

# DE LA SALLE COLLEGE, DUNDALK PROSPECTUS



Quality education for students in the  
North East for over 100 years



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“Teaching minds, touching  
hearts, transforming lives.”





# WELCOME

## *Dear Parents/Guardians,*

We at De La Salle College, Dundalk are very conscious that choosing the best secondary school for your son is one of the most important decisions that must be made in terms of his education/career. It is with great pride and confidence that we invite you to take the first steps of discovery of De La Salle through the pages of this prospectus that, hopefully, may lead to a longer journey of partnership with the college over the next number of years.

At De La Salle College, Dundalk we encourage academic excellence, the achievement of the student's potential and the development of a well-rounded individual. We strive to create an environment where learning is facilitated and encouraged, where fulfilment in academic and other achievements is fostered. The school is staffed by qualified, dedicated and highly motivated teachers who strive to adopt a student-centred approach to education. This ensures that each individual student's needs are catered for and that each student is empowered and equipped to achieve their potential whatever their aptitude and/or background.

We work hard every day to ensure that our Mission Statement is lived out in the classrooms and corridors of our school. A great emphasis is placed on the social, spiritual and personal development of our students through offering a progressive academic curriculum as well as an extensive range of extra and co-curricular activities in which all students are encouraged to participate, all of these elements combining to promote the holistic development of our students.

It is through the delivery of a quality education service coupled with a strong emphasis on pastoral care and positive discipline that makes De La Salle College, Dundalk a school where students can effectively learn, grow and thrive.

The best ambassadors for our school are our students so please visit us on Open Day and engage with them as well as with staff and management, and see for yourself what we offer. We look forward to meeting you and your son, whether it is on Open Day, during many of our high profile activities and events or at Information Evenings.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school directly, visit our web site at [www.delasalle.ie](http://www.delasalle.ie) or find us on Facebook & Twitter.

***Management & Staff, De La Salle College, Dundalk***



Ms. Nicola Connolly,  
Principal



Mr. Daragh McKeon,  
Deputy Principal





## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement is to give a human and Christian education to our students, with special concern for those who are disadvantaged.

De La Salle College is a community where the different groups associated with it – teachers, management, parents and students – work together in close partnership for the good of all.

De La Salle College is a voluntary secondary college under the trusteeship of the Le Chéile Trust.

The college is managed in accordance with the Lasallian principles and philosophy.

## AIMS

- To enable each student to achieve growth and maturity
- To hand on the Christian faith and values in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church
- To prepare our students for further education and development
- To broaden horizons through a variety of experiences within the school and by recognising achievements attained outside of school
- To provide a curriculum suited to the intellectual, practical and physical needs of each individual child
- To provide a caring environment
- To promote confidence and self-esteem in each student
- To create an awareness of a need for tolerance and sensitivity towards others
- To develop good relationships and closer links between school, home and the wider community
- To provide an atmosphere where learning is stimulating, enjoyable and fulfilling
- To create an awareness in all students of their cultural identity and traditions







## COLLEGE CREST

The college crest consists of a star on a shield, flanked by fern. The five-pointed star is the worldwide-recognised symbol of the De La Salle Brothers and is their ‘Signum Fidei’ or ‘Sign of Faith’.

It is a reference point to our faith – to the star that guided the Magi to Bethlehem to the birthplace of Christ.

Each point on the star represents one of the core principals of Lasallian education:

- Concern for the poor and social justice
- Faith in the presence of God
- Respect for all persons
- Quality education
- Inclusive community

## COLLEGE MOTTO

The Motto – “*Recta Sapere*” means “*Right Judgement*”, or knowing what is right. It reminds us of the importance of truth in our lives and is fundamental to the college’s code of behaviour which is centred heavily on the notion of mutual respect.

