Welcome

Thank you for your interest in St. Mary's College, a Voluntary Secondary School under the Trusteeship of the Marist Fathers. Through our academic and pastoral programmes we strive to provide for the physical, mental, moral, spiritual, social and cultural well-being of each of our students. This brochure will give you a very clear indication of what we can offer our students and how we can provide the opportunities for them to develop. The College community - the staff, students, parents/guardians and Board of Management - ensure that each student will be able to fulfil his/her role in society.

We place a very high value on respect, good behaviour and hard work. Good homework and study practices will complement the learning that has taken place in the classroom. The experience of the Marist will be enhanced through involvement in any of the extra-curricular activities offered.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with parents in moulding the characters of the young people who choose to enrol in St. Mary’s College.

History

St. Mary’s College was founded in 1861. It was the first school founded by the Marist Fathers in Ireland, and the first English speaking Marist school. 26 students enrolled in Church Hill House on that first day. Marist Fathers were appointed to serve as Principals in the College until 1989, when the first lay Principal was appointed. Girls were first enrolled in September 1990.

The original school building has now been replaced with our new state-of-the-art building. This building is fitted with the most modern facilities and equipment, enabling us to develop a broader curriculum. Staff and students teach and learn in a comfortable environment, enhanced by the most modern technology.
Our school

Our wonderful new building boasts state of the art facilities. St. Mary’s College is one of the most modern and up-to-date schools in Ireland with spacious fully-equipped classrooms and top of the range sports facilities.
**Mission Statement**

St Mary’s College is a Catholic secondary school under the patronage of the Marist Fathers. The primary aim of the College, through its spiritual and humanistic endeavours, is to promote and develop a sense of community where those entrusted to its care can be brought to the fullness of their human potential in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel.

The College, through its academic and pastoral programmes, strives to provide for the physical, mental, moral, spiritual, social and cultural well-being of each of the students in its care.

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**Chaplaincy**

The aim of the Chaplains (and St. Mary’s College has two: a priest Chaplain and a lay Chaplain) is to bring people to being at their most open to God. This involves pastoral care and the celebration of the sacraments. Mass is celebrated regularly and the sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Advent and Lent. St. Mary’s has a new oratory in the College and also the full use of the Marist chapel. The Marist mission team and the chaplaincy team assist with Morning Prayer, School Masses, social outreach and other liturgical celebrations and school events.

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**Sub Mariae Nomine – Under the Name of Mary**

St. Mary’s College is a Catholic School in the Marist tradition. The Marist order has a long strong association of serving the people of Dundalk and Louth. The College’s Catholic ethos may be summed up as the College community trying to carry out the work of Mary, which is to make Christ known and loved. Religious Education classes and Chaplaincy services are an integral part of the curriculum and their purpose is to help the human and spiritual development of the student.
Student Support

In St Mary’s College we strive to create an environment where each student is valued and supported. Beyond the curriculum this is supplemented in a variety of ways.

Guidance in St Mary’s College
The school employs two Guidance Counsellors. The work carried out by the Guidance team includes:

- Social, personal, educational & career guidance
- Assessment and orientation of 1st Year students.
- Guidance in relation to subject selection for students.
- Administering aptitude tests and interest inventories for TY & 5th year students.
- Coordination of TY Work Experience.
- Consultation with students regarding career aspirations and third level choices.
- Co-ordinating career projects, career trips and hosting guest speakers.
- 1st year buddy system.

Parents and guardians are always most welcome to contact either member of the Guidance team should they wish.

Special Education Needs
St. Mary’s College is committed to the inclusion of all students in our school and endeavours to identify and meet Special Education Needs in as far as is reasonably possible. All students are encouraged to play an active role in school life and are challenged to realise an academic potential in line with their ability level. To this end, communication between parents and the Special Educational Needs department is vital and appreciated.

Personal Well-being Programmes
The College offers a number of programmes which support student self-esteem and enrich their life experience. The Junior Cycle wellbeing programme is comprised of S.P.H.E., C.S.P.E., Guidance, ICT, P.E. and myriad additional modules for students to experience in areas such as study skills, internet safety etc. Learning for Life is a modular programme designed to meet the needs of our Senior Cycle Students. This programme aims to equip our Students with life skills to enrich their personal development.

