

# Ursuline College Sligo Prospectus



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# W E L C O M E



*Colm McIntyre, Principal*

## Dear Parents / Guardians

Welcome to Ursuline College, Sligo founded in 1850 by the Ursuline Congregation.

Ursuline College is a dynamic and progressive school that focuses on creating the optimum learning and teaching environment for all our students. Ursuline College staff work hard to provide an all-round education for the students who attend our school and to build a sense of community that supports, encourages and

challenges them during their journey through the school and beyond.

Sport, music and choirs, voluntary and community activities, pastoral care, collaboration and leadership are all central to the curricular and extra-curricular life of the school. Innovation and creativity are promoted through participation in local and national events. Ursuline students participate in a wide range of activities that enable them to work towards creating a better society and contributing towards improving the lives of others.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness, creativity, graciousness and honesty, along with the hard work, self-discipline, enthusiasm, caring and initiative of the students of Ursuline College who enhance the well-being of the school community

Staff, students and parents/guardians together work hard to achieve the aims of the College. We are committed to creating a learning community where your daughter will feel supported, encouraged and valued on her journey through secondary school.

**Colm McIntyre**  
**Principal**



*Denise O'Neill, Deputy Principal*



## Mission Statement

Ursuline college is a school where students are educated in partnership with parents in a Catholic and caring community; where each individual is respected as unique; where every aspect of the person is developed and where students are prepared to take their place in society as responsible citizens.



## Le Cheile Prayer

In the power of the Spirit and in keeping with the traditions of our founding Congregations, we pray that for students, teachers and parents alike; our schools may be places of learning and discovery, places of hope and joy, places of courage and confidence, places of gratitude and generosity, places of faith rooted in love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



Prayer Room



Cairdeas



Maths Olympiad



## Striving for Excellence



The staff and students of Ursuline College strive for a continual pursuit of excellence. In Ursuline College, every student is afforded the opportunity to achieve her potential. They are encouraged to take subjects at higher level wherever

possible. There is a strong history of excellent results in state examinations and the number of students entering third level college exceeds the national average. The majority of our students achieve entry to 3rd level. The school



has a broad and very comprehensive range of subjects available at both junior and senior level which helps students at all levels to achieve their unique potential.

*Students who received 7 H1's*



*From left, Professor Martin Hogg, Head of the School of Law at NUI Galway, Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Scholars Joan Ighile and Annie Forde, and Maura Dineen, Partner at DLA Piper. Credit - Martina Regan.*

## Additional Education Needs (A.E.N)

Ursuline College endeavours to support and effectively meet the learning and development needs of all students. We have a strong AEN Department which strives to create an inclusive school environment. Our AEN Team together with subject teachers aim to create an environment that accommodates and takes cognisance of learning difficulties and differentiate their teaching methodologies accordingly. Resource is an important element within our school providing extra support and guidance to students during their time in the school. The AEN Team provides assistance to meet the needs of students assessed as having additional educational needs, learning difficulties or disabilities. We identify students with additional educational needs by liaising with Primary School Authorities and through diagnostic testing which is carried out at the beginning of the school year. Parents are encouraged to inform the school of any difficulties students may be experiencing.



*Rachel Davis, Clodagh Melly, Roisin Walsh & Niamh Fennelly - University College Dublin*



*Sadhbh McCarthy  
Mary Immaculate College  
Limerick*



*Anya Raftery  
Naughton Scholarship  
Recipient*

# The Little Mermaid

Performed by Transition Year





# Kenyan Immersion Project

Ursuline College has been linked with St. Columba's Technical College, Kitui since 1970 when founded by Sr. Columba McCourt of the Irish Ursuline Congregation. St. Columba's College has provided technical skills for many young women, enabling them to build a meaningful future for themselves and their families.

The Immersion project gives students an opportunity to develop relationships with the school community in which they are immersed. Ursuline College continuously strives to support their partner school in offering educational opportunities to those who are significantly deprived, to help with improvement of school facilities and assist in the upskilling of teachers. Linking with a school in the Developing World opens hearts and minds, the essence of education.