## COLLEGE UNIFORM

**The college uniform consists of:**

- Black jacket with college crest
- Blue jumper with college crest
- Grey shirt
- Black college tie with stripes
- Plain black shoes without logos/stripes
- Options on this uniform available for female repeat leaving cert. students
- PE uniform

## HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL



The De La Salle Brothers came to Dundalk in 1899 to take charge of the Castletown Boys’ National School. In 1914 the present boys’ primary school was built. The De La Salle Monastery was built in 1902.

De La Salle College, Dundalk was originally established in 1938 as a ‘secondary top’ school and became a fully recognised secondary school in 1970, from then to be known as De La Salle College, Dundalk.

A site for the new school was purchased from the St. Louis Sisters and building commenced in 1977. In November 1978 the teachers and students moved out to the current site. A new sports field/football pitch was added in 1982 and a full size gymnasium was built in 1984. In 1998 a 14-room additional building was constructed and it opened in May 1999. The most recent addition, comprising technology suite, a fourth science laboratory, four classrooms, toilet and office facilities was constructed in 2013 and was opened in 2014.

The first lay Principal, Mr. Martin Brennan was appointed in August 2003. Staff numbers at the college have grown to 50 teachers with proportional increases in office and maintenance support staff and SNAs. The student population has grown steadily from 171 in 1970 to its present level of over 700 students.

In September 2009, the De La Salle Brothers handed over trusteeship of the college to the Le Chéile Trust – a Catholic Schools Trust set up initially by 12 congregations, including the De La Salle Order. The Le Chéile Trust aims “to promote Catholic education as an option within the Irish education system” and “to develop the schools of the Congregations in the service of their local communities, the state and the Church”.



## FOUNDER

- St John Baptiste De La Salle – Born April 30th 1651, Reims, France
- Founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Brothers)
- Devoted his life to the education of the less fortunate
- He is a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church and is the Patron Saint of Teachers
- Today, his name is given to over 1,000 schools in 84 countries worldwide, including ours.





## SITE & FACILITIES

**LOCATION:** De La Salle College, Dundalk is located on the Castleblayney Road (N53) on the outskirts of the town and is easily accessible from Junction 17 on the M1.

**SITE:** The site comprises four main developments, set in mature, landscaped gardens providing an atmosphere of tranquillity that belies the location on the outskirts of a major provincial town.

### The facilities comprise:

- Teacher based classrooms to allow each learning environment to be tailored to specific subjects so as to allow the students to be immersed in the subject as soon as they enter the room
- Each classroom is equipped computer, broadband connection and data projector
- Four fully equipped Science Laboratories
- State-of-the-art Technology Suite and second Technology Laboratory
- Art Room
- Home Economics Kitchen
- Gymnasium with fully-equipped fitness suite
- Music Room
- Canteen
- Demonstration Room
- Guidance and Counselling Room
- On-site playing fields
- Library

## LIBRARY

The college library is well stocked with current up-to-date reading materials. The college employs a librarian to run this facility so that all students may gain maximum benefit. The book hire system is computerised. Information and resources are offered in a variety of media across all subject areas and computers with internet access are available to students for research purposes.

All students are members of the library and may use it during lunchtime. First Year students complete a short induction programme and all junior classes are timetabled into the library for one class period per week. This improves literacy and enhances students' love of reading.

Students have a role in the selection of new stock and have set up a vibrant book club. In addition, regular events such as quizzes, games and competitions are very popular among students and staff.



### ACCELERATED READER

Accelerated Reader gives teachers the information they need to monitor students' reading practice and make informed decisions to guide their future learning.

- Accelerated Reader provides a comprehensive set of reports and reveals how much a student has been reading.
- AR identifies the reading level of students and demonstrates how well they have understood what they have read.
- AR measures, supports and improves vocabulary growth and literacy skills.
- AR provides teachers with a valuable insight into how well students have responded to reading schemes and class instruction.

