





## WECOVE TO OUR OPEN EVENING!

- Visit learning spaces and practical rooms and learn about our school You don't have to go in any order - if you find that a room is full, just move on and come back
- Activities for students in each room
- Take part in the Scavenger Hunt
- Chat to our subject teachers and Student Support Assistants (SSAs)
- Meet our wonderful students
- Enjoy performances from the school choir
- Have some refreshments (don't forget to dispose of your cup in the compost bin near the coffee station!)



# OUR SCHOOL, OUR VISION & OUR ETHOS





## **OUR SCHOOL**

- Opened in 2019 with 48 students
- 384 students enrolled for 2025-2026
- We have two autism classes (12 students enrolled)
- Will grow to 430 pupils in current accommodation
- Will grow to 1000 pupils in new build
- 72 first year mainstream places available for 2026-2027 (3 classes of x 24)
- Currently students in all year groups
- Last year, we had our first group of 6th Years who completed their LC exam in June 2025



## GETSS: AN EDUCATE TOGETHER SCHOOL



In Educate Together schools, everyone will learn in a **student-centred**,

inclusive, democratic, co-educational setting that is

committed to enabling and supporting each student to achieve their full potential while at the same time preparing them to become caring and active members of a culturally diverse society.



## WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

- First names for all
- Respect and kindness
- No uniform (but we have a dress code!)
- Student voice/student participation
- Partnership with parents/guardians
- Innovative teaching and learning
- Creativity and innovation
- Authentic inclusion
- Sustainability and social responsibility



## THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOL

#### WHERE WILL WE BE SITUATED?

**Current Accommodation: Newtownsmith** 

Department of Education have set upper limit of 72 students for 2026/2027

#### **Permanent Accommodation:**

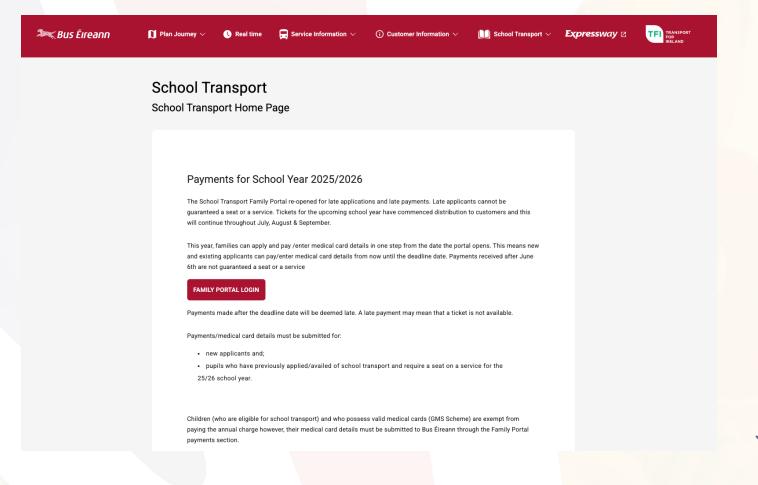
- Permanent site has been confirmed at Garraun, Oranmore (Very close to train station which is currently being developed)
- New build to facilitate 1000 students
- Provisional timeline 6 years (2031)
- Permanent location will be accessible to all sides of school planning area via school and public transport. This is a priority of Department of Education.



## SCHOOL TRANSPORT

#### HTTPS://WWW.BUSEIREANN.IE/SCHOOLTRANSPORT

- Portal opens in April
- Routes depend on demand
- Apply vis Bus Eirenann website





## WHAT WILL THE DAY LOOK LIKE?

- School opens at 8.00am and lessons begin at 8.30am
- Hour-long classes
- Students move from room to room
- No bells except at breaks
- Morning break: 15 mins; Lunchtime: 30 or 40 mins
- Senior Students can leave the premises at lunch-time. Juniors stay on site
- No canteen on site students bring a healthy lunch!
- Our classrooms are called Learning Spaces (LS1, LS2, etc.)

