



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE
MACROOM

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

PROSPECTUS

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome you to De La Salle College Macroom. I am proud to introduce our school to you and hope that this prospectus will give you an insight into the special qualities of De La Salle College and the outstanding all-round education we offer.

De La Salle College is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School with an enrolment of over 350 students. Founded by the De La Salle Brothers in 1933, the aim of our school is to assist our pupils in developing their full potential in a Christian environment. We promote the holistic development of each student, focusing on the academic, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual development of each individual.

Through our pastoral system we work to foster a caring, supportive environment, in which each student can feel secure and valued. We aim to help our students develop personal and life skills which are essential as they prepare to take their places in a challenging, modern society.

We place great emphasis on teaching and learning and providing methods of instruction which meet the needs of all our learners. At De La Salle we have a proven record of academic excellence. Our dedicated teachers have a genuine interest in the development, progress and well-being of each student. They work consistently to support each boy in the achievement of his potential.

At De La Salle we value student welfare and strive to provide an enjoyable and personal experience by providing a broad and varied range of opportunities for our students. The school's sports and co-curricular programmes provide an opportunity for all students to participate in events outside the classroom. This helps to create a vibrant spirit of community permeating all school activities. De La Salle is a school community in its truest sense where all individuals can feel comfortable in their environment. I am delighted to welcome you to De La Salle, with a sense of pride in the values we represent, and confidence in the service we provide. We are very proud of our students and their achievements.

John P. Murphy

Principal

“
WE WORK TO
FOSTER A
CARING,
SUPPORTIVE
ENVIRONMENT
IN WHICH EACH
STUDENT CAN
FEEL SECURE
AND VALUED
”

MISSION STATEMENT

'Our community aims to assist our pupils to develop their full potential in a Christian environment. In our school this will be achieved by mutual respect and co-operation amongst all partners in an open, safe and caring environment.'

PASTORAL CARE

In accordance with the Lasallian philosophy of education which seeks to educate the whole person, De La Salle College is noted for its pastoral approach and concern for the welfare of each student in their care. We have a strong support system in place. The school has a pastoral care team that looks after the wellbeing of students and identifies and works with students who may be having difficulties for a variety of reasons. Those with roles involved in pastoral care include: Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellor, SEN coordinator and Class Tutors. The school employs a number of supports to help students settle into life at second level including; Homework Club, Games Club, Peer Mentoring, Paired Literacy Programme and Paired Numeracy Programme.

LEARNING SUPPORT

We are particularly proud of the support given to students with additional educational needs at both ends of the spectrum, to both gifted students and students with learning difficulties. This support operates on a number of levels. Each class teacher takes into account the needs of each individual student and provides differentiated learning opportunities to both challenge and support students. We also have dedicated learning support teachers who provide specialised support to students on a one-to-one or small group basis to help enhance their learning. Learning Support is coordinated by Ms. Kathy Hinchion.

WHY CHOOSE DE LA SALLE COLLEGE?



High expectations of students in all that they do, be it academic, sporting or cultural.



Continuous outstanding success in both Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate results – exceeding the national average every year.



Every student is valued and recognised for their individual contribution in our close-knit community.



An inclusive learning environment where students partake in active learning, collaborating with their peers and also working independently.



A strong sense of community within the school and an excellent pastoral care and support system.



A long-standing tradition and culture of success, achievement and excellence in the academic, sporting and scientific arenas.

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) PROGRAMMES

In addition to our SEN department support, we also offer two specific programmes for students with additional educational requirements.

MODERATE ASD CLASS

We opened our first ASD class in September 2016 to cater for students in the locality with a diagnosis of Autism with a mild to moderate ability. The maximum number of students in this class is six. Students in this class currently follow a Level 1 or 2 programme. The main aims of the programme are to develop key skills around literacy, numeracy, independent living, personal care, access to the community and preparing for work. The programme aims to develop student's full academic potential, while enabling them to live as fully and independently as possible. Each student has a curriculum tailored around their individual ability and needs.

Students in our ASD class engage the level 1 and 2 programmes and some of the highlights include:

- Daily literacy and comprehension
- Social skills and communication programme
- Gym programme
- Swimming
- Music lessons
- Cookery sessions
- Life Science
- Food education
- Daily Functional maths
- Planning events, such as charity bake sales
- Junior cycle short courses, such as caring for animals

SECOND ASD CLASS

In 2019 we opened our second ASD class. This class caters for students with a diagnosis of autism who would benefit from access to both mainstream curriculum as well as an ASD class. The aim of this programme is to offer a support system for our students to thrive academically, socially, and develop their independent life skills. The programme offers each student individualised, in-depth support in areas around functional life skills and social skills while supporting their academic and social participation in school life. Students in this programme benefit in a variety of ways, such as:

- Access to mainstream subjects and classes of choice with SNA support
- Individualised educational programme in their ASD class
- Support with mainstream subjects
- Organisational support
- Safe space
- Tailored social skills programme
- Functional living skills programme
- Access to different educational levels with the opportunity to mix as appropriate

INDUCTION PROGRAMME

A heavy emphasis is placed on De La Salle's Induction Programme, which is designed to help students deal with the sometimes challenging transition between primary and secondary education.

