

Coláiste Bhaile an Droichid Bridgetown College



PROSPECTUS 2022 - 2023

Baile an Droichid, Co Loch Garman
Bridgetown, Co Wexford, Y35 R628

☎ 053/9135257 ✉ bridgetowncollege@wwetb.ie

Príomhoide/Principal: Mr Adrian Power
Leas-Phríomhoide/Deputy Principal: Ms Anne Cullen



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

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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 2007. To provide for students with autism, a further expansion was required and a purpose-built facility was completed in April 2014.

With an annual turnover of some 120 students, the college has 53 teachers, 12 SNAs, 6 ancillary staff, and 4 canteen staff.

2 Management

The college is owned and managed by Waterford Wexford Education & Training Board, a statutory body with offices at Ardavan 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 two ETB nominees: Ms Kate Miskella, and one other to be appointed, two Parents Association nominees: Ms Finola Walsh-Harpur and Mr Ollie Daly, two staff nominees: Ms Christina Murphy and Mr Richie Byrnes, and a Board of Management nominee: Cllr Jim Moore (Chairperson). The Principal, Mr Power, acts as secretary to the Board. Ms Anne Cullen, Deputy Principal acts as recording secretary.

3 Ethos

Bridgetown College is multi-denominational, co-educational and non-selective in its intake. 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 ETBs National Parents Association (ETBsNPA). Current officers of the Parents' Association are:

Chairperson: Ms Finola Walsh 085/1535975

(MS Finola Walsh 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, texts, and more recently the school app. 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 41 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.

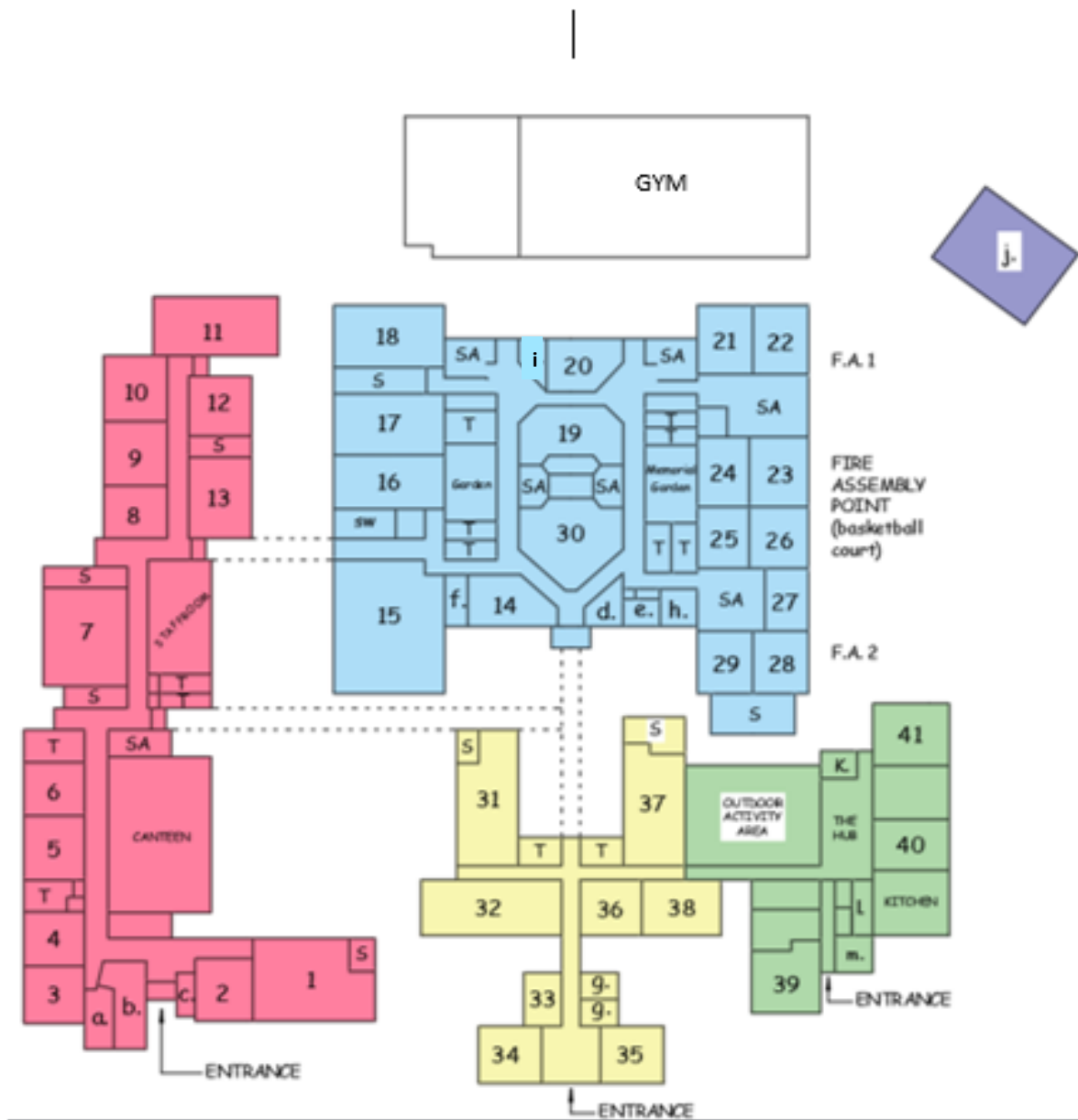
The library has a wide selection of general reading material for students of all ages. There are also specialist books and magazines for those involved in project work.