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X





# CURRICULUM

## FIRST – THIRD YEAR – JUNIOR CERTIFICATE/ JUNIOR CYCLE

De La Salle has embraced their transition to Junior Cycle and offer the following subjects:

Subjects currently on offer at Junior Cycle	
Gaeilge	History
Maths	Geography
English	Religious Education
Science	Home Economics
Business Studies	Music
Continental Languages (French, German, Spanish)	Technology
Well-being/Lifeskills SPHE, CSPE, PE and ICT	Art
	Technical Graphics

## LEAVING CERTIFICATE

The college provides a wide range of subjects at all levels, catering for the career progression of our students beyond second level.

Core	Optional <i>(Four chosen from this list)</i>	
Gaeilge	Art	Geography
English	Accounting	German
Maths	Applied Maths	History
Religious Education*	Biology	Home Economics
Physical Education (NE)	Business	Music
Computer Studies (NE)	Chemistry	Physics
Career Guidance (NE)	Economics	Spanish
Agricultural Science	Design & Communication Graphics (DCG)	Technology
	French	Computer Science
		Leaving Cert PE
<b>NOTE:</b> NE = Non-Examination/*Available as Examination Subject Two new subjects pending for Senior Cycle as reforms are rolled out. From 2024: Drama, Film & Theatre Studies and Climate Action and Sustainable Development		

## LEAVING CERT APPLIED

Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) is a two year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to pursue a practical Leaving Certificate programme with a vocational focus. It places particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work and life-long learning.

Work experience is a significant component of the programme and students get to sample a range of jobs. The learning experiences are active and practical where students get to apply their knowledge, skills and experience to real-life situations in the school, in the workplace and in the wider community.

There is less emphasis on the final exams as coursework is assessed throughout the two years and students gain ‘credits’ as they go along. Students’ work and skill development is assessed in different ways including interviews, written, oral and practical components.

There is a strong emphasis on regular attendance with 31% of the available credits over the two years awarded for ongoing attendance, classwork and assignments. 35% of the credits are awarded for seven student tasks (projects) and the remainder for the final examination. In total, 200 credits are available and the LCA qualification is awarded on a Pass (120-139 credits), Merit (140 -169 credits) and Distinction (170-200 credits) basis. Class numbers are small so that each student can get as much individual attention from teachers as possible.



## REPEAT LEAVING CERTIFICATE



The college offers a very successful, specialised Repeat Leaving Cert Programme with a dedicated class for Higher Level English and in other subject areas where numbers and circumstances determine such requirements.

Students consistently significantly increase their average points.

They are mentored by a Special Duties Teacher who has responsibility for supporting and guiding these students so that they may achieve their targets in terms of matriculation points, specific entry requirements and so they may develop as confident, successful and independent learners.





FOURTH YEAR – TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year (TY) is an optional one year programme that our students may opt for when they finish their Junior Cycle.

TY was first offered in the College in 1998 & in the intervening years has gone from strength to strength, with approximately 70% of our Third Year students applying for the programme.

The TY programme in De La Salle College is built around three key areas:

- **Subject Content:** Students will get to sample all potential Leaving Certificate subjects, on a modular basis, over the course of the programme, which will assist in making better subject choices for Leaving Certificate.
- **Work Experience:** Students will get to take part in three week-long work experience placements which will assist them in making better career choices & may assist them in the subject choices for Leaving Certificate.
- **Events:** Students will get to experience a wide variety of events, some compulsory, some optional, that they would not get the opportunity to experience in any other year.  
The benefits to students who throw themselves into TY and engage with the correct spirit are numerous & include:
  - **Maturity:** Students should be more self-confident, resilient & adaptable.
  - **Skills:** Students should be better equipped to cope with the demands of the LC & life in general.
  - **Study:** Students should be better equipped for the LC, making more informed subject choices & course/career choices after LC.

