

The First Year Student at St. Paul's

Integration

One of St. Paul's major advantages is its size – it is not too large. This makes it easier for new pupils to integrate into the school system without the worry of getting lost amongst large numbers of students. Numbers in classes also tend to be low.

Meitheal Group

St. Paul's was one of the first schools in Kildare to introduce this system. A specially chosen group of fifth – year students are sent away on a week-long residential course where they get special training in looking after the needs of younger students. They meet the first-year students on their first day in school and work closely with them, guiding them through the transition from Primary to Secondary School. Each student is assigned a Meitheal leader who will assist him or her right through his or her first year in St. Paul's.

Form Teacher

Each student is assigned a form group teacher who will meet the student on a weekly basis and oversee their progress from then on. He/she is available for students or parents to contact with any concerns that might arise. The form group teacher will make informal contact with his or her students from time to time during the year to see how they are getting on. The Guidance Counsellor, School Chaplain and Prefects are also available should a student feel they need someone to talk to.

Extra Activities

We try to ensure that our students in St. Paul's enjoy themselves as well as working hard at their studies. Amongst the range of extra activities organised are: Gaelic Football, Soccer, Basketball, Athletics, Chess, Swimming, Art, School Outings, Breakfast Club, Christmas Show, Guitar Lessons, Quizzes, Students Council, and Students Club.

Subjects

At St. Paul's we offer a balanced range of subjects as shown below. This gives our students a broad experience of practical, social and academic subjects. All levels are catered for up to Leaving Cert. and students are prepared for entry to Third Level. The school has a dedicated Learning Support Team to work with students who may need extra assistance with their learning.

Subjects offered in First Year are

Irish	Geography	Religion
English	E.C.D.L.	S.P.H.E.
Maths	French	Business Studies
C.S.P.E	History	P.E.

Choice of two from	Home Economics
	Material Technology Wood
	Technical Graphics
	Art & Craft
	Science

Bullying

Included in your pack is a copy of our policy on bullying. This matter is discussed in detail with all students at the beginning of the year. Students and parents are encouraged to let us know of any concerns in this area and **Ms Behan** will deal with the matter speedily and sensitively.

Supervision

Teachers supervise break time and lunchtime. Facilities are provided in the school for students to have their lunch. A range of healthy food for lunchtime is available for purchase in the school.

The First Week

There are so many new faces, so much that is new, that it is little wonder that first-year students find their first week in Secondary School confusing and exhausting. Having carried out research in this area, we in St. Paul's have introduced a system whereby first-years will come in to school for mornings only for the first week. This will enable them to become familiar with the layout of the school, get to know their timetable, meet their new teachers, arrange lockers etc. in a less rushed and daunting atmosphere.