

Presentation Secondary School

Meánscoil Na Toirbhirte

Prospectus 2023/24



**"The school has a
strong and
unequivocal mission
statement which is
committed to
cherishing, nurturing
and caring for all
students equally."**

(Whole School Evaluation)

(Whole School Evaluation)

Principal's Welcome Note



Shane Hallahan, Principal



Sandra Campion, Deputy Principal



Anthony Reynolds, Deputy Principal

To Parents / Guardians,

“Ní neart go cur le chéile’ ár manna timpeall na scoile anseo i méanscoil na Toirbhirte, Cill Chainnigh. Ón gcéad lá anseo, cuirtear béim ar fhorbairt an duine iomláin. Spreagann ár múinteoirí ár ndaltaí chun a lán éirime a bhaint amach i gcomhthéacs a chothaíonn féinmhuinín agus chomh-mheas. Forbairt an duine óig trí oideachas leathan a chuireann le misneach, muinín agus dul chun cinn an dalta go pearsanta, go morálta agus go spioradálta.

Choosing the correct second level school for your daughter takes time, reflection and care, especially if you believe, as we do in Presentation, that a holistic education is essential for all aspects of your daughter’s development.

By promoting a positive and progressive ethos, we endeavour to cater for the needs of our students and to develop their talents. We are committed to providing a caring and authentic Catholic ethos in which understanding and mutual respect are fostered. Our teachers are renowned for their commitment to working with students. They achieve the highest standards of success with students of every ability range. We develop students’ confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline by having the highest expectations for themselves and their peers. We are a modern, innovative educational community where we challenge all our girls to achieve their maximum potential.

The vital role of parents/guardians in education is recognised and acknowledged in our school. We encourage and welcome the active participation of parents and guardians in the education of their daughters. We look forward to sharing and supporting you in this next important start in your daughter’s life.

Le meas,

Shane Hallahan (Principal)

We are inspired by our
Vision...

“I have come so that they
may have life and have it
to the full” (Jn. 10.10)



Mission Statement & School Ethos

The Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny is an all-girls Catholic Voluntary School. It is a community of staff, parents, and students who share a Christian vision of life.

Our school seeks to ensure that the students are enabled to reach their full potential - academic, spiritual, physical, social, cultural and creative - encouraging them to face life with optimism, self-confidence and an appreciation of excellence at all levels. Inspired by the vision of Nano Nagle, this school shows special concern for the disadvantaged and is committed to promoting a just society.

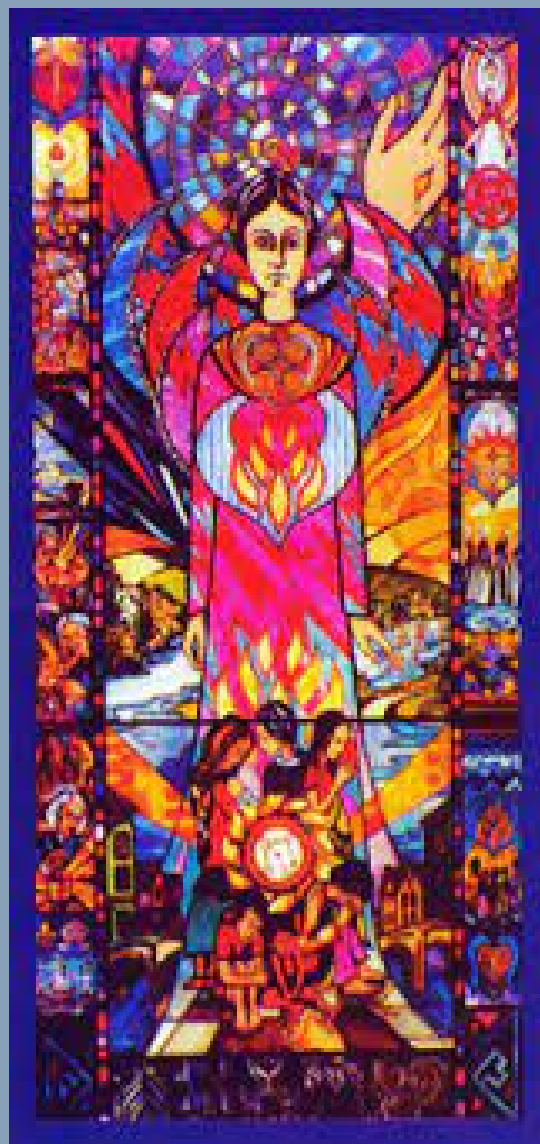
Recognising the uniqueness of each individual, we strive to develop an awareness of personal dignity, to foster mutual respect, and to develop further sensitivity to the environment.

