



Our Mission Statement is

*"Reaching our potential with respect, care and friendship".*



## A message from the Principal..

Ard Scoil na nDéise is a Catholic girls' school under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education in Irish Schools Trust). In accordance with our Mission Statement we strive to help each

and every student in our care to achieve her full potential academically, but also to graduate from our school with enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem. We expect our students to be motivated and always to do their very best, whatever their best may be. The vast majority of Ard Scoil students aim to continue their studies at a third level college, and we are very proud of our many students who obtain outstanding Leaving Certificate results. We are also very proud of students who find school and study more difficult but work extremely hard with their teachers and consequently achieve a good Leaving Certificate.

We live in challenging times, and this school offers our students the possibility of graduating with a lot more than academic achievement. We recognise the

importance of good communication skills, the ability to work well as part of a team, good leadership skills and a sense of responsibility for the environment and for our community. Our teachers actively encourage our students to get involved in public speaking, drama, sport, music, artistic projects, creative writing etc. Indeed the collaboration between staff and students in the many extra-curricular activities on offer here is a wonderful way of strengthening the great atmosphere of respect, friendship and community which is commented on by so many visitors to our school. Our Parents' Council and our Chaplain are also very actively involved in the life of our school, supporting us with the Board of Management in constantly improving the learning experience for our students. The school secretaries, caretaker and cleaners all assist us in ensuring that the school is a well maintained, pleasant and efficient place in which to teach and learn.

Joanne Brosnan, Deputy Principal, and I are very grateful to all who support us in leading and managing the school. It is a busy, vibrant community, and I hope this brochure will give you some idea of life at Ard Scoil na nDéise. You will find further information on our school website [www.ardscoildungarvan.com](http://www.ardscoildungarvan.com).

*Dorothy Hughes*  
Dorothy Hughes



## A message from the Deputy Principal..

I wish to extend a warm welcome to those students

who are considering attending Ard Scoil na nDéise. Our school has both a Junior and Senior building and I am based in the Junior building where First, Second and Third Year students are located. We are keenly aware of the importance of a smooth transition from primary school to secondary school. Thus we place particular emphasis on ensuring that our First Year students feel welcome and involved in school life from their first day in

the school. I believe that we learn best when we are actively involved in our work and when we are sharing that learning with others. Here in Ard Scoil na nDéise we aim to provide a learning environment where our teachers, students and parents work together to ensure that each girl fulfils her potential. I endeavour to ensure a happy, caring and respectful atmosphere which supports staff and students in their work. I always endeavour to be available to staff, students and parents so that together we can address any concerns that may arise. I am of the firm belief that a love of learning is one of the greatest gifts we can give our students and it is what we strive to ensure.

*Joanne Brosnan*  
Joanne Brosnan



# Facilities

- Student based classrooms with student lockers
- Two Home Economics cookery rooms
- Two Dress Design rooms
- Specific Science laboratories for Biology, Physics and Chemistry
- Demonstration room
- Art room
- Music room
- Prayer room
- Language Laboratory
- Geography room with student laptops
- Computer room
- Learning Support rooms
- Career Guidance room
- Junior and Senior assembly halls
- Library
- Wheelchair access and lift
- Lunch room and facilities

## ICT facilities ■

We have a computer room with 33 modern networked PCs along with data projector, printing and scanning facilities. The Geography room is equipped with 16 laptops for student use so it can also serve as a second computer room if required. There are many additional computers throughout the school in Science laboratories, library, staffroom, learning support and resource rooms. ICT is an integral part of teaching and learning at Ard Scoil na nDéise; every classroom is equipped with a data projector and every teacher has a laptop for use in classes. The school has wireless broadband internet access in every classroom. Each student has her own private profile and can store her files in her own private storage area. Computer literacy is taught to all year groups. All Fifth and Sixth Year Higher Level Maths classes, and some Science classes, are now being taught using a tablet PC. The Ard Scoil is an accredited ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) centre and offers the

ECDL to all Transition Year students. This course has proven to be extremely successful.

