

A white line-art illustration of a large, multi-story school building with numerous windows and a central entrance, set against a dark teal background. The building is shown from a low angle, making it appear imposing and grand.

Educating for the Future **since 1922**

St. Joseph's Grammar
School Donaghmore
Scoil Íosaef
Prospectus
2024-2025

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the Principal

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Welcome

from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted that you are considering St Joseph's Grammar School/Scoil Iósaef for your child as they prepare to make the transition to post-primary school. This is an important decision, and we are confident that in choosing us, you are making one of the wisest investments in your child's future.

Founded in 1922 by the Daughters of the Cross, our school has a proud history of serving the families of mid-Ulster for more than a century. We are a Catholic school open to pupils of all faiths and are proud and protective of the rich heritage left to us by our founders. We offer not just an excellent academic experience for all but are equally focused on ensuring our pupils leave us as well-rounded, positive young people who are fully equipped to play their part in society.

Our school ethos is the bedrock for all our actions and decisions and means that we place the child at the centre of all that we do. Our mantra of "Be kind, be kind, be kind" is instilled in every child and adult and we aim to fulfil that goal every day in our school.

At St Joseph's Grammar/Scoil Iósaef we offer a broad range of subjects that meets the needs and interests of all our pupils so that they enjoy what they are learning and can see the relevance of it for their future lives. Our staff are highly skilled and committed professionals who are passionate about ensuring that every child in our care achieves to the very best of their ability, and our exam results consistently

bear this out. The vast majority of our school leavers go on to further studies either through higher apprenticeship programmes or directly into universities locally as well as in England and the south of Ireland.

Outside of the classroom, we offer a wide range of enrichment activities that you can read about throughout this prospectus and view on our social media accounts. I am confident that there is something to match everyone's taste. Our team sports are important for building discipline and resolve so that the lessons learned on the field can be applied in other aspects of school life. Students who enjoy music and the creative arts are well served by the opportunities available to them to develop their talents and dreams. We firmly believe that travel broadens the mind and to this end we organise international trips that give our youngsters the chance to taste new cultures and develop their thirst to learn more about other cultures and countries.

Our Irish Medium Stream, Scoil Iósaef, is a vibrant and stimulating environment in which children develop their Irish language skills through the taught curriculum and the numerous cultural and linguistic opportunities open to them. We are delighted to play our part in passing on the language to the next generation of enthusiastic Gaeligori.

Unique to our school is an associated charitable foundation, Cairde Brogán, which was formed in 2017 in memory of the late Sr Mary Brogán. This organisation raises funds so as to provide additional opportunities for

our pupils to develop their leadership skills in a wide variety of ways in school such as Dragon's Den, SJS Bake-Off and other competitions throughout the school year. We are delighted to be the only school north of the border to offer scholarships to the prestigious Boston College "Ever to Excel Programme" through the Cairde Brogán foundation.

We are always working hard to ensure our facilities are as good as our young people deserve. I am pleased therefore that progress on the new £5 million facilities planned for St Joseph's is gathering pace and we expect the SEP2 project to move to the planning approval stage in the Springtime. Very soon, we will enjoy the benefits of a new canteen, library, sixth form centre, additional classrooms and of course, a new 3-G pitch.

I look forward to telling you more about this exciting new development when you visit us for our Open Day on 15th January 2025 when you will also get the chance to meet many of our fantastic pupils who are keen to tell you all about their school.

I convey my very best wishes for you and your child in the months and years ahead.



Geraldine Donnelly

PRINCIPAL



A history spanning over 100 years



1920

The Daughters of the Cross arrive in Donaghmore. They initially work to set up a hospital, but this venture is unsuccessful and attracts no more than twenty patients. Sr Mary Hyacinth Corrigan closes the entire hospital enterprise and attention turns to opening a school.

1922

The Sisters open a new school. There is a weight of evidence to suggest Mullygruen House house was functioning as a school before its official opening. It is believed the first intake was of five girls, one of whom was Miss Susie Donnelly whose father donated a cow to the Sisters in 1920. Some of the first students are pictured with Cardinal O'Donnell, Dean Quinn and "Finn,"





1935

The red brick building is opened for boarders by Cardinal Mc Crory on 26th November 1935. The number of boarders is now fifty.



1950

The school continues to grow with just over 100 pupils. The first 'whole school' photograph is taken.

1941

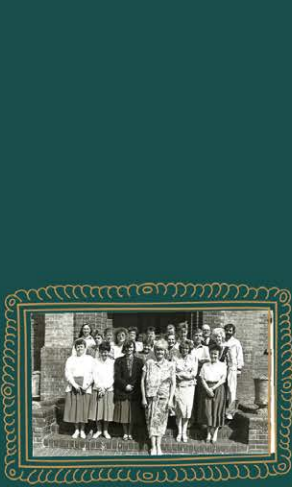
Enrolment steadily increases as students who are evacuated from Belfast during World War II come to Donaghmore to board. There are now seventy students



1968

The new grey brick building is opened by Cardinal Conway.





1985

The first lay Principal, Mrs Helen McCrory, oversees the difficult decision to end boarding. St Joseph's becomes a 'day school' only.



2007

Sadly the Sisters leave Donaghmore.

2003

St. Joseph's Grammar School welcomes its first male students in two generations and officially becomes co-educational. It is worth noting that boys were also taught in the school during the 1920s.



2010

St. Joseph's Grammar School opens a pioneering Irish Medium Stream. Over the last thirteen years the IMS has grown significantly and proven to be exceptionally successful with students achieving examination results that far exceed the NI averages for similar students.





2016

There is significant capital investment on the site and a £4 million sports and drama complex is opened by then Education Minister, Peter Weir.



2023

There is further significant capital investment on the school site as a £1 million refurbishment of Mullygruen House begins along with a £4 million enhancement project to provide a new block of facilities.

2022

St. Joseph's Grammar celebrates the centenary of its foundation by the Daughters of the Cross. The school now has an enrolment of 916.



Our Distinctive Ethos

St. Joseph's / Scoil
Íosaef offers high
quality and inclusive
education for all.

As a Catholic Grammar school St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef is committed to providing a high quality and inclusive education for all which is respectful of, and engages with, people of all faiths and none. Everyone is welcome in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef without distinction of any kind. We are proud of the culture of acceptance that characterises the ethos of St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef and ensures that diverse identities are recognised, welcomed, respected, and cherished. The delivery of all aspects of education at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef is centred around our core values of kindness, aspiration, integrity, hope, community, faith and service. At the very heart of our ethos is Jesus' command to love God and neighbour. This command inspires a caring ethos which is characterised by positive and uplifting relationships.



Everyone is welcome
in St. Joseph's /
Scoil Íosaef without
distinction.

While we enjoy a very strong tradition of academic excellence, we know that young people only achieve their full potential when they feel happy, secure and are invigorated by their school environment. It is central to our mission to ensure that all our students experience success which is recognised, celebrated, and in line with their individual ability. All those working in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, as teachers, leaders, support staff and governors, seek to recognise and treasure the unique gifts of each individual child and to do all they can to allow these to develop and flourish.

We are very much aware of, and deeply indebted to, the rich legacy left behind by our founding Order of Sisters, the Daughters of the Cross. The mantra of the Daughters, to *"be kind, be kind, be kind"*, shapes relationships across the school and guides us to work to ensure that all members of our community are treated with inherent dignity, equality, and respect.

Our Vision and Mission

OUR VISION

Guided by faith.
Creating leaders.
Shaping the future.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Iósaef is a progressive community inspired and guided by the example of Jesus Christ. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, valued and cherished for who they are. We dedicate ourselves to inculcating a love of lifelong learning which is underpinned by Catholic values, high expectations and aspiration. We are committed to instilling within our students integrity, compassion and social responsibility, empowering them to act in the service of others.



Our Core Values



The core values of St. Joseph's Grammar School/Scoil Iósaef are grounded in the mission of our founding Order of Sisters, the Daughters of the Cross. These core values are the cornerstone of everything we do and they should be reflected in all aspects of daily life. We believe that, being shaped by these core values, our students leave school ready to live out the mission of the Sisters, to be a light of faith to others and to witness the truth of Christ through service and practical outreach.

Service

Service reminds us of the Gospel command to love God and to love one's neighbour as oneself. We aim to honour Jesus by loving and serving Him, helping the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society.

Kindness

Kindness reminds us that the mantra of the Sisters, "Be kind, be kind, be kind", should guide all we think, all we say and all we do. We must work together to ensure that all members of our community are treated with dignity, equality, and respect.

Hope

God is our constant source of hope. Everyone faces challenging and difficult times but we must remember that there is always an ear to listen and a hand to help no matter how difficult a situation may seem.

Faith

Faith reminds us that each person in our community is on their own faith journey and at their own individual stage. We seek to ensure that everyone is provided with opportunities to explore their faith and the faith of others in a culture of respect and acceptance.

Community

Community reminds us that we are a family of God. Our Catholic school is inclusive and welcoming of everyone without distinction of any kind.