8 TY students participated in Ursuline College's Kenyan Immersion Project 2019. The Trip to Kitui had a profound effect on the students who participated and was most definitely a life changing experience for all of them.



# Code of Behaviour

A pastoral and caring approach to student care and discipline is adopted at Ursuline College. Students are nurtured and encouraged to develop self-confidence, take personal responsibility and show respect for others. It is the policy of the school to deal with any issues that may arise positively and with the ultimate aim of developing in the students the concept of self-discipline.

## Canteen

1st and 2nd year students may not leave the school at lunchtime. They may bring a packed lunch to school or purchase lunch in the School Canteen.

3rd - 6th Year students may take their lunch in school or go to town for lunch.

## Uniform Policy

All students are expected to wear full school uniform as we believe it helps them to focus on their work. The uniform can be purchased from Mullaney's or Moffitts Shop.

## Mobile Phones

The school prefers that students do not bring their mobile phones to school. However, if parents, for safety / security reasons, wish their daughters to carry mobiles to and from school, the phone must not be used for any purpose (e.g. phoning, texting, browsing the internet, taking photographs, checking the time, taking videos) between 8.50am and 3.50pm. The school cannot take responsibility for phones lost or mislaid in school.

## Anti - Bullying Policy

Ursuline College wishes to provide a safe learning environment for its students, where each person is respected and can work towards achieving her potential. The school does not tolerate bullying in any form. The school defines bullying as repeated threatening or intimidating behaviour that can be verbal, non-verbal, physical or psychological. Every allegation of bullying will be treated seriously and investigated thoroughly. Where allegations are substantiated, parents will be informed and appropriate action will be taken.

The anti-bullying policy is reviewed regularly and can be found on our website.

# #Respect



## Lockers

Lockers are available for student rental. Students must avail of lockers – this enables them to take responsibility for their books and belongings. The lockers offer a relief from overloaded schoolbags and allow students to develop organisational skills.

## Evening Study

Students may avail of evening study which takes place from Monday to Thursday during the school year from 4pm to 6pm. Details about study are available from the Office.

## Communication with Parents

Term reports

Parent teaching meetings

Website

Twitter

Facebook

Texts

Information evenings

Parents' Council

The election of two parents to the Board of Management



# #Kindness

Shoe Boxes For Hope





## Junior Cycle

The New Junior Cycle places the student at the centre of the learning process. It allows for new ways of learning a broader range of skills which will be assessed over 3 years.

Underpinning the New Junior Cycle is a set of principles, key skills and statements of learning. These ensure that your child receives a rich educational experience that has both breadth and depth. The curriculum has a varied curriculum of knowledge, skills and values.

### Junior Cycle Core Subjects

Religious Education

Irish

English

Mathematics

History

Geography

Science

Digital Media

### Wellbeing

Physical Education

Choir

CSPE

SPHE

Relationships and Sexuality Education

Programme

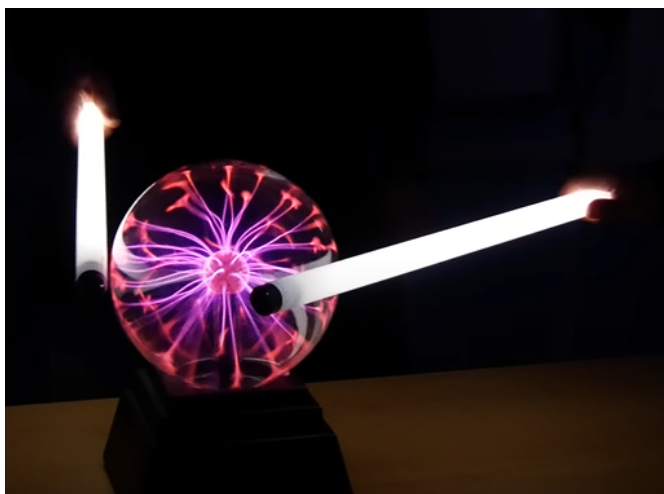
Wellbeing

### Options

Visual Art, Business Studies

French, German, Spanish

Home Economics, Technology, Music



Science Class



Art Class



*Cansat Finalists*

## Senior Cycle Core Subjects

Religious Education  
Irish  
English  
Mathematics  
Physical Education  
Career Guidance  
Computer Studies  
Choir  
SPHE / RSE