1	Tutor 8.30 – 8.45	<b>1</b> 8.45 – 9.45	<b>2</b> 9.45 – 10.45	<b>Break</b> 10.45 - 11.00	<b>3</b> 11.00 – 12.00	<b>4</b> 12.00 – 1.00	Lunch & Clubs	<b>5</b> 1.40 – 2.40	<b>6</b> 2.40 – 3.40 Mon & Wed
Monday							1.00 - 1.40		
Tuesday							1.00 - 1.30	1.30 - 2.30	Clubs & Active Study 2.30 – 3.30
Wednesday							1.00 - 1.40		
Thursday					7		1.00 - 1.30	1.30 - 2.30	Clubs & Active Study 2.30 – 3.30
Friday							1.00 - 1.30	1.30 - 2.30	School finishes at 2.30 Friday



## WHAT WILL THE LEARNING LOOK LIKE?

- Active Learning discussions, problem-solving, hands-on tasks
- Creativity & Innovation critical thinking and risk-taking, enhanced by use of technology
- Collaboration teamwork, groupwork, pair work and peer support
- Positive Relationships safe and respectful atmosphere, supportive connections
- Engaging Curriculum real-world connections, student interests, Global Citizenship Education
- Student Voice & Choice input and decisions in learning
- Inclusive Practices supporting all learners
- Sense of Community everyone feels valued, celebration of successes
- Feedback & Reflection constructive guidance and self-assessment
- Phone-Free Environment focused, distraction-free learning



## SCHOOL SUPPORTS & STAFF



## **SUPPORT TEAM**

- Sarah Molloy <u>principal@galwayetss.ie</u>
- Sinéad Conlon <u>dp@galwayetss.ie</u>
- Noreen Cooley <u>admin@galwayetss.ie</u>
- Guidance Counsellor: Ann Marie Greene <u>amgreene@galwayetss.ie</u>
- AEN Coordinator: Katriona Woods kwoods@galwayetss.ie











Currently 39 teaching staff, 9 Student Support Assistants (SSAs), a school administrator and a caretaker.





# PEANUT – OUR COMMUNITY DOG



- One of over 20 schools participating in the Community Dog Programme
- Run by the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Joined the team in August 2023
- Peanut works with individual students and small groups to support mental health, emotional wellbeing and reduce stress & anxiety





### **WORKING WITH PEANUT**

- Handled and cared for by one of our SSAs, Jill.
- She is trained to not approach or interact with students, unless instructed to do so by the handler. Peanut will always be with a handler and never off a lead on school premises.



# PROGRAMMES & CURRICULUM



## JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS



Gaeilge (Irish)

English

Maths

MFL (French or Spanish)

**Core Subjects** 

Science

History

**Short Courses** 

Physical Ed.

Civic, Social & Political Ed.

Social, Personal & Health Ed.

Ethical Ed.



## ETHICAL EDUCATION



- Specific to Educate Together schools
- 1 hour per week
- Invites students and teachers to engage with issues and problems facing society and aims to develop the skills of critical thinking, discussion and debate
- Involves exploring different worldviews and beliefs, considering ethical dilemmas and the process of ethical decision making (deciding between right and wrong)
- <u>9 Strands:</u> Values; Making Moral and Ethical Decisions; Beliefs and Worldviews; Different Teachings and Perspectives; Diversity in Ireland, Migration; Power and Participation; Gender Equality; Global Citizenship Education



## JUNIOR CYCLE OPTION SUBJECTS



**Options Taster Programme until October of 1st Year - Choose Two** 

Visual Art

Applied Technology

**Graphics** 

**Home Economics** 

**Business** 

Music

Geography

See GETSS.ie or curriculumonline.ie for further information



## ADDITIONAL SHORT COURSE OPTIONS



Taster during Induction – students have chosen one already

1 hour p/w, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Coding

Artistic Performance

Climate Action

Negotiated Learning

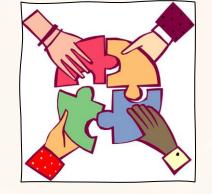
Only available at GETSS!