In keeping with the evolving nature of society, our response must be creative and relevant to the needs of our time. We acknowledge that this vision can only become a reality through the positive co-operation of all partners in the school and wider community.

Nano Nagle opened her first school in Cork in 1754. In setting up schools she challenged the institutional injustice that perpetuated marginalisation and poverty. In keeping with that ideal, Presentation schools promote a faith community inspired by Gospel values and a holistic response to the spiritual, moral, social, intellectual and physical needs of each student.

CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools Trust), our governing body aims to maintain this ethos by providing a new moral and legal trustee framework to enable their schools to continue to offer post-primary Catholic education into the future as a viable option and as an integral part of the Irish school system.

Is gaire cabhair Dé ná an doras.



"The living out of the mission statement in practice exemplifies the range and scope of co-curricular and extra curricular activities. Students are afforded every opportunity and encouragement to become involved in different aspects of school life"

(Whole School Evaluation)

Curriculum

At present, Presentation Secondary School offers 4 programmes:

Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and the Transition Year Programme.

As a progressive school we are continually auditing our curriculum and developing the programmes we offer to meet the ever changing needs of our students and to develop the skills required to navigate the world they will be part of.



Junior Cycle

The Department of Education introduced a new framework for the junior cycle on a phased basis in September 2015. The core aim of the new Junior Cycle is to enable learners to achieve their full potential and contribute to Ireland’s economic, social and cultural development.

Core	Optional	Mandatory Short Courses:
English	French	P.E
Maths	Spanish	CSPE
Gaeilge	Music	SPHE
History	Science	
Religion	Business Studies	
	Graphics	
	Home Economics	
	Geography	
	Visual Art	
		Wellbeing Modules:
		Digital Literacy
		Friends for Life
		Guidance
		Choir

Junior Cycle Key Skills



"Students have a wide choice of optional subjects provided in a broad curriculum."

(Whole School Evaluation)





Transition Year

Transition Year allows students to grow, explore and build resilience. it is based on active and experiential learning, allowing students to learn beyond the school environs. Students engage in a full academic programme along with work experience and community care placements. Our dynamic programme also includes a wide variety of modules thus further expanding the learning experiences of the girls.