## Options

Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Home Economics  
Art  
Music  
French  
German  
Spanish  
History  
Geography  
Business  
Accounting  
Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme  
Religion  
Japanese  
Agricultural Science  
Technology



*Chemistry Class*



*Careers Class*



# Transition Year

The Transition Year acts as a bridge between the Junior and Senior Cycle and is directed towards the intellectual, social and emotional maturation of the students. The Transition year programme is constantly evolving.

The programme provides the students with opportunities to develop intellectually and emotionally. It provides them with practice in thinking for themselves, in decision - making and in assuming responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop a positive approach to learning and to their own education.

The subjects are divided into core subjects which are taught throughout the year and modular subjects which are taught on a rotation basis.

Students are also encouraged to participate in Gaisce – The President's Award programme and John Paul 2 Awards. Opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities apart from time tabled events are offered to all Transition Year students.

Students enjoy two sessions of Work Experience – one in the first term and one in the second term. All students take part in the Transition Year Musical which is staged during the second part of the year. This is one of the highlights of the year according to many Transition Year students.

## Core Subjects Taken In Transition Year Include:

Irish, English, Maths, Religious Education, Modern Language, Microsoft Office, P. Ed. and Mini Company/YSI

## Subjects Taken On A Modular Basis Include:

Biology, Physics, Chemistry, European Studies, Geography, Business, Accounting, Home Economics, Art, Music, Japanese, Italian, Technology, Chinese studies, History, Environmental Studies, Wellbeing







*Gaisce The President's Award*

## Green Council

An Active Ursuline Green Council is hard at work promoting a clean and sustainable environment for both students and staff. The Green Council encourages everyone to take an active role in caring for the environment.



*Junk Routure*





John Paul II Recipients

## L.C.V.P

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (L.C.V.P.) is designed to develop a work-related dimension to the traditional Leaving Certificate. The course combines the academic strengths of the conventional Leaving Certificate with a new active focus on self-directed learning, innovation and enterprise. It is a two-year programme with the primary goal of preparing students for adult life by ensuring they are educated in the broadest sense, with the ability to cope and succeed in an atmosphere of rapid change. The students are encouraged to develop skills and competencies fundamental to both academic and employment success.

The programme encourages students to:

- Be innovative and enterprising
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Adapt to changing circumstances and learn from their experiences
- Evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
- Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
- Work with others as part of a team
- Investigate and plan career options
- Use information and communication technologies
- Investigate local businesses and community enterprises

These skills and qualities are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.







## Science

We have three fully equipped science Laboratories with a fourth to come in the new extension. Our modern Science laboratories make it possible for all prescribed experiments for the New Junior Cert and practicals for Leaving Certificate Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science to take place. Educational trips form an important part of our Science Education Programme. Participation in competitions such as the BT Young Scientist, Sci-Fest , Schools' Science Quizzes, Science trips to England as well as excursions to Science exhibitions has proven to strengthen the students understanding and appreciation of Science in everyday life.

## BT Young Science and SCI-Fest Exhibitions

The BT Young Scientist and SCI- Fest Exhibitions are an integral part of the school calendar with students. This year we have six groups qualified for the BT Young Scientist Exhibition, our largest yet. The full value of participating in this competition inculcates in students the art of independent learning. It also teaches the skills of research, scientific experimentation and develops analytical thinking.

This year one of our students competed at the Scifest National Final in Marino, Dublin with an App relating to CPR.