TY Subjects		Other Learning Experiences
English	PE	Work Experience Talks
Politics & Society	History	GAISCE
Physics	Music	Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre
Film Studies	Religious Ed.	Awards
MFL (Fr/Ger/Spa)	Biology	Look Into Law Programme
Young Social Innovators (YSI)	Business	Bank of Ireland Business & School Bank
Enterprise (including LEO Student Enterprise Competition)	MOS (IT) or similar	RNLI Visit
Maths	Accounting	Zeminar
Health Education	Chemistry	Irish Military War Museum
Economics	Home Economics	Pieta House Orange Flag Programme
Technology		1st Drive Driving School
Careers Guidance	Art	First Aid course
Environmental Studies	Ag. Science	Create the Great in You Youth Development
Global Citizenship Education (GCE) Programme	AppliedMaths	Sport against Racism (SARI) Workshop
Irish	Lasallian Studies	Comedy Show visit
DCG	Art Development & Curation (ADC)	Mural Tour & Titanic Experience, Belfast
		Go Quest
		Consent-Ed Programme
		& much, much more...

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

Non Examination classes (First, Second and Fifth Years) currently undergo formal assessment at Christmas in each of these three years and again at the end of each year. Comprehensive reports are prepared at these times. Progress Reports are prepared for all years at Halloween and Easter. These reports are available for parents/guardians to view and print on the college website and are accessible only by using a unique pin number.

Exam Classes are assessed in February through the mock/pre exams. These exams currently are marked by the class teachers and comprehensive feed-back is given to students on their performance and on how their results may be improved in state exams. Reports are prepared at Halloween, Christmas and March (following the mock exams).

Transition Year students receive reports at the end of each module rotation. In recent years this has been either three or four times in the year, depending on the number of students/classes electing to take the Transition Year Option. Transition Year students sit formal end of year exams in core subjects (Irish, English & Maths) as well as Modern Languages (French or German or Spanish).

Class/Topic tests are set regularly throughout the year with subject teachers providing feedback to students and to parents through the Student Journal.

Study Skills and Homework are covered as topics in SPHE classes and Study Skills seminars are offered to exam year students on a voluntary basis.

Students’ progress is regularly monitored, both formally and informally, through the pastoral care structures of the college and, where there is cause for concern, contact may be made with parents/guardians to discuss progress and how it may be developed/improved.

These procedures are subject to review and to change as new initiatives and improvements may be implemented in order to provide the best possible communication of progress to students and to parents/guardians.

Every year group is allocated a slot on the school calendar for a parent-teacher meeting. Students are expected to attend these consultations with their parent(s)/guardian(s) so that a clear message of encouragement and support may be communicated.





## PASTORAL CARE STRUCTURES

Each student is assigned to a Form Class monitored by a Class/Form Tutor, a teacher who has regular contact with the group. The Class/Form Tutor monitors attendance and discipline and works closely with the Head of Year.

Each year group is assigned a Head of Year who has responsibility for the academic progress, attendance, discipline and pastoral care within the year group.

**Guidance and Counselling:** The college has a full time Careers and Guidance Counsellor who provides information and advice about subject choices, college courses and prospective career paths. The Guidance Counsellor is also available to listen to and counsel students who are experiencing difficulties. All students may avail of this service and senior classes are timetabled for one careers class per week.

**First Year Students – Induction:** First Year students receive a formal induction on their first day in the college. This comprises some time spent with the management of the college, an initial meeting with their mentors and time spent with their SPHE teacher.

The Mentors/Lasallian Leaders are senior students who have applied for the position and have been trained by the college in conjunction with the HSE. Each mentor is assigned a small group of First Year students with whom the mentor meets on a regular basis, particularly in the early days and weeks and helps the students iron out any teething problems they may be having. The mentors report to a senior teacher with Assistant Principal status who helps them with their work and who can liaise with Class/Form teachers, Head of Year and other support structures within the college if there are any concerns about a student.

The time spent with the SPHE teachers is specifically targeted at encouraging the students to understand the new structures they face at second level, to address any questions or concerns the students may have and to encourage all students to focus on the positives of this significant forward step in their education and to embrace it. Some 'Icebreaker' games are played that facilitate the integration of new students into their classes and to help them get to know some of the new faces they will meet on this first day.