Media Studies

Public Access to Law

Mini Company

Coding

Gaisce

Debating

Drivers School

French DELF Exam

Junk Kouture

Journalism

BT Young Scientist

Artistic Performance

First Aid

Horticulture

Digital Media

IACT Programme

GAA Future Leaders

LIFT Leadership Programme

Personal Development/Careers

GAA Future Leaders & Coaching

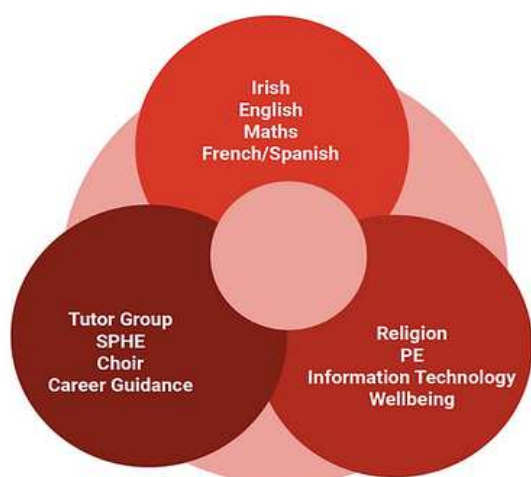
Volleyball Coaching Programme

Volunteering in the Community

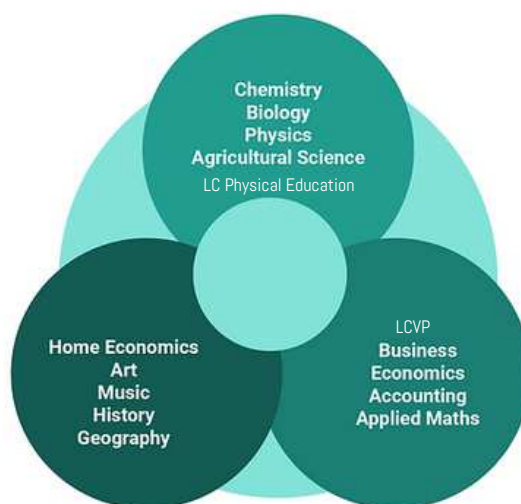
Online ePortfolio

Transition Year is also seen as a year for students to sample the wide range of Senior Cycle subjects on offer at Presentation such as:

Core Subjects



Leaving Certificate Sample Subjects





School Musical

Each year, the Transition Year Students take part in a school musical in conjunction with St. Kieran's College. Creating and producing a musical allows our students to develop key life skills while also allowing them to develop their personal skills.

Taking part in the musical "All Shook Up" was definitely the highlight of Transition year for me and many others. It helped me to step out of my comfort zone and gave me confidence as I expressed my talents on the Watergate Stage. I am so grateful for this wonderful experience. I had such a great time, I know that the memories and friendships will last forever.

Iris Kavanagh - Transition Year student 2023



Being a part of "All Shook Up" was a fantastic experience for me. I really enjoyed seeing the whole show come together. At the start we were nervous, and it was hard to really commit to the acting. But we were putting in the work, learning the lines and the songs. Once we all got into it, everyone put in 100% effort and it was great to see how it all came together at the end. We had great support from our teachers and parents as well, especially on show night when they finally got to see the musical. The music department put in a lot of work as well, Ms. Minchin lost a lot of sleep teaching us the pieces. Looking back I wouldn't change a thing, I had a fantastic time and I'll cherish the memories for a long time. It was the highlight of my year and I would encourage everyone to try for a part in the musical, it has definitely ignited a passion for theater in me and I think the experience and the friendships we all made were fantastic.

Mara Crianga - Transition Year student 2023



TY at a Glance



"One's mind stretched by a new idea can never go back to its original dimensions"

-De Chardin

Leaving Certificate

We provide a wide variety of subjects for the Leaving Certificate.

Core Subjects:

English

Maths

Gaeilge

Religion

Career Guidance

PE

Modern Foreign Language:
French/Spanish

Option Subjects:

Art, Craft & Design

Music

Home Economics

Biology

Physics

Chemistry

Agricultural Science

LC Physical Education

Computer Science

Applied Maths

Business

Economics

Accounting

Leaving Certificate Vocational
Programme

Design & Communication Graphics

Each year, we offer study skill workshops along with after-school study facilities. We are passionate about helping students become better learners so that they achieve their academic potential.



From my very first day to my final goodbye and the many days in between, I treasure every moment I spent as a Pres girl.

The friendly faces and warm smiles on the corridors quickly welcomed me to Pres and always made me feel as though I belonged. I felt so supported by my teachers, classmates and the whole school community. The comradery felt in Pres is something really special and I will forever cherish being part of such a special group of people.

Pres has allowed me to reach my full potential, both inside and outside the classroom. With teachers who were always so willing to answer questions and offer guidance, I was always encouraged to try my best.

Similarly, my wellbeing and personal development were supported and fostered outside of the classroom. Extra-curriculars gave me the opportunity to learn different skills and make new friends, many of whom will undoubtedly be friends for life!