EDUCATE TOGETHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

## TRANSITION YEAR

- Compulsory in GETSS
- One-year programme between Junior Cycle & Senior Cycle
- Focus on personal development, social skills & independence
- Opportunities for work experience, trips, projects & community involvement
- Encourages creativity, teamwork & self-confidence
- Offers subject sampling to help with Leaving Cert choices
- Builds key life skills for future study, work & adult life





## SENIOR CYCLE/LEAVING CERT SUBJECTS

**Core subjects:** 

Gaeilge (Irish)

English

Maths

MFL (French or Spanish)

**Option subjects currently available:** 

**Physics** 

Technology

Geography

Music

Chemistry

DCG (Graphics)

Business

New! Drama, Film & Theatre Studies

Biology

**Computer Science** 

History

PE, Ethical Ed,

Other subjects:

Careers & SPHE

**Home Economics** 

Art

**Politics & Society** 



## ADDITIONAL SENIOR CYCLE PROGRAMMES

#### LCVP



## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

- Enhances the traditional Leaving Cert
- Includes Link Modules and work experience
- Focus on enterprise & the world of work
- Builds teamwork, communication & problem-solving skills
- Recognised by employers, colleges & universities
- Up to 66 CAO points available



#### **Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)**

- A practical, hands-on alternative to the traditional Leaving Cert
- Focus on skills for life, learning, and work
- Two-year programme with continuous assessment
- Mix of subjects: general education, vocational preparation & practical work experience
- Emphasis on teamwork, projects, and realworld learning
- Prepares students for work, apprenticeships,
   PLC courses & further training



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR



## SPORT AT GETSS









Soccer
Volleyball
Athletics
Basketball
Chess





## **MUSICAL TRADITION**







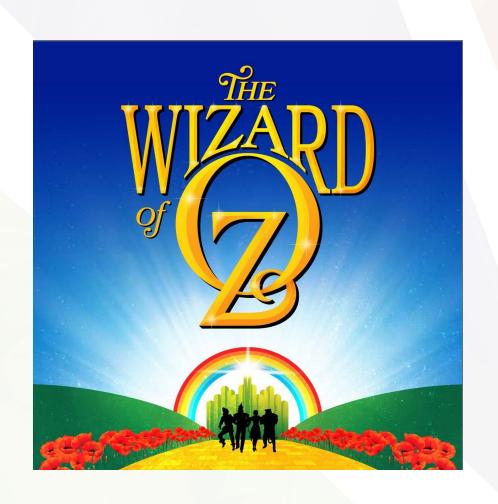








## THIS YEAR'S PRODUCTION



### A date for your diaries!

This year we're *over the rainbow* excited to present **The Wizard of Oz!** 

Follow the yellow brick road straight to our stage!

