



DE LA SALLE COLLEGE MACROOM



*“... the guiding philosophy of this school is inclusion and meeting the diverse needs of students
... a positive atmosphere underpinned by respectful interactions was observed ...”*

Departmental Whole School Inspection January 2016

PRINCIPAL: Mr. John Murphy DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr. Eric Graham



Principal
Mr. John Murphy
in his office



THE SCHOOL

De la Salle College Macroom is a Catholic voluntary secondary school dedicated to maintaining the spiritual and educational values of Jean Baptiste de la Salle, the Patron Saint of teachers and founder of the De la Salle order. Even though the brothers no longer have an active role in the school, we remain committed to

achievement in the academic, sporting and developmental spheres of life as begun by them in Macroom in 1933. The school caters for over 300 boys. The location of the school, in a quiet area away from the noise and bustle of the streets, lends to an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity that is conducive to effective learning.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management of the school is constituted as per statute to include four members nominated by the Trustees of the school, two nominated by parents and two by the teaching staff of the school.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM:



Experiment time in the science laboratory



All concentration in class



Hard at work in the technology room

JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- Business Studies
- Civic, Social & Political Education
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music (after hours - optional)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Social, Personal & Health Education
- Technical Graphics OR
- Technology
- Art (after hours – optional)

At the time of printing this prospectus, many changes are being proposed for the Junior Cycle experience. It is envisaged that that the certificate itself will be replaced by the JCSA (Junior Cycle Student Award). This will entail major changes to the subjects themselves, along with the introduction of “short courses”. The English syllabus was changed in 2014, while the Business Studies and Science syllabuses changed in autumn 2016. The proposed sequence of changes to subjects thereafter is: Year 1 – Irish; Year 2 – French; Year 3 – Maths and Geography; Year 4 – History and the Technologies.

SENIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

All students take Irish, English, Maths and Religious Education, plus four or five from the following list:

- Accounting
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- French
- Geography
- History
- Physics
- Technology

Other subjects that may be offered on an optional, after-hours basis include:

- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Economics
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Music

Some students also take on an additional module known as the *Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (L.C.V.P.)*. This module is based on selfdirected learning, enterprise, work and the community. Students are encouraged to take their own ideas, develop them, put them into practice and evaluate the results. Activities such as visits to industries and community projects, developing computer skills, interviews with employers, enterprise projects, work experience and career investigations are all part of the programme. Assessment takes the form of a portfolio presentation and an exam, and the module counts for points towards Third Level entry.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The newly refurbished IT room

The school's recently refurbished computer room has 29 state-of-the-art computers, all of which have high-speed Internet access. Each room in the school has Internet connectivity and a data projector for PowerPoint and video presentations etc.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The College endeavours to keep parents fully informed regarding their children's ongoing application and progress. Minor tests and assessments are continually given during the school year. More substantial exams are held before the Christmas and summer breaks, with written reports being posted home. All parents of First Years are invited to attend a meeting in the school towards the end of September, where they can discuss how their sons are settling in. As well as this, parent-teacher meetings are held during the year for all year-groups. Parents are welcome to visit the College to meet their son's Class Teacher, by appointment, at any time during the school year.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

The formation of well-balanced and rounded individuals who are able to take their place as valuable members of society is the chief goal of De La Salle Macroom. Successful results in the State examinations are an integral part of this, and represent an area of education where the school consistently excels. While high grades, including the "grand slam" of maximum points, have regularly been celebrated by the school, we firmly believe that a "C" can represent as much of a success for a particular student as an "A" does for another – the important thing to us is that he achieves his potential, whatever this may be. De La Salle pastpupils have proved to be high achievers in very many fields, including business, computing, dentistry, education, electronics, engineering, farming, law, medicine, the Civil Service etc.



