



ROYAL SCHOOL CAVAN

SUBJECT INFORMATION
BOOKLET 2024/25

MISSION STATEMENT

Our school endeavours to nurture students' gifts and talents in a learning community that is supportive, inclusive and creative. Everyone is encouraged to achieve their full academic and personal potential, while developing habits that instil lifelong learning, guided by our Christian ethos.

MOTTO

Ad vitam paramus

EXAM SUBJECTS



01. Art
 02. Business
 03. English
 04. French
 05. Gaeilge
 06. Geography
 07. Graphics
 08. History
 09. Home Economics
 10. Mathematics
 11. Music
 12. Science
 13. Technology
- 

ART

Ms. O. Burns - Ms. E. Agnew

Junior Cycle

01

Optional subject

Subject chosen prior to student beginning school.

Form 1 & 2 (3 classes / week)

Form 3 (4 classes / week)

A large emphasis is placed on drawing, painting, 3D, crafts, graphic design, pottery, animation and independent research over the three years. Classroom based assessment 1 (CBA) takes place in second year and CBA2 takes place in third year. The Final Assessment which takes place in the third year after the completion of CBA2. This Final Assessment is worth 100% of the Junior Cycle Visual Art coursework.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

10 week block module with 2 classes per week

A programme of work, designed by the Royal School Art Department concentrates on all levels of ability. Project work incorporates group and individual projects. It is completed throughout the module resulting in a finished piece of art. Students explore different aspects of Art, resulting in a project on completion of Transition Year. Large scale art projects involving the Transition year students are completed during this year.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject

5 class periods a week

The focus for Senior Cycle is both a practical and written Visual Studies exam. The Visual Studies exam accounts for 30% of the Leaving Certificate art exam with the remainder consisting of coursework (50% and a practical exam (20%). A total of 70% practical work completed before the written exams in June. Many pupils continue to study Art at third level. This requires pupils to complete a portfolio of their work. The Art Department provides portfolio preparation classes one day a week consisting of one to one tutoring. There is a high uptake of pupils taking Art for both the Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate. The vast majority of pupils studying Art do so at higher level. The exceptional talents of our pupils are displayed in the high volume of top grades achieved in the state exams.

Business Studies

Ms. T. Argue - Mr. D. Robertson - Mr. É. Moran - Mr. T. Hoban

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over 3 years

One textbook/workbook will last the three years. This text has changed recently due to the new specification starting in 2016. New specification is a common level. 1st year & 2nd year pupils are also given the opportunity to partake in a Mini company Competition. This is outlined under the TY section in more detail.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week

1st two terms dominated by the Mini company programme where the pupils are given a chance to set up and run their own Mini Company and to enter into competitions. The Royal School are very successful and have a record of winning the Regional final of these competitions and representing Cavan in the National final 7 times in the last 8 years. 3rd term the pupils learn life skills while covering topics such as budgeting and saving money, world of work, Enterprise theory, Accounting & Business.

Senior Cycle

03

Business

Optional subject

5 class periods a week

This subject looks at the world of business around us and helps to apply business theory to what students observe on an everyday basis. It aims to develop a critical understanding of the overall environment in which business functions and to help prepare students for participation in a changing business environment for adult and working life and also as a basis for further education.

Senior Cycle

03

Accounting

Optional subject

5 class periods a week

It teaches a skill to the pupils and is invaluable for any pupil pursuing a third level course in Business or a career in commerce/accounting/self-employment. Accounting is an area of study which can lead into various courses. Apart from going into practice, Chartered Accountants Ireland claim that 76% of their members are employed in Industry.

English

Ms. C. Forde - Ms. K. Stronge - Ms. D. Trenier - Ms. D. McGuirk
Ms. B. Sorohan - Ms. M. Buchanan - Ms. J. Murphy

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

4 classes / week over 3 years

Pupils are taught in common level classes for the first two years of this cycle. In third year, pupils study either higher or ordinary level English. The majority of pupils sit higher level English. Learners explore language and engage with literature through thinking, talking, listening and writing. Peer work, oral presentation and group discussion are key features in the curriculum. Independent reading is also encouraged to improve literacy. Classroom based assessment: CBA1 takes place in second year and CBA2 takes place in third year.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over the year

The programme of work is designed by the Royal School Cavan English Department. During Transition Year, pupils focus on different elements of the English curriculum such as media studies, debating, film studies, poetry, language etc. Transition year pupils have experienced school trips to London which will help the pupils develop socially and encourage a greater cultural appreciation.