I am so grateful for my time in Pres and for the great teachers, staff and fellow students who have made the last six years of my life so enjoyable.

*Katelyn O'Brien, Leaving
Certificate Class of 2023*

Leaving Certificate Applied

The LCA is a distinct, self-contained, two-year Leaving Certificate Programme aimed at preparing learners for adult and working life. It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past and offers specific opportunities to students to prepare for and progress on to further education at third level and the working world.





**“The best way to
predict your future is
to create it.”**

—Abraham Lincoln



There is a highly effective student support structure in the school with clear internal referral pathways, referral forms, collaboration with year heads, senior management team, and beneficial links to external agencies.

(Whole School Evaluation)



Incoming 1st Year Student Supports

Each First Year class is assigned a Class Tutor. The assigned teacher will take on a pastoral role-keeping in close contact with the class to ensure that the students are settling in to their new environment and that the class works well together. There is also a Year Head who looks after the whole year group and makes contact with parents when required. The Year Head works closely with the Class Tutor to make each students' experience of life at Presentation Kilkenny a productive and fulfilling one. In addition we also operate a First Year Muintearas Programme to help aid the students' transition into second-level education.

Features of our 1st Year Muintearas Programme:

- Open-Night for prospective parent & students to visit our school and meet our teachers & students
- Parent information talks pre and post entry
- Dedicated induction days at the start of the year
- Le Chéile- 6th Year students who act as mentors for 1st Year students and meet them every Monday to offer support and guidance
- Meitheal- An after school Learning Together Club
- Team-building activities
- Academic assessments to identify students who require additional support



Student Support and Pastoral Care

Additional Educational Needs Support

The school uses the resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills to make provision for students with additional educational needs. The AEN Team in Presentation Kilkenny is committed to providing a comprehensive and effective learning support service for students to enable them to achieve their full potential. In some instances, 'Team Teaching' helps students in the classroom while some students are withdrawn for additional support. Special Needs Assistants offer supports to individual students and are an important part of the Learning Support Team. A key cornerstone of the success of our AEN department is the trusting relationships built up with all the stakeholders, students, parents, teachers and the AEN team. All of our work in the AEN department is done in consultation with parents and student to achieve the best outcomes for the learner.

Mental Health

Mental health, self-esteem, positivity and encouragement underpin all aspects of school life.

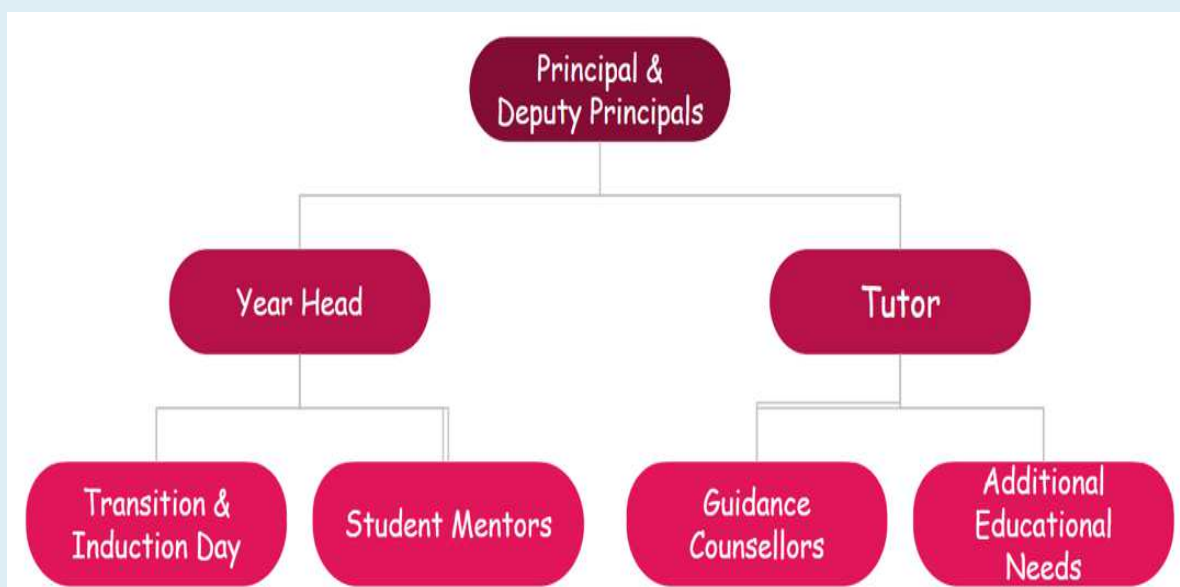
- Classroom programmes
- Counselling
- In-school support structures
- Expert visits, presentations, workshops & talks
- Initiatives such as: 'Headstrong Committee', 'No Homework Days', 'Cycle Against Suicide'.