## International Students

We at the Ursuline have a proud tradition of welcoming students from all over the world in to our school community. We place a huge value on how these students enrich the learning environment for all. Every effort is made to ensure a smooth transition to life in our school for these students, including those who begin their journey with us with little or in some cases no English. We support these students in a variety of ways ranging from peer mentoring, year head assistance and additional language classes.



*"When I first came to the Ursuline, I was nervous because I wasn't used to speaking English throughout. Thankfully, with the help of the teachers, they provided me with resource classes, which helped me feel comfortable and adapt to the environment quickly. And now I have settled perfectly and it is thanks to the teachers."*

*Amanda Matashu 6th year*

## Winner of Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition



On the 2nd February, Aoife Devlin, while in 5th year, embarked on the winners' trip of the Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition. Starting in Belfast, the group of 24 young people from around Ireland visited Titanic Belfast, followed by Stormont Parliament Buildings where the group were given a private tour and the chance to pose questions to MLA representatives from the main political parties there. The group then travelled to Dublin where they visited the European Representation Offices in Ireland, to receive their certificates and enjoy a QandA with the Irish Eu liaison Officer. They then had a tour of Dublin Castle. The highlight of the trip came the next day as the group flew to Strasbourg to take part in the Eurosola Competition. As leader of her sub-committee on Security and Human Rights, Aoife was then elected by the hundred or so students from across Europe to represent this topic as spokesperson for their motion. Aoife presented her groups proposals to the 500-strong Euroscola group in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. She also participated in the final of the Eurogame Quiz competition. Aoife had an amazing week and is extremely grateful to Rotary Ireland for the incredible experience.



Library



Seomra Caidrimh

## Gaeilge

The Irish Department in Ursuline College strives to promote the Irish language and culture both inside and outside the classroom. A wide variety of learning techniques are used by the teachers to develop the students' oral, listening, reading and writing skills. We offer a wide range of activities for both students and staff during Seachtain na Gaeilge, including quizzes, workshops, talks and Irish dancing in Irish to promote and encourage the use of the Irish language in our school. Students in Ursuline College are also awarded partial scholarships to Gaeltacht Summer Courses each year and compete in Sligo Feis Cheoil. The school provides a Seomra Caidrimh, a room dedicated to the promotion of Irish language and culture. It is a mini Gaeltacht where Irish is spoken at lunchtime and interactive games are played through the medium of Irish. The 6th year Cinnirí supervise and ensure Irish is spoken. The school has won numerous Clár Radió awards and Gold and Silver PPI awards. The 6th year students also visit the Rathcarran Gaeltacht prior to the Leaving Certificate orals.

## English

Additional to the established English Curriculum at Junior and Leaving Certificate levels, students have access to the school library. Reading for pleasure is a very important part of school life and it is also part of our school literacy plan.

