

Coláiste Bhaile an Droichid Bridgetown College

Baile an Droichid Co Loch Garman
Bridgetown Co Wexford
Y35 R628



PROSPECTUS 2017 - 2018

Príomhoide/Principal:

Ms F Greene BA HDE

Leas-Phríomhoide/Deputy Principal:

Mr A Power B Tech Ed



(053) 913 52 57

e-mail:

bridgetowncollege@wwetb.ie

wwetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board



1. History

Some time after the enactment of the Vocational Education Act in 1930, a small experimental vocational school was established in rented accommodation in Bridgetown village. Enrolment crept up slowly and in the 1960s the need for a permanent post-primary school in the area was fully accepted. So it was that on 18 October 1965, 44 students and five teachers moved from the rented accommodation into a new purpose-built school. The school progressed in leaps and bounds and its facilities were greatly enhanced when two major extensions were completed, the first in 1984 and the second in 2008. With an annual turnover of some 120 students, the college has 642 students, 57 teachers, ten SNAs and six ancillary staff.

2. Management

The college is owned and managed by Waterford Wexford Education & Training Board, a statutory body with offices at Ardcavan Business Park, Wexford; telephone (053) 9123799. The principal is responsible to the ETB and the Board of Management for the day to day management of Bridgetown College.

The Board of Management is made up of three ETB nominees: Cllr. Jim Moore, Chairperson; Mrs Catherine O'Donnell and Cllr. Ger Carthy; two parents' Association nominees: Ms. Sue Roche and Mr. David Doyle, two staff nominees: Mr. Adrian Power and Ms. Christina Murphy, two Board of Management nominees: Ms. Nessa Murphy and Ms. Finola Walsh-Harpur. The Principal, Ms. Greene, acts as secretary to the Board. Ms. Eleanor Scallan acts as recording secretary.

3. Ethos

Bridgetown College is multi-denominational, co-educational and non-selective in its intake. The college ethos is broadly Christian, and since most young people in the area, stretching from Wellingtonbridge to Rosslare Harbour, and from the sea to Forth Mountain, attend Bridgetown College, the college atmosphere strongly reflects the ideals and aspirations of the local community. The college ethos promotes respect, seeks to promote the development of the potential of each student and aims to generate moral and social responsibility.

4. Mission Statement

Bridgetown College aims to provide a holistic educational experience meeting the diverse needs of the community in a positive learning environment. We encourage all students to realise their full potential and to develop a sense of self-worth by promoting mutual respect, co-operation and tolerance.

5. Parents

Parents of students in the college are very supportive educational partners and the college has an active local branch of the national Parents' Association for Vocational Schools and Community Colleges (PAVSCC). Current officers of the Parents' Association are:

Chairperson: Ms. Sue Roche (085 7267923)

Secretary: Mr. David Doyle (086 0795778)

(Mr. Doyle is also a Parents' Representative on Waterford Wexford ETB)

Staff in the college communicate with parents and guardians by means of the college website, circulars, letters, phone calls and texts. Parent-Teacher meetings are organised three times each year to give parents an opportunity to discuss their children's progress in different subjects with teachers.

6. Facilities

The college has 40 classrooms including specialist rooms for Art, Home Economics, Metalwork/Engineering, Sewing/Craftwork, Computer Aided Design and Construction/Materials Technology (Wood). The college also has an auditorium, three laboratories, three computer rooms, a large gymnasium, a library, a tiered demonstration room and a canteen. Each classroom has a computer and a data-projector.

The library has a wide selection of general reading material for students of all ages. There are also specialist books and magazines for those involved in project work.

The college has a purpose-built Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Unit which provides support for students with Autism. There are currently two class groups each of which can provide, in accordance with Department of Education and Skills (DES) guidelines, for a maximum of six students. Admission to the Unit is governed by the college's Enrolment Policy and the ASD Unit Enrolment Policy.