Aspiration

Aspiration reminds us that we have high expectations of everyone in our community and encourage our students to aspire to be the best they can be. We nurture the holistic growth of all and celebrate achievement in its many facets.

Integrity

Integrity reminds us that we must always be truthful and take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We are called to be honest, consistent and uncompromising when it comes to doing the right thing.

Development at St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef

St Joseph's Grammar School was founded in 1922 by the Daughters of the Cross, a Belgian Order of Sisters which originated in Liege. The first Sisters who arrived to Donaghmore established themselves in the old Convent house at the front of the school site. Over time, more buildings were developed as the student population slowly but surely grew from a handful of youngsters in 1922 to the 957 pupils we have enrolled in 2025. In 2017, a new £4 million block which houses our sport and drama facilities, was opened at the back of the school site as part of the Schools Enhancement Programme 1 (SEP1). This programme provided for new indoor sports facilities which have since been adopted by the Department as the ideal prototype for several other builds of a similar nature since 2017.

More recently, the school was granted a second multi-million pounds investment in SEP2 which will see another substantial new building on the site to provide for a new canteen, library and sixth form facilities. Additionally, there will be several more general classrooms added to the current suite of rooms with further Irish Medium classrooms and Technology and Manufacturing rooms to be grant aided in the near future.

The SEP2 project team have now moved the development process to Stage 3 and are preparing detailed building plans for submission to Mid-Ulster Council in the new year.

As a consequence of all of this imminent development work, the school site will now expand quite significantly with the addition of approximately 8 acres of new lands to be vested in the Department of Education.

We are thrilled the Department has also agreed to develop a new 3-G pitch alongside the SEP2 project and this pitch will be sited on one of the portions of newly acquired land towards the back of the school.

Notwithstanding all the new development on site, we are mindful that we also have an iconic heritage building, the Convent as it is fondly known, which stands proudly over our Donaghmore village as part of our school estate. Recently, a £1 million refurbishment project has been completed and the beautiful external stonework of this historic building has been restored back to its former glory.

It is timely that all the planning work for these multi-million pound investments has been going on since 2018 and over the period of the school's centenary in 2022. We look forward to another hundred years of offering excellent education in Donaghmore and passing on the legacy bequeathed to us by the Daughters of the Cross in new state of the art facilities.





Outstanding Academic Achievement



IMS

84%

7 A* – C

including English and
Maths at GCSE



St. Joseph's
Grammar school

89%

7 A* – C

including English and
Maths at GCSE



92%

3 A* – C

at A Level

Care and Welfare

We want all our students to grow into happy, confident, and aspirational young people who feel empowered to take up their place in the modern world.

Daily life in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef is firmly focussed on the care and welfare of our students. We aim to create a safe and secure learning environment and work hard to ensure that relationships for learning are characterised by mutual respect, openness, and trust. Our pastoral care structures aim to support students to effectively overcome barriers to learning and realise their potential.

The effectiveness of the personal development and preventative education curriculums is regularly reviewed to ensure it is flexible and responsive to the needs of all students. The pastoral team works collaboratively with outside agencies to support the care and welfare of all students.

The pastoral care aims in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef are:

- To create and maintain a school culture where students feel safe, valued, known and respected;
- To inculcate within students a strong sense of their own dignity, identity and self-esteem, combined with a mutual respect for others;
- To proactively support students to develop strategies and change behaviours to maximise mental and physical health;
- To prepare students to become effective citizens in the local and global community.



The personal development and preventative education provision cuts across the curriculum but is also delivered through discrete weekly timetabled lessons which have been planned to ensure progression.

Students study a range of topics, including:

- Health and the whole person;
- Self-concept;
- Feelings and emotions;
- Morals, values and beliefs;
- Managing influences and making decisions;
- Managing change;
- Learning about learning;
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE);
- Safety and managing risk;
- Drug awareness.

Safeguarding

We work hard to make sure that all our students understand that their concerns will be listened to, and appropriate action taken. St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef has a robust child protection and safeguarding policy which is in line with guidance issued by the Department of Education. The school engages in a regular process of self-evaluation to ensure that policy and procedure relating to child protection and safeguarding is working to protect students.







Learning Support

We have a dedicated Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCo), Mr Niall Kelly who leads strategically to ensure that any child with an additional need, whether it be educational or medical, is supported and enabled to reach their full potential, academically and holistically.

As SENCo, Mr Kelly's role is:

- To actively lead and coordinate our Learning Support provision;
- To act as a valuable point of contact for students, parents, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and outside support services in relation to Learning Support for students of our school;
- To enable our students to meet their full potential by removing any barriers, or potential barriers, on their learning journey;
- To continually monitor and evaluate SEN provision; identifying and promoting best practice.

In terms of meeting all needs and more specifically, additional needs, here at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, we are proud of

our dedicated teaching staff. In addition, we have an excellent team of Learning Support Assistants who go above and beyond to support and help nurture the children in their care.

Mr Kelly explains that,

“It is an honour, not only to have been entrusted with this vital role in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, but also to work with such a dedicated and progressive staff who never give up and are fully committed to meeting the needs of the students in our school”.

You can be assured that the staff in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef will leave no stone unturned to support your child to achieve their full potential.

Broad and balanced curriculum

As a high performing grammar school we believe in a culture of high aspiration.

The curriculum in St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef reflects the statutory curricular requirements. It provides students with access to a broad, balanced and flexible range of options which are matched well to their needs and interests and provides relevant pathways to appropriate destinations. Our curriculum offers the full range of traditional A Level subjects along with a variety of vocational qualifications. Our students continue to enjoy outstanding academic success in all subject areas including English, Science, Mathematics, Languages and the Humanities. Results in external examinations consistently show that our students out-perform the Northern Ireland Grammar Average in many subject areas. Data evidences that we remain one of the top performing grammar schools in Mid-Ulster.

The Curriculum Vice Principal has overall leadership responsibility for the curriculum. There is regular review of the curriculum, at all levels, to meet the needs and interests of the current cohort of students and enable them to realise their potential.

We work collaboratively with other schools in the Dungannon Area Learning Community (ALC) and the programmes available through the ALC are of high quality and demonstrate commitment to meeting the needs, abilities and aspirations of all students.

The end of Years 10 and 12 mark key transition points and the curriculum team works proactively with students and parents to offer the help and guidance needed to make effective and positive subject choices. Our Key Stage 4 and Post-16 curriculums are as flexible as possible and enable success.



Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10) study

At Key Stage 3 students study the following subjects.

Art & Design
Drama
English
French
Gaeilge*
Geography
History
Home Economics
Information Communication Technology
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
LLW – Citizenship, Personal Development, Employability
Religious Studies
Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Technology and Design
Spanish

* IMS Students Only

GCSE

All students study at least nine subjects at GCSE level. As a high performing grammar school, we believe in a culture of high aspiration and therefore a significant number of our students study ten or eleven subjects at GCSE.

Art and Design
Business Communication Systems
Business Studies
Digital Technology (Multimedia)
Digital Technology (Programming)
Double Award Science
Drama
Engineering
English Language
English Literature
Food Nutrition
French
Further Mathematics
Gaeilge*
Geography
History
Irish IMS
Mathematics
Music
Occupational Studies
Physical Education
Religious Studies
Single Award Science
Technology and Design
OCN Sport
OCN RE
OCN ICT





Post-16

We offer a large range of subjects at Post-16 level. To further enhance our provision, we are part of the Dungannon Area Learning Community.

The following subjects are on offer:

Applied Health and Social Care
Art and Design
Biology
Cambridge Technical Business
Business Studies
Chemistry
Digital Technology
Employability and Professional Development Skills (Level 3 Enrichment qualification studied in addition to A Level subjects)
Engineering (BTEC)
English Literature
French
Geography
History
Cambridge Technical Information Technology
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Nutrition and Food Science
Performing Arts*
Physics
Religious Studies
Sports Science and the Active Leisure Industry
Systems Software Development*
Technology and Design
Sociology

*Subjects offered
as part of the
Dungannon Area
Learning Community

Year 8 Pupil Perspective

My name is Dylan McGuigan and I am 11 years old. I live just outside Donaghmore village with my mum, dad, sister, tortoise and two dogs.

Having attended St. Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore, St. Joseph's was familiar to me because I could see it from my primary school.

I was excited to attend the Open Day, as it was an opportunity to see inside the school. Together with my parents, we were shown around the school by some of the older pupils who instantly made me feel at ease.

“

Getting to walk around the school, visit the classrooms and see what the school had to offer, I am glad that I made the decision to go to St Joseph's because I absolutely love it.



What is it that's so special about St. Joseph's?

There are a number of things that make the school special, including the many opportunities available to Year 8 and the wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs; like photography and football.

Teachers, and all staff, work to their best to make school a safe and positive place. They work hard to make learning fun and inclusive in a school where students are encouraged to actively participate and share their ideas, particularly in class.