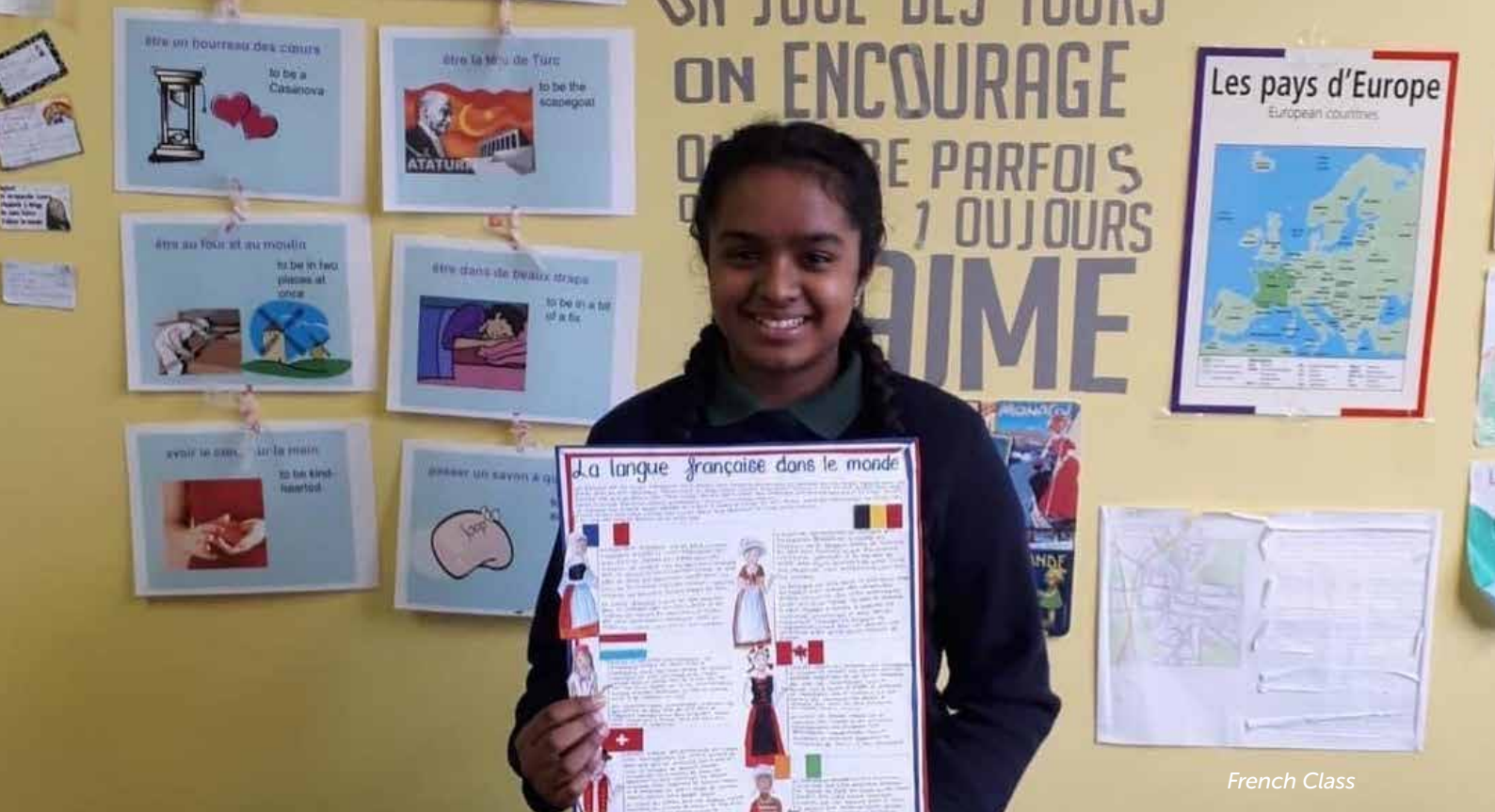
Poetry Aloud is an annual poetry speaking competition open to all post-primary students on the Island of Ireland. It is organised by Poetry Ireland and the National Library of Ireland. Each year our school is well represented at this competition and frequently reaches the finals of this prestigious event. We have achieved first place in the senior section a number of times.

Tara Parkinson was a finalist in the senior section of the all island poetry speaking competition. Tara was one of 30 competitors who reached the final out of 1800 competitors.



Tara Parkinson  
Poetry Aloud  
Finalist





French Class

## Japanese

is offered to all Transition Years on a modular basis. The Japanese language and culture course aims to open students' minds to the Japanese way of thinking. Students have the opportunity to progress to Leaving Certificate. We are the only school in the West and the NorthWest of Ireland to offer this language.

## German, French and Spanish

are offered to Leaving Certificate level. The Language Department promotes language and culture through a variety of activities such as table quizzes, drama, film and music. They also encourage students to visit the country of their chosen language.



German Games





## Music

The Music Department in Ursuline College is a vibrant, enthusiastic and friendly place to be. It offers a great balance between curriculum, vocal and instrumental based learning. Music is offered as a subject for the Junior and Leaving Certificate.

The new Junior Cycle Music focuses on giving students the opportunity to develop their musical knowledge, skills and cultural awareness through the practical and cognitive engagement with music.