**Care Team:** The college's Care Team and middle management team meet on a regular basis to review and progress issues pertaining to particular students and to monitor the overall workings of the Pastoral Care structures in the college.



“Take even more care of the education of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king.”

St. John Baptiste De La Salle



## SPORTING ACTIVITIES



“A wide variety of sports are available including, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Rugby, Badminton, Basketball, Athletics and Chess”



A wide variety of sports are available in the college including, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Rugby, Badminton, Basketball, Athletics and Chess.

The college has successfully participated in inter-schools tournaments in many of these disciplines with a significant and on-going degree of success, including victories in the Lennon Cup (U-18 Gaelic Football) in 2001 and 2002, the Flood Cup (U-16 Gaelic Football) in 2009 and 2011, the Moore Cup (U-14 Gaelic Football) in 2009 and 2010. We are proud to say that ten members of 'The 2010/2011 Leinster (U-18) Champions' Dundalk Colleges' Panel were De La Salle pupils.

The college has had great success in FAI Schools' competitions in recent years with De La Salle U-14s participating in a Leinster Final, becoming First Year Leinster Champions before suffering narrow defeat in the National Final in 2011. Our U-16 team won the Leinster Minor Shield 6-1 against Palmerstown Community College in May 2017.

In Basketball our U-19 team were North East Regional winners in 2008 and 2009 and our U-14 team were All Ireland Champions in 2016.

Our Badminton teams have dominated the County competition for many years.

The Chess team achieved runner-up position in the North East League in 2017.

De La Salle students, past and present, have represented their clubs, county, province and country proudly in a wide variety of sports, including Soccer, Gaelic Football, Tennis, Badminton, Basketball, Athletics, Golf, Kick-boxing, Karate, Martial Arts, Ice Hockey, Angling, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Darts and Weightlifting.







## ‘CLASS ACT’



‘Class Act’ is our annual college talent show, held in the Táin Theatre in Dundalk. It is a showcase for the many and varied talents of our students and consists of a wide range of musical, drama, dancing, martial arts and variety acts.

The show is made possible by an extremely dedicated group of teachers who work tirelessly with the students in preparation for their performances.

The staging of the show involves a huge amount of teamwork and coordination involving staff, students, and other members of the school community. From time to time, some brave members of staff will take part. The ‘Class Act’ show is undoubtedly, one of the highlights of our school year.

## CHARITY AND COMMUNITY WORK

Numerous fund-raising activities take place during the year, organised by staff and the Students’ Representative Council. Charities that have benefitted include the Lasallian World Development Project (main fundraiser here is the Staff vs Pupils Charity Match), Concern, Trócaire, Bóthar, Louth Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Dundalk Dog Rescue, Children in Crossfire, Team Hope (Christmas Shoebox Appeal), Haven Haiti, Cross Cause and, a charity founded by one of the college’s staff members, Loved By Us which seeks to assist the children in Hoa Mau Don Orphanage in Vietnam.

Junior School students have raised significant funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, achieving a place in the top three fundraising secondary schools in the country on three separate occasions.

These fundraising activities are aimed at fostering a sense of Christian responsibility and social justice in the students.

## CO & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



A wide variety of co and extra-curricular activities are voluntarily organised by teachers on a regular basis, from entry into curricular-related events and competitions such as BT Young Scientist, Science Fest, Sports Expo, debating competitions, quizzes etc., to guest speakers visiting the college to speak to groups of students on many curricular and life-related issues, to trips away to visit places of geographical and historical interest, to theatre visits attending performances of plays that are studied in school, to trips abroad to the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain that all have language, cultural, historical, geographic and leisure elements.