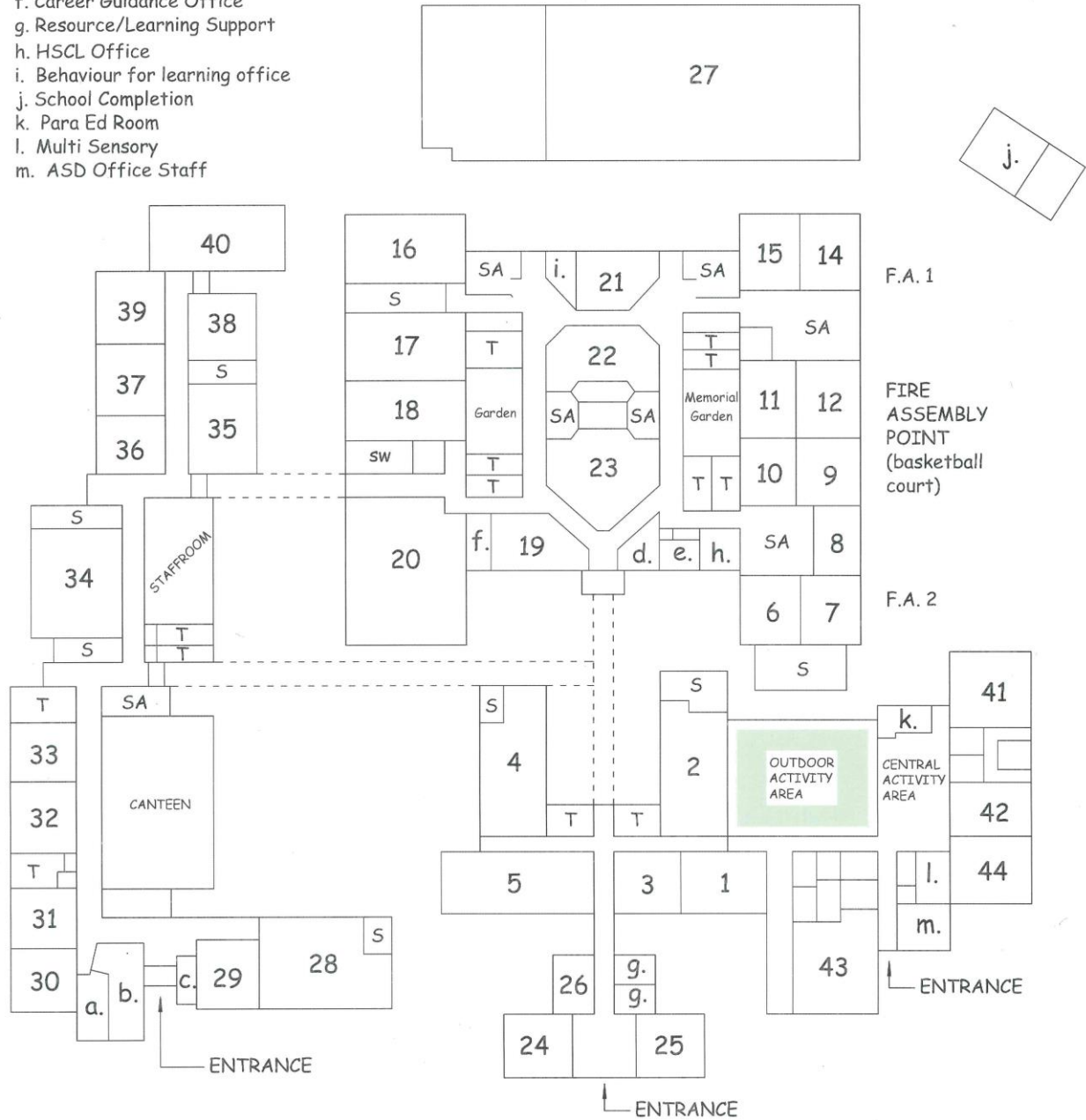
Thanks to funding from the DES students can avail of subsidised lunches in the canteen. For a nominal sum - currently €1.50 - students can have a piece of fruit, water or milk and either a filled roll or soup and a roll.

