



# MERCY COLLEGE WOODFORD

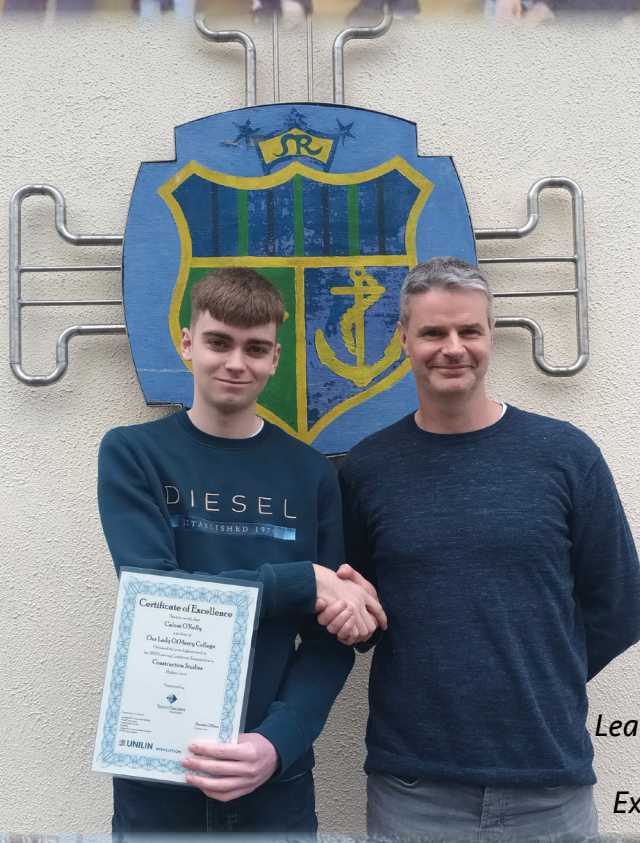
COLÁISTE NA TRÓCAIRE  
AN GHRÁIG



## PROSPECTUS



*Third Level Scholarships*



*Leaving Certificate  
Construction  
Excellence Award*



# OUR MISSION

- To ensure an excellent education for all our students.
- To provide for the Academic, Spiritual, Personal, Social and Physical development of our students.
- To foster Christian values and mutual respect in a caring environment.



***This is achieved through:***

**Our Pastoral Care Programme**

**Academic Achievement**

**Sports and Extra Curricular Activities**

**Music and Creative Arts**

**Modern Facilities**



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# A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At Mercy College we pride ourselves on our friendly, caring environment where our students are appreciated, nurtured and supported. Their growth and happiness are the focus of our community.

Our focus is to promote the holistic development of each student - their academic, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual growth are key.

We mentor our students in the development of their personal and life skills. These are essential for them as they prepare to take their place in an ever changing, challenging, global society.

Our professional, dedicated and highly skilled teachers take each student into their care. We work with our students as they develop and progress, striving daily to help each achieve their individual potential. This is an ethos that can only be facilitated through our dedication to the provision of a comprehensive curriculum.

Our consistent academic and sporting achievements here at Mercy College stand as testament to this collaborative teacher-student dynamic.

As a small school we have the ability to provide a genuine connection amongst all in our community. Furthermore, our class sizes ensure our students receive optimal learning conditions and opportunities.

We are acutely aware that our academic, personal and sporting successes are achieved through providing the necessary student supports via our Pastoral Care system. This includes our year heads, student council, prefects, buddy system, career guidance and counselling services.

We want our students to be happy while in school and we will work together in partnership with you the parents/guardians to provide the best education for your child.

**LIAM CONWAY**  
Principal

*Throughout our Prospectus you will see information boxes like this one. These show you some of the praise we received from the Department of Education & Skills from recent department inspections.*

*"Ranked number 13 in Connacht" – top school in East Galway.*

*The Definitive Guide to the Top 400 Schools in Ireland, Sunday Times 2022.*

# PASTORAL CARE

At Mercy College we place great importance on the personal, social and moral development of the student which compliments their academic achievements.

Our Prefects provide a 'buddy' mentoring system Through the School Counsellor, Year Heads, Principal, Deputy Principal and Class Teachers we support and assist our students with any issues or situations they may encounter which causes them concern or anxiety. We are always available to both students and parents who need our advice or support. Our school is characterised by an open enrolment policy and an ethos of respect, honesty and co-operation. The quality of care provided for our students is exemplary.

*"Students are proud to be attending Mercy College and they feel safe and cared for in this school"*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*

Our new, purpose built Special Needs Department – 'HQ' – offers a "home away from home", a caring, nurturing and educational environment. Students with Special Educational needs are taught Junior Cycle subjects to Level 2 &/or 3, as well as participating in our Life Skills Programmes which helps promote independent living. All benefit from having and following an Individual Educational Plan that is specifically tailored for each student.