## Pastoral Care ■

Each base class in the school has a Class Tutor, who takes special care of the class, and each year group has a Year Head. The Year Heads and Tutors work together to ensure that the pupil's general welfare is not overlooked, and the School Counsellor and chaplain are available to help when necessary. Year groups have outings and celebrations from time to time. The Deputy Principal has overall responsibility for Junior students, and the Principal attends to the Senior students.

## Guidance and Counselling ■

The Guidance and Counselling service in the school is concerned with the personal and educational development of students. The services of our Guidance Counsellor are available to assist students in making career choices and to provide individual counselling. Students are usually referred for counselling by the Principal, Deputy Principal or a member of the Pastoral Care team.

## Supervised Study ■

Supervised study is available each day (Monday-Friday) for two hours after school.

## Learning Support ■

Learning Support in Maths and English is available in First, Second and Third Year. At Senior level we also include extra support in Maths and English whenever teaching resources are available. If necessary a social skills module may be made available to certain students.



# Curriculum

At Ard Scoil na nDéise, we aim to provide a caring, happy environment which enables our students to reach their potential. The school offers Junior Certificate, Transition Year and Leaving Certificate. We offer a wide range of subjects to meet the changing needs of our students.

## ■ Junior Cycle

Our First Year classes are based on mixed ability. From our experience and from research, this has proven to be best practice. It gives the students a chance to settle into their new environment before they make decisions regarding subject levels and subject choices

During their first year in the school students take all of the subjects listed below, subject to teacher availability. Before commencing First Year students choose German or French.

## ■ Core Examination Subjects

(taken by all students)

**Gaeilge, English, Mathematics, Science, German or French, History, Geography, Civic, Social & Political Education (C.S.P.E.)**

## ■ Optional Subjects

Our students usually sample all the following subjects in First Year. Towards the end of First Year, they make an informed decision and choose **two** of the following to study to Junior Certificate level.

**Art , Business Studies, Home Economics, Music**

## ■ Non-Examination Subjects

We offer the following subjects to Junior Cycle students. We feel they play a huge part in ensuring a well rounded education for our students and provide them with important life skills.

**Computer Studies  
Elocution (First Year students)  
Physical Education (P.E.)  
Religious Education  
Social, Personal & Health Education (S.P.H.E.)**

*"We all need someone to inspire us to do better than we know how".*





6th Year Ecology Workshop



## Curriculum (cont.)

### ■ Senior Cycle

We take a student-centred approach to subject options. Students are surveyed and subject options are based on their choices thus offering the highest possible satisfaction rate. All Leaving Certificate students are required to take seven examination subjects which are offered at all levels

### ■ Core Examination Subjects (taken by all students)

**Gaeilge, English, Mathematics, German or French.**

### ■ Optional Examination Subjects

**Note:** the availability of options is subject to sufficient demand and teaching resources.

**Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Home Economics (Social & Scientific), Art, Music, Business, Economics, Accounting, History, Geography**

### ■ Non-Examination Subjects

**Religious Education, Physical Education (compulsory), Choir (optional), Career Guidance**





# First Year



## Enrolment ■

For incoming First Year students enrolment takes place in the Autumn of the previous academic year i.e. in the Autumn of sixth class in primary school. Application forms are available at the school Open Night. The date of the Open Night can be found from the school calendar which is available on the school website.

## Induction ■

We understand that the transition from Primary to Post-Primary school can be an anxious and stressful time for some pupils and parents. To ease the change and make it as enjoyable as possible, we have an induction programme in place to support and reassure our new students. The team which delivers the programme includes Year Head, Class Tutor for each class, Chaplain, Principal, Deputy Principal and Guidance Counsellor.

» First year induction begins in Spring when each prospective student, accompanied by parents/guardians, has an individual meeting with either the Principal, Deputy Principal or Guidance Counsellor.