7. LAYOUT OF COLLEGE BUILDINGS

BRIDGETOWN VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

T. Toilet
 S. Store Room
 SA. Social Area
 SW. Staff Workroom

a. Principals Office
 b. General Office
 c. Pastoral Room
 d. Year Head Office
 e. Deputy Principals Office
 f. Career Guidance Office
 g. Resource/Learning Support
 h. HSCL Office
 i. Behaviour for learning office
 j. School Completion
 k. Para Ed Room
 l. Multi Sensory
 m. ASD Office Staff



General Classrooms

Rooms No. 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42 and 43 are general classrooms.

Specialist Rooms

2	Home Economics Room
4	Metalwork/Engineering Workshop
5	Materials Technology (Woodwork)
12	Technical Drawing Room
16	Science Lab
17	Science Lab
18	Information Technology Room
20	Construction Studies Room
21	Behaviour for Learning Classroom
22	Library
27	Gym
28	Metalwork/Engineering Workshop
34	Technology / IT
35	Science Lab
38	Tiered Demonstration Room
40	Art Room
44	Practical Activity/Living Skills Room

Offices and other areas

01	General Office & Reception
02	Principal's Office
06	Deputy Principal's Office
03	Pastoral Care Room
05	Year Heads' Office
W	Teachers' Workroom
04, 07	Career Guidance Counsellors Offices
08	Resource / Learning Support Office

Fire Assembly Point: Basketball Courts

8.College Staff 2016 - 2017

Ms. Sandra Bates:	Maths, Physical Education and CSPE
Ms. Michelle Boland:	Physical Education, Leisure and Recreation Studies, CSPE and SPHE
Ms. Sally Brennan:	Mathematics
Ms. Sinead Browne:	Home School Community Liaison Officer
Ms. Sandra Byrne:	Home Economics
Mr. Richie Byrnes:	Materials Technology (Wood), Construction Studies, Computer Applications and CSPE
Ms. Kara Cahill:	History and English
Ms Elizabeth Cantwell:	English and History
Ms. Sinead Cheevers	Physics, Science
Ms. Eileen Codd:	Career Guidance and SPHE
Mr. Jim Codd:	Religious Education and SPHE
Ms. Theresa Cole:	Science and Chemistry
Ms. Catherine Crean:	Mathematics
Ms. Eileen Creevey:	Music
Ms. Siobhan Cronin:	English
Ms. Carrie Doyle:	English, Religious Education and Resource Teacher in the ASD Unit
Mr. Éamon Fitzgerald:	Science, Physics and Agricultural Science
Ms. Mary Fitzgerald:	Religious Education, English and SPHE
Ms. Ann Fogarty:	Maths
Ms. Olga Foley:	French, German, SPHE and CSPE
Ms. Sinead Fortune:	Accounting and Resource Teacher in ASD Unit
Ms. Dolores Gordon:	Behaviour for Learning Teacher
Mr. Rob Grayson:	Science and Mathematics
Ms. Fionnuala Greene:	Principal
Ms. Anne Hally:	English
Ms. Ita Hannigan:	Home Economics and Hotel Catering and Tourism
Mr. Rory Hannigan:	Metalwork, Engineering, Technical Graphics
Mr. Robert Healy:	Resource Teacher in ASD Unit
Mr. Brendan Hendrick:	Materials Technology (Wood), Construction Studies, Computer Applications and CSPE
Ms. Sarah Jordan:	Business Studies, Enterprise Education and CSPE
Ms. Sara Kane:	Irish and CSPE
Ms. Susan Kelleher:	English, Geography and SPHE
Ms. Nicola Kelly:	Irish and Religious Education
Mr. Ray Kent:	DCG and Technical Graphics
Ms. Siobhan Maguire:	Special Needs Teacher
Ms. Osnat Manning:	Physical Education
Ms. Fiona McDermot:	French, German, Art, CSPE and SPHE