Our students have a variety of opportunities within the school to develop their performing skills. Each class is timetabled for a weekly choral class. There is also a Junior and Senior choir who participate in school, community events and choir competitions throughout Ireland. An orchestra is assembled for school events and we also enter the Gael Linn Siamsa competition with our traditional Irish group. The 6th years also organise a Music club for first years at lunchtime. Our school musical is held in March each year as part of the Transition Year programme. 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream coat' was a resounding success last year and excitement is already building ahead of our next musical, 'Legally Blond'. This will take place in The Hawks Well on March 5th and 6th 2019.







## Visual Art

Visual Art is a subject that promotes creativity. It encompasses art, craft and design and involves practical work in a wide range of media leading to a specific outcome. Art is offered as a subject for both Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate. The syllabus for first, second and third year students aims to develop the expressive, communicative and functional modes of art, craft and design in the individual with drawing as the central activity.

Each year, the Art Department selects a theme for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year's theme was 'Sport For All'. The first years make all the props from cardboard and wire. They are an integral part of the parade each year.







## Home Economics

Junior Cycle Home Economics develops the knowledge, understanding, skills and values necessary to achieve optimal, healthy and sustainable living for every individual. It is studied through three interconnected strands: Food, Health and Culinary Skills; Responsible Family Living; Textiles and Craft. Home Economics develops students who are environmentally conscious and dedicated to a sustainable and responsible way of life.

## Technology

Technology is mainly about using a design process to solve technological problems. In Technology, students use the design process to work through a task or problem in order to arrive at a solution, which is usually in the form of an artefact or finished product. They learn how to safely use the tools, materials and equipment necessary to make this product.

Students also learn to identify many different types of materials and develop basic understanding of electronics circuits and gear systems.







The Canteen

## Transfer Programme

The school operates a comprehensive Induction Programme for students transferring from primary to secondary school. The programme has been extremely effective in allaying the stress and anxiety in pupils who are making the move from 6th class to secondary school. We also provide sporting activities on Fridays afternoons in the first term to help students become integrated with their year.

## Student Support and Pastoral Care

Central to Ursuline Education is respect for the dignity and uniqueness of the person. Ursuline educators strive to assist students in the harmonious development of their physical, spiritual and intellectual gifts so that they may acquire the authentic freedom of God's people. There is a wide pastoral care network available to all students throughout their years at Ursuline College.

## School Chaplain

Our school Chaplains, Mrs. Murray and Sr. Dorothy, are available to all students and to Sixth Years in particular. They provide students with the opportunity to have a confidential chat, to discuss matters of concern or seek advice. They also assist in the planning of the many liturgical services held during the school year such as our Graduation Mass and Christmas Carol Service.



## Year Head

Each year group is assigned a Year Head who encourages students to do their best and be their best. He/she is concerned with the positive development of students and promotes positive aspects of good discipline and behaviour. The Year Head monitors the progress of their students on a continuous basis and liaises with class tutors, class teachers and parents regularly.



*Roscha McDonnell - Head Girl  
Cliona Walsh - Deputy Head Girl*

## Class Tutor

A Class Tutor is assigned to each class and they act as a mentor to every student in that class. He/she oversees the day-to-day running of the class, monitors the progress of each student, and liaises with the Year Head when they have identified a pupil experiencing difficulties.

## Guidance Counsellor

Schools are faced with many choices and make significant decisions during their time in school. These choices are related to three main areas:

- Personal and social issues
- Educational issues
- Career planning

The school Guidance Counsellor has the expertise and knowledge to help students make choices regarding the important areas outlined above. The Guidance Programme in



Ursuline College aims to support students at all stages in their education to enable them to make responsible and informed personal, educational and career choices.

## School Council

The Student Council is an invaluable part of school life. The Council liaises between staff and students, and holds regular meetings. Being a Council member is excellent preparation for Leadership roles in society. It is an area where students have the opportunity to display responsibility and to play an active part in the life of the school.