The Induction Programme begins with visits to the local primary schools. Prospective students visit the school on our Open Day. Our Fourth Year 'Buddies' show the enrolled students around the school in a relaxed manner, easing any worries about the new year. An Information night in September provides an opportunity for parents of new students to meet with the Principal and Guidance Counsellor, ask questions, learn more about subject choice and the support available in the school.

The 'buddies' continue to provide support to their students throughout the first year, including a bonding day trip together away from school.

TRANSITION YEAR

The Transition Year (TY) programme provides students with the opportunity to discover their own talents and abilities whilst developing skills and competencies within a well-defined academic structure. It will challenge students to accept responsibility for their own learning, to improve their performance in core areas, develop their own interests, and to evaluate their progress. It will also introduce students to the world of adult work. Transition Year coordinator is Mr John Ryan. This compulsory year allows students to:

- Gain two/three weeks of work experience in a field of their choice.
- Participate in the president's award; Gaisce.
- Participate in short courses including: Professional GAA Coaching, Certified First-aider, Driver Theory, Media Studies, Cooking, Yoga, Self Defence.
- Activity trips – The students partake in a number of trips over the year such as: Carrauntoohil Climb, Gougane Barra Hike, Overnight in Outdoor Adventure Centre and Paintballing.
- Becoming competent in ICT in particular in ECDL and web-design.
- Participate in a two-week exchange programme to Bordeaux in France.
- Attend speakers and courses throughout the year specially selected with the students' personal, social and vocational development in mind.

Students wishing to enrol in either of our ASD classes must have a psychological report recommending access to the class. Full details of the programmes are available from the programme coordinator Ms. Siobhan Angland





SPORT

De La Salle College has a proud tradition of excellence on the playing field and has long been associated with producing some of Cork's finest footballers throughout the years. Both our hurling and football successes have been a source of immense pride for the school community throughout the years. Some of our achievements in recent years:

- Five time finalists of the Senior A Football Munster final, Corn Uí Mhuirí, proudly winning in 2006.
- Winners of Senior A Cork Championship in 2006, 2010, 2012 & 2013.
- Cork Colleges Under 16 B Football Champions 2019
- Cork Colleges Under 16 C Hurling Runners up 2019
- Cork Colleges under 16 C Hurling Champions 2017
- Under-14 Football County Champions 2014 and 2015.
- Under-15 Munster Football Champions 2015.
- Winners of West Cork School's Golf Competition on numerous occasions.
- Many years of success in Athletics Competition.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Opportunities are provided for all students both within the school community and in co-operation with wider organisations to take part in public speaking and debating.

De La Salle College also has a proud tradition in drama and has won the Cork Schools' Shakespearean Drama three times in recent years with their modern versions of Macbeth and Othello. In 2017 the school won the All-Ireland comedy drama award in Tullamore.

The school has also had huge success in quizzes over the years. This has been an opportunity for the school to showcase it's tradition of academic excellence in a variety of subjects. Students have won:

- Pfizer Leaving Cert Chemistry Quiz
- Irish Examiner General Knowledge Quiz
- Munster Colleges Senior Science Quiz
- Cork Schools' Business Quiz
- Cork Schools' Junior Cert Science Quiz
- West Cork Schools' Maths Quiz
- Cork Schools' Junior Cert History Quiz

EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

For the past 25 years De La Salle College has had an annual exchange programme with a sister De La Salle College in Bordeaux, France.

The fourth and second year students spend up to two weeks in Bordeaux with a host family where they have an opportunity to improve their French and also learn about the French way of life.

The school is very proud of this long running exchange programme which is the longest school exchange programme in Ireland. The return of the French students to the Irish host families is always greatly looked forward to by the school and the wider community of Macroom.

For the past 12 years De La Salle College has also run an exchange programme with the Italian town of Marcallo Con Cassone which is in Northern Italy, close to Milan. The first year students are usually accommodated in houses in pairs which helps with the settling in process while a trip to the amusement park Gardaland and the San Siro Stadium in Milan are well noted as some of the highlights of the trip.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

The fully-rounded nature of the educational experience at De La Salle College is what sets our school apart. The meticulous, student-centred nature of our academic approach was highly commended in the recent Department of Education 'Whole School Evaluation' inspection in 2016 and Subject Inspection in 2018. These reports can be found on the Department website, the key findings emphasised:

"A positive atmosphere underpinned by respectful interactions was observed in all lessons".

"The quality of school leadership is very good, is inclusive and forward looking".

"The guiding philosophy of this school is inclusion and meeting the diverse needs of students".

"A whole-school approach to student support is evident and a well-organised and effective student support and care structure is in place".

The *"quality of teaching and learning is very good"* and *"of a very high standard"*.

"In all lessons, teachers were acutely aware of students' individual needs".

"Teachers, through the provision of challenging but achievable tasks, positive, supportive language and communication of high expectations, created a very positive learning environment for all involved. These approaches, enhanced by teachers' evident enthusiasm and interest in the subject, facilitated high levels of student engagement".

There was a *"very high quality learning experience for students"*.

“
VERY HIGH
QUALITY
LEARNING
EXPERIENCE FOR
STUDENTS ”



“
THE GUIDING
PHILOSOPHY OF
THIS SCHOOL IS
INCLUSION
AND MEETING
THE DIVERSE
NEEDS OF
STUDENTS ”



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE MACROOM

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

W: www.dlsmacroom.ie | E: office@dlsmacroom.ie | T: 026 418 32