Hard at work during house exams

TRANSITION YEAR



Preparing to take to the water during outdoor pursuits

Transition Year serves to bridge the gap between Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate, a gap that can prove to be problematic for some students. It offers the young student space to mature sufficiently so that the very adult experience of the Leaving Cert programme can be faced with greater confidence. Activities during this year are geared towards broadening the student's outlook and instilling a more reflective attitude towards himself and his environment. Within each subject, a certain amount of work is done from the Leaving Cert syllabus. Other material is also presented that may or may not be directly related to the syllabus, but which is designed to foster an interest in the broader ranges of the subject.

Work experience is a very important component of Transition Year. Each student will spend two weeks out of school and in the world of work, and preferably this placement will be of assistance when it eventually comes to making a career choice.

The following are some of the activities that may take place during Transition Year: An overnight visit to an outdoor pursuits centre; Boxing; Debating; Drive for Life workshop; ECDL training; First Aid course; Fund-raising for charities; G.A.A. coaching course; Gaisce awards; Golf tuition; Hikes; Mini company; Music module; Self defence module; Swimming lessons; Various outings; Visiting speakers.



On stage in the Briery Gap theatre



Members of the Student Council



STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The school has operated a Student Council since 1994, making it one of the first schools in the country to do so. The Council is elected from amongst all of the year groups and is involved in several aspects of school life. The Council serves as a liaison between the staff and the student body. As well as this, the Council

helps with the organisation of several school activities; these include charity events, soccer and table tennis leagues and the induction of incoming First Year students. New Student Council members travel to the De la Salle Brothers' headquarters in Castletown in County Laois to participate in a leadership course.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The school has an active Parents' Association, which, among other activities, assists the school with fund-raising activities. Every year the Association hosts a table quiz for primary and secondary schools in the region. The parents' representatives on the Board of Management are chosen through the Parents' Association.

EXTRA- & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Munster Schools' U-15 football champions 2015



De la Salle students Cork Minor Footballers 2016



Muskerry Clubs athletics champions 2015

SPORT: Gaelic games form the main sport of the school, and we have achieved many great triumphs on both the football and hurling fields. The most significant of these, undoubtedly, was our victory in the Corn Uí Mhuiri in 2006. This is the highest honour that can be achieved in Munster Colleges Senior football, and is the trophy that is most coveted by every sporting school in the Province. This achievement represents the "icing on the cake" in a Roll of Honour that includes many successes in all age groups in both Munster and Cork competitions. Many of our past pupils

have graced the senior inter-county scene, and in the very recent past several of our students have been selected on the Cork Minor football team.

The College has a proud tradition in athletics, with many successes in both track-and-field and cross-country events. The school has also excelled in other sports down through the years, e.g. basketball, golf and table tennis. First Years compete for the annual Mark Duggan Memorial cup in soccer.



Corn Uí Mhuiri champions



Getting the accommodation ready during outdoor pursuits

EXTRA- & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Cork Schools' Junior Cert history quiz champions 2016

QUIZZES: The College has forged a name for itself in the world of inter-school quizzes, both from the point of view of participation and success. Some of these successes include:

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



A Modern take on Othello

DRAMA AND DEBATING: The school has had significant success in drama and debating competitions, including wins in the Cork schools' Shakespearean drama competition (three times) and the Muskerry Schools' senior debating contest. In the recent past our students have put on some marvellous stage productions, e.g. "The Hobbit", a panto based on the Muppets' version of "A Christmas Carol", a musical adaptation of "Treasure Island", a modern take on Othello, the farce "Mrs. Jigglebottom" and the Christmas pantomimes "Shrek Comes to Macroom" and "The Town that Never Raised an Elf". The school has also excelled in the All-Ireland Transition Year drama competition.



On stage during "Treasure Island"



First Years in front of Milan cathedral



In front of the stock exchange in Bordeaux



Climbing the sand dune in Arcachon



Getting ready for all the fun in Gardaland

EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES: In 1993, the school began an annual exchange programme with a sister De la Salle school in Bordeaux, France. Participating 2nd and 4th Year students spend two weeks in France with a host family, improving their grasp of the language and broadening their understanding of the culture. A return visit is paid by the French students to Macroom, where they are hosted by the families of the students who made the trip over. As the longest ongoing school exchange programme in the country, it has proved to be a very successful and worthwhile endeavour, and it is envisaged that it will continue to flourish for many years.