Council Members participate in the Christmas Carol Service and carol singing in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. They help organize the annual food boxes for the Social Services. Assisted by other students, they serve as Guides on Open Night in the school.

In the past, the Council has helped to fund Sports equipment, a sound system for the Sport Hall and picnic tables for the school grounds.

The Council has also been involved in Literacy initiatives in the school. Council members continuously promote the schools ethos and work in consultation with School Management on some of the school's policies.



## Cairdeas Programme

The Cairdeas Programme was introduced to the school by a former sixth year student. The aim of the programme is to help First Year students to make the transition from Primary school to Secondary school as smoothly as possible. Sixth Year students act as mentors or 'cairde' to First Year students. The First Year students meet their Cairdeas partner on a weekly basis. The Sixth Year student takes care of the First Year student and helps the student in an informal supportive way. Since its introduction, this programme has helped many First Years settle happily into school life.



## Wellbeing

Students experience a sense of belonging, connection and safety in Ursuline College. The voice of the student is heard. We have a wide range of curricular activities which support Wellbeing. There are also good protocols for students experiencing challenges to their wellbeing in place with systems for directing students to external services when required. The school holds regular self-evaluation to access progress in wellbeing promotion and to identify areas for improvement.

## Youth Liaison Officer

A Youth Liaison Officer forms part of the Pastoral Care system at Ursuline College. This service contributes greatly to the care given to students in the school. The Youth Liaison Officer visits the school on a regular basis and keeps in close contact with students who wish to meet with her. She is also available to meet parents.







## Sports

Sports plays an integral part in the day-to-day life of Ursuline College and each pupil is encouraged to partake in some form of sporting or athletic activity.

This offers enormous benefits to any young person's development, promoting a healthy lifestyle, good social skills as well as furthering

their knowledge and understanding of specific sports. Both the school and the PE department encourage all students to partake in extracurricular activities. We offer Basketball, Hockey, Athletics, Gaelic, Soccer, Swimming, Cross country and Golf.

The addition of our new Astro Turf pitch greatly enhances the playing of Hockey in our school. Many of our students have represented the school in all sports at provincial and national levels.





# Resilience Council

The Council's aim is to promote positivity and looking forward. We have signed up for the Headstrong programme and TYs on the council will be trained as Mental Health Ambassadors for the school. This programme will be run alongside Wellbeing.

The Council will once again run some mediation spaces during the week and also look into school-based events to help generate a sense of positivity and digging deep to overcome challenges.



## Shine a Light for Focus Ireland

# #Respect



*TYs slept outside for the night and raised €31,000 for Focus Ireland in the last two years.*





*School Tour to Italy*

- Inclusive Environment
- Welcoming Of All Faiths And Cultures
- Sense Of Community

- Dedicated Pastoral Care Team
- Positive Approaches To Behaviour

- Excellent Sporting Facilities
- Opportunities For Involvement In Individual And Team Sports At All Levels

- New School Building On The Way – Design Team At Work!

## Reasons to choose Ursuline College

- Fostering Holistic Development
- Great Range Of Subjects
- Broad Range Of Extra-Curricular Programmes

- National And International School Trips
- Immersion Project (Kitui Africa) Science
- Choir / Hockey International Trips

- Academic Excellence
- Dedicated Additional Educational Needs Team



*London Choir Group*





**NURTURING  
GLOBAL CITIZENS**  
AT URSULINE COLLEGE SLIGO  
WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING AN  
EXCELLENT EDUCATION IN A CARING  
RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT  
CHALLENGING STUDENTS  
TO ACHIEVE THEIR  
FULL POTENTIAL AS  
SUCCESSFUL  
GLOBAL  
CITIZENS

*Act,  
Move,  
Believe,  
Strive,  
Hope,*

*Cry out to Him with all your heart,  
For without a doubt you will see marvelous things*

*St. Angela Merici*

**We look forward to welcoming you to  
Ursuline College Sligo**





*'A Bright Future Begins Here'*