Emotional & Spiritual Wellbeing

Our Presentation School Ethos is firmly rooted in compassion, empathy and kindness. We offer our students various different ways to develop their emotional and spiritual skills such as:

- Prayer/ meditation room
- Weekly assemblies
- School services and liturgies
- Fundraising for local and national charities

Structures for Support

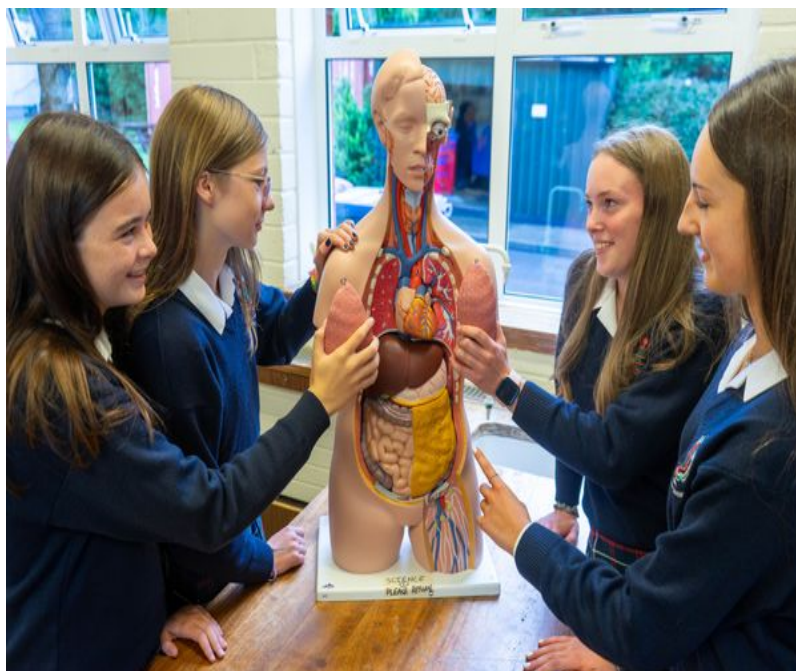




School Facilities

- Grass and synthetic sports pitches
- Access to a 25m swimming pool
- Running track
- AEN Room
- 2 ICT Rooms
- 3 Science Labs
- 2 Art Rooms
- 3 Home Economics Kitchens
- Music Room
- Demonstration Room
- Wireless data projectors
- Games Room
- P.E. Hall
- 5 mobile trollies containing 30 Chromebooks

In partnership with The Watershed Leisure facility in Kilkenny we provide world class sport facilities for our students.