*"The work of the prefects and their role in mentoring first-year students is beneficial as it allows for leadership among students to be developed"*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*



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### Cáirde Group

An informal, peer based, well-being group who offer support and shared experience with our new first year student cohort.

## PREFECTS

Prefects are appointed from the Leaving Certificate class. They are responsible, respectful, good role models and individuals who act as leaders within the school. They help First Year students make a successful transition into their new school environment.

## OUR PASTORAL CARE STRUCTURE:

- Creates a caring environment in the school
- Instils confidence, self-discipline, self-direction and integrity in every student
- Nurtures positive self-esteem in our students allowing them to grow in confidence
- Helps our students learn effectively without stress
- Identifies students at risk and provides appropriate support and guidance

## YEAR HEADS

Each year group has a Year Head who liaises with the students, teachers and parents to monitor student progress and to deal with individual issues if they arise. They help to build a positive and inclusive atmosphere within the year group and encourage students' participation in academic and extra-curricular activities. Year Heads monitor the social and academic development of their student group throughout the year

## ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Mercy College has a school-wide approach to raise awareness and prevent bullying behaviour by helping students to establish and maintain more positive relationships with each other and to resolve conflicts.

## STUDENTS COUNCIL

A Student Council representing all classes in the school is elected each year. It represents the views of the students and is instrumental in bringing about improvements in the school community.

*Students agreed that "in this school there are clear rules against hurting other people by what we say or do"*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*



Prefects



Student Council



# ACADEMIC

Mercy College provides the following Courses:

- Junior Cycle Programme
- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate Established
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- Leaving Certificate Applied
- Extended Learning Programme

*"Teachers...have demonstrated great flexibility...their co-operation in taking on new initiatives focused on teaching and learning is also evident."*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*

## SENIOR CYCLE PROGRAMME

At Senior Cycle we offer the following exam subjects and deliver them subject to demand and uptake:

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- Accounting
- German
- Business
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Agricultural Science
- Enterprise Education
- Preparation for the World of Work
- History
- Geography
- Construction
- Home Economics
- DCC
- Art
- Music
- Physics

*The following subjects enhance our holistic approach to education*

- Well-being
- Religion
- PE
- SPHE
- Career Guidance

## JUNIOR CYCLE PROGRAMME

- We have adapted our Curriculum to facilitate the implementation of the new Department of Education & Skills Junior Cycle.
- We have combined core subjects with short modular courses to ensure students are exposed to a broad curriculum.
- All subjects studied at Junior Cycle can continue to be studied at Leaving Certificate level.

*"The principal has managed, through the careful and strategic allocation of teaching resources, to maintain a broad curriculum for students".*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*



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## SOME STATISTICS ABOUT OUR RECENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

SUBJECTS	MERCY COLLEGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE
Accounting	100% Taking Higher Level 100% Grade H1	78% Taking Higher Level 5% Grade H1
Physics	100% Taking Higher Level 100% Grade H1	83% Taking Higher Level 9% Grade H1
Design Communications & Graphics	100% Taking Higher Level 100% achieve H4 or above	83% Taking Higher Level 60% achieve Grade H4
Subjects with 100% Uptake at Higher Level	Agricultural Science, Art , Business, Construction Studies, Geography, Home Economics, History, Music, Biology, Chemistry	
Core Subjects	Irish, English, Maths 100% Success Rate at each level	
PROGRAMME	MERCY COLLEGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE
LCA Distinctions	50%	21%
LCVP Distinctions	54%	11%



*"Excellent practice was observed, where teachers, through the lesson structure, developed students capacity to learn"*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*





## LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

The Leaving Certificate Applied Programme aims to develop highly motivated enterprising students and prepare them for further education/training and employment. Subjects include:

- Irish (Year 1)
- English & Communications
- Mathematical Applications
- European Language (Year 2)
- Arts - Visual, Craft & Design
- ICT
- Vocational Preparation & Guidance
- Social Education
- Hotel Catering & Tourism
- Graphics & Construction Studies
- Leisure & Recreation
- Work Experience
- Personal Achievement Task
- Electives

*"Outstanding examples of team teaching observed . . . underpinned by careful planning"*  
Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report

## TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year provides a broad educational experience, leading to increased maturity, before proceeding to the Leaving Certificate Cycle.

