



Villiers School

Synopsis

In Villiers we believe education must focus on academic success, but this must go beyond classroom academics and in Villiers we focus on the individual at a deeper level. We strive to ensure our students leave Villiers as young adults entering the world with a sense of integrity, determination, responsibility, kindness and a positive attitude towards life.

Our school was founded almost 200 years ago and seamlessly blends traditional education with a multitude of other experiences, be they on the sports field, in the world of arts and music or in personal development.

We are a diverse School with boys and girls, boarders and day students, many nationalities, cultures and creeds. We offer a wide academic curriculum; excellent teaching facilities and we pride ourselves on small class sizes. The vast majority of our students take university places. We believe every individual should fulfill their potential and our aim is that each student achieves all that they can in an atmosphere that is highly academic, yet fosters confidence, instills values and enables sound decision making.

There are three academic programmes in the School.

1. Junior Certificate

Forms 1-3 Students study eleven academic subjects and sit mid School national exams at the end of the third year. Students are typically aged between 12 -15 in this programme.

The programme includes Irish, English, Maths, French, German, History, Geography, Science, Religious Education, Civic Social and Political Education, Business, Home Economics, Technology, Technical Graphics, Music, Art, Spanish.

They also take classes in Social Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) and in Physical Education (P.E.).

2. Transition Year

Transition Year is an ideal year to join as an international student. The programme is a bridge between Junior School and Senior School. Transition Year is Form IV in Villiers. Transition Year is a creative educational experience unique to Ireland.

Students participate in their Transition Year I Form IV (age 15/16). It comes between Form III which has important official state exams (the Junior Certificate) and Forms V and VI which are for the Leaving Certificate Programme. The Leaving Certificate prepares students for entrance to university. Form IV is called Transition Year because it is a bridge between the two.

In Transition Year students continue with their academic studies. They all take English, Mathematics and a second European language. Irish students must study the Irish language but International students do not have to do this – instead they have additional English classes, as well as Irish cultural studies.

Then they choose between a wide range of subjects including: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, Religious Education, Art, Japanese, Business, Accounting, Music, Construction Studies, Economics, Technical Graphics, Design and Communication Graphics, Home Economics, Applied Mathematics

They also follow a wide range of other activities which aim to encourage personal development. The students have the option to experience a wide range of non-academic subjects such as pottery, photography, first aid, drama, music workshops, driving theory and driving and many, many more.

They follow an extensive outdoor pursuits programme. – This includes sailing, surfing, hill walking, horse riding, rowing, tennis, golf, swimming. The students attend classes in community development, in enterprise education and in environmental awareness.

They participate in a drama, a fashion show, and in work placements.

Transition Year really helps our teenagers develop social and communication skills, and above all builds on self-esteem, self-confidence and independent thinking. For the students, it is a varied year with lots of new experiences, lots of learning and lots of fun!

3. Leaving Certificate

The final two year programme. At the end of the second year students sit State examinations called the Leaving Certificate. Performance in these exams determines university and college entry. Students typically study between seven or eight subjects, including English, Irish, Maths, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Business, Accounting, Economics, Home Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, Geography, History, Religious Education, Design Communication Graphics, Technology, Construction Studies, Art, Music.

A high standard of English is required to enter this programme. Students at this stage are typically aged between 16-18 years.

For International students:

The experience is managed by a teacher in the School with specific responsibility for international students. Every year we take students from overseas - mainly from Spain, Germany, South America, Russia, China and South Korea.

We provide additional English classes and prepare the students for Cambridge exams. These take place while the Irish students are studying Irish, so your child will not miss any of their academic classes to attend the additional language classes. In addition we have devised a module in Irish Cultural studies, specifically for our international students.

The majority of our international students are boarders. The School operates a weekly and fortnightly boarding system. Weekly boarders go home to their families every weekend, the international students stay with host families, who frequently are parents of children attending the School. Fortnightly boarders go their families/host families every second weekend and remain in School every other weekend, where there is a range of activities for them to participate in.

Lots of students come through agencies who do a lot of work re purchasing materials students will require such as books, uniform, bedlinen etc, placement with host families etc. Other families decide to do this work themselves, and the School has a list of potential host families which we can provide. (Do note that the School does not get involved in making arrangements with host families, we leave this to parents, but we do offer some guidelines.)