I settled into St. Joseph's really quickly and with ease. I have really enjoyed a number of the practical subjects such as Technology & Design, and PE.

I thought moving to a bigger school and making new friends would be hard, but it wasn't - because all the students were in the same position as me. I have made new friends across my year group who have similar interests as me.

“It is a brilliant school with fantastic people who are here to help you. I really enjoy being at St. Joseph's, and I know that you will too!”

DYLAN MCGUIGAN
8 P

”

Year 8 Irish Medium Stream Perspective



Is mise Éabha-Grace Owens agus d'fhreastal mé ar Ghaelscoil Aodha Rua, Dún Geanainn. Tá mé i rang a hocht I.

Leis an fhírinne a rá, ní raibh mé ró-neirbhíseach nuair a smaoinigh mé faoi bhogadh chuig scoil nua. Bhí níos mó sceitimíní orm mar bhí mé ag dúil leis na deiseanna nua go háirithe an deis le bualadh le cairde nua.

Taobh istigh den chéad cúpla mí bhí cuid mhór cairde nua déanta agam. Bhí na múinteoirí i gcónaí cineálta agus foighneach agus bhí mé in ann mo bhealach thart ar an scoil a dhéanamh taobh istigh de chúpla lá agus is cosúil anois go raibh mé anseo ar feadh na mblianta. Is é Béarla an t-ábhar is fearr liom, is maith liom scríbhneoireacht agus filíocht agus is breá liom bheith ag scríobh dánta.

Sílim gur iontach an rud é Sruth na Gaeilge mar Tugann sé deis do na scoláirí líofa snas agus blas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge. Bíonn na daltaí is sine i cónaí réidh cuidiú leis na daltaí is óige agus déanann siad é le haoibh an gháire. Is maith an rud é gur roghnaigh mé Scoil Íosaef mar tá áthas an domhain orm agus caithfidh mé a rá nach bhfuil aiféala orm. Tháinig mé anseo mar freastalaíonn cuid mhór de mo ghaolta ar an scoil seo agus bhí mé ag iarraidh freastal ar Sruth na Gaeilge.

I am Éabha-Grace Owens and I attended Gaelscoil Aodha Rua, Dungannon. I am in 8I. To tell the truth, I wasn't too nervous when I thought about moving to a new school. I was more excited because I was looking forward to the new opportunities especially the opportunity to meet new friends.

Within the first few months I had made a lot of new friends.

The teachers were always kind and patient and I was able to make my way around the school within a few days and it seems now that I have been here for years.

My favourite subject is English, I like writing and poetry and I love writing poems.

I think Sruth na Gaeilge is great because it gives fluent students the opportunity to improve their Irish. The oldest pupils are always ready to help the younger pupils and they do it with a smile. It's good that I chose St Joseph's School because I'm really happy and I have to say I don't regret it. I came here because many of my relatives attend St. Joseph's and I wanted to attend Sruth na Gaeilge.

”

ÉABHA-GRACE OWENS



Year 8 Transition

In St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, our fundamental aim is ensuring student happiness, and we dedicate considerable time and effort to achieving this goal.

We fully understand that transitioning from primary to secondary school can feel overwhelming. Therefore, we collaborate closely with parents/carers to facilitate the smoothest possible transition. By providing comprehensive support to incoming Year 8 students during their initial days, we help them establish robust personal and academic foundations, ultimately empowering them to develop into self-assured, well-adjusted, and enthusiastic learners.

“Our vision and core values ensure we foster strong relationships with parents/carers and students. We are committed to creating an open environment where potential challenges or concerns are communicated early, to ensure the holistic well-being of students –emotional, physical, and academic.”

”

“Embarking on secondary school education is an exciting adventure filled with both enjoyment and challenges! You’ll encounter a new environment with different expectations, diverse staff, varied schedules, and unfamiliar classmates. Rest assured however, you are not navigating this journey alone. As your Head of Year, I am fully committed to supporting you throughout your inaugural year at St. Joseph’s / Scoil Íosaef, and I look forward to witnessing and celebrating your personal and academic achievements.”

MRS SIOBHÁN QUINN
HEAD OF YEAR 8

Our Year 8 Transition Programme takes a proactive and comprehensive approach, commencing in early June. The programme encompasses:

1. Initial introduction to the Year 8 pastoral support team in early June;
2. Year 8 Registration Evening scheduled for mid-June;
3. Year 8 Familiarisation Day in mid-June;
4. Specialised Year 8 Transition Programme at the end of August;
5. Staggered school return dates in September;
6. Extended engagement time with form teachers and form prefects;
7. 'Bus Buddies' support system;
8. 'Peer Buddy System' for integrated social support;
9. Year 8 Induction Evening towards end of September.



Scoil Íosaef

Fáilte Welcome

Cuirfear fearadh na fáilte roimh ár gcuid daltaí uilig a bheidh ag teacht go Scoil Íosaef! Tá lúcháir orainn go mbeidh do pháiste mar bhall den phobal tacúil bríomhar s'againne. Cuireann Sruth na Gaeilge curaclam den scoth ar fáil a dhíríonn ní amháin ar shármhaitheas acadúil, ach a chuireann meas domhain ar an Ghaeilge agus ar an chultúr i bhfeidhm go daingean. Chomh maith leis an oideachas láidir acadúil, cuirimid réimse éagsúil de ghníomhaíochtaí saibhrithe ar fail chun tacú le forbairt iomlánaíoch do pháiste. Ó imeachtaí cultúrtha agus ceardlanna teanga go clubanna seach-churaclaim, tá deiseanna gan teorainn ann a ligfidh do do pháiste fás, foghlaim agus cuimhní buana a chruthú.

Tá muid ag dúil go mór le bheith ag obair leat agus le bheith ag tacú le do pháiste gach céim den bhealach ar an turas spreagúil seo.

Beirigí bua,

Mr Paul Quinn

**MÚINTEOIR
SINSEARACH**



A warm welcome awaits all our students joining Scoil Íosaef! We are delighted to have your child become part of our supportive and vibrant community. Our Irish language stream offers an exceptional curriculum that not only focuses on academic excellence, but also embeds a deep appreciation for the Irish language and culture. In addition to the strong academic foundation, we provide a diverse range of enrichment activities designed to support your child's holistic development. From cultural events and language workshops to extracurricular clubs, there are endless opportunities for your child to grow, learn, and create lasting memories.

We look forward to working with you and supporting your child every step of the way on this exciting journey.

Beirigí bua,

Mr Paul Quinn

SENIOR TEACHER

Sruth na Gaeilge

DÁT HEANGACH | DÉLITEARTHA | GAELACH

“If you talk to a man
in a language he
understands, that goes
to his head. If you talk
to him in his language,
that goes to his heart.”

NELSON MANDELA

Sruth na Gaeilge, Scoil Íosaef, was founded in September 2010 to provide high quality post-primary Irish Medium Education in the Mid-Ulster area.

The aim of the IMS was to promote and develop a curriculum tailored to bilingual students in a supportive and caring environment. Since its inception nine years ago, students from ‘An Sruth’ continue to excel in all aspects of school life. We have grown from our first intake of 15 and now have 256 students in Sruth na Gaeilge. Our first four groups of past pupils of An Sruth have now graduated from University and are excelling in their chosen field of work/industry.

Scoil Íosaef provides a holistic education that caters for the academic, cultural and extra-curricular progression of our students. We are immensely proud of the contribution that all our IMS students bring to our school. Sruth na Gaeilge is staffed by eight experienced members of staff, trained in Irish medium education and supported by a Language Development Officer.

Rath Acadúil / Academic Success

Our IMU students consistently achieve exceptional results in GCSE and A-level examinations, surpassing Northern Ireland averages year after year. Their outstanding academic performance opens doors to excellent career opportunities and diverse university pathways. Our IMS leavers of 2024 have obtained their third level choices and are currently studying a range of subjects including Engineering, Real Estate, Maths and Applied Physics, Veterinary Medicine and Irish and Linguistics.

In public examinations 90% of our IMS students achieved a minimum of three A*-C grades at A-Level, with one third achieving AAA or higher in 2024. 84% of our Year 12 IMS students achieved at least 5 GCSE A*-C grades, including English, Maths and Gaeilge in 2024. Our top-performing IMS students of 2024 achieved 11 GCSE grades. Meanwhile, our Year 10 Irish Medium students achieved 100% A*-B in their GCSE Irish exams, with 88% A*-A grades.

Soláthar / Provision

Sruth na Gaeilge is an all-ability stream which provides an opportunity for children from local bunscoileanna to continue with their Irish medium education. Our vision is to offer a 'bilingual, biliterate and Gaelic' education, to provide our pupils with the best education, life-skills and

life-long learning opportunities for an ever-changing world. At Key Stage 3, we offer 50% of the curriculum through the medium of Irish. Our IMS students sit their GCSE Irish examination at the end of Year 10 and at KS4, Scoláirí an tSrutha benefit from a full choice of subjects as well as the opportunity of achieving an additional GCSE in Gaeilge.