- It helps students take greater **responsibility** for their own decisions
- Its wide-ranging syllabus is reviewed annually and is **tailored to suit the needs and interests of the students**
- All Transition Year students are encouraged to complete the European Computer Driving Licence (**ECDL**) & Computer Coding
- Transition Years produce a **Drama/Musical** each year to display their multitude of talents
- Emphasis is placed on the spoken and aural languages
- All students are encouraged to develop their skills and talents by entering **competitions**
- The Programme also includes opportunities for **work experience** and **student exchange**

*"Very high quality teaching was observed in all lessons"*

Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report - Science



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# EXTRA CURRICULAR



AstroPitch



Badminton Team County Champions

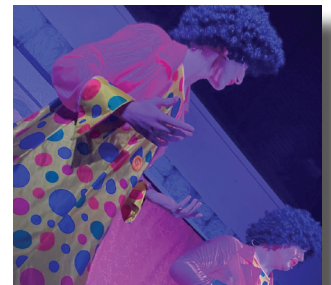
- Drama/Music
- Choir
- Public Speaking/Debating
- Film Studies
- Photography
- An Gaisce
- Seachtain na Gaeilge Quiz/Ceili
- Outings/Tours/Fieldtrips
- Comhairle na nOg
- Heritage Projects
- Health Promoting School
- Green School
- Young Scientist Competition
- Youth Leadership
- Retreats/Liturgies
- Enterprise
- Students Council



All-Ireland Poetry Aloud Finalists



TY Italian Tour



Transition Year Musical



Choir Group



Transition Year Gala Night

*"One of the main developmental priorities of the school is the development of co-curricular and extra-curricular provision"*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*

In Mercy College Woodford students are given the opportunity to excel in The Arts, Enterprise, Science, Construction & Engineering Modules and Sports.

We encourage all students to participate and become involved in a wide range of extra curricular activities including:

# SPORT

Mercy College Woodford has a strong policy of actively promoting sporting opportunities among all our students. We offer an extensive range of sporting activities from which students can choose from:

- Hurling
- Camogie
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Tennis
- Indoor Hockey
- Athletics
- Gymnastics
- Badminton
- Orienteering
- Kayaking
- Equestrian Activities

We actively encourage and facilitate our students in all their personal sporting pursuits. As individuals and members of teams they have achieved national medals, sports scholarships, professional sports contracts and inter-county call ups, amongst others. Our Mercy College community is very proud of them all.



*Boys Senior Hurling*



*Girls Camogie*



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### **SOCCER LEAGUE:**

The Student Council help organise lunchtime Soccer Leagues for both Junior and Senior students. The winning team receive their cup and medals at our annual Award Ceremony.

### **VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE:**

Volleyball is another very popular sport with all students, male and female. A Junior Volleyball League runs at lunchtime throughout the year. The winning team receive their medals at the Award Ceremony in May each year.

### **ATHLETICS**

Mercy College Woodford is always well represented at regional, provincial and national athletic competitions. Many of our students compete in several events and have won Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in events such as Running, Hurdles, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot, Javelin etc.



*"Students engaged well in lessons with opportunities provided for students to actively engage in the learning process".*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*



# HEALTH PROMOTION

Initiative and creativity are encouraged

Effort is recognised

Self-esteem is fostered

Conflict is handled constructively

**HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL**

Fairness and tolerance are evident

Uniqueness and difference are respected

People experiencing difficulties are supported

Social, moral and civic values are promoted

Students' emotional, psychological and physical well-being is promoted

Communication is open and transparent



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# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

*"The Board is very well informed of its role and has an active interest in developing the school"*

*DES MLL Report 2014*

**The Board of Management has a duty to manage the school on behalf of the patron for the benefit of the students and their parents, or cause to be provided, appropriate education for each student at the school for which that Board has responsibility. (Education Act 1998, Section 15 (1))**