» First Year students are the first group of students to start school in late August. This allows them to meet each other, to become familiar with their new surroundings and to meet their teachers.

» In September, a welcome evening is held for First Year students and their parents/guardians. Here the parents/guardians have an opportunity to meet teachers, Tutors and Year Head. It also provides an opportunity to see how well their daughter is adapting and settling into her new school.

Another important fact is that Ard Scoil na nDéise has a separate Junior and Senior building. This provides our First Year students with their own area and locker room. Gradually, they get to know Second and Third Year students. Their link with the Seniors is at lunchtime when they transfer to the Senior Building for their supervised lunch. They also liaise with the Seniors through the Cáirde girls.

## Cáirde Girls/Group ■

The Cáirde group consists of Fifth Year students who act as role models, mentors and leaders for our First Year students. Young people relate best to their peers and in this capacity our Cáirde group are invaluable in caring for our new students. Each Cáirde girl mentors three First Year students for the year, acting as a helper and a guide for them and alerting us to any concerns our new students may have.







## First Year (cont.)

### Learning Support ■

Learning Support is available in Maths and English to First Year students whose parents/guardians request it initially and to those students who are identified as needing extra support.

### Special Needs/Resource ■

The Special Needs Co-ordinator oversees the provision of the best possible planning, care and resource provision for students with special needs. New applications must be made for these students when they transfer from primary to secondary school. **Parents/Guardians are requested to bring us all the documentation necessary for resource applications by the January before the student begins First Year.**

### Elocution ■

In Ard Scoil na nDéise, we value all our students as individuals and constantly strive to build up their confidence and self-esteem. With this in mind, we provide Elocution for all our First Year students. It provides an important and most enjoyable platform for encouraging their talents through improvised drama,

scripted short pieces and poetry, ranging from Steinbeck to Roald Dahl, Shakespeare to Colm Toibín.

Students are prepared for individual examinations; proper etiquette and courtesy are essential. They learn how to walk into a room properly, sit down comfortably, speak in a confident manner with the examiner and perform their chosen piece of drama, poetry or prose. We value this experience for our students as a preparation for presentations which they will have to make in College or as part of a job interview. We are probably the only post-primary school in the area to provide Elocution.



First Year students introducing themselves and their school "as Gaelge".



# Visiting Students and Teachers

## Visiting Assistant Teachers

For the 2012/2013 school year we had a French assistant teacher on our staff, and for the 2014/2015 school year a German assistant teacher. They assist in the language classes and organise cultural and creative activities to help students, particularly with the spoken language.

## Visiting Students

Each year we welcome students from other countries who attend our school to improve their English. They live with local families and participate in all school activities. To date we have had students from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. From further afield American and Canadian students have also attended the school.

Visiting students have been enrolled in every year group, some attending for a term and others studying here for a whole academic year. They have excelled in Art, Music and all academic subjects, even mastering the challenge of Shakespeare and public speaking in English classes!



German assistant teacher Christina Früchtl (centre) with Ard Scoil na nDéise German teachers Ms Derval Loneragan and Ms Ina O'Sullivan.



Name: *Blanca Tormo* Year: *Transition Year*

Hi, my name is Blanca Tormo. I'm Spanish and I'm here in Ard Scoil na nDéise until Christmas.. Since my arrival on September 1st I have found the teachers and students in this school to be so lovely, friendly and welcoming. The teachers have helped me whenever I needed it and they have invited me to participate no matter how slow or basic my spoken English has sounded. Since my very first day all of the teachers have had lots of patience with me. If I have not understood something or if I am lost, they have repeated things for me and helped me. As for the girls in the school – I cannot say one bad thing about them – I love them all! At the beginning I was scared and nervous, afraid of not “fitting in”, but I have come to realise that these girls are the friendliest I have ever met and here you can be who you are. My classmates always help me and there is always someone on whom I can rely for support, whether my problem is big or small. The truth is that I have already made

a lot of friends who I know I am going to miss when I leave here, they are really fantastic!