Litearthacht / Literacy

Developing bilingual and biliterate students is central to all that we do in Scoil Iósaef. We continue to invest a substantial amount of money to provide a wealth of enjoyable and modern Irish Medium books for our school library. IMS students spend one period per fortnight reading and are encouraged to immerse themselves in Irish language books and novels. We recognise that excellent oracy and literacy skills are essential in the modern workplace. Through the Gael-Linn public speaking competition, Abair, Féile Scoildrámaíochta and Comórtas Uí Chadhain and our internal public speaking competition Tuairimí, all our IMS students are encouraged to build their confidence in public speaking and thus prepare themselves for the world of work. In partnership with Cairde Uí Néill we hosted our annual Tuairimí competition in the Burnavon Theatre Cookstown in December with a prize pot of £200 for our best speakers.

Turais / Trips

IMS pupils benefit from regular school trips as part of whole-school opportunities. Donegal Gaeltacht In 2017, Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the European Parliament in Brussels along with IME students from other post-primary schools across the North, to get an insight into the workings of the parliament and opportunities for Irish Language employment. 2019 saw our first every Post-16 trip to Galway and the Arann islands.

In March of this year, all 43 of our Year 10 students will head to the Gaeltacht in Donegal for an immersive few days of fun and trips, and to get a taste of our native language and culture.

We actively promote attendance in Gaeltacht summer courses and all Year 8/9 students can attend a two week course at the end of June.

Gairmoideachas / Careers Education

As well as following the excellent Employability & Careers programme in St. Joseph's, senior students have the opportunity to attend university seminars both in the North and in the Republic of Ireland and can consider degree courses through Irish. We regularly have Irish language guest speakers to provide relevant and up to date careers advice on current job opportunities with Irish at home and abroad.

An Ghaeilge / Irish

Scoláirí an tSrutha are encouraged to use Irish outside of the classroom and this is facilitated through the organisation of a range of events throughout the school day such as Tae agus Plé, An Cumann Gaelach, Gaeilge 24, Seachtain na Gaeilge and An Cumann Scoildrámaíochta agus An Cumann Díospóireachta. This year our newly formed Coiste na Gaeilge has been an excellent asset to our students: led by our senior pupils, all students have the opportunity to learn music, cookery skills, drama skills and play sport through the medium of Irish. In partnership with Cairde Uí Néill pupils are recognised on a weekly basis as 'Gaeilgeoirí na Coicise' and 'An Rang is Gaelai' and are rewarded with termly class trips. We have also introduced a supportive but firm Riail na Gaeilge to ensure that Irish remains the spoken language of An Sruth.

Club Obair Bhaile / Homework Club

Our Irish Medium students have access to a supervised 'Club Obair Bhaile', which operates Monday-Thursday from 3:30-4:45.



Key Stage 3

Gaeilge
History
Religion
LLW
French
Drama
PE
Music
Art

Eochairchém 3

Gaeilge
Stair
Reiligiún
Foghlaim don tSaol agus don Obair
Fraicis
Drámaíocht
Corpoideachas
Ceol
Ealaín

Extra-Curricular

Abair Public Speaking
Scoildrámaíochta
Debating
Scléip

Seach-churaclaim

Caint Phoiblí
Scoildrámaíochta
Diospóireacht
Scléip

Year 8 Gaeilge Provision

- 3 hours per week
- Focus on literacy / oracy
- Literacy support
- Emphasis on reading
- Independent reading
- Literacy workshops

Soláthar na Gaeilge – Bliain 8

- 3 uaire sa tseachtain
- Béim ar litearthacht agus ar labharthacht
- Tacaíocht litearthachta
- Béim ar leitheoireacht
- Leitheoireacht neamhspleach
- Ceardlanna litearthachta

Meet our Head Boy

JAMES RAFFERTY

“

My name is James Rafferty, and I am honoured to be the Head Boy of St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Iósaef, Donaghmore. As I reflect on my journey through the past seven years, I feel incredibly fortunate to have been part of a school that has not only supported me academically but also provided countless opportunities to grow and achieve beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights of my time at St. Joseph's has undoubtedly been the opportunity to represent the school in sport. In Year 12, I was proud to be part of the Ulster and All-Ireland winning football team that secured both the MacLarnon Cup and the Paddy Drummond Cup—an unforgettable experience that bonded us as teammates and brought immense pride to our school community. The following year, I was privileged to be a member of the MacRory Cup team, making history as the first team from St. Joseph's to compete at such a

prestigious level. These moments on the pitch taught me the value of teamwork, resilience, and determination, lessons I will carry with me for life.

My journey at St. Joseph's has also been enriched by the incredible trips and experiences the school has offered. Last year, I was fortunate enough to take part in the ski trip to Pinzolo, Italy. I can confidently say it was one of the most enjoyable weeks of my life, filled with laughter, adventure, and the chance to bond with my peers. These trips are a testament to the school's commitment to broadening pupils' horizons and creating memories that last a lifetime.

What truly makes St. Joseph's special is the community spirit and the steadfast support of the staff. Their dedication to helping each pupil realise their potential, combined with a genuine care for our well-being, has had a profound impact on me and my peers. Whether it's the encouragement to excel academically or the pastoral care that ensures every student feels valued, St. Joseph's provides an environment where everyone can thrive.

My advice is simple for prospective Year 8's. Immerse yourself in everything the school has to offer. Take every opportunity to try something new, whether that's joining a sports team, participating in a school trip, or simply making new friends. St. Joseph's is a place where you will be supported to achieve your best and encouraged to become the best version of yourself. Time really does fly here, so make the most of it!

I am deeply grateful for the experiences and friendships I've gained during my time at St. Joseph's Grammar School. I am confident that the skills and values I've developed here will serve me well in the future, and I am proud to have been a member of this wonderful family!



Meet our Head Girl

ANNA LOUGHRAN



My name is Anna Loughran, and I am truly privileged to serve as the current Head Girl at St Joseph's Grammar/Scoil Íosaef Donaghmore. Looking back over the past seven years, I am filled with gratitude for the countless opportunities I've had, the friendships I've formed, and the memories I've made. These have truly been the best years of my life.

At St Joseph's, the focus extends beyond academic achievement to include personal growth. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to helping us become the best versions of ourselves, equipping us with the skills and mind-set to succeed in life after school. My time here has shaped many of my characteristics—such as leadership, resilience, and organisational skills—and has instilled in me the belief that anything is achievable if you set your mind to it. These values will stay with me as I embark on my university journey, pursue a career as a primary school teacher, and move forward in life.

Over the years, St Joseph's has offered me numerous opportunities, including an unforgettable ski trip to Pinzolo, Italy, last year, where I formed deeper connections with my peers in ways I never imagined. In Year 11, I had the privilege of attending a Gaeltacht in Achill Island for three days, thanks to my GCSE Irish studies. Partnered with Coláiste Pobail Acla, I met new people and experienced a different way of life.

Alongside such trips, St Joseph's provides a wide range of extracurricular activities, from darts club to public speaking competitions—there's something for everyone! Additionally, opportunities to nurture spiritual and faith development are available through the Pope John Paul II Award in Sixth Form and the Muirdeach Cross Award in Key Stage 4, both of which I'm proud to have participated in.

On my first day here I was petrified, having travelled on a bus from a small close-knit, rural primary school, but as soon as I opened the doors, I was greeted with a welcoming smile from the Head of Year 8 and ushered into the assembly hall to join the rest of my class. I was still nervous for a time at the start of my St Joseph's life and missing primary school but my Form Teacher and Head of Year were very attentive and provided excellent support daily. Looking back now I wonder why I was ever nervous, but it can and does happen. However, the pastoral care system here is superb. St Joseph's do make the transition easier, by hosting an induction day in June which gives you an opportunity to meet your form teacher and class and a second day at the end of August, allowing you to meet everyone again before the school year starts.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am for all that St Joseph's has done for me. The school's comprehensive support system, covering both academic and emotional/mental health needs, is unlike anything I've ever encountered. It's clear that every staff member at St Joseph's is genuinely invested in our success and well-being.

My advice to you is to embrace every moment of your time here and take full advantage of the opportunities that come your way. I have no doubt that your years at St Joseph's will be some of the best of your life!





Cairde Brogán Foundation

The Cairde Brogán Foundation was established in November 2017 in memory of a former member of staff, Sr Mary Brogán. By promoting high level collaboration with employers, innovation hubs, and other education providers, the Foundation creates tangible, career related opportunities to empower our students to be ready to take up their place in a rapidly changing world.

“The Cairde Brogán Foundation gives our students the opportunities, experiences, and skills for the world of work that will set them apart from others.”

Geraldine Donnelly

PRINCIPAL

The Cairde Brogán Foundation seeks to harness the skills and experience of our patrons to offer pioneering careers support to our students, including:

- Career mentoring;
- Work placement opportunities;
- Job coaching;
- Interview skills training;
- Internships;
- Higher apprenticeship opportunities;
- Professional referrals and endorsements;
- Scholarships for further study;
- Scholarships for sport and the arts;
- Entrepreneurial guidance and training;
- Fundraising to support the work of the Foundation;
- Opportunities to shadow leaders in their field in the workplace.