Extra-Curricular Activities

At Presentation Kilkenny we pride ourselves in the wide variety of extracurricular activities we offer to our students. We try to cater for all our students and each year we respond to their needs and ambitions in numerous fields of endeavour. We have a long and distinguished record in sport and extra-curricular activities. Activities include:

Camogie	Coding & Robotics	Irish Traditional Music Club
Gaelic Football	Anime Club	Music Ensemble
Athletics	Book Club	Choir
Soccer	Debating	Dance
Gymnastics	Green Schools	Craft Club
Basketball	Photography Club	Multicultural Club
Badminton	French Debating	
Orienteering	Podcast Club	
Equestrian	Baking Club	
Spikeball	Gaisce	
Tennis	Comháirle na Nóg	
Swimming	St Vincent de Paul	
Hockey	Lourdes Volunteers	

“There is excellent provision in the school for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The school choir have been very successful in recent years and almost three hundred students are involved. It was reported that this has created a great sense of pride among the school community and this was very evident during the evaluation.”

(Whole School Evaluation)





Music Generation

Music Generation is Ireland's national music education programme, co-funded by U2 and the Department of Education and Skills. Its mission is to create inspiring experiences for children and young people through music. We are delighted as a school to be part of Music Generation Kilkenny which enables us to offer small group music tuition to students at a reduced cost during their weekly school timetable.

Currently we offer music lessons in the following instruments:

- Acoustic guitar
- Electric guitar
- Bass guitar
- Banjo
- Mandolin
- Piano
- Drums



Singing Tuition

We offer one to one singing lessons in our school. Our esteemed vocal coach, with exceptional expertise and experience can prepare students for music practical exams, the Royal Irish Academy Classical Vocal exams and the Royal Irish Academy Musical Theatre exams. Tuition focuses on vocal technique, developing repertoire, building confidence and performance skill. Lessons take place on a rotational basis throughout the school timetabled classes.



Choirs

Every student in Presentation, Kilkenny will get the opportunity to gain confidence through artistic performance in Junior Cycle. In addition, the school has both a junior and senior choirs who enter into many national choral competitions. We have enjoyed successes in many events including the Sligo Choral Festival, the Wesley Inter Schools Music Festival, the Feis Ceoil and more locally the Kilkenny Choral Festival. Our school even had the opportunity to perform in the past in Britain's Got Talent competition.



Awards for Excellence

At the end of every academic year, we come together as a school to recognise and celebrate the individual, and collective group achievements.

- Student Leadership
- Class Academic Awards
- Sporting accomplishments
- Extra-curricular success
- Head Student Awards
- Attendance
- Spirit of Nano Nagel Award

'Head Student' and 'Deputy Head Student' are annual awards given to two incoming 6th Year students who have contributed to whole school life over the course of their secondary education. Elected by their peers and school staff, the chosen students exhibit outstanding leadership qualities and are a liason between our student body and other leadership positions in our school to ensure student voice is at the forefront of everything we do.



We encourage our students to take part in all aspects of school life, both curricular and extra-curricular.

Current 1st Year Student Views 2022/23

Milica Dimitrijevic

What primary school did you attend?

Bennettsbridge N.S

List three of your favourite things about 1st year so far?

1. The longer lunch break
2. Walking around school with my friends
3. Meeting Alfie

What is your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject is Geography, the teacher is nice and I like learning about the earth.

How have you found the transition from primary to secondary?

I have found the transition easy because of some of the parts of the induction like the tour of the school- that was really helpful. I knew a good few people I was friendly with from playing sports and from my primary school also.

Noa Bambrick

What primary school did you attend?

Scoil Bhríde Paulstown

List three of your favourite things about 1st year so far?

1. Making new friends
2. Longer lunches
3. Everyone is really nice

What is your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject is Irish because my teacher is nice and it's easy, well I like the subject

How have you found the transition from primary to secondary?

I have found it easy because I was able to make friends quickly through the induction programme and I met a lot of new friends during after school activities also.

Catalina Carlin

What primary school did you attend?

St. Mary's N.S Thomastown

List three of your favourite things about 1st year so far?

1. New friends
2. Having more independence
3. Fun teachers

What is your favourite subject and why?

I really like English and Graphics because the subjects are interesting and the teachers are lovely

How have you found the transition from primary to secondary?

I have found it easy because I was able to make friends quickly through the induction programme and I met a lot of new friends during after school activities also.

Isabel Carroll

What primary school did you attend?