November 27th - 29th





#### Extra-Curricular Schedule 2025-2026

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Monday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00 - 8.30		Crafts Club with Donna			
Lunch time	Games Club with Ann Marie	Home Ec Room  Games Club with Ann Marie	Games Club with Ann Marie	Games Club with Ann Marie	Games Club with Ann Marie
LUNCH TIME Bring your lunch!)		LS7	LS7	LS7	LS7
	Walking Club with Kevin	Walking Club with Tara N	Walking Club with Esther	Walking Club with Ann Marie	Walking Club with Katriona
	(Meet at the office)	(meet at the office)	(meet at the office)	(meet at the office)	(meet at the office)
	Literature & Lyrics with Rowie &	Pride Club	Book Club with Sarah O	Green Schools with Aoife	
	Orla LS2	Location TBC	Library Space	LS1	
	GCE Club with LeighAnn		iPad Clinic with Nora		
	LS7 (Global Citizenship Education)		Blue Lab		
	Choir/Music Club with Tara B				
	Music Room				
2.30-3.30		Boys's Soccer with Martin & Kevin		Girls' & Boys' Volleyball with Niamh K	
		Meet at Sports Hall		and James Sports Hall	
		Boys' & Girls' Basketball with Gary		Coding & Robotics with Jake	
		Sports Hall		Computer Science Room	
		Science Club with Megan		Dungeons & Dragons Club	
		Blue Lab		with Rosaline LS2	
		Maths Club with Michelle		Table Tennis Club with Hazel	
		L56		GP Area	
		Languages Club with Esther & Laura		Tech Project Support with Evan	
		L53		Tech Room	
		Tech Project Support with Evan		Home Learning Club with Marta	
		Tech Room		LS1	
		Home Learning Club with Tara N		Debating Club	
2.40	Radminton III AV La	LS1	Ciulal Canana III II	TBC	
3.40 - 4.40	Badminton with Niamh S Sports Hall		Girls' Soccer with Neasa Sports Hall		
	Sports ridii		•		
			Strengh & Conditioning with Beth		

Nurture Room

# TECHNOLOGY-MEDIATED LEARNING



## TECHNOLOGY-MEDIATED LEARNING





- Individual devices all students at GETSS use iPads to access lessons and materials
- Purchased by parents through a third party



- Microsoft Office 365 Teams and Outlook for Communication, OneNote for lesson content
- Cost €600 approx (not covered by DEY book scheme)
- Payment Plan available

The technology is not the focus of the learning rather the medium through which students learn

















# TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED LEARNING

We use technology to enhance the learning and develop students' skills such as:

- ✓ Digital literacy
- √ Collaboration
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ Managing information









# FLEXIBILITY AND INCUSION



Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is about teaching in ways that help every child learn in the way that works best for them.

#### Students can:

Learn in Different Ways
Videos, text, audiobooks, interactive apps—
students choose what works best.

Show What They Know Write, record, draw, or create presentations to express understanding.

Get Extra Support
Tools like text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and visual organizers help every learner succeed.

iPads make learning more flexible, inclusive, and personalized for every student.

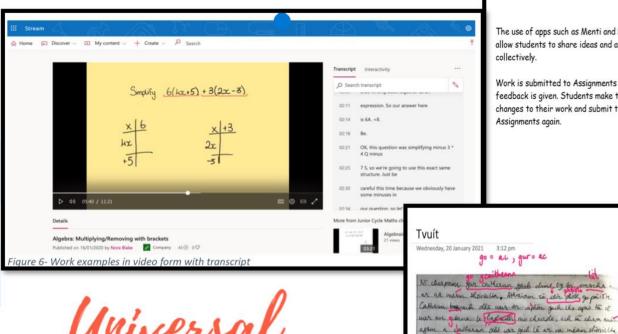


## SUPPORTING LEARNING FOR **EVERY STUDENT**

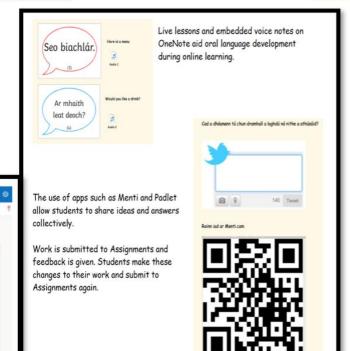
Representation

**Student Expression** 

**Student Engagement** 



For Learning



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na falloule lea un menior storonta ce boith austicle ce

Students have the choice to present their work digitally, in video format or they can take a photo of their copybook and upload to OneNote or Assignments.

#### **Curious about** the iPads?

Ask teachers and students in our classrooms to show you how they are used for learning.

http://galwayetss.ie/page/ Apple-Distinguished-School/60789/Index.html



Distinguished School

#### **Galway Educate Together Secondary** School



### Our School

alway Educate Together Secondary School is a developing school which opened its doors in 2019. Following the Educate Together ethos, our vision is to foster a love of learning and to build an inclusive community through sustainable practices that revolve around the building of respectful relationships and democratic participation. The activation and engagement of authentic student voice is central to our planning and practice.



