

## BACKGROUND

### History

The Royal School Cavan is one of the Ulster Royal Schools, which were founded during the reign of James I, at the time of the Ulster Plantation. The first Headmaster was John Robinson who was appointed on the 5th October 1611. The School has an unbroken educational tradition in County Cavan since then, becoming the country's second co-educational boarding school in 1924. It is under Protestant management and is managed by the Protestant (Local) Board of Education. This is a board set up under the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act of 1885 consisting of not less than nine members as follows:

- The Lord Bishop of Kilmore (Chairman Ex officio)
- Two representatives elected by the Kilmore Diocesan Council
- Two representatives elected by Cavan C. of I. Parish Select Vestry
- Three representatives nominated by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.
- One member elected by the remaining members to represent all other denominations.
- Additional co-opted members.

Our mission is to bring the curriculum of the school and the facilities offered entirely into line with the demanding and changing educational requirements of the new millennium and thereby provide quality education for our pupils in the Christian Ethos.

### School Buildings

The present school building, which dates back to 1819, was purpose built as a school. It has, however, been extensively renovated and modernized in recent years. The building is situated in its own grounds (20 acres) adjacent to Cavan Town and has ample outdoor recreational facilities as follows:

- Full sized and floodlit all-weather hockey pitch,
- Grass hockey pitch,
- Grass soccer pitch,
- The above also serve for athletics during the summer months
- Hard tennis/basketball court with floodlighting.

As a result of 15 years of building and expansion the school is now housed in brand new or completely refurbished accommodation. New practical rooms include: Science Laboratory, Home Economics Room, Art Room, Technology Room, Computer room, Music room.

## CURRICULUM

### State Examinations:

Pupils follow a complete Junior Certificate Syllabus and Leaving Certificate Syllabus to Higher Levels in a comprehensive range of subjects under the direction of an enthusiastic staff of graduate specialist teachers.

The Junior Certificate is a three year programme while the Leaving Certificate is a two year programme. Pupils may only repeat any of these years if the guidelines set out by the Department of Education are followed.

Subject provision for these courses is in the tables below.

Junior Certificate Subjects	
Irish English Mathematics History Geography Science Business Studies CSPE	Core Subjects
Technical Graphics <i>or</i> Art <i>or</i> Music Technology <i>or</i> Home Economics	Options
Religious Education Physical Education SPHE	Non – Examination Subjects

Leaving Certificate Subjects	
Irish English Mathematics	Core Subjects
French <i>or</i> Construction Studies Accounting <i>or</i> Technical Drawing <i>or</i> Music History <i>or</i> Geography	Options
Physical Education Religious Education Career Guidance	Non – Examination Subjects

**Transition Year:**

Between Junior Certificate and First Year Leaving Certificate we run a compulsory Transition Year with a practical emphasis, which includes work experience, mock interviews, career guidance, subjects in a modular form as well as maintenance of the traditional academic disciplines. This year gives pupils an educational experience without the pressure of state examinations.

Transition Year Subjects	
Irish English Mathematics French Science History Geography Computer Studies Business Studies/ Mini – company PE RE Career Guidance SPHE	Core Subjects
DCG / Art / Japanese Culture German / Web Design / Steerclear Cookery / Music / Performing Arts	Modules
For a comprehensive list see TY Programme	Extra Programmes
Visiting Speakers	

**Computer Studies:**

There is a PC network with Internet access. Keyboarding, word processing, databases and spreadsheets are some of the topics covered. Transition year pupils use the computers as a tool to do project-work, write C.V.s etc. Pupils are also encouraged to use the computers for project work after school etc.

**Learning Support/Special Needs:**

A learning support teacher is a full-time member of staff. Pupils with special needs are assessed and given extra help as appropriate. Concessions are arranged for dyslexic pupils in State Examinations. Part of the special needs programme is the maintenance of close communication with parents/guardians while dealing with pupils' needs.

### Physical Education, Games and Extra-Curricular Activities:

Classes receive one Physical Education session per week, of 1 hour's duration approximately, in the Cavan Indoor Sports Complex. A bus is provided each day to transport pupils to and from the complex. After school, use is also made of the complex which now includes an indoor swimming pool.

Extra-curricular activities cover a broad spectrum of indoor and outdoor activities and include: Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Rounders, Athletics, Crosscountry, Swimming, Tennis, Badminton, Table-tennis, Board games, Computers, Debating, Drama and Choir.

All pupils, unless exempted by a Doctor's Certificate, are required to take part in Physical Education and games.

### The School Library:

Each pupil has a formal session in the Library each week of term, during which books may be borrowed and books and periodicals read. The Library is run by Transition year pupils under the direction of Teaching and Boarding Staff.

In their use of the library pupils are encouraged to gain as much experience as possible in the use of modern library facilities. In addition periodicals and books are available to pupils as and when required in association with project work etc.

### Career Guidance:

Career Guidance is attended to by the Headmaster: each pupil receives detailed and individual attention as and where appropriate.

Pupils completing Leaving Certificate at this school are well equipped to qualify for entrance to the Third Level Institution of their choice.

Applicants are guided in making CAO (Irish Third Level Institutions) and UCAS (English Third Level Institutions) applications.

Guidance is also given for non CAO/UCAS applications e.g. PLC Colleges, Agricultural Colleges etc. Examination results are excellent