



ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE



PROSPECTUS

Achieving excellence in a caring environment.



By your deeds shall you be known.



You can find our College on a spacious campus beside St Anne's Park in Raheny, Dublin 5, where we host a student population of approximately six hundred boys aged between 12 and 18.

During that six-year cycle, our community – the staff, Board of Management and parents – accompanies our students on their important journey of development and maturity from young boys to young men.





Our ethos.



St Paul's College was founded in 1950 by the Vincentian Fathers. They are part of the worldwide Vincentian Family which holds St Vincent de Paul as founder and patron and which also includes the St Vincent De Paul Society, the Daughters of Charity and the "Vincent's" shops.

The Vincentians purchased the property on which the College sits from the Plunkett family following a request from the Archbishop of Dublin to establish a Catholic school for boys of the area. Classes were held in the adjoining Provincial House for two years during the building and completion of the new school and its facilities.

Today the College is run under the trusteeship of the Vincentians and is directed by a Board of Management. It continues to be informed by the Vincentian ethos, one which recognises and respects the dignity of each individual and where every pupil is encouraged to reach his own full potential.

Our educational mission

St Paul's College is a Catholic school and our educational focus is underpinned by the Vincentian core values of justice, service and leadership. The choices and decisions any boy and young man makes can greatly influence the type of adult he grows into. So our College not only fosters academic achievement but also promotes participation in sporting, artistic, social and other activities. This varied combination will help him to acquire the fully-rounded experience and self-confidence he needs to succeed in life.



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Welcome

A warm welcome from Seán Moran, our Principal.

Welcome to our prospectus.

We hope you will get a sense about how St Paul's, a Vincentian college will support your son to grow and reach his full potential. As a Christian school in the Catholic tradition, we place Faith, respect for fellow students and for teachers, care for the poor and vulnerable, and growth of self-worth through active participation, as central to the school's spirit and Vincentian ethos.

Opened in 1950, the college takes pride in excellent academic results achieved by our hard-working students, taught by dedicated teachers and encouraged by supportive parents. The College mission is to educate the whole person and so, after academic results, we place sport in a central position, alongside music and the dramatic arts.

In recent years we have seen a major refurbishment of College facilities. This programme has been co-funded through the Vincentian Trustees, the College's Board of Management, the Parents' Association and the Department of Education. The Trustees and the Board of Management are to be commended for seeking to provide the best possible facilities for our students.

Redevelopment of our facilities over recent years allows the college to provide the best possible environment for learning. Classrooms are modern and well-equipped. Modern IT facilities and science laboratories complement our upgraded building where we have recently installed new windows and doors as well as a modern heating system. Presently we are designing both our new practical block and gym which will further enhance the educational facilities in the school.



Opportunities to get involved in sports and extracurricular activities exist through all six years at school. School tours and trips offer extra ways to strengthen friendships and expand horizons. We have a strong link with the Vincentian school in Ambo, Ethiopia, fund-raising for their pupils and sending students to help with their development projects. Our student's also assist in the annual Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Student voice and leadership opportunities are key features of the journey through school. These are always under review, responding to changing needs. A student council system involves all students; mentoring programmes for junior students by older seniors help build a strong sense of community. SVP groups, an Ember Team in 5th year and Prefects in 6th year give voice to the call to serve the school community. It is by such opportunities under the guidance of dedicated staff that our mission to live up to the virtues of St Vincent de Paul is brought to life.

We want our students to become independent young men who actively participate in the development of their communities remaining loyal to the Vincentian value of service and who live out the school motto 'By your deeds you shall be known' Thus representing the continuation of the proud seventy-five year tradition of St Paul's College. The more our pupils engage during their own time in St Paul's, the more a sense of service emerges as they leave to join the generations of past pupils who can proudly say they went to a Vincentian school.

Best wishes,
Seán Moran,
Principal.



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Our academic programme.

St Paul's College encourages each student to work hard to achieve his own best potential. At each stage of the academic programme they are monitored for participation and performance, and regular examination reports are issued to parents. A qualified learning support team provides support for pupils who may have learning difficulties, especially first year pupils. After-school study is provided for exam years. All students are prepared for the Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations in a wide range of subjects, and the six-year cycle includes a compulsory Transition Year Programme.

Junior Cycle

The new Junior Cycle features newly developed subjects and short courses. St. Paul's College has introduced a model of nine subjects and two short courses, Physical Education and Digital Media Literacy.

Wellbeing which will form the basis of the Junior Cycle programme is recognised throughout all subject areas and more specifically in Social Personal Health Education (SPHE), Guidance, Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) and Religious Education.

There is a focus on eight key skills and 24 statements of learning. A strong emphasis is placed on new approaches to assessment and reporting.

Transition Year

The Transition Year Programme is a compulsory, one-year programme in 4th Year. It provides a bridge for pupils to transition from Junior Cycle to the more independent learning environment of the Senior Cycle. It encourages personal and social development and seeks to promote maturity. Core subjects are continued throughout the year and a wide range of modules allow the students to explore new areas of interest.