Ms. Mary McDonald:	Biology, Science, Mathematics and Childcare
Ms. Stephanie McKenna:	English, Religious Education and SPHE
Ms. Paula Moriarty:	Science, Biology and Mathematics
Ms. Christina Murphy:	Irish
Ms. Caroline Ní Charthaigh:	Irish and CSPE
Ms. Sinéad Norris:	Geography, History and Social Education
Ms. Patricia O'Callaghan:	Art, Craft and Design
Mr. Adrian Power:	Deputy Principal and Computer Applications
Ms. Mairead Redmond:	Information Technology
Ms. Jenny Roche:	English and Geography
Mr. Michael Sinnott:	Special Needs Teacher
Ms. Anne Marie Toomey:	Metalwork, Engineering, DCG and Computer Applications
Mr. Maurice Treacy:	Business, Business Studies and Information Technology
Ms. Louise Walsh:	History
Ms Elaine Whelan:	Maths and English

* CSPE: is Civic, Social and Political Education

**SPHE: is Social, Personal and Health Education

Non-Teaching Staff

Ms. Olivea Brady:	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Michelle Burke:	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Bridget Conway:	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Una Crosby:	Special Needs Assistant
Mr. Pat Healy:	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Fleur Moran:	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Jeanette O'Brien:	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Grace O'Connor:	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Geraldine O'Neill	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Mikaela O'Mahony	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Una Kavanagh	Special Needs Assistant
Ms. Eleanor Scallan:	Secretary
Ms. Annette Kearns:	Secretary
Mr. Kevin Cassidy:	Caretaker
Ms. Catherine Healy:	Part-Time Cleaner
Ms. Geraldine Foley:	Part-Time Cleaner
Ms. Michelle Roche:	Part-Time Cleaner

9. The Curriculum

Seven programmes are offered in the college: Junior Certificate, Junior Certificate Schools Programme, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme, Leaving Certificate Applied and QQI Level 5.

9.1 Junior Certificate: This three year programme was introduced in Bridgetown College in September 1989. It replaced the *Group Certificate* and *Intermediate Certificate* programmes.

Students enrolling in First Year have usually completed 6th class in a primary school or an equivalent abroad and must be 12 years of age on 1st January of the year following enrolment.

Students study Irish, English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, Physical Education, SPHE, CSPE and I.T. together, with four of the following subjects: History, Geography, French, Art, Technical Graphics, Music, Materials Technology (Wood), Metalwork, Home Economics, and Business Studies.

To cater for the needs and talents of individual students, Irish, English and Maths may be studied at three different levels: Higher Level (A: Árd), Ordinary Level (G: Gnáth) or Foundation Level (B: Bonn). Only students with an exemption recognised by the Department of Education and Skills can be excused from the study of Irish. All other subjects may be studied at two levels: Higher Level (A: Árd) and Ordinary Level (G:Gnáth). Students who plan to enrol for Leaving Certificate are advised to follow as many subjects as possible at the higher level.

9.2. Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP): The Junior Certificate School Programme is a national programme sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. It is based on the belief that all young people are capable of achieving real success in school, and that they can have a positive experience of education, if the conditions are favourable. The Programme is designed to help young people who have had a difficult experience of school. It provides students with opportunities for success at school and it rewards that success with an official record of achievement, validated by the Department of Education and Skills. Students who follow the JCSP Programme complete the same Junior Certificate examinations as those who are not enrolled on the JCSP programme.

9.3. Transition Year: The Transition Year Programme offers pupils a broad educational experience with a view to the attainment of increased maturity, before proceeding to further study and/or vocational preparation. It provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making. Pupils participate in learning strategies which are active and experiential and which help them to develop a range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. The Transition Year Programme also provides an opportunity for students to reflect on and develop an awareness of the value of education and training in terms of careers and life-long learning.

9.4 Leaving Certificate: This is a two year programme and the entry requirement is a good standard of achievement in the Junior Certificate examination or an equivalent examination.