Senior Cycle

03

Compulsory subject

Form 5 (5 classes / week)

Form 6 (6 classes / week)

Pupils opt to study English at either Higher or Ordinary level. The English department chooses from a wide variety of texts to ensure pupils acquire a rounded knowledge and develop an appreciation for English literature and language. Group discussion and peer work are also encouraged as this is an integral part of learning.

French

Ms. E McElwaine - Ms. H.McAlister

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over 3 years

Pupils learn and practise the four skills involved in learning a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition they build up a large bank of vocabulary and learn all basic grammar required for Junior Cycle, to enhance their communicative competence, language awareness and socio-cultural knowledge and inter-cultural awareness. The Junior Cycle state exam is a Common Level exam at the end of 3rd year. They complete CBA1 in 2nd year, and CBA2 in 3rd year.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over the year

Transition Year is a year where one focus is on students developing strategies in learning and problem solving in French class to prepare them for Senior Cycle. Pupils continue to practise all four skills and increase their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. They also explore cultural aspects of France and the French speaking world.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject

5 classes / week

Students learn skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary. They do a mixture of higher and ordinary level activities and tasks throughout 5th year, and choose higher or ordinary level towards the end of 5th year.

Gaeilge

Mr. N. Ames - Ms. L. Cowan - Ms. E. Smith - Mr. É. Moran

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

4 classes / week over 3 years

Pupils are divided into Higher level and Ordinary level classes at the beginning of second year. One textbook/skillsbook will last the three years. A large emphasis is placed on the four skills of learning a language; reading, writing, speaking and listening throughout the three years resulting in the pupils being comfortable with all four aspects. Our pupils also complete two Classroom Based Assessments in 3rd Year.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over the year

The programme of work is designed by the The Irish Department at The Royal School Cavan. The pupils complete two projects, one in October and one in February. The pupils also complete an Oral Irish assessment at the end of the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for their Leaving Cert Oral Irish Exam. An Irish cultural school trip is organised as part of the Transition Year Irish programme.

Senior Cycle

03

Compulsory subject

Form 5 (5 classes / week)

Form 6 (6 classes / week)

At the beginning of fifth year pupils are divided into Higher and Ordinary level classes for the Leaving Certificate Examination. The Irish Department has divided the topics thematically and this ensures a more enhanced method of learning for pupils. The Oral component is worth 40% of the overall exam.

Geography

Mr. D. Plunkett - Ms. T. Argue

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over 3 years

CBA 1 in Form 2 and CBA 2 in Form 3.
One textbook/skillsbook will last the three years.

All pupils sit a common level state exam at the end of Form 3.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over the year

Programme of work designed by the Geography Department with some pupil input.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject

Form 5 & 6 (5 classes / week)

In any given year a large majority of pupils opt for the Geography option. Most pupils sit higher level.

Field trips are an integral part of Geography in the school, to foster a love of the subject.

Graphics

Mr. D. Vahey

Junior Cycle

01

Optional subject

Subject chosen prior to student beginning school.

Form 1 & 2 (3 classes / week)

Form 3 (4 classes / week)

The study of Graphics can be summarised as being the two dimensional graphical representation of three dimensional objects. Through their study of this subject each student will develop their neatness, accuracy, spatial awareness and visualisation skills. During the three years they will study freehand sketching, graphical presentation, board drawing and computer aided design. The marks are divided by 30% for project work undertaken in November in third year and 70% exam at the end of third year.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

10 week block module with 2 classes per week

Students create powerpoint on their chosen designers, engage in design activities and learn how to create objects using computer aided design.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject

Form 5 & 6 (5 classes / week)

Design & Communication Graphics is a subject which pupils progress to after having studied Graphics to the Junior Cycle. It is not compulsory to study Graphics at Junior Cycle if a student wants to study DCG for the Leaving Cert.

The study of Design & Communication Graphics builds upon the skills and knowledge developed from Junior Cycle through a more practical application. Leaving Certificate pupils will be required to produce a CAD based project which is worth 40% of the terminal exam.

History

Ms. D. Trenier - Ms. C. Forde - Mr. N. Ames - Ms. A. Gray

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over 3 years

One textbook and one workbook are used for the three year course.