In 2006, the College linked up with the successful cultural exchange between Macroom and the town of Marcallo con Cassone, near Milan in northern Italy. In April a large number of our First Years travel to Italy for a week, returning an earlier visit to Macroom by the Italian students. This trip has become one of the most eagerly anticipated highlights of the year.



CHARITY WORK



Transition Years present cheques for the annual Macroom Charities Appeal

DISCIPLINE

Discipline and good behaviour are considered vital. Without good discipline, the aims of the school cannot be achieved.

The school has a comprehensive and positive code of conduct that must be adhered to by all the pupils. A very serious view is taken of misbehaviour from our students within the school, or when travelling to and from the school. It is expected that their time in school will help our students to develop a sense of self-discipline that will serve them well in later life.

We believe that this approach, coupled with our pastoral care system, provides excellent training for the student in his later life and enables him to attain the highest standards, academic and otherwise.

SCHOOL JOURNAL

The school uses a bright, interesting and functional Student Journal. Apart from being used to record homework, the journal has a section for parents to write absence notes and it can also be used for communication between individual subject teachers and parents.

The journal also contains several other interesting features, including summaries of some School Planning policy documents.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY

We offer an after-school supervised study facility to all students every evening except Wednesday. After Christmas, this facility also becomes available to 3rd Year and 6th Year students on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Although attendance is voluntary, a large number of our students avail of the opportunity to study in a quiet and managed environment, and the response from students and parents alike has been extremely positive.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform consists of a blue shirt, school jumper with crest and grey trousers. A school jacket is also available for purchase.

CANTEEN FACILITIES

Our canteen provides a wide variety of hot meals at morning break and at lunch time.

SAMPLE MENU:

Soup and roll / burgers / potato wedges / chips / sausage rolls / hot dogs / chicken curry / spaghetti bolognese / toasted sandwiches / pizzas / chicken drumsticks / tea, coffee etc.

Junior Cycle students, other than those who live in the town, are not allowed to leave the school premises at lunchtime. Senior cycle students are allowed downtown at lunchtime.

CAREER GUIDANCE & PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral care system is led by our Guidance Counsellor, assisted by Class Teachers who have responsibility for the general welfare of students. Each pupil's progress is monitored individually and, should any problems arise, parents are contacted and advised without delay. The Special Education Needs department is an integral part of the Whole School programme, supporting our mission statement in its commitment to ensure that all students maximise their potential. The Special Needs team help students both academically and socially, fostering the development of their self-esteem. A new ASD unit has been built on the school campus to accommodate the needs of students from the locality.

A full guidance service is provided so that each student is fully prepared for entry to the Third Level system or for the world of work. 5th and 6th Year students travel to several career days organised by Third Level institutions throughout the region to help inform their subsequent decisions on what path they choose. The school employs a very successful induction plan for new First Years. The purpose of this is to help the students to settle in to their new situation with the minimum of difficulty. The student is shown how to organise himself in relation to all of his new subjects, including managing his books, how to properly carry out homework tasks etc. We have certainly found that students benefit greatly from this approach and this has been reflected in comments from parents. The school has an active anti-bullying policy. A code of conduct, including types of behaviour considered to be anti-social, has been drawn up and is made clear to all students and their parents. Breaches of this code are dealt with very firmly.



SCHOOL HOURS

8.00am: School opens

9.00am: Morning assembly

9.05am: Classes begin

1.15pm: Lunch break

1.50pm: Classes resume

3.50pm: Classes end

(On Wednesdays, classes end at 1.15pm)





Office: 026-41832

Fax: 026-42994

Email: secdls@eircom.net



Website:

www.dlsmacroom.ie