The college has a purpose-built Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Unit which provides support for students with Autism. There are currently three 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.

Breakfast is also available – tea/coffee, bread/toast, cereal and/or fruit free of charge.

7 Map of the School



T. Toilet
 S. Storeroom
 SA. Social/Locker Area
 SW. Staff Workroom
 a. Principal's Office
 b. General Office
 c. Pastoral Room
 d. Year Head Office
 e. Deputy Principal's Office

f.. Home School Community Liaison
 g. Resource/Leaning Support
 h. Guidance Counsellor
 j. Behaviour for Learning
 j. School Completion
 k. Exercise Room
 l. Multi-Sensory Room
 m. ASD Office

8 College Staff 2020-2021

Ms Lesley Bates	Geography and Resource Teacher in ASD Unit
Ms Sandra Bates	Maths and Physical Education
Ms Michelle Boland	Physical Education, Business, Enterprise Education, CSPE
Ms Sally Brennan	Mathematics
Ms Sinéad Browne	Career Guidance and Study Skills
Ms Sandra Byrne	Home Economics and Hotel Catering & Tourism
Mr Richie Byrnes	Wood Technology, Construction/Manufacturing Studies, Building Environment & School Development
Ms Kara Cahill	History, English and Humanities
Ms Anne Cullen	Deputy Principal and Career Guidance & Study Skills
Mr Gearoid Cullen	English and History
Ms Sinéad Cheevers	Science, Physiology and Maths
Ms Eileen Codd	HSC
Mr Jim Codd	Religious Education and SPHE
Ms Theresa Cole	Science, Chemistry and Horticulture
Ms Catherine Crean	Mathematics
Ms Eileen Creevey	Music, Arts Music and Development Education
Ms Carrie Doyle	English, Religious Education, Health Education and Resource Teacher
Ms Mary Fitzgerald	Religious Education, Resource English, Hotel Catering & Tourism, Ethics and SPHE
Ms Ann Fogarty	Mathematics
Ms Sinéad Fortune	Accounting, Maths, Enterprise Education
Ms Dolores Gordon	Behaviour for Learning Teacher
Ms Maisie Gorman	Irish
Mr Rob Grayson	Mathematics Resource Teacher (ASD Unit)
Ms Anne Hally	English and Spanish
Ms Veronica Hartigan	Maths, Resource Teacher
Ms Ita Hannigan	Home Economics and Hotel Catering and Tourism
Mr Rory Hannigan	Metalwork, Engineering, Technical Graphics & Technology
Mr Robert Healy	ASD Coordinator and Teacher
Mr Brendan Hendrick	Materials Technology (Wood), Construction Studies, Built Environment & School Development
Ms Sarah Jordan	Business Studies, Enterprise Education, Life Skills, CSPE and Vocation Preparation & Guidance
Ms Michaela Kavanagh	English and History
Mr Daire Kelly	Irish
Ms Nicola Kelly	Irish and Religious Education
Mr Ray Kent	Design Communication Graphics, Technical Graphics, Product Design & Development