Pupils practise key skills of literacy, communication, numeracy and managing information as they respond to historical sources and study key events. History trips are a key feature in our study of history.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over the year

To continue to foster and enhance the key skills identified in the New Junior Cert Programme; being literate, managing information and thinking, communicating, working with others, staying well, managing myself and being creative. To foster an awareness and appreciation of a selection of key events in Irish, European and World history. Pupils are encouraged to engage in independent research by collaborating with their peers to complete a variety of projects. There is a strong emphasis placed on practising oral communication in preparation.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject

Form 5 & 6 (5 classes / week)

Five periods a week; mixed-classes: Higher/Ordinary Level. Most pupils opt for Higher Level. A research study report /Project accounts for 20% of the total marks available. In preparation for the documents based question on the L.C. exam, pupils have many opportunities to respond to and critically analyse a wide range of sources.

Home Economics

Ms I. Poyntz - Ms L. Cowan

Junior Cycle

01

Optional subject

Subject chosen prior to student beginning school.

Form 1 & 2 (3 classes / week)

Form 3 (4 classes / week)

On completion of this trial period, they decide if they wish to study Home Economics for the Junior Cycle. Home Economics is a choice subject offered in both bands. One double and 1/2 single classes are offered each week depending on the year group. The double classes are practical cookery or textiles and the single classes are theory based. This prepares pupils well for CBA 1 in 2nd Year (a Textiles item) and CBA 2 in 3rd Year (a Practical Cookery Exam).

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

10 week block module with 2 classes per week

All pupils study Practical cookery in Transition year during a 10-week module. This class is based on the current food pyramid where a variety of main course dishes and desserts are explored, as well as focusing each week on safe food hygiene and safe food preparation in the kitchen. Such skills that are invaluable for college and future life.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject

Form 5 & 6 (5 classes / week)

The main areas focused on are food studies, resource management & consumer studies and social studies. The majority of pupils study higher level.

Mathematics

Ms. A. Gray - Ms. R. Cahill - Ms. F. Henry - Mr. J. Dunne
Ms. R. Wheatley - Mr. T. Eaton - Mr. P. Kavanagh

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

4 classes / week over 3 years

First year is a common level.

A program of work for first years has been carefully planned and developed by the School Mathematics Department in line with the Junior Cycle Curriculum. This is to give pupils a broad outline and understanding of topics that they will study in greater depth in second and third year. A workbook has been created by the school to facilitate this. In second year pupils buy a textbook depending on their level (higher or ordinary).

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over the year

Pupils get to practise the basics for their Leaving Certificate programme with a big emphasis on Problem Solving and Real Life Applications.

Senior Cycle

03

Compulsory subject

Form 5 (6 classes / week)

Form 6 (5 classes / week)

Mathematics is offered at higher, ordinary and foundation level.

Music

Ms. L. McQuaid

Junior Cycle

01

Optional subject

Subject chosen prior to student beginning school.

Form 1 & 2 (3 classes / week)

Form 3 (4 classes / week)

Areas of study include theory and features, the orchestra and ensembles, dance music, classical music, music from the stage, orchestrally accompanied music, illustrative and film music, ethnic music and art music. Students will also learn to compose their own pieces of music for a variety of purposes and construct musical harmonies to already composed melodies.

Music is examined at Common Level at Junior Cycle.

There is a written paper for the Junior Cycle at the end of year 3 (listening and composing skills) and there is also a practical exam (30% overall) which generally takes place around Easter in 3rd year. There are also 2 CBAs which are completed during class time in years 2 and 3.

Students must perform on their instrument /voice for the class once a month in preparation for their practical exam.

Senior Cycle

02

Optional subject

Form 5 & 6 (5 classes / week)

There is a practical exam and a written paper for Leaving certificate Music. The practical is worth 50% of the course in total. The practical exam can be split into two sections 1) Performance 25% (4 pieces on their chosen instrument) and 2) Music Technology 25%, or with students performing 6-8 pieces.

The practical exam generally takes around Easter time in 6th year. The written exam takes place in June and comprises 2 papers: Listening and Composition.

The Listening paper is based around 4 set works which students study in detail, an Irish Music question and a general listening question. The composition paper is based on melody writing and harmony exercises.

Science

Mr. P. Kavanagh - Ms. R. Cahill - Ms. L. Kelly

Mr. J. Dunne - Ms. R. Wheatley

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over 3 years

One double period timetabled for the Laboratory and one theory classes.

One workbook and notes copy required. These books will last the three years.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

3 classes / week over the year

Pupils will sample all the science subjects during this year;

- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Great emphasis is placed on inquiry learning and project work.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject(s)

Form 5 & 6 (5 classes / week)

The following Science subjects are offered at LC:

- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Chemistry

Five periods a week; one double period for practical work and three theory classes.