I think this school is the perfect size. It is not overwhelmingly big, so at the beginning it is easier to adapt to the school site. Transition Year is great fun and a really positive experience because I am learning a lot of things that are going to be with me for the rest of my life, things I have never learned or known before. There are a lot of trips and activities where you can get to know the people around you even better. In general, I think this school is amazing. It feels like home to me, even after this short time. It feels like family and I am happy that my English is improving all the time. It will be an experience I will carry with me throughout my whole life.

Blanca







Tabitha Alexander, recipient of a U.C.D. Entrance Scholar Award, 2013, photographed after the ceremony in U.C.D. with Mrs. Colette Power, Deputy Principal. Tabitha is now studying Veterinary Medicine in U.C.D.



Jennifer Hurley, recipient of an N.U.I. Maynooth Entrance Scholarship, 2013, photographed with Principal Mrs. Dorothy Hughes and a member of the N.U.I. Maynooth academic awarding party. Jenny is now studying Physics with Astrophysics.



Natalia Pabianiak, recipient of a prestigious J.P. McManus All Ireland Scholarship Award, 2013, photographed after the ceremony at University of Limerick with Principal Mrs. Dorothy Hughes. Natalia is now studying Pharmacy at University College Cork.



Doireann O'Brien – Gold Award in Irish Beaver Computing Contest, part of the International Bebras Computing Contest which introduces Computer Science to students.



Ard Scoil na nDéise students who achieved Grade A in Junior Certificate Business Studies 2014, photographed at the W.I.T. Business Awards Ceremony.



Students who excelled in the 2014 First Year Elocution examination.



Outstanding Junior Certificate award winners, 2013

## Achievements

Our Awards Night is held each Autumn to showcase and celebrate the successes of our students. We recognise their academic achievements in Junior and Leaving Certificate exams, their athletic and sporting achievements, as well as their personal successes and positive contribution to school life.



Outstanding Junior Certificate award winners, 2014.



Outstanding Leaving Certificate award winners, 2014.



Angela and Denise Radley present the Margaret Radley Geography Award to the mother of award winner Clodagh Keane, 2014.



Stephanie Curran, winner of the Lancaster Laboratories Transition Year Science Essay Competition, photographed with Mrs Margaret Dennehy.



Spirit of Transition Year Award is presented to Hannah Warren by Mrs Ann Stack.



Sports Star of the Year 2014 Orla Hickey is presented with the trophy by Sports Star of the Year 2013 Aoife Landers. Included in photograph are Fiona Rochford, Emillie Pickering and Mary Ashe, P.E. teachers, and special guest Shona Curran.



Hannah Warren whose mixed media art work, displayed in the Artifice 2014 exhibition in Lismore, was purchased by Waterford County Council to be placed in their permanent collection. Included in photograph are Jennifer Marshall and Mary Foley, Art teacher.











# Transition Year

Transition Year is an optional one year programme in Ard Scoil na nDéise. Over 80% of our students moving from Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle follow the programme. Transition Year aims to develop the student's maturity. This is achieved by offering a wide and varied programme that allows students to acquire a broad range of skills, as well as continuing with academic subjects.