Most students take seven subjects for examination purposes: Irish, English and Maths in addition to four optional subjects from the following list: Accounting, Agricultural Science, Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Construction Studies, Design and Communication Graphics, Engineering, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Music and Physics. These subjects are grouped in Teaching Blocks (TBs) and selections are made in consultation with teachers. All subjects may be studied at Higher Level (A: Árd) or Ordinary Level (G: Gnáth). Non-examination subjects include Religious Education, Physical Education (PE) and Career Guidance.

9.5 Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP): This is an optional programme which may be pursued by Leaving Certificate students who are studying specified Leaving Certificate subject combinations. Students study computer applications and they complete two *Link Modules*: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education.

There is an attractive scale of extra 3rd level entry points for those who achieve a pass, merit or distinction in the LCVP examination.

9.6 Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA): This is an alternative Leaving Certificate programme developed by the Department of Education and Skills which emphasises personal development and transferable skills. It is more practically based than the traditional Leaving Cert and is designed to meet the needs of students who would have difficulty with the traditional programme. Class size is restricted to 24 and students who apply for a place are interviewed during the last term of their Junior Certificate Programme.

Students study a variety of subjects including English and Communication, Mathematical Applications, Information Technology, Vocational Preparation and Guidance, Music, Leisure & Recreation, Social Education, Religious Education, Communicative Irish and a modern language. Students also study two vocational subjects that reflect their interests. Currently we offer Hotel Catering and Tourism, Engineering and Childcare. Progress is assessed on an on-going basis and credits are awarded for satisfactory completion of modules. Students complete four work experience placements and in this case their performance is assessed by employers and teachers.

9.7 Post Leaving Certificate Course: QQI eBusiness (5M0828). This is a one-year full-time course. As we want to facilitate the participation of mature students we offer a flexible timetable to coincide with primary school hours.

The course offers the following range of subjects: Communications, Word Processing, Database Methods, Work Experience, Spreadsheet Methods, Web Authoring, The Internet and eBusiness. Candidates must take eight of the above modules to secure the QQI National Certificate in eBusiness.

We operate the *Higher Links Scheme* in this college which allows PLC students to gain points in order to gain access to Third Level courses.

Further information and a detailed prospectus are available from our PLC Co-ordinator, Ms. Mairead Redmond.

10. Enrolment

Arrangements for September 2017 are as follows:–

Year 1 of Junior Certificate Cycle: Enrolment will take place on **Thursday 1st December 2016** between 4.30pm - 7.00pm in Bridgetown College parents/guardians should bring a copy of their child's Birth Certificate, their PPS number and one passport size photograph. A copy of psychological reports, where they exist, should also be submitted on the day. Students who wish to enrol should accompany their parents on enrolment day.

Enrolment enquiries which relate to subsequent years or programmes, with the exception of our PLC programme, should be directed to Mr. Adrian Power, Deputy Principal. Telephone: (053) 913 52 57.

In the case of enrolment enquiries relating to the eBusiness PLC programme, parents and/or students should contact Ms. Mairead Redmond, course co-ordinator. Telephone: (053) 913 52 57.

11. Assessment Test:

Students enrolling in First Year are required to complete a number of assessment tests. These are standardised tests in literacy, numeracy and cognitive abilities. The assessment session lasts approximately four hours. No special preparation is required. Very full explanations and instructions are given before each test.

Information gleaned from the tests is used to match students' abilities with the different programmes followed in the college to ensure that each student is placed in the programme best suited to his/her abilities, needs and talents. At Halloween classes are reviewed and if any student is considered by his teachers to be misplaced, the possibility of a change of class is raised with his/her parents/guardians.

This year's Assessment Tests are scheduled to take place on **Saturday 28th January 2017**(times to be confirmed at **Enrolment / Open Evening**). Each student should bring two pencils and an eraser. Students should also bring a packed lunch.