Vision

The culture of learning in our school centres around the pillars of Collaboration, Creativity, Flexibility and Critical Thinking.

Having 1:1 iPads allows us to engage the students in teaching and learning activities which support this progressive vision. In addition to this, using digital technology gives students the confidence to communicate, to collaborate, to reflect and to emerge as learners who will be able to respond and adapt to the ever changing world around them. Our staff actively facilitate students to express their views but they also give audience to that voice and allow it to influence future learning experiences. We encourage our students and staff not to be afraid of making mistakes, to be open to trying new things and to actively seek out new opportunities in order to reach their full potential.







At GETSS we activate authentic student voice by adopting Laura Lundy's Model of Participation as illustrated above.

#### **Demographics**

- **Developing School Year 3**
- Number of Students: 207
- Co-Educational
- Year Groups 2022/23; 1st, 2nd, 3rd year and Transition Year
- Number of Teachers: 16
- Number of SSA's: 5
- Currently situated in temporary accommodation



- 1:1 Apple iPad devices
- Apple TV in every classroom
- Teachers equipped with Apple Pencils





Through our School Self Evaluation (SSE) process, feedback suggests that student engagement is heightened and enhanced by the use of iPads. Our students, teachers and parents have verified their satisfaction through the channels of focus groups and surveys and they can explicitly identify how the iPads help students directly manage themselves and their learning. The feedback also speaks clearly in terms of the ease of use, the ability to easily cater for the needs of all students, the robustness of the iPads as well as the endless opportunities for creative

Identify

Gather

SSE **Process** 

iudgements

#### What Next?



engagement.

As a developing school which will rapidly grow over the next ten years we need more sustainable practices. For example much of our data gathered from our SSE process is opinion based, we plan to review and refine our collection of data so that we have a balance of quantitative and qualitative. This will allow us to easily identify areas for improvement.



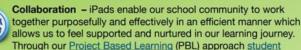
In addition to this, we are committed to develop learning autonomy. To support this, we have developed a template that equips students in their research process to be more robust in their critical thinking skills.

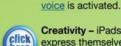


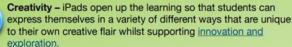
We continue to strive to increase engagement with student voice by empowering them to make decisions about and take responsibility for their learning in order to improve learner outcomes.



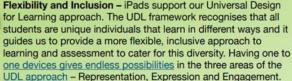
Learning



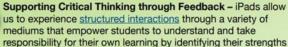












and their areas for improvement.









Analyse and

Put improvement











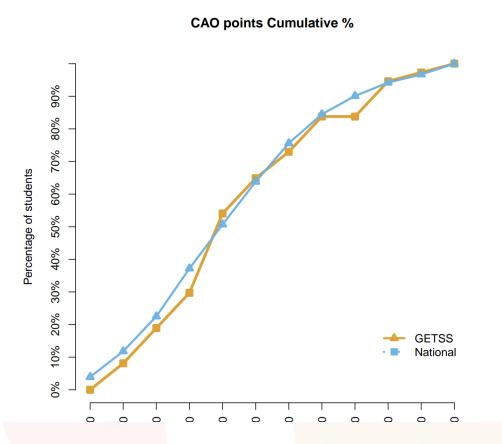


## OUR PRIORITIES



## ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS

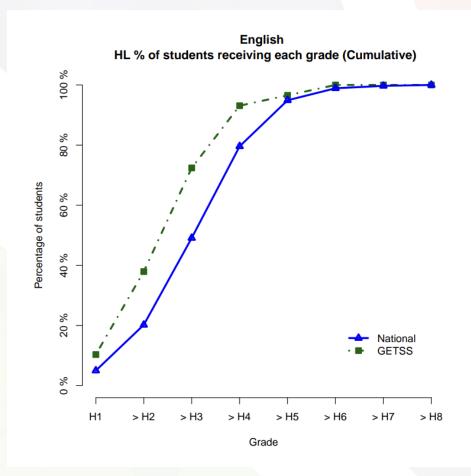
- High-quality teaching and learning, and academic excellence are priorities, helping every student reach their potential, and succeed with confidence.
- Data from Athena Analytics, our academic tracking software, shows that all of our students are achieving their full academic potential.