## Core Subjects ■

- Maths
- English
- Gaeilge
- French or German
- Religion
- Computers

- Home Economics
- Physical Education
- Relationships and Sexuality Education (R.S.E.)
- Communication Skills

## Modules ■

(may vary from year to year)

- First Aid
- Music/Choir
- Self Defence
- Environmental Science
- Forensics
- Engineering
- Art
- Video Production

- Writing for College
- Road Safety
- History
- Career Guidance
- Typing
- ECDL
- Computers
- Biology

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Accounting/Business
- Enterprise/Mini Company







## Transition Year (cont.)

- All students do modules of Physics, Chemistry and Biology, and this assists them in their selection of Science subjects for the Leaving Certificate.
- ECDL: Each year a large number of students complete all seven modules of ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) and acquire this valued certificate.
- Students have the opportunity to achieve the "Gaisce" President's bronze award.
- The Enterprise/Mini Company programme allows students to develop business ideas and learn cooperation and teamwork skills.
- Work experience (three weeks) gives students the chance to sample the world of work and assists with future career choice.
- Communication skills are of vital importance to all students as they proceed through school and on to their future career. Students have time each week where they prepare and deliver speeches to their peers and learn to evaluate each other.

# Extra Curricular

## Choir ■

Choir, run by our Music teacher, is an option which is sometimes available to Fifth and Sixth Year students. The choir performs for school Masses and other school related events. "The choir is a great opportunity to make new friends while using your musical talent and participating in something you enjoy doing". Occasionally the choir performs at community events and fund raising events e.g. carol singing for St. Vincent de Paul.

## School Tours ■

School tours have included trips to France, Italy, Germany and other destinations. The destination for skiing is Bulgaria.

## Student Exchanges ■

In Transition Year students have the opportunity to travel to Germany or France on a privately arranged student exchange. The Irish student hosts the German or French student for a period of three or six weeks and vice versa.

## Visiting Students ■

Each year we welcome students from other countries who attend our school to improve their English. They live with local families and participate in all school activities.







## Extra Curricular (cont.)

### Pantomime/Drama ■

We are proud of our theatrical productions over the years in Ard Scoil na nDéise. Students are actively encouraged to take part and develop their talents in the areas of acting, singing, dancing, artwork, lighting, music, make-up or production.

### Public Speaking/Debating ■

The Ard Scoil community participates actively in public speaking and debating events. Senior students are encouraged to enter the Soroptimists Public Speaking Competition and the school is also involved in debates organised by the UCC Philosophical Society

### Lourdes ■

Every year some of our Fifth Year students go to Lourdes as helpers on the Waterford Diocesan Pilgrimage. Students conduct a series of fundraising events to help cover the cost of their trip. They enjoy the pilgrimage and learn greatly from the experience.

### Fundraising ■

Our students organise many interesting and creative fundraising activities for organisations such as West Waterford Hospice and the Alzheimer's Association. Pink Day in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness is a special day throughout the school and local community.



# Sport

Physical Education and extra-curricular sporting activities play an important role in the life of the Ard Scoil. All students participate in P.E. and are also encouraged to take part in physical activity after school. The aim of the Physical Education programme is to offer pupils an opportunity to experience as many activities as possible at recreational and competitive level and to make a positive contribution to their health and well being.

At Junior Level we follow the new Physical Education Curriculum which includes adventure activities, dance, games, gymnastics, aquatics and health related activities.

During Transition Year new elements are introduced to broaden the students' experiences and these include self defence, horse riding, surfing and orienteering.

We make use of all facilities in our locality including the sports centre, indoor and outdoor areas, tennis courts and hotel swimming pools. Hockey, Camogie, Football and Athletics are offered as extra-curricular activities from First Year right through to Sixth Year.

## Hockey ■

Our Hockey teams compete in the Waterford Munster Schools League and Cup competitions.







## Sport (cont.)

### Athletics ■

Our athletes have competed against the best in Ireland winning County, Munster and All Ireland titles and many have gone on to represent Ireland at Cross Country, Hill Running and Track and Field.

### Camogie ■

Our Camogie teams too have made great strides since the sport was introduced, reaching the Munster Final and Semi Finals.



### Football ■

Our footballers compete in the Munster Schools Football competitions at Senior and Junior level, while our First Year students take part each May in the Tipperary Schools Blitz where they have enjoyed considerable success.

### Equestrian ■

We encourage students with an interest in equestrianism by entering school teams in equestrian events such as Inter-Schools Show Jumping and Hunter Trials.