Leaving Certificate

This is a two-year programme, running throughout 5th and 6th years, which prepares students for the Leaving Certificate State examination. Students undertake the core subjects of English, Irish, Maths, PE and RE, along with four other subjects chosen from a selection offered: Accounting, Agricultural Science, Applied Mathematics, Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design and Communication Graphics, Economics, French, Geography, German, History, Music, Physics and Spanish.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The LCVP combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate with a dynamic focus on self-directed learning, innovation and enterprise. This two-year programme, which commences in 5th Year, aims to prepare young men for adult life by ensuring that they are educated in the broadest sense and can thrive in an environment of rapid change. Students are encouraged to develop skills and qualities equally relevant to those preparing for further education, seeking employment or starting their own business.



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The team spirit.

St Paul's College has always valued the role sport plays in all-round education. It offers students an opportunity to learn new skills as well as to develop teamwork, mutual respect, self-confidence and integrity. And it also forms a basis for making lifelong friendships and creating a loyalty to those friends. Physical Education is one of the core subjects taken by every student throughout his school life, and we also offer a range of sports, among them rugby, GAA, soccer, athletics and basketball. Our new five-year rugby programme is receiving great support from very active parents' and rugby past-pupils' committees.

There's more to education than academia

In addition to acquiring a strong academic foundation, young men need involvement in a range of other activities to enjoy a healthy and balanced life. With this aim in mind, co-curricular activities play an important role in the life of our College, helping students to develop self-esteem and self-confidence. So we stage a major musical production each year in conjunction



Above: Transition Year students and some of the food hampers they assembled for local families.

with neighbouring girls' schools. Recent productions include *Footloose*, *ABBA - The Musical*, *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Les Miserables*. Other co-curricular activities include: drama, a choir, debating, a pupils' art exhibition, a summer music recital, charity work and fundraising, music, Gaisce (The President's Award), Student Council and our Summer Mission project in Ambo in Ethiopia. We also organise a trip to Lourdes, a mental wellbeing week, a 2nd year tour of Lake Garda and a 4th year ski trip to Andorra.

Pastoral care

At St Paul's, we recognise the importance of care of the individual and self-esteem in the development of young teenagers. Our Chaplain augments the work being done in the pastoral area of student care and promotes a sense of welcome and belonging to the school

community. New class representatives are being appointed in each class to give leadership opportunities to students and to promote care and responsibility for all of our students at all levels.



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Not just a college, a community.

In our introduction, we referred to the “school community”. Quality education is a collaborative effort and all elements of the College work together to create a well-rounded experience for students with the aim of achieving academic excellence in a caring environment.

Our Board of Management

St Paul's College is run under the trusteeship of the Vincentian Fathers and governed by a Board of Management. The Board comprises the chair, secretary (principal) and representatives of the trustees, parents and staff.

Our staff

The members of the teaching staff of St Paul's College are deeply committed to their chosen profession. They set high standards for themselves and their pupils and give generously of their time and skills for co-curricular activities.

Our Parents' Association

We are very fortunate to have an active, dynamic and committed Parents' Association, and it plays a vital role in fostering a strong relationship between parents and the College. The association is particularly active in fundraising, information provision and discussions in relation to educational, pastoral and developmental needs of the students.

Our Student Council

The Student Council represents the voice of the student body in College life. College prefects are appointed from sixth year students and have a prominent role in the school. The Council meets regularly to discuss matters of interest, relevance or concern for the students.

Supervised study

Supervised evening study is available to Junior and Leaving Certificate students every day for two hours after school.

Career guidance and counselling

A comprehensive career guidance and counselling service is available to all students at St Paul's College. The Guidance Department offers students a one-to-one counselling and careers advice service to assist students making choices about their personal, educational and career options. This programme aims to foster a sense of responsibility, focuses on the individual's strengths and potential in order to generate discussion about career options and encourages students to define expectations and evaluate options realistically.

Parents can meet with the guidance counsellor at information evenings, parent-teacher meetings and through individual appointments upon request. A qualified learning support team provides support for pupils who may have learning difficulties, especially first year pupils.

The parents' role

At St Paul's College, we welcome parents and guardians to work closely with the College and regular contact can be maintained with your son's Year Head. Parents also have an opportunity to meet individual subject teachers at parent-teacher meetings organised for each year group. All parents are encouraged to be involved in and support the work of the Parents' Association.

College Yearbook

Every year since the foundation of St Paul's, the College has produced a yearbook - *The Record* - documenting the events and achievements of the academic year. This is a collaborative project, edited by our staff with contributions from students in design, layout and articles. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many activities of the school year and gives a fascinating insight into the development of St Paul's as an inclusive and caring academic institution.



Facilities development.



Computer-generated image of proposed sports hall.

Planning for our Future

The College is currently planning a major new sports development - subject to obtaining the necessary planning permissions - which will include the construction of a new multi-purpose sports hall and the renewal of the existing astro pitches. This multi-million euro project will provide the college

with unrivalled sports facilities for the benefit of our students and the wider community.

The funding for this development is being generously provided by the Vincentian community. As well as funding the construction of these new sports facilities, the Vincentians have also established a substantial trust fund which will be available to

the College for future capital projects.

The College has recently received funding to build a practical block encompassing two art rooms, two music rooms, a woodwork room and a home economics room which will enhance the students educational experience in these subjects.