The Sr Mary Brogán Academic Scholarship

Principal, Mrs G. Donnelly, explained that the scholarships are a “practical expression of the legacy of Sr Mary Brogán who revelled in the successes of our students long after they left St. Joseph’s / Scoil Íosaef”.

The Sr Mary Brogán Academic Scholarship provides financial support to current and past students of St. Joseph’s Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef. In the 2022-2024 academic years, scholarships were offered to past students to support the payment of undergraduate or postgraduate degree tuition fees. Niamh Brannigan received €4710 for her final year university fees in June 2024. As part of the scholarship programme these past students return to St. Joseph’s / Scoil Íosaef to deliver a range of programmes related to the personal and professional development of the current student body.

The Foundation was also extended to include “The Helen McRory Scholarship” which funded 3 Year 13 pupils’ travel and accommodation costs to attend a one week faith based camp in Boston College, Massachusetts. This experience has been invaluable for their own personal development and they have been generous in promoting this opportunity with other younger pupils so that they too gain the skills and values the programme brings. programme brings.





Niamh Brannigan
**QUALIFIED
PHARMACIST**
Recipient of Cairde
Brogán Scholarship
2022-2024

The 2023-2024
Helen McRory
Scholarship recipients:

Cora Quinn,
Cara McRory
and Grace Byrne



The 2022-2023
Helen McRory
Scholarship recipients:

Conor Nugent
Niamh McCormick

Cairde Brogán Foundation

EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Through generous donations of time, expertise, and financial assistance, our business partners provide invaluable opportunities that extend beyond the classroom, empowering our students with practical skills and experiences that set them apart in the competitive world of work.

SJS Dragons' Den

In collaboration with industry professionals, the SJS Dragons' Den offers our students an immersive experience in the art of pitching. Through expert-led training and hands-on practice, students present business concepts that incorporate marketing, finance, and legal considerations. The winning pitch received a £500 investment to bring their business idea to life, providing real-world insights into entrepreneurship and innovation.





SJS Junior Apprentice

The SJS Junior Apprentice challenges students to apply their problem-solving and presentation skills through a series of weekly challenges. Working in teams, students tackle real business problems, presenting their solutions and strategies in a dynamic, high-pressure environment, mirroring the challenges faced in the corporate world.



SJS Bake Off

The SJS Bake Off provides an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and expertise in the culinary arts. This event encourages students to develop practical skills in a fun and engaging way, fostering teamwork, time management, and precision in a real-world setting.



Innovation in Teaching and Learning

As part of our partnership with the University of Oxford, our teachers have presented their research at conferences to educationalists from across Ireland and the UK.

At St. Joseph's, Scoil Íosaef we are committed to being fully involved with educational research and evidence-based practice to ensure that we remain at the forefront of global developments in teaching and learning. We are passionate about teaching and learning and want our students to have the very best school experience possible. St. Joseph's, Scoil Íosaef proactively builds links with universities and other external stakeholders to engage our students and staff in research and dialogue around pedagogy and other education initiatives.

Since 2017 we have secured four funded research scholarships from the University of Oxford to allow our staff to carry out pioneering educational research to improve the learning experiences of students within our school and further afield. As part of our partnership with the University of Oxford, our teachers have presented their classroom-based educational research at conferences to educationalists from across Ireland and the UK.

Since 2019, members of our staff have attended the annual ResearchED Conferences based in Dublin and more recently in Belfast. Reflecting our enthusiasm to keep at the cutting edge of evidence informed practice and work collaboratively within and outside our school setting.

Faith development

Participating in prayer, sacraments, and Mass are central aspects of life at St. Joseph's Grammar.

Each month, we focus on one of our core values: faith, community, aspiration, kindness, hope, integrity, and service, embedding these principles into all aspects of school life. Our school prayer is used as the Morning Prayer in Form Class each day, providing a reflective start to our students' mornings. Each week, classes attend Mass in the local church, fostering a strong connection with the parish community. Throughout the year, we celebrate feast days, with assemblies and special services dedicated to these occasions.

Our liturgical calendar is rich with celebrations. During Lent, we hold reflective assemblies and charity events. The entire school community take part in daily challenges during Lent, focusing on the virtues of truth, love and justice.

Advent brings a spirit of preparation, culminating in a beautiful Christmas Carol Service before the end of term. In February, we celebrate Grandparents' Day by making St. Brigid's Crosses with our Year 8 classes, honouring tradition and family values. Each year we have a remembrance service in the nun's graveyard, a welcome mass and celebration for our new year 8s and a mass on the feast of our Patron, St. Joseph the worker. These events provide opportunities for spiritual growth and collective worship, enriching the faith of students and staff alike.



SCHOOL PRAYER

Ár n-Athair

Help me to show **kindness** to everyone today,
Help me show **integrity** in all I do and say,
Let my **faith** and **hope** in Jesus guide me on my way.
May the Daughters of the Cross continue to inspire,
Bless all in our school **community** and may our **service** light the fire,
Of self-belief and confidence for our students to **aspire**.
A Thiarna éist lenár nguí.

FAITH IN ACTION

At St. Joseph's Grammar, our students are encouraged to live out their faith through charitable and voluntary work within the school, at home, in the community, and beyond.

Each month, inspired by our core values, we engage in activities that embody our commitment to service and kindness. We have an Ethos group in school, which is student led, and they focus on areas of outreach, identity and school life. This year, the student body organised and facilitated a Christmas dinner for senior members of our surrounding communities.

During the seasons of Advent and Lent, the Ethos and charity groups arrange fundraisers and charity events for worthy causes, as well as all accompanying advertising and promotions of such events. This instils a sense of responsibility and social justice in our student body.

Many of our students extend their charitable efforts beyond school, volunteering in their personal time. We facilitate and encourage participation of the Muirdeach Cross award for KS4 students and the Pope John Paul II award for KS5 students. We have also recently created a bespoke Daughters of the Cross award for our KS3 students to engage with.

Empowering Voices in Learning

Here in St. Joseph's, Scoil Íosaef we aim to provide our learners with regular and meaningful opportunities to share their views on their learning experiences.

We use feedback from surveys, round table discussions, learning conversations and focus groups to gather our pupil and parental insights to the life and work of the school. We welcome open dialogue and direct communication with our learners. By actively involving our learners in shaping their educational journey, we improve engagement with learning. Encouraging learners to voice their concerns and ideas cultivates a sense of belonging and ownership. We take proactive steps to act upon the feedback received, fostering trust and transparency within our school community. Our commitment to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and listened to is paramount. We want all our students to grow into happy, confident, and aspirational young people who feel empowered to take up their place in the modern world.



Digital Education

It is our vision to be a sector-leading provider of innovative digital education.

As part of our approach to education, our aim is to equip students with the skills and abilities to achieve their full potential in a digital 21st century environment.

St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef is one of a small number of post-primary schools in Ireland to be designated as an Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC).

Being selected as an Apple RTC highlights our commitment to facilitating training for teachers to develop skills and build confidence to use Apple technology in the classroom. Domhnach Mór Apple RTC is a bilingual training centre and will deliver a range of courses in both Irish and English.

“As an Apple Regional Training Centre we are committed to providing high-quality staff training that truly impacts children in the classroom. It is a great opportunity for us to offer support to educators not only within our school but also across the wider local community.”

MRS S. QUINN





Digital Skills

At St. Joseph's Grammar School, we are committed to equipping students with essential digital skills to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Our comprehensive digital education programme spans all key stages, ensuring students develop a strong foundation in both practical and theoretical aspects of IT.

At Key Stage 3, students learn to use essential software such as Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, and PowerPoint. We cover fundamental IT theory topics including how computers work, main IT components, codebreaking, and binary and decimal conversion. Students also explore applications like Scratch, Adobe Cloud, Minecraft and learn to fully utilise Google Drive and One Drive both at home and in school.

At Key Stage 4, students can choose from specialised courses such as IT and Business, Digital Technology, Multimedia, and Programming in C#. We emphasise the importance of key IT legislation such as the Data Protection Act, the Copyright Designs & Patents Act, and the Computer Misuse Act.

At Key Stage 5, students undertake a database project and delve into digital technology fundamentals, the software life cycle, programming, cloud computing, AI, and more. There is a

continued focus on critical IT legislation to ensure students understand their legal responsibilities.

Across the whole school, we encourage the integration of digital skills and digital literacy in all subjects. ESafety education is taught at all levels, with Sixth Form Digital Ambassadors collaborating with the ESafety Coordinator and Pastoral Care Team to deliver online safety skills.

Students at all levels also have access to extra-curricular opportunities and careers events like workshops and presentations. St. Joseph's Grammar School has good connections within the IT industry and past pupils have returned to share their experiences of IT and the skills required in today's economy.