Non-Teaching Staff

Ms Olivea Brady	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Michelle Burke	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Bridget Conway	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Jacintha Cloney	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Úna Crosby	Special Needs Assistant
Mr Pat Healy	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Úna Kavanagh	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Carmel Larkin	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Fleur Moran	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Jeanette O'Brien	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Grace O'Connor	Special Needs Assistant
Ms Sharon Slammon	Special Needs Assistant

Ms Siobhán Whelan	Secretary
Ms Niamh Kennedy	Receptionist

Mr Kevin Cassidy	Caretaker
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Ms Antoinette Furlong	Part-Time Cleaner
Ms Geraldine Foley	Part-Time Cleaner
Ms Michelle Roche	Part-Time Cleaner

Ms Madeleine Doyle	Canteen
Ms Cathy Gore	Canteen
Ms Christine Kehoe	Canteen
Ms Jennifer Wright	Canteen

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 Information Processing QQI Level 5.

9.1 Junior Cycle: 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, History, Religious Education, Physical Education, SPHE, CSPE and I.T. together, with four of the following subjects: Geography, French, Art, Technical Graphics, Music, Materials Technology (Wood), Metalwork, Home Economics, Business Studies and Technology.

To cater for the needs and talents of individual students, Irish, English and Maths may be studied at two different levels: Higher Level (A: Árd) or Ordinary Level (G: Gnáth). Only students with an exemption recognised by the Department of Education and Skills can be excused from the study of Irish. Students who have an exemption from Irish because they were born/lived outside of Ireland are recommended to take a language other than English for their Junior Certificate. 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.

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. **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 Hores Stores, 31 South Main Street, Wexford; Shaws, Wexford and Wallaces, 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.

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. If changes are made, parents will be informed as soon as possible.



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:

Monday to Thursday

9.00am-4.00pm

Friday

9.00am-1.20pm



Students who wish to leave the college during the school day are required to use the school app. Parents sign their student out on the app and the student needs to present to the office and use the tablet at reception at the appointed time.

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 €150. 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 Siobhán Whelan, School Secretary & School Book Grant Scheme Organiser.

17 School Miscellaneous Fees

The school fees are €95 per student per year. This covers expenses incurred by the school, and includes locker rental, the school journal, personal accident insurance, and photocopying among other things.

18 Special Educational Needs

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.



23 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 all students followed by evacuation drills for students and staff.



24 Personal Accident Insurance

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

Contact person: Siobhán Whelan, School Secretary.

25 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: *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.

26 Sport

The following sports and sporting activities are available to students:

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



27 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.

28 Bridgetown School Completion Programme (BSCP)

The SCP 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 SCP School Completion Programme are Bridgetown College, Kilmore NS, Rathangan NS, and Kilrane NS.

BSCP Bridgetown School Completion Programme 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 Sharon Grace at (053) 9135053.

29 Home School Community Liaison Scheme

Ms Eileen Codd 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 Codd can be contacted on (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, Mr Adrian Power. In his absence, concerns should be reported to the Deputy Designated Liaison Person, who is the Deputy Principal.



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.

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

Enrolment – 1st October 2021 – 22nd November 2021

Assessment

Date will be notified closer to next Summer



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