12. Transport:

The School Transport Scheme is run by Bus Éireann. Application forms are available online at www.buseireann.ie and must be submitted before the last Friday in April (**28th April 2017**). **Children are eligible for transport where they reside not less than 4.8 kilometres from the school they will be attending. N.B. It is assumed that students will be attending their nearest post-primary school/education centre.** Full details of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme are available on the Department's website at www.education.ie. **Parents are reminded that failure to apply in time may result in a student not having a bus ticket in September.**

13. Uniform:

Our uniform consists of a plain pale blue shirt, a blue jumper and navy trousers (or skirt for girls) and a navy jacket with the school crest. The stores currently stocking our school uniform are Hore's Stores, 31 South Main Street, Wexford; Shaws, Wexford and Wallace's, Wellingtonbridge. To allow for laundering and/or accidents students need at least two of each of the uniform items listed above.

Students are required to wear completely plain black shoes or navy deck shoes.

In PE classes students wear a track-suit bottom or shorts, a tee-shirt and non-marking runners. Students may need swimming togs from time to time. Students should bring a towel for showering.

14. College Rules:

Parents/guardians are issued a copy of the college rules during the enrolment process. These rules are reviewed and amended periodically and our Homework Journal, which includes a list of the college rules, is updated every year.

The college reserves the right to review rules relating to uniform and other matters. If changes are made, parents will be informed in June following our end of year staff meeting.

We believe that students are responsible for their behaviour and that parents have a critical role to play in behaviour management. With this in mind we ask parents/guardians to familiarise themselves with our rules before they enrol a child and thereafter at the start of each school year when Homework Journals are issued.

15. College Hours:

College hours are 9.00am - 4.00pm, Monday and Tuesday and 9.10am - 3.35pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Students who wish to leave the college during the school day are required to produce an explanatory note from a parent/guardian and the student must be signed out at Reception by the parent/guardian.

16. School Books:

Textbooks are provided on loan to Junior Certificate students for a rental fee. It is essential that books are returned following the Junior Certificate in order to avoid increases in the rental fee. The JC book rental fee is €140. This fee includes a deposit of €25 which will be refunded if all books are returned in good condition at the end of the Junior Certificate. The fee also covers the cost of a calculator.

A School Book Grant Scheme operates for Leaving Certificate students to assist eligible parents defray the cost of books. Contact person: Ms. Sinead Norris, School Book Grant Scheme Organiser.

17. Special Educational Needs:

Up until June 2017 supports for students with recognised special educational needs will be provided to eligible students who qualify for support under criteria laid down by the National Council for Special Education.

The allocation of SEN hours is due to change from August 2017. The provision for students with special educational needs includes team-teaching, one-to-one tuition, small group tuition and reduced class size in English and Maths (where feasible). Our SEN Support teachers work closely with students, their parents/guardians, other teachers, the SENO, educational psychologists and other professionals and agencies. Full-time SEN teachers are Ms. Siobhan Maguire and Mr. Michael Sinnott.

18. Physical Education:

The college has three PE teachers and it offers an extensive programme in physical education which is compulsory at both junior and senior level. A well equipped gymnasium, outdoor tennis and basketball courts and a sports ground which includes a walking track are available to students. There is also a fitness equipment area in the gym and senior students have access to this facility.

19. Guidance:

A guidance service is provided for all students. The college Guidance Counsellor is Ms. Eileen Codd. She advises students on programme and subject choice at school. She also provides information and advice in relation to careers, further education/training and third level education.

Students who are experiencing difficulties which are preventing them from studying or participating fully in school life are encouraged to make an appointment with Ms Codd.

20. Student Support:

The college operates both a Year Head and a Tutor system. Additional supports are provided by our Career Guidance Teacher, Meitheal Leaders, the Student Support Team, HSCL Co-ordinator, two Special Education Needs teachers, and SCP staff.

21. Supervised Study:

If there is sufficient demand, supervised study is organised after school, Monday to Thursday, throughout the school year. Study runs for a two-hour period and is supervised by teachers. Students pay for the service on a 5-week basis. The college believes that supervised study provides a valuable opportunity for students to complete homework assignments and to study.