# School Community

## Students' Council ■

Our Students' Council is a very active group who work in partnership with students, staff and parents to contribute to the running of the school. They are a voice for the students and allow them the opportunity to air their opinions and to keep the student body informed about events which take place in the school. The Council is run by the students for the students with the support of teachers and management. They have an input into any school policy which directly concerns our students.

## Parents' Council ■

The Parents' Council forms an integral part of the school community. They meet each month and work tirelessly for the school.

### **The Parents' Council:**

- » Promotes and fosters co-operation between home and school.
- » Acts in an advisory and consultative capacity in relation to the school.
- » Assists during public school events, e.g. Open Night,

Graduation Nights, Musicals/Pantomimes.

- » Provides financial assistance when required, e.g. sponsoring various school events. From time to time they organise a Careers Evening.
- » Runs a very successful bingo night every Monday in the Senior Assembly Hall. This is a fantastic fundraiser which provides extra financial support for the school.

## Board of Management ■

Our active and committed Board of Management meets monthly and supports the work of Senior Management and the teaching staff. Members of the Board possess a broad range of skills and expertise which are invaluable in the running of a high functioning school.

## School Website and School News ■

Our school notes appear regularly in the local newspapers and are put on the school website [www.ardscoildungarvan.com](http://www.ardscoildungarvan.com) where our school D.V.D. can also be accessed.





Name:  
Sinéad O'Brien

Year:  
Second Year



“As well as all the usual academic subjects, our school has a variety of practical subjects to choose from. These include Art, Computers, Home Economics and Music. My favourite subjects would have to be Art and English.

Our school also has a brilliant sports programme, my favourites being football and athletics. We can also do soccer, camogie and equestrian competitions.

Lunch times in the hall are when we meet up with friends in different classes. Here is where we get updated on all the 'goss' that's happening around

the school. I am really happy that I chose this school as the teachers are really helpful and are always there if you need them.

In First year, the Cárde girls helped us to settle in to the school. They set up games for us and were always there for us. So far my time in the Ard Scoil has been great and I look forward to the years to come!



## Student Profiles

Name:  
Sinéad O'Donnell

Year:  
Transition Year



“Some say school is boring, stupid, and even terrible. The majority of peoples' school days fly past them in the blink of an eye because they don't make the most of their limited number of days at secondary level. Not here though, not in Ard Scoil na nDéise.

We take every opportunity that is given to us and strive to make the best out of it. I personally love being a student here. There is a great sense of pride you get when you wake up in the morning and put on the Ard Scoil uniform. That crest you wear represents everything you've accomplished



over the years. Whether it is music, sport, theatre, academic or practical, it's all here. Everything is handed to you on a silver platter; you just have to make the most of it.

I love the way our school accommodates people from all walks of life. There's something here for everyone, you just have to figure out what that is. Independence is something we thrive on here. Honestly, it is an amazing school. There are no outcasts or divides; we are all equal and mutually work together to make our school years the best years. You only have one chance at secondary school and I am proud to say I spend them here, in Ard Scoil na nDéise...







*Professional Photography: Pat Crowley, Karen Dempsey, Robert Power and Sean Byrne.  
Other photography: Eibhilin Power, Daniel Veale, Ard Scoil na nDéise teachers and students.*

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## A brief History of Ard Scoil na nDéise

While the history of Ard Scoil na nDéise dates back only to 1990, it is part of a long tradition of Catholic education in the town of Dungarvan. Ard Scoil na nDéise is the product of the amalgamation of Coláiste Mhuire run by the Sisters of Mercy and St. Joseph's

Secondary School run by the Presentation Sisters. Both congregations had a Primary and a Secondary School. In 1990 the Secondary Schools amalgamated to form Ard Scoil na nDéise under the Trusteeship of the Sisters of Mercy. We are now in the CEIST Trust.

