



St. Columba's College

Academic Structure 2016-2017

Form Primary (11-12 year olds - August-September)

The equivalent to Sixth Class in Primary Schools (or First Year of secondary schooling in the UK). Pupils sit an assessment in English and Maths in October preceding the year of entry. In Form Primary pupils learn: *English, Maths, French or Spanish, Irish* (unless exempt), *Latin, History, Geography, Science, Computer Studies, Art, Music, Religious Education (RE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Physical Education (PE)*. Remedial *English* and *Maths* are taught to those exempt from Irish on grounds of a learning difficulty.

Form I (12-13 year olds - August-September)

Our main point of entry from Irish Primary Schools. Similar to Form Primary, pupils sit an assessment in English and Maths in October prior to the year of entry. Subjects covered in Form I are: *English, Maths, French or Spanish, Irish* (unless exempt), *Latin, History, Geography, Science, Computer Studies, Art, Music, RE, SPHE, PE*. Remedial *English* and *Maths* are taught to those exempt from Irish on grounds of a learning difficulty.

Form II (13-14 year olds - August-September)

The normal point of entry for boys and girls who have sat the Common Entrance examination in Preparatory schools for admission to senior schools. Subjects covered in Form II: *English, Maths, French or Spanish, Irish* (unless exempt), *History, Geography, Science, Computer Studies, SPHE, RE, Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), PE* plus a choice of *Art/Music* and *Classical Studies/Latin/Technical Graphics*. Remedial *English* and *Maths* are taught to those exempt from Irish on grounds of a learning difficulty.

Form III (14-15 year olds - August-September)

This is the year in which all pupils sit the Junior Certificate in a range of subjects at Higher or Ordinary level. The following subjects are timetabled (some are optional):

English, Maths, French, Irish (unless exempt), *Spanish* (if exempt from Irish on grounds of previous education outside Ireland), *History, Geography, Science, SPHE, RE, CSPE*, plus a choice of *Art/Music* and *Classical Studies/Latin/Technical Graphics*.

Form IV (Transition Year) (15-16 year olds - August-September)

A compulsory Transition Year Programme at this level maintains academic momentum through the study of nine academic subjects and in-depth experience of extracurricular activities. *English, Maths, French/Spanish* and *Irish* (unless exempt), are compulsory, and the following elective subjects are also timetabled:

Latin, Spanish, History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Art, Classical Studies, Building, Music, Computer Studies, Astronomy, Careers, Drama, RE, SPHE, PE, Information Literacy.

Examinations are held at the end of the Michaelmas and Hilary terms. There is also considerable extracurricular emphasis on *Drama, Art, Music* and outward bound experience, career guidance and future subject choice, together with a wide range of expeditions.

Form V (16-17 year olds) and Form VI (17-18 year olds - August-September)

In these two final years, pupils study for the Leaving Certificate, the national examination which is taken in June of the Sixth Form. The Leaving Certificate is more broadly-based than its British equivalent, 'A' levels, but shares much with Scottish 'Highers'. It has achieved a high international reputation in recent years. Most pupils study seven subjects, which can include both arts and sciences, and can be taken either at Higher or Ordinary level.

In St. Columba's, pupils must choose *English, Maths, French or Spanish and Irish* (unless exempt), and then are able to select from these additional, examined subjects: *Applied Maths, Latin, History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Economics, Art, Classical Studies, Music, Construction Studies, and Design and Communication Graphics.*

Pupils also have one period of *RE* and *SPHE* a week and, depending on their main subject choices, may select one of the following to study for two periods per week:

Advanced Maths, Agricultural Science, History of Art, Computer Studies, Geology, PE, Recreational Art and the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

If applying for Irish third-level Colleges, six of the examined subjects above count towards 'points' in the national system run by the Central Applications Office. Places in Colleges and Universities are allocated centrally, successful applicants being those who achieve or exceed the relevant 'points' tariff for a particular course.

If applying for UK third-level Colleges, pupils enter the UCAS system. Both our Guidance Counsellor and Senior Tutor help all Form VI pupils to complete their forms, aided by a specially appointed individual academic tutor. It is worth pointing out that a majority of Columbans choose to send applications through both systems and make their final choice after they receive their Leaving Certificate results. Using two systems does, of course, provide a very broad range of opportunities.

Pupils who leave St. Columba's go to a wide spectrum of third-level institutions across Ireland, Britain and further afield. In recent years, Columbans have entered the following Universities and other third-level Colleges:

Ireland

Trinity College, Dublin; University College, Dublin; Royal College of Surgeons; University College, Cork; University College, Galway; Dublin Institute of Technology; Dublin City University; National College of Art and Design; Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design Technology.

Great Britain

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; Newnham College, Cambridge; Trinity College, Cambridge; St. John's College, Cambridge; Keble College, Oxford; St. Hugh's College, Oxford; Imperial College, London; University of Aberdeen; University of Birmingham; University of Bristol; University of Edinburgh; University of Durham; University of Nottingham; University of St. Andrew's; Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts; University of Newcastle; St. Martin's College of Art, London; University of Exeter; Edinburgh College of Art; Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

Elsewhere

Cornell University; Stanford University; Boston College; Yale University; University of Berlin; University of Heidelberg; University of Munich; University of Maastricht; University of Madrid; University of Moscow; University of Rotterdam, University of the Sorbonne; University of Perth, Western Australia; University of Cape Town. University of Amsterdam, Columbia University.