Support

The Learning Support Team work closely with parents/guardians and subject teachers to put the necessary supports in place for students. Our resource teachers provide tuition to individuals and small groups. Our aim is to enable all students to reach their full potential.

## Student Support Team (SST)

Our school support team run homework clubs and after school activities. The SST room is open each day for students to play board games or just drop in and chat. This is an invaluable service for first year students in particular.



John & Mairead

## Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

Our HSCL Coordinator is available to support students and parents with any issues relating to school. Courses such as *an introduction to project maths* are run to assist parents/guardians with their child's learning.



Ms Clifford

## Guidance and Counselling

St. Ailbe's School has a full time guidance counsellor who provides a continuous system of support and counselling to students at all stages of their second level education. The ultimate aim is to guide students in making key decisions in areas such as subject choice, course and career choice. The guidance counselling service is delivered through one-to-one personal interviews and through classroom instruction.

## Canteen Staff and Auxiliary Staff

Our students can avail of free breakfast each morning and subsidised meals at lunchtime. Tea and scones are also provided free of charge before evening study. Our canteen staff and caretaking staff are very friendly and supportive of all our students and are invaluable in maintaining the characteristic spirit of St. Ailbe's School





# Our School Day

- \* Our day is broken into **9 class periods**, 4 before morning break, 2 before lunch and 3 in the afternoon.
- \* **The School Principal & Year Head hold a weekly assembly with Junior Cycle students on Tuesday and Senior Cycle students on Thursday.**
- \* **Sport & music take place during our fifty minute lunch break and also after school.**
- \* **Only 5th and 6th Year students have permission to leave the school premises between 1pm and 1.50pm.**
- \* **Evening study takes place from 4pm to 5.45pm Monday to Thursday.**
- \* **Homework Club takes place from 4pm to 5pm**

## Bus Services:

The regular school bus service is available. This is supplemented by the **Ring-a-link** bus providing a “door-to-door service” from the Annacarty and Cappawhite areas. This leaves the school at 5.30pm each evening, allowing students to attend evening study (Contact School Principal for details).

# What makes St Ailbe's *SPECIAL?*

## Positive Student-Teacher Relationships

Teaching takes place in an atmosphere of trust and confidence between students, parents, community and staff. This enhances self-esteem and self-worth. An appreciation of the Holistic Nature of Education underlies everything we do.

## Our Students Excel both Nationally & Internationally

The unique relationship between our teachers and students produces world beating results in competitions such as **The F1 Schools Challenge** (St. Ailbe's School have been National Finalists for 4 out of the last 5 years & World Finalists for 3 of these).

## An Extensive Range of Subject Choice & Smaller Class Sizes

Small class sizes and wide subject choice allows the opportunity for student & teacher to work together so that each student realises his/her potential.

## Academic Outcomes

Each year our students obtain excellent results in their Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.



# St. Ailbes' School

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