“Our aim is to inspire and equip students to navigate, innovate, and lead in the digital age, transforming a generation of digitally competent, creative, and responsible individuals.”

Ms. D Dolan

**HEAD OF ICT &
ICT COORDINATOR**

International Trips

Since 1922, our school has been dedicated to upholding the values of the Daughters of the Cross. We believe in nurturing well-rounded citizens who respect and appreciate diverse cultures, contributing meaningfully to society. We are committed to offering our pupils the very best educational experiences, including local, regional and global trips. International trips are a cornerstone of this mission, offering students the opportunity to explore the world, fostering global perspectives.

As we look back on our rich history and forward to future adventures, St. Joseph's Grammar School, Scoil Íosaef, remains steadfast in providing educational opportunities that extend beyond borders, preparing students for a world of possibilities allowing them to forge new friendships, improve teamwork and enhance their communication and social skills.

We have a range of well-established international links which offer our pupils an international perspective. Student testimonials of recent trips to USA, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Poland have highlighted the profound impact of these experiences on our students. We have just returned from a fantastic ski trip to Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, in December 2024, and we look forward to further trips to USA and France in 2025. These ventures are an integral part of our commitment to provide a holistic education for our students while making happy lifelong memories.



‘Ever To Excel’ programme, Boston USA

This year, Cora Quinn, Cara McRory and Grace Byrne took the opportunity to participate in the Ever to Excel programme in Boston College, USA. This is a faith-based programme guided by the teachings of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and aims to help participants to learn more about their place in the world and how to create a more meaningful life through the lens of Ignatian spirituality. It was a real privilege for Cora, Cara and Grace to be the first recipients of our Helen Mc Rory scholarship foundation which facilitated this experience, living out the legacy of our devoted former principal.



“The global networking opportunity that this trip afforded me was something special. To have made friends that I am still in regular contact with from Japan, Mexico, Dublin and lots of different states in America, is just fantastic.”

Conor Nugent

PAST PUPIL



“The Ever to Excel trip to Boston in the Summer of 2024 has shaped my faith, my friendships and my future in ways I could never have imagined”

Grace Byrne

YEAR 14

“I will be forever grateful being awarded the first Helen Mc Rory Scholarship which gave me the opportunity to travel to Boston college this summer to attend the ‘Ever To Excel’ programme. This programme focused on faith and personal growth and has provided me with transferrable skills that I will certainly implement in my life. Each day a new keynote speaker fuelled my inner determination and motivation to become the best version of myself.

Niamh McCormick

PAST PUPIL

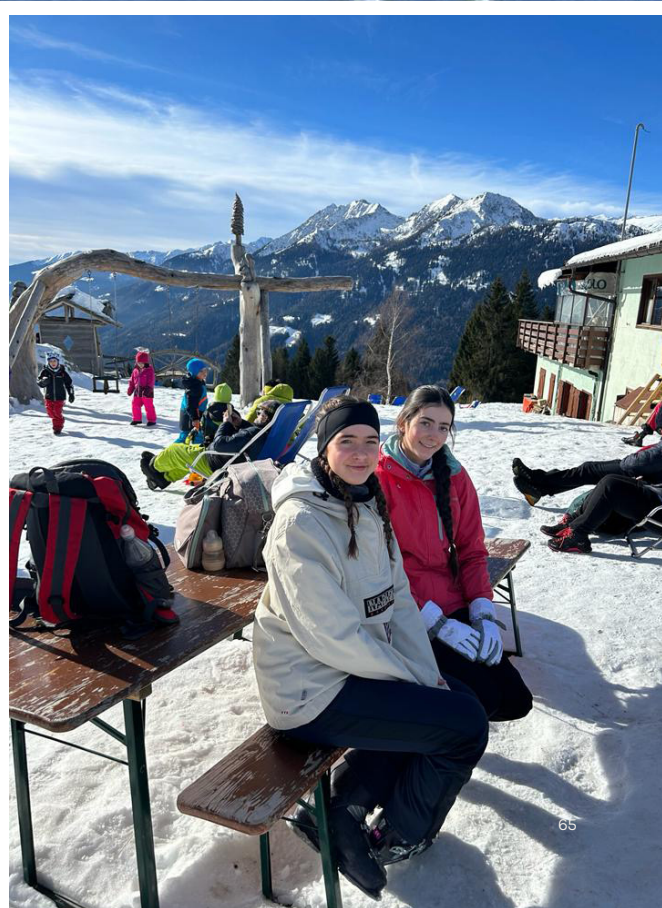
Pinzolo Ski Trip

A group of 48 Year 13 students and 4 staff departed for the slopes of Pinzolo, Italy, on our annual Topflight for Schools ski trip from 13th to 20th January 2024.

Our annual ski trip proves ever popular among our pupils and demand for places can often be oversubscribed, such is the enthusiasm of our students to avail of the unforgettable experience that a ski trip provides.

Our group of pupils enjoyed excellent instruction by their instructors from Scuola Italiana Sci with four hours of ski lessons per day over the six days of skiing offered. They thoroughly enjoyed the whole ski experience of hot lunches, refreshments, and hot chocolate in mountain restaurants on the slopes and were provided with excellent entertainment in the form of lunchtime discos on a number of days. There was a wide variety of evening entertainment as part of our après-ski programme that included a disco, pizza night, movie night, games, ceilis and a talent show on our last evening in Italy.

Our Year 13 pupils had an unbelievable trip that they will remember and talk about long into the future after they have left St. Joseph's, Donaghmore.



Our year 14 Lake Garda Trip

On the 19th October 2023, a dedicated team of staff and seventy-two year 14 students embarked on our most recent international school trip. The five-day trip to Italy blended culture, history, and adventure into an unforgettable experience for both our students and staff. Against the stunning backdrop of Lake Garda, we learned the art of sailing on its crystal clear waters.

We navigated the enchanting canals of Venice by gondola and were enthralled by the ancient echoes of the Amphitheatre of Verona which brought history to life. A cable car journey to Monte Baldo afforded breathtaking panoramic views, offering a serene contrast to the captivating charm of Sirmione. The heart-pounding rides on the Oblivion and Raptor rollercoasters at Gardaland were not for the faint hearted and few could keep up with Mr O'Neill! This recent adventure was not just a trip but a special experience for our year 14 students whose experiences of school trips up until this point had been impacted by the pandemic. As always, our students were an absolute pleasure!



Our trip to Berlin and Krakow

In Berlin, our students had the opportunity to delve into history at the DDR Museum, gaining insights into the intriguing aspects of life in East Germany during the Cold War.

In Krakow, our visit to Auschwitz provided a poignant lesson in history, followed by a visit of the Salt Mines, we also managed to make time for some shopping, ice skating and axe throwing activities.



Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEAIG) at St Joseph's

At St Joseph's, careers education is a fundamental part of our curriculum, equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to make informed decisions about their futures.

Our comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) programme ensures every student is prepared for seamless transitions into employment, further education, or training.

Cutting-Edge Careers Support with PeopleHawk

To enhance career planning, St Joseph's has introduced the innovative PeopleHawk IT Platform into our careers programme. This cutting-edge tool provides pupils with:

Enhanced Self-Awareness:

Scientifically validated assessments of values, interests, and personality enable students to identify their strengths and discover ideal career matches, courses, and subject choices at every key stage.

Immersive Career Exploration:

Pupils can explore thousands of tailored career options, access UK and Irish university course information, and view a live, customised job board featuring over 10,000 apprenticeship and regional job opportunities.

Pathway Comparison:

Students can compare post-16 and post-18 options, including apprenticeships, further education, and university courses, to find the pathway that best suits their aspirations.

Streamlined Applications:

AI-enabled tools allow pupils to create high-impact CVs, personal statements, and letters of motivation, with direct feedback provided by the platform's AI engine or our Careers Team.

Key Stage 3: Building Foundations

Careers education begins in Years 8–10 through Education for Employability lessons, introducing pupils to the world of work. In Year 10, students receive tailored guidance to make informed subject choices for Key Stage 4, including:

- Careers information from subject teachers and Heads of Departments.
- Attendance at a Year 10 Options Evening, where presentations are delivered by the Head of Careers, Mr P Corrigan, and the Head of Curriculum, Mrs O McCourt.

Our curriculum team works closely with the careers department to ensure each student has a personalised learning pathway that maximises their academic potential and career opportunities.

Key Stage 4: Exploring Opportunities

Year 12 pupils engage in careers lessons designed to inform them of the various training, work, and study options available at the age of 16. Key activities include:

- Valuable work experience placements, offering insights into specific roles and workplaces.
- An A-Level Subject Choice Afternoon and Mini Careers Fayre, where students interact with subject teachers, A-Level pupils, and local employers.

Guiding Futures, Shaping Success

Interactive Workshops

Each year group participates in engaging Young Enterprise Northern Ireland workshops. These interactive sessions explore workplace themes through practical activities, encouraging pupils to connect classroom learning with real-world applications.