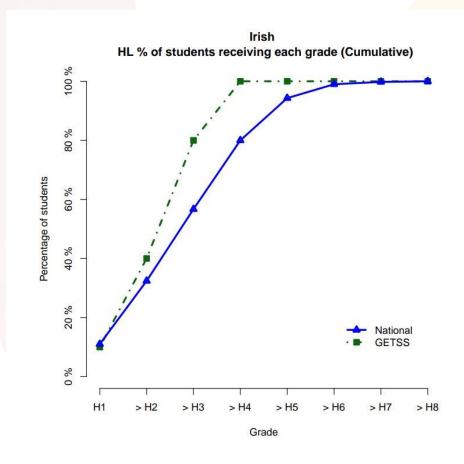


Leaving Cert. Results 2025



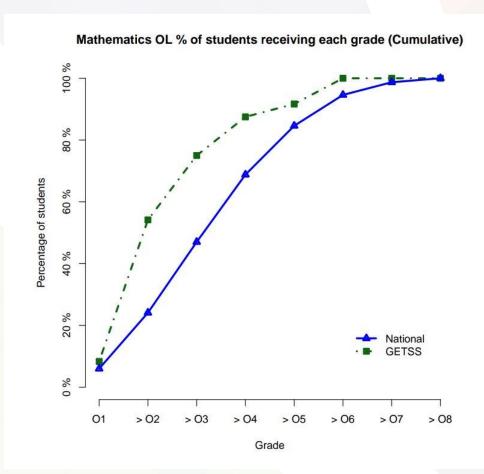
## ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS

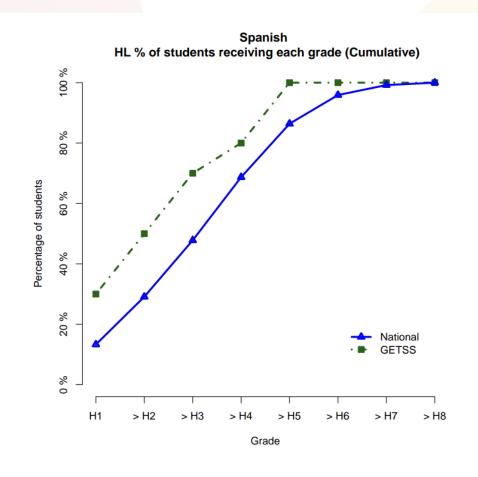






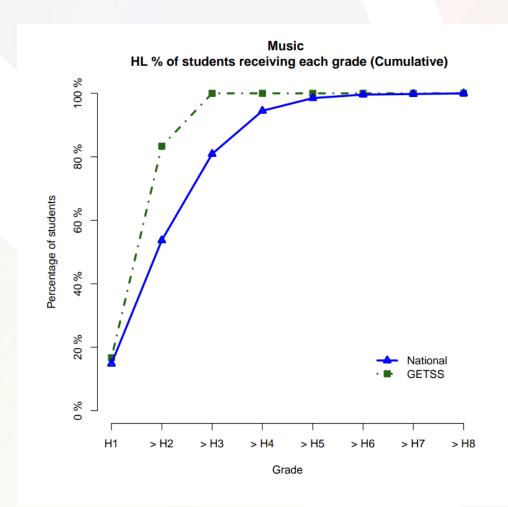
### ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS

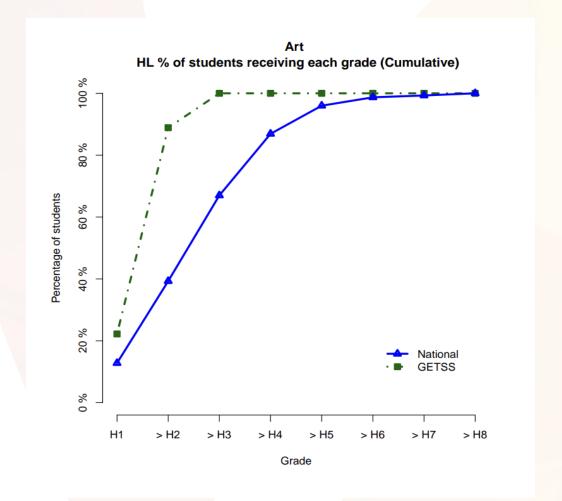






### ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS











galwayetss 👋 Leaving Cert Results Day 2025 👋 Congratulations to the class of 2025 on getting their Leaving Certificate Results today! We are so proud of the high academic standards you have set as our first group of Leaving Certificate students!

As you move onto the next steps of your life, whether that's studying, training, working or travelling, the staff at GETSS wishes you every success and happiness in the future!

Edited · 4w









August 22



 $\Box$ 

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS - LC 2025











Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh

Atlantic Technological University

















## STUDENT DESTINATIONS – LC 2025

Majority progressed to university (Level 8) degrees:



- Bachelor of Architecture (Hons)
- Bachelor of Arts (Arts with Children's Studies)
- Bachelor of Arts (Drama and Theatre Studies)
- Bachelor of Arts (English and Creative Writing)
- Bachelor of Arts (Musical Theatre)
- Bachelor of Business (Hons)
- Bachelor of Science (Computing & Software Development)
- Bachelor of Science (Criminology with Psychology)
- Bachelor of Commerce (Global Experience)
- Bachelor of Science (Food Science and Health)
- Bachelor of Law (Human Rights)

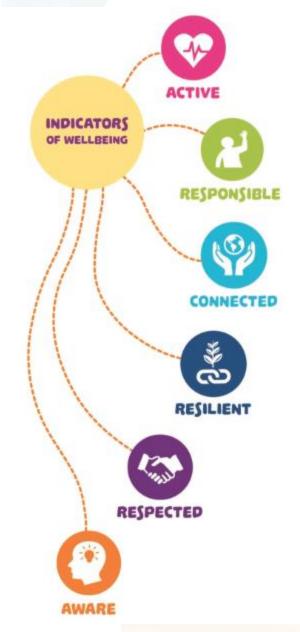


### STUDENT WELLBEING

Happy, healthy students learn best. Supporting emotional, social, and mental health is a priority for the school.

Wellbeing programs and initiatives include:

- Kindness & respect
- Clubs and extracurricular
- Bí Cineálta Anti-bullying Policy
- Amber School Award
- Inclusive practices
- Themed weeks
- Healthy Eating (water only)
- Whole-school Restorative Approach





### RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

Building Positive Relationships and Supporting Positive behaviour

#### What is Restorative Practice?

Restorative Practice aims to build positive relationships and friendships. It also help to deal with conflict and arguments, if they do occur, in a healthy way that moves us away from blame and attack to connection and healing.

In our school we will use the RESPECT values to help bring Restorative Practice to life.





### **SUSTAINABILITY**

- Reducing waste: waste management system - recycling, compost bins, etc.
- Avoiding single-use plastics
- Avoiding disposable cups
- Eco-friendly transport encouraged: walk, cycle, carpool, buses, etc.
- Sustainability lessons, Green Schools, Climate Action projects
- Responsible purchasing: buy local, recycled, and eco-friendly products
- Mindful use of paper









### SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY

### Welcome, Inclusion, Diversity, Safety, Sanctuary

Recognition as a school that is committed to creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment that benefits everybody, including anyone in its community who is seeking sanctuary.

### Tonight - students wearing badges with their languages - please approach them!

- PBL (project-based learning) workshops and events in the areas of identity and