Student Leadership Programmes
To enhance student achievement and personal growth, the College actively promotes involvement in the Student Council. An Academic Monitoring and Mentoring programme, involving staff and students, is also in place to support academic excellence and empower our students.

Parents’ Council
At the forefront in fostering partnership between the parent body and the College, the Parents’ Council supports all school events and have been involved in the development of policies, in addition to raising much-needed funds for the benefit of our students.
Junior Certificate Subjects

Leaving Certificate Subjects
Irish, English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Business, Economics, Accounting, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, P.E., Music, Construction Studies, Design and Communications Graphics (DCG), Technology, French, German, Home Economics, Art, Religion and Physical Education.
Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate (established) with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, innovation and enterprise. Students complete a standard Leaving Certificate along with two Link Modules, which can enhance their overall points. They develop skills and competencies fundamental to both academic and professional/career success.

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a senior programme that runs alongside the established Leaving Certificate and prepares students for adult and working life. LCA has a strong practical and vocational emphasis and work experience is a significant component of the programme.

Transition Year (TY)

The College offers a highly successful and much sought after Transition Year as an option for students who are currently in Third Year. Transition Year benefits students in very real ways, helping them to develop personal responsibility and maturity, gain experience of the world of work and make more informed subject choices. They cope better with the demands of Leaving Certificate study by maintaining the academic momentum between Junior and Senior Cycle. The year offers students space to learn and mature, whilst also providing them with experiences of a wide range of different and interesting activities.
Sport in the School

The contribution of extra-curricular activities to school life cannot be overstated. With our extensive playing facilities, sport will always be central to life in the Marist. There is a long and successful tradition of sporting participation and achievement at local, regional and national level. We currently enter teams in Gaelic football, soccer, basketball, rugby, athletics and golf.

The value of sport to the life of the student is equally important as it promotes self-discipline, fosters a sense of team-work and rewards other intelligences not acknowledged in the mainstream curriculum.
Art

The mission of the Art Department is the practice and teaching of Art, Craft and Design in a positive proactive learning environment. Students are encouraged and challenged to realise their full potential in many aspects of the Visual Arts. It aims to nurture the creative spirit of each individual, to encourage the student to investigate, question, document and interpret the world around them in visual, spatial and tactile terms.

Music

The Music Department aims to develop in each student of the college, an interest and appreciation of music through the implementation of a full and varied curriculum. Students are encouraged to develop their musicianship and self-confidence through a wide range of individual and group music-making activities. The Department encourages active and enjoyable participation in a wide range of musical activities.

ICT

St. Mary’s College is fully equipped with 2 multi-media suites. ICT is embedded in all curricular subjects. A weekly computer class in First year equips students with skills which will help them in preparation for the New Junior Cycle curriculum. The two computer rooms are augmented by an additional set of mobile Chrome books and tablets which are available to all class groups to support learning and teaching.
Extra-curricular activities

The Marist has a wide range of activities that students can partake in including: sports, debating and public speaking, school magazine, creative writing, drama, cookery, science and maths competitions, social outreach activities, chess, cultural and language activities and business and enterprise initiatives.

A highlight of the school year is the annual Céilí Mór, giving students a chance to embrace the Irish language and culture.

We encourage all students to become actively involved in these activities as they form an integral part of the student’s holistic development.
Academic Excellence

We have a proud tradition of academic excellence here in St. Mary’s College. We celebrate the commitment and hard work of students throughout the year. Students who excel in various fields are rewarded at the annual Prize Night ceremony. The awards include:
• Subject Achievement
• Extra Curricular Achievement
• Student Council participation
• Marist Education Authority Award
• The Pearse Lyons Catalyst for the Future Award
• Chaplaincy Award
• Student of the Year

We are also extremely proud of our scholarship winners, which include the Intel Women in Technology Scholarship, the JP McManus All-Ireland Scholarship winner, SAP Ireland Co-Op Learning Scholarship in Germany and UCD entrance scholarships.
College Details

Principal: Mr. Alan Craven
Deputy Principals: Ms. Anita White
Ms. Pippa Brady

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St. Mary’s College (the Marist)

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