Dedicated Careers Guidance

Our Careers Officer, Nuala Madden, provides tailored advice at key transition points in Year 10, Year 12, and Year 14, ensuring every pupil is fully supported in their educational and career choices.

Collaboration and Development

As a member of the Dungannon Area Learning Community, St Joseph's works closely with other schools to share resources and develop careers education. Careers staff also attend events organised by Mid-Ulster Council, ensuring they remain informed about local career trends and skills demands.

Promoting STEM

Promoting STEM for opportunities in these high-demand sectors, and career choices.

Sixth Form:

Tailoring Aspirations

A-Level students receive individualised guidance and a wealth of resources to support their career planning:

- One-to-one consultations with the Senior Management Team at the beginning of Years 13 and 14.
- Careers lessons and personalised advice in the dedicated Careers Suite.
- Presentations from Ulster University, Queen's University, Scottish and South of Ireland universities, South West College, and Student Finance Northern Ireland.
- Work experience placements in Term 3 of Year 13 to deepen their understanding of specific careers.

Year 14 pupils benefit from additional support, including presentations on Foundation Degrees, Higher-Level Apprenticeships, and Life at University training sessions. These sessions prepare students for the challenges of higher education, offering practical advice on managing academic and personal responsibilities.

- Accountancy & Finance
- Administration
- Construction
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Management & Executive
- Sales & Marketing



The Transition from School to Career Success



The journey from school to the professional world can be challenging, but the support I received from St. Joseph's Grammar School was instrumental in helping me secure a degree apprenticeship at Mallaghan Engineering.

My passion for engineering began when I studied Engineering and Technology at GCSE. This subject not only sparked my interest but also laid the foundation for my future career. The Careers Department and the Engineering and Technology Department at St. Joseph's played a vital role in nurturing this interest by providing tailored one-on-one guidance, workshops, and opportunities for work experience. Their focus on future planning ensured I felt supported and confident in making informed decisions about my career path.

For students with specific industry interests like mine, the school created pathways to success by introducing us to local employers and highlighting apprenticeship opportunities that matched our strengths and aspirations.



In Year 13, I had the opportunity to undertake work experience at Mallaghan Engineering. From the moment I stepped through their doors, I knew this was where I wanted to build my career.

Through the school, I was also introduced to the MEGA apprenticeship program. MEGA provided workshops and valuable insights into the different levels of apprenticeship opportunities available, as well as information about the numerous local companies involved. I was determined to secure a degree apprenticeship, which required applications to both MEGA and Ulster University, alongside completing my UCAS form to keep my options open.

Securing a degree apprenticeship in engineering is highly competitive, and the interview period coincides with exam season, making it an intense

time. St. Joseph's prepared me well for this challenge by offering interview preparation sessions, mock interviews, and classes on interview techniques. These proved invaluable when I faced interviews with industry professionals.

Today, I am proud to be a degree apprentice at Mallaghan Engineering. The skills I developed at St. Joseph's—such as teamwork, problem-solving, and attention to detail—have been essential in my fast-paced, hands-on role. I feel privileged to work for a respected local company, learn from experienced professionals, and continuously develop my technical abilities while pursuing my studies at Ulster University.

”

Cara Murray

PUPIL

Uniform

Blazer

Jumper

Blouse

Shirt

Bottle green pleated skirt

Black trousers

Tie

Bottle green tights

Black socks

Black shoes

PE KIT

School jersey

School shorts

School socks





Past Pupil Testimonial



My journey at St. Joseph's began in September of 2016, having come from a small rural primary school in Galbally the idea of a large secondary school was quite daunting. However, the tightknit and warm atmosphere around St. Joseph's made me feel right at home. I remember staff and older students at Donaghmore going out of their way to ensure myself and fellow first years felt at ease. Choosing Donaghmore was an easy decision for me to make. Being the last of six children in my family who had all attended St. Joseph's before me it had been a natural choice for me to make. Despite this, the variety of choice offered at St. Joseph's from academic, sports, music, arts and social, it really did make my decision that bit easier.

Looking back on my time at St. Joseph's I am filled with nothing but fondness and gratitude for a wonderful seven years spent in a place that has shaped me into the person I am today.

Throughout those seven years, the variety of activities that was offered to me was nothing short of amazing. I have gotten to take part in various



trips and events that have bridged the gap between academics and extracurriculars. In third year, I got to undertake a trip to Rome with the religion department. During this trip we got to visit some of the most exciting things Italy has to offer. From tasting proper Italian food, to sightseeing at the colosseum and an unforgettable audience with Pope Francis. These are some of my most fond memories and ones which will last a lifetime.

I was also offered the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. During this experience I got to develop skills, including teamwork, leadership and problem solving, all of which are transferable skills that will follow me throughout university and into my career. Throughout this award we took expeditions to various exciting and challenging terrain including the Mourne mountains and the Sperrin's. Not only was this experience extremely valuable in learning life and practical skills but it was also filled with good criad and even better company.

In my final year at St. Joseph's, I had the great honour of being appointed as head boy. In this position I had the opportunity to represent the school in various capacities. Throughout the year the school also celebrated the centenary year of the daughters of the cross.

This gave me the opportunity to participate in a once in a life time experience of going to the RTE studios to participate in a live, televised school mass to commemorate and acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the daughters of the cross in the development of our school.

One of my proudest moments at St. Joseph's was when my artwork was selected for the annual True colour's exhibition in the Ulster Museum in Belfast. This was monumental for me, and I wouldn't have been able to achieve such an accomplishment without the support and guidance from the department teachers who constantly encouraged me to achieve my best and instil a confidence in my own ability.

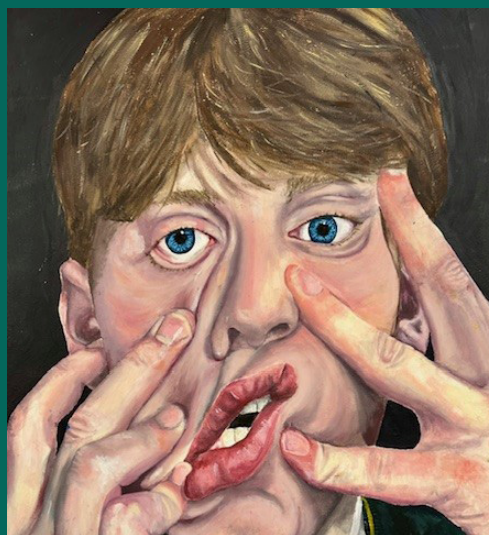
St. Joseph's is not only full of amazing opportunities and trips to get involved in, but the level of teaching is nothing short of fantastic. This helped make the transition from GCSE to a level that bit less daunting. For my AS and A levels I decided to study Chemistry, Biology, Art and Maths. Subjects which helped prepare me for the rigour of medical school. Throughout my university application process there were constantly new challenges from personal statement to interviews to entrance exams, the list does go on. However, the careers department were always there to offer support and advice to any queries I might have had. As well as this they organised work experience, conducted mock interviews and enabled us to have discussions with experienced doctors. St. Joseph's helped to best prepare me for the next step in my academic career.

Upon achievement of A level's, the school prompted me to apply for the

JP McManus, All Ireland Scholarship. To my surprise and extreme gratitude, I was awarded this very sought-after prize. This has made life at medical school a bit less stressful, if that's possible, by easing the financial burden of tuition fees. I was instantly so thankful and grateful, and I can whole heartedly say that if it wasn't for the support provided by staff at St. Joseph's then achievement of this scholarship would not have been possible.

Upon leaving St. Joseph's, I brought with me friendships that will last forever, memories that I will cherish and a great sense of pride in my accomplishments. I can wholeheartedly say that my choice to study at St. Joseph's is the reason that I am where I am today.

LIAM CARBERRY
PAST PUPIL





Art, Music and Drama

In St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef, we understand the value of participating in the creative arts.

With global employers crying out for graduates with skills that meet the needs of the 21st-century economy – from innovation to critical thinking and adaptability – we consciously place a high value on creativity and are constantly looking for exciting and engaging ways to nurture these skills in our students. In St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef we believe that the arts can act as a key, unlocking many of the skills that inspire children to engage with their studies and love learning. Skills which can therefore, support academic success.

Art, music and drama are a vital and enriching part of education at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef. They allow the students to develop alternative approaches and strategies for problem-solving and thinking. Even if students do not follow on to a creative career, they take with them the ability and skills to think differently and numerous studies have shown that employers value individuals with fresh viewpoints who can find alternative means to solutions.

Drama

In 2016 our state of the art drama suite was opened as part of a €4 million capital investment project meaning that our students learn in a first class facility with the most up to date technology. Students at Key Stage 3 have Drama once per week. The focus of Key Stage 3 Drama is William Shakespeare's quote "All the world's a stage," Our Drama Department believe that all students should have the opportunity to express themselves. In Year 8, we focus on basic dramatic skills such as facial expression and body language. The Year 9 curriculum focusses on William Shakespeare, as well as analysing and creating short movies with our Green Screen. We also look at analysing script and building character profiles in Year 10. Our after school drama club is very popular. In October 2022 we held a sell-out performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.'