### Highlights in recent years have included:

- Bergen-Belsen survivor Tomi Reichental, speaking about the holocaust and why it must never happen again
- Fionnbar Walsh speaking about mental health and youth suicide
- Local chef speaking about healthy eating and food preparation
- School Tour to Paris 2015
- School Tour to Rome 2016
- School Tour to The Rhineland 2017
- School Tour to Barcelona 2018
- Annual tour to England, taking in a Premier League match and full day at Alton Towers Resort
- School Tour to The Burren





## CANTEEN AND HEALTHY EATING



The college follows a 'healthy eating' policy whereby students are encouraged to eat healthily and this, combined with knowledge of diet, the food pyramid, exercise and relaxation/well-being provides the foundation to cope with the demands of academic, sporting and social endeavours.

TFW Foods runs our canteen facility. Available at morning break and at lunch time, the canteen serves a combination of hot food including soup, curry, lasagne, shepherds' pie as well as rolls, wraps, scones, fresh fruit and chilled water.

Canteen facilities are available for Breakfast Club before school starts.

## GREEN SCHOOLS

The college has a very active Green Schools' Committee which, over the last number of years has attained Green Flag recognition in four areas:

- Litter
- Energy conservation
- Water conservation and
- Transport

Awareness of the various issues is raised through poster campaigns, competitions and games that have both a fun element and a serious message as well as through the Green Schools Noticeboard.

Work is ongoing to maintain these flags as on-the-spot inspections can occur without notice and plans are in place to increase the number of green flags that have been awarded by aiming for the Recycling Flag in the coming terms.





## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Gold Medal in Biology and Maximum Points

On 20th November 2015, Conor Bell was recognised by the Institute of Biology of Ireland for his achievement in being one of only three students nationwide to achieve the top result in Biology in Leaving Cert. 2015. Conor was a member of Ms. Cara McAdam's class. Conor also achieved the maximum possible 625 points in his Leaving Cert. in 2015.

### Top Result in Spanish

Philip McGuinness scored the highest mark in Ireland in Spanish in Leaving Certificate 2015 and was presented with a plaque to commemorate this achievement by the Spanish Ambassador to Ireland, José Maria Rodriguez Coso, at the Spanish Embassy, Merlyn Park, Dublin on 4th May 2016.

Philip was taught by Mr. Philip McGuinness.

### All Ireland Irish Debates Champions

Working with Mr. Cian Ó Náraigh, the De La Salle College Irish Debating team of Emmet Byrne, Emmanuel Ntemuse and John Marley were crowned Gael Linn Irish Debating Champions in 2016.

### All Ireland Basketball Champions

Following a thrilling final at the National Arena, the De La Salle U14 Basketball became All Ireland C Cup Champions for 2016.

**Donnachadh Hughes** – Highest Mark in Ireland in Junior Cert. Music, 2018 and Quercus Scholarship from UCC awarded, 2021

Numerous Naughton Scholarships, entrance scholarships to UCD and DCU.



Conor Bell



Philip McGuinness

“Education is not  
preparation for life;  
education is life itself.”

John Dewey



## 5 CORE PRINCIPLES OF LASALLIAN SCHOOLS



## COLLEGE BODIES

### Board of Management

The Le Chéile Trust are the Trustees of the college.

The school is under the control of the Board of Management which is convened in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1998.

### Parents' Association

Members of the Parents' Association are elected each year and meetings are held each month. The role of the Association is a supportive one and is extremely important to the success of the college. It aims to foster good relations and communications between parents, teachers, students and the school authorities.

Events are organised to inform and support parents as they guide their sons through adolescence and second level education.

### Student Representative Council

A Student Representative Council serves to represent student views. Members represent classes and are given leadership training at the beginning of the Council's term of office.

### Prefects/Lasallian Leaders

Sixth Year students have the opportunity to play an active and responsible role in the smooth running of the school through the Prefect/Lasallian Leader system.

Students can apply for these positions and, once accepted, work in teams on a rota basis to support in the supervision of students at various times during the day.

This experience is excellent for the development of leadership skills and is a valuable role to record in the preparation of a CV. Prefects are awarded a certificate on graduation from Sixth Year in recognition of their contribution to the running of the school.







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De La Salle College, Dundalk is a Le Chéile Trust school