St. Lachtain's Freshford

List three of your favourite things about 1st year so far?

1. Different teachers
2. Lunch breaks
3. Moving around to different classrooms

What is your favourite subject and why?

I love Graphics because the teacher is fun and I like to draw.

How have you found the transition from primary to secondary?

It has been ok, I find the days are longer but I am getting used to it now.

Ruth O'Mahoney

What primary school did you attend?

Scoil Phádraig, Ballyhale

List three of your favourite things about 1st year so far?

1. Making new friends
2. Getting to see my sister
3. All the activities

What is your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject is Spanish because I find it easy and I really like my teacher.

How have you found the transition from primary to secondary?

I found it tiring but fun, all of the teachers are so nice which has made it easier.

Leah Dreeling

What primary school did you attend?

Gowran National School

List three of your favourite things about 1st year so far?

1. Meeting new friends
2. New subjects
3. New teachers

What is your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject would be Home Economics or French because they are new subjects, I like to cook and want to go to France

How have you found the transition from primary to secondary?

I have found it easy, we get to change classes every hour which I like, everyone is really helpful and nice

" The art of life lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings."

- Kakuzō Okakura



Technology in Teaching & Learning

We are a Tradigital School; all teachers are equipped with a Microsoft Surface device in addition to classrooms having WIFI enabled data projectors. 150 student devices are available throughout each day ensuring teaching and learning can be facilitated using ICT. All teachers receive regular professional development in relation to incorporating digital learning into their teaching methodologies and assessment strategies.

ICT Integration

- Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used in Presentation Kilkenny to enhance the learning experience for all. We aim to prepare your child for the ever-changing environment in which they live and in which they will work in the future
- Various software, apps and technology devices are used to support student learning across all curricula
- Students use devices simultaneously with physical textbooks to avail of the benefits of both learning styles
- We are proud users of G Suite for Education. Students receive free access to the following Google products- Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Gmail and Calendar. These platforms assist us in providing a modern classroom experience for students.



We recently launched the Primary School Technology & Science Outreach Programme whereby our Transition Year students visit local primary schools, introducing and providing students with the opportunity to explore technology and science related concepts that they will be exposed to in secondary school.



Student Leadership

The Students' Council is a representative body of students elected by the student body. The Council works closely with a member of staff in giving students an active voice and an avenue in which they can become involved in school life.

Parents' Council

The Parents' Council is an active and valued part of our school community body. Our parents work in partnership with school management in the promotion and development of our school to help ensure all students achieve their full potential. The Parents Council actively collaborates with school management in the development of school policies.





Wellbeing

Guidance

Career Guidance and Counselling is at the heart of our Pastoral Care System at Presentation Kilkenny. Our Guidance Counsellors have a caring and supportive role in the school where students can get advice and supports about a range of issues. From personal issues to study skills to college advice and information, the Guidance Counsellors are on hand to meet with students in a confidential environment where they can be cared for and supported throughout their time in the school.

Counselling helps students explore their thoughts, feelings and the choices open to them. It gives care and support to students learning to cope with the many aspects of growing up and school life within their personal circumstances. Presentation Kilkenny endeavours to offer guidance to all our students. The Guidance Team liaises with Year Heads, Class Teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Subject Teachers, Deputy Principal and the Principal. They also have regular contact with parents, psychologists, employers, colleges, social services, counsellors and the Department of Education.

The Career Guidance and Counselling Department within Presentation Kilkenny provides support for all students in three main areas:

- **Personal and Social Guidance**
- **Educational Guidance**
- **Career and Vocational Guidance.**

"We recognise that our students are more likely to reach their fullest potential when they feel happy & safe. We work with all members of the school community to support our students as they journey through Pres"

-Sinead Ahern (Guidance Counsellor)

"The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) provides for a new area of learning at junior cycle called Wellbeing. Wellbeing will cross the three years of junior cycle and build on substantial work already taking place in schools in support of students' wellbeing. This area of learning will make the school's culture and ethos and commitment to wellbeing visible to students. It will include learning opportunities to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing of students".