Art and Design

The creative industries in Northern Ireland are a resounding success, with global contributions from artists, fashion designers, musicians, and filmmakers. Growing nearly twice as fast as the wider economy and valued at £84 billion annually across the UK and Ireland, they are thriving.

Starting in Year 8, students develop skills, creativity, imagination, and independence, gaining a comprehensive understanding of art and design. This foundational knowledge is further nurtured at GCSE and A Level.

Students benefit from workshops led by visiting artists and craftspeople, offering professional insights. Learning extends beyond the classroom with annual visits to art galleries, artist lectures, and trips abroad to experience international galleries and architecture.

Music

The Music Department plays an active role in the life of St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef, not only providing an excellent base knowledge of Music to all students but giving the opportunity to excel in musical development and performance outside the classroom. Along with providing music for all school events our choir and instrumental groups have performed with Peter Corry, Liam Lawton, Malachi Cush and for the Lady Mary Peter's Foundation. The rich history of music in our school has developed into a vibrant and dynamic expression of talent and ability recognised far beyond the confines of St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef.





Sport

At St. Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore, we take immense pride in our rich sporting tradition, which fosters teamwork, resilience, and excellence.

Our comprehensive PE curriculum is complemented by a dynamic extra-curricular program that includes Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, netball, athletics, and cross-country running. Swimming, Handball and Show Jumping are also represented by students individually. We are deeply committed to promoting participation at all levels, offering students opportunities to compete in Ulster and All-Ireland competitions.

Students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities, including a full-size sports hall, an outdoor pitch, and a modern fitness suite, providing the ideal environment to develop their sporting skills. With the support of our dedicated PE staff, along with strong partnerships with local clubs and parents, we create an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere for all our athletes. From grassroots participation to elite success, St. Joseph's continues to build a lasting legacy of sporting achievement.





GAELIC FOOTBALL

In Gaelic football, our teams have consistently excelled in Ulster Colleges' competitions. Over the past two years, we have competed in the prestigious Mac Rory Cup, reaching the semi-final stage last year. A significant milestone for the school was our victory in the Mac Clarnon Cup in 2023, followed by triumph in the All-Ireland series. Students, Joey Clarke and Noah Grimes have earned QUB Future Star awards in recent years and alongside many others have represented their county at both minor and senior levels.



HURLING & CAMOGIE

Similarly, in hurling, Leo Hughes made history in 2024 by becoming the school's first Ulster Colleges hurling All-Star. Our U16 camogie team has reached the Sciath Na Bhríde and Sciath Na Chontae Ulster finals in the past two years, narrowly missing out on victory each time. Kaitlin Gallagher deservedly received an Ulster School's Camogie All Star in 2023 and Aoife Quinn received a QUB Future Camogie Star in 2022. We hope to see more awards for our senior ladies in the future.

NETBALL

Netball at St. Joseph's has flourished in recent years, with our teams making impressive strides at regional and national levels. In 2024, our minor team secured the Northern Ireland Division One league title, while the intermediate team followed up their 2023 success with a win in the Intermediate Bowl at the NNI finals in

Lisburn Racquets. A key moment for the team was their recognition by Mid Ulster District Council at their awards night in the Hill of O'Neill and Ranfurly House. The success and enthusiasm in netball have inspired many of our players to represent Northern Ireland in regional development squads, further elevating the sport's profile within our school.

BASKETBALL:

Basketball is hugely popular at St. Joseph's, particularly among our Key Stage 3 boys. The Year 9 team of 2024 made history by winning an Ulster title, marking a proud moment for the school. The enthusiasm for the sport continues to grow, providing a solid foundation for future success.

ATHLETICS & CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING:

Athletics and cross-country running continue to bring acclaim to the school, with our athletes excelling at regional and All-Ireland championships. Most recently our Year 10 student Aisling Loughran's success at Ulster level.

At St. Joseph's, we celebrate these achievements with pride, showcasing the role of sport in shaping confident, accomplished individuals who represent our school with distinction. These successes are a testament to the commitment of our athletes, coaches, and staff, all working together to foster a high-performance sporting environment that continues to inspire excellence.

SWIMMING

In swimming Eimear O'Neill brought a gold medal in the 100m breaststroke back to SJS when she competed in the Ulster Schools Swimming Championships earlier in 2024.

"As a parent and a former governor I have watched sport go from strength to strength in St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef. The school is a force to be reckoned with on the pitch. I have seen first-hand that St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef now produces some of the best and up-coming talent in Tyrone GAA. You just had to look at the make-up of the Tyrone Minor finalist panel in the summer to see the calibre of sport in the school".

FEARGAL LOGAN



Sports Competitions

Sports competitions that our students are entered for include:

BOYS' GAELIC FOOTBALL

Senior MacRory Cup
Years 11 / 12 Rafferty Cup
Years 10 / 11 Treanor Cup
Years 9 / 10 Loch an Nuir cup
Years 8 / 9 Corn Colmcille
Year 8 Oisín McGrath Shield

HURLING

Ulster colleges Year 10 Brother Mallon Cup
Tyrone Schools Development League
Ulster colleges Year 8 / 9 Corn Setanta
Ulster colleges U16 Maguire Cup

CAMOGIE

Ulster Schools Camogie U19 Competition
Ulster Schools Camogie U16 Competition
Ulster Schools Camogie U14 Competition
Year 8 Ulster Camogie Development Blitz

LADIES' GAELIC FOOTBALL

Senior Ladies' Ulster Schools
Under 19 League

Ulster Schools Under 16 Schools League
Ulster Schools Under 14 Schools League
Year 8 Ulster Schools Development Blitz

ATHLETICS

District Schools Athletics Championships
Ulster School MS Athletics Championships

CROSS COUNTRY

District Schools Championships
Ulster Schools Cross Country Championships

NETBALL

Year 9-12 NNI League & Cup
Year 8 Area Netball Blitz

BASKETBALL

Year 8 Ulster Schools Blitz

SWIMMING

Ulster Grammar Schools Championships





Student Voice

OUR SCHOOL...OUR VOICE

The aim of the School Council in St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef is to encourage all students to play an active, conscious and democratic role in improving their school community.

St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef School Council is a forum for enabling students to offer opinions and advice on a broad range of subjects.

Students are elected to represent their year group and attend meetings with other year group representatives at various times through the school year.

The Student Council acts as the voice of the students, helping to put forward ideas, raise issues of concern and bring about change. Council members are regularly consulted on relevant school policies and have their opportunity to have a say in the matters that ultimately impact them. Recent initiatives that students on our council have been the driving force behind include updating our uniform at Sixth Form and the introduction of a wider range of healthy food alternatives in our canteen.

There is no doubt that being a School Council member has a lasting impact on the lives of our students, equipping them with a skillset to help them navigate through life. It helps develop their leadership qualities, communication and listening skills and working as part of a team to drive positive change.

Extra-Curricular Provision

We believe students learn as much, if not more, outside the classroom as they do inside it. Our extra-curricular provision is designed to build resilience, improve self-discipline, and develop the skills required to work as part of a team.

MUSIC

Choir
Orchestra
String Group

CLUBS

Drama Club
Maths Puzzle Club
Chess Club
Debating Club
Public Speaking Club
Arts and Craft Club
Film Club
Cookery Club
Eco-Committee

Table Tennis Club
Coding Club
Minecraft Club
Cumann Gaelach
Liturgy
Sacred Space
Science Club
Horticulture Club
Engineering Club
Water Sports

LINK-UP GROUPS

St Patrick's P.S. Donaghmore
Donaghmore County P.S
St Mary's Lisbuoy
Blessed Patrick O'Loughran
Gaelscoil Aodha Rua
Sacred Heart P.S. Rock
Sperrinview Special School Dungannon

COMPETITIONS

Irish Language Competitions
Ashbourne Shield
Rotary Club Competition
Quizzes
Environmental Youth Speak
Irish Drama Competitions
University of Leeds Maths Challenge
Geo Challenge

OTHER

Charity Fundraising
Literacy Mentoring
Numeracy Mentoring
Credit Union
Daughters of the Cross Award
Múiredach Cross Award
John Paul II Award
Habitat for Humanity
International Build, Cambodia
Habitat for Humanity Change
makers Programme
Daughters of the Cross Public
Speaking Competition
Knights of Columbanus Public
Speaking Competition
Guitar for beginners
Minecraft Club
Tae agus Plé
Geography Clinic
Mock Magistrates
Mindfulness/mediation
Pioneer group
Gardening Club
Marvel Club
Gael Zone
Yoga
Daily Mile
Running/Cross Country
Year 8 Micro-Bit Club
Young Enterprise
QUB IT Ambassadors Programme
Microsoft Dream Space
Ambassador Programme





In Hoc Signo Vinces

In This Sign Thou
Shalt Conquer