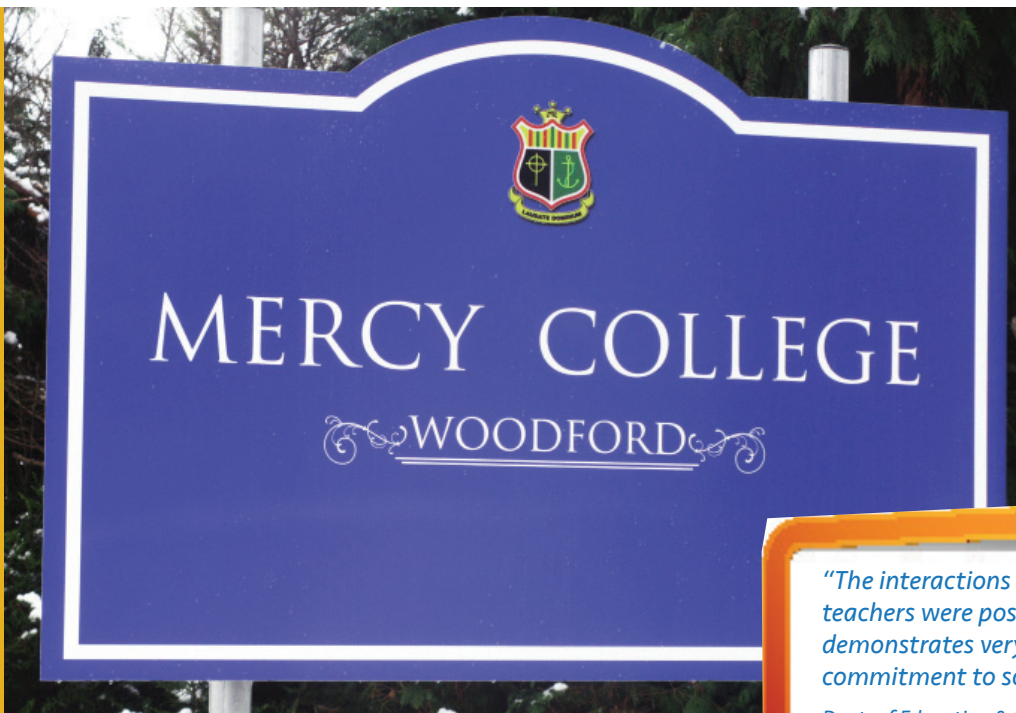
***The Board of Management - consists of eight members nominated as follows:***

Chairperson:	Mr. Mattie Quinn
Trustee:	Mr. Gerard Farrell, Ms. Patrice Goonan, Mrs. Breda McCormack
Parent Nominee:	Mr. Eugene Gorman, Mrs. Linda O'Mahony
Teacher Nominee:	Ms. Aileen Harte, Mr. Michael O'Mahony

The Principal of the school, Liam Conway, acts as Secretary to the Board.

## PARENT ASSOCIATION

- It is a representative body established by the parents/guardians of our students
- It enables parents/guardians in our school to work together for the best possible education for their children
- All parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the school community.

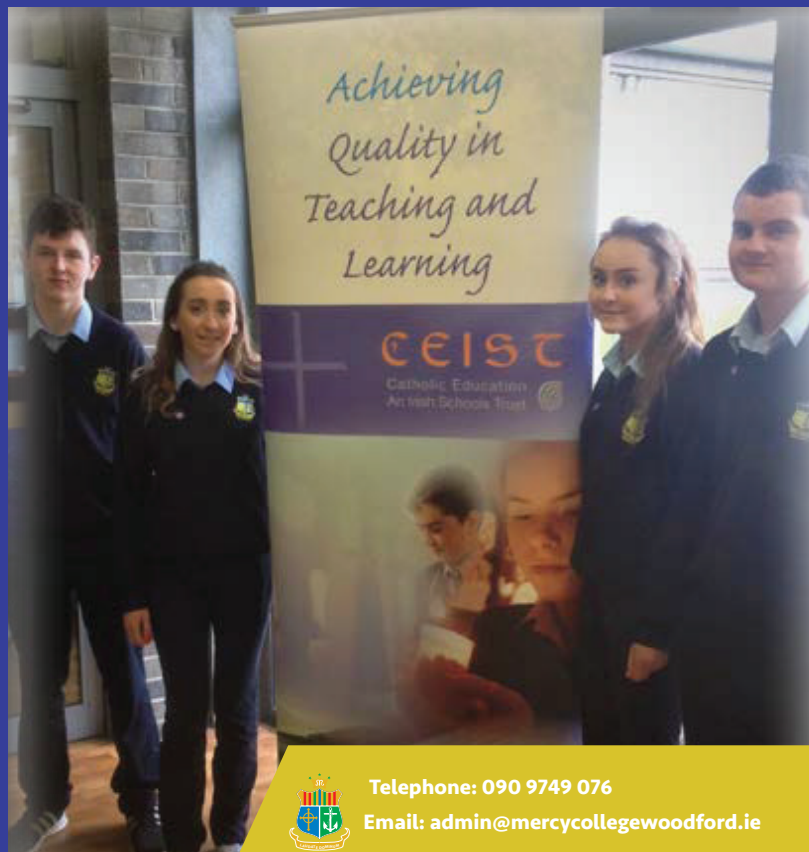


*"The interactions between the student and teachers were positive . . . Overall, the school demonstrates very good capacity for, and commitment to school improvement".*

*Dept. of Education & Skills Inspection Report*



*John Paul II Award Recipients*



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