Technology

Mr. G. Patterson

Junior Cycle

01

Optional subject

Subject chosen prior to student beginning school.

Form 1 & 2 (3 classes / week)

Form 3 (4 classes / week)

The study of Applied Technology can be summarised as working with woods, metals, plastics, electronics & design to create advanced products.

Through their study of this subject each student will develop their neatness & accuracy in product manufacture as well as design capability.

Pupils at Junior Cycle level are required to create an individual project worth 70% of the overall subject attainment. The remaining 30% is achieved through the terminal exam.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

10 week block module with 2 classes per week

This programme of work offers all pupils the opportunity to explore the world of design in a very practical manner. Through the manufacture of a variety of exciting products, pupils further develop their hand eye coordination skills.

Senior Cycle

03

Optional subject

Form 5 & 6 (5 classes / week)

The study of Senior Cycle Technology builds upon the skills and knowledge developed from Junior Cycle through a more practical application. Leaving Certificate pupils will be required to use some of the many machines available, the 3D printer, Microrouter, Vacuum Former, Wood Lathe, Metal Lathe and Lazer Cutter.

Pupils at Leaving Certificate level are required to create an individual project worth 50% of the overall subject attainment.

WELLBEING SUBJECTS



01. Religion
02. Guidance
03. Physical Education
04. CSPE
05. SPHE
06. Learning Support
07. Extra Curricular

Religion

Chaplain: Revd. Mark Smith

Ms. I. Poyntz - Ms. L. McQuaid - Ms. T. Argue - Ms. F. Henry
Mr. G. Patterson - Ms. E. Smith - Ms. L. Cowan

All Forms

01

*Compulsory subject
1 class / week for 6 years*

Religion is a core subject for all pupils in Junior Cycle, Transition Year and Leaving Certificate. It is a non-examination subject.

The Religion Department works closely with our chaplain Canon Mark Lidwill to plan important events within our school, such as our Service to Mark the Beginning of a New School Year, The Harvest Thanksgiving Service and our Carols By Candlelight Service.

The Religion Department also encourages our pupils to be part of the annual Teamhope Shoebox Appeal, facilitates Christian Union Club in our school, and also organises various speakers workshops/retreats.

Events

02

Service

- Service to mark the beginning of our new school year
- The Harvest Thanksgiving Service
- Carols By Candlelight
- Form 3 graduation service
- Form 6 graduation service

Other events

- Teamhope Shoebox Appeal
- Christian Union Club
- Guest speakers
- Workshops/retreats

Guidance

Ms. Y. Sheridan - Ms. L. McQuaid

Introduction

We, in the Royal School recognise the holistic development of our students. In our school setting, we are concerned, not only with academic achievement but also the student's physical, mental and emotional health and strive to encourage their greater involvement in the school and wider community. We are fortunate in having two qualified Guidance Counsellors in the school. In the Guidance department, we focus on three main areas namely Educational, Vocational and Personal Counselling.

Personal Counselling

With personal guidance, Ms. Y. Sheridan is available in the Guidance Office to talk to pupils about any issues that they are struggling with in school life.

Student Welfare

Student welfare is at the very centre of Pastoral care in the Royal School. We have a dedicated Student Care and Support Team. The Team meets regularly to discuss pupil welfare, issues arising and matters of concern. This is a very useful forum and helps highlight issues on a regular basis.

Guidance

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

1 class / week over 3 years

In 1st year, we have timetabled classes called Ready to Learn. In 1st year, the Guidance Counsellor is involved in supporting the transition to secondary school and Guidance classes reflect that in the induction process in 1st year. This year, we have introduced Ready to Learn to the 2nd year cohort to further develop and build on skills learned in 1st year. In 3rd year, Ready to Learn is all about learning study skills, encouraging greater organisation, collaborative learning and encouraging active and self-directed learning.

Transition Year

02

Compulsory subject

1 classes / week over the year

With Vocational and Career Guidance, in Transition year, one class per week, with the Reach Plus programme, we cover a wide range of areas, such as subject selection, study skills, personality and career tests, psychometric testing with CAT 4G, work experience and CV and interview preparation.

Senior Cycle

03

Compulsory subject

Form 5 & 6 (1 class / week)

Throughout the Senior Cycle, in 5th and 6th year, we help pupils to focus on and plan for their future lives. The Reach Plus Online programme, used in most secondary schools nationwide, is used to help and guide pupils in making informed and carefully researched choices about their future. They are encouraged to attend Open Days and research areas of interest and courses thoroughly. The 6th years are guided through the various college application processes with one-to-one appointments in the Guidance office. Speakers from colleges, universities and apprenticeships are invited to speak to the students during timetabled Guidance classes.