NCCA Wellbeing Guidelines



*'A true masterpiece
does not tell
everything.'*

-Albert Camus

The Future of Presentation

Presentation Secondary School is very excited to begin the building of our state of the art school later this month, September 2023.



The new school will include State of the Art facilities including:

- 32 classrooms
- 6 Science Labs
- 2 Art Rooms
- 3 Kitchens
- 2 Graphic Rooms
- 2 Computer Rooms
- Technology Lab
- Music Room
- Performance Area
- Fully equipped library
- Student recreational areas
- 2 outdoor courtyards
- Fully equipped gym
- Outdoor playing pitches





WHY CHOOSE PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL KILKENNY?

- The social and personal development of each individual student is promoted.
- Each student is seen as unique and their individual potential is recognised.
- Academic excellence is promoted and students are encouraged to reach their full potential.
- Highly dedicated team of teachers who support our students.
- A supportive and caring pastoral care team who help support your daughter's educational and welfare needs.
- A strong learning support team who help provide for students with additional educational needs.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities with a proud tradition of participation and achievement.
- High standards of behaviour and discipline which are promoted to ensure a safe and secure learning environment.
- A broad range of subject options in Junior, Transition and Senior Cycles.
- A mentoring system where 1st year students are mentored by a group of 6th year students for support and guidance is in place.
- Supervised evening study available to all students.
- A wide variety of lunchtime activities.
- Planning permission received for a state of the art new school building to begin in January 2023.



What our students say



"My time in Pres was thoroughly enjoyable both inside and outside the classroom. Pres helped to accommodate my football career by constantly being flexible with my assessments. By doing this, I was able to continue to represent Ireland whilst completing my Leaving Certificate. I was delighted with my results & I will be forever grateful to the fantastic teachers who enabled me to reach my full academic potential while also pursuing my dreams."

Ellen Molloy, Leaving Certificate class 2022

"I had some of my best moments in Ireland at Presentation. My classmates welcomed me with open arms to the class and I felt truly integrated from my very first day. I made some great friends and I enjoyed that there were so many different opportunities to try new things and challenge myself both inside and outside the classroom."

Sofia Calzone, TY Exchange Student 2022

"Presentation is very multinational and the atmosphere is busy but still friendly and welcoming. I loved being a member of Multicultural Club, it was a great way for me to meet new friends and share my passion for my culture. Everyone always has a smile on their faces when they see you, I will always feel welcome in Pres."

Carlotta Anchoti, TY Exchange Student 2022

"The level of teaching and support I've received as a student at the Pres has been second to none. I know that now as I move on to college, I have experienced a friendly and education orientated atmosphere."

Sarah Barcoe, Leaving Certificate class of 2022

We are delighted to introduce you to our newest staff member, who is joining us in Presentation, Kilkenny, this year. Alfie is a 5-month old Australian Cobberdog, a type of dog specifically bred to be a therapy and assistant dog.

There are many benefits of having a Therapy Dog in School

- Increased self-esteem and positive interactions between staff and students.
- Decreased blood pressure and increased physical stimulation.
- Increased memory and problem solving skills.
- Increase in positive mood; places students at ease and increases openness/socialisation with others.
- Studies have shown an Increase in student reading skills when they are given opportunities to read to an accepting, non-judgemental audience ie. a therapy dog.

Some extra info on Alfie....

- Alfie has a non-shedding hypoallergenic coat, which is suitable for students with allergies.
- Alfie will only interact with students who want to work with him. This is to be mindful of students that may not like dogs or have a fear of them. Research has shown that work with therapy dogs often decreases one's fear of animals.
- Alfie will be on a leash and wear a collar when he is on school grounds; he will not be free to roam. We have several designated handlers in the building to ensure he is overseen, Alfie even has his own timetable to follow!

We are extremely excited to welcome Alfie to our Pres family and believe that his influence will be a positive one for staff and students.





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