22. Health and Safety:

It is college policy to provide a safe and secure work environment for staff and students. Each year students are trained in how to evacuate the college building safely in the event of an emergency. This involves form class training for new entrants followed by a total evacuation drill for all students and staff.

23. Personal Accident Insurance:

A personal Accident Insurance Scheme operates in the college. All students are covered under this scheme.

Contact person: Ms. Fionnuala Greene, Scheme Organiser.

24. Student Awards Scheme:

Since May 2001 the college has held an annual awards ceremony. Awards are presented for achievement in different areas of school life. There are awards for high achievers in state examinations and awards for excellence and application to school work throughout the year. There are also awards for excellent attendance, sporting achievements and achievements in the arts. Senior students are eligible for specific subject awards in Music, Biology and Agricultural Science and the *Duais Uí Mhórda* is awarded for excellence in technical subjects. The Student of the Year Award is awarded to a Leaving Certificate 2 student who has shown leadership and made a significant contribution to school life.

25. Sport

The following sports and sporting activities are available to students:

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Camogie
- Equestrian events
- Football
- Hurling
- Handball
- Outdoor Pursuits
- Rugby
- Soccer

26. Other Extra-Curricular Activities

Students can participate in the college choir and/or orchestra and each year a variety of musical productions take place.

Students are also encouraged to participate in competitions in art, public speaking, enterprise and essay writing.

27. Student Fund

This fund is used to support school improvements, photocopying, extra-curricular activities, educational outings, special events and care related projects. It also covers the cost of lockers, Brennan Insurance and homework journals. Expenses incurred by the Parents' Association are also covered by this fund.

Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of €50 (max €100 per family) each year.

28. Bridgetown School Completion Programme (BSCP)

The School Completion Programme is a Department of Education and Skills Programme which aims to have a significant positive impact on the level of pupil retention in primary and second level schools and on the number of pupils who successfully complete Senior Cycle. The schools currently participating in BSCP are Bridgetown College, Kilmore NS, Rathangan NS, and Kilrane NS.

BSCP provides the following programmes and services in Bridgetown College:

- Monitoring and tracking of student attendance which involves contact with parents and students
- Counselling

- Themed programmes e.g. anger management, self-esteem workshops and peer relationship programmes
- Parental support
- Mentoring (MAP Programme)
- Lunchtime activities

If you would like further information about any of the above, please contact Ms. Catherine McCurdy at (053) 913 50 53.

29. Home School Community Liaison Scheme

Ms. Sinead Browne is the HSCL Officer in Bridgetown College. The underlying policy of the scheme is one that seeks to promote partnership between parents and teachers. The purpose of this partnership is to enhance pupils' learning opportunities and to promote their retention in the education system. In addition, the HSCL Scheme places great emphasis on collaboration with the local community. Ms. Browne can be contacted on (087) 2943530 or (053) 9135257.

30. Child Protection

Concerns relating to child protection should be brought to the attention of the Designated Liaison Person (D.L.P.) who is the principal, Ms. Greene. In her absence concerns should be reported to the Deputy Designated Liaison Person, who is Ms. Codd, the college's Guidance Counsellor.

31. Bullying

Reports of bullying or suspected bullying will generally be dealt with in the first instance by the relevant Year Head but concerns may be reported to any member of staff who will communicate concerns to the Year Head. Bullying or suspected bullying can be reported by the victim, his/her parents/guardians or any member of the school community.

32. Work Experience

Work experience forms part of the curriculum for LC1, TY, LCA and PLC students. Placements must be approved in advance by the teacher with responsibility for the work experience module. No student should commence a placement unless the placement has been approved and the relevant details have been passed on to our insurers by WWETB.

**PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE VERY WELCOME TO VISIT
THE COLLEGE BY APPOINTMENT**

***Important dates for entrants to Year 1 of the Junior Cert
programme:***

- ***Enrolment***
Thursday 1st December 2016
- ***Assessment***
Saturday 28th January 2017