In Form 5 and Form 6, there are weekly Wellbeing classes, once weekly for each year. Using the Ways to Wellbeing textbook, we examine topics such as Resilience, Healthy Living, Friendships, Limiting Beliefs, Values and Goal Setting.

Physical Education

Mr. G. McHugh

Compulsory subject

01

Form 1-6 (1 double class / week)

Physical Education applies a holistic approach to the concept of physical activity for young people. It recognises the physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions of human movement, and emphasises the contribution of physical activity to the promotion of individual and group wellbeing. Physical Education aims to develop motor abilities like strength, speed, endurance, coordination, flexibility, agility and balance, as these are important fundamental movement aspects for good performance in different games, sports and life as a whole. Physical Education can tackle the growing problem of childhood obesity by encouraging an appreciation of physical activity and the benefits of an active lifestyle, development of nutritional plans and promoting a positive attitude towards participation in lifelong physical activity. Physical Education is divided into 4 strands:

1. Physical Activity for Health & Wellbeing
2. Games
3. Individual and Team Challenges
4. Dance & Gymnastics

All pupils are expected to partake in Physical Education at their own level and will have a great opportunity to represent the Royal School in both competitive and non-competitive extra curricular activities throughout their time in the school. The Royal School provides pupils with an opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular sports and activities, including soccer, rugby, hockey, basketball, badminton and athletics.

CSPE

Civil Social Political Education

Ms. D. Trenier - Mr. D. Vahey - Mr. E. Moran

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

Form 1 & 2 (2 classes / week)

Form 3 (1 class / week)

This 100 hour short course is built around three strands, rights and responsibilities, global citizenship and exploring democracy. There is a strong focus on student action aimed at giving students an experience of active citizenship.

CSPE is an important part of a wellbeing programme within junior cycle as it enables students to feel connected to and take responsibility for the wellbeing of others. It also develops students' confidence, agency and engagement which are important characteristics of student wellbeing.

SHPE

Social Personal Health Education

Ms. Y. Sheridan - Ms. L. McQuaid - Mr. G. McHugh - Ms. L. Kelly - Ms. I. Poyntz

Junior Cycle

01

Compulsory subject

Form 1 & 4 (1 class / week)

There is no terminal exam in this subject. Some of the aims of this subject are to:

- to enable the students to develop skills for self-fulfilment and living in communities.
- to promote self-esteem and self-confidence.
- to enable the students to develop a framework for responsible decision-making.
- to provide opportunities for reflection and discussion.

Learning Support

Ms. J. Murphy - Ms. B Sorohan - Ms. R. Armstong

Ms. A. Cherry - Ms. M. Buchanan - Ms. L. Brady - Ms. R. Crotty

Ms. I. Harten - Ms. D. McGuirk - Mr. T. Hoban

All year Groups

01

In the Royal School every student's holistic education is important to us. Using the Continuum of Support framework, we can identify students' educational needs, to include academic, social and emotional needs, as well as needs associated with physical, sensory, language and communication difficulties. The framework emphasises the importance of looking at a student's needs in context, and provides useful resources to support this, for example, Learning Environment Checklist, Teacher Checklist for Whole-Class Structures and Supports.

Once a student's needs are identified, we put a support plan in place to support that student, through whole school support, in class support or withdrawal. Many students will have their special educational needs identified prior to their transfer to post primary school. It is important for schools to gather information on students' learning from primary schools and parents in order to plan provision and to ensure continuity and progression in the students' education. Once a student's needs are identified, we put a support plan in place to support that student, through whole school support, in class support or withdrawal.

Extra Curricular

We enter Inter School competitions in the below sports, in addition non-sporting events such as Debating, Art, Technology, Photography, Cookery and All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad. During the year there are many educational trips plus a European tour held every second year. During TY, students attend an annual trip to Killary Adventure centre and to London.

Football

Choir

Green Schools

Athletics

Chess Club

Creative Schools
Committee

Rugby

Debating

Global Citizenship
Committee

Hockey

Cookery

Student Council

Basketball

Craft Club

TY Committee

Badminton

Meditation

Student
Enterprise

Table tennis

Christian Union

Horticulture

ROYAL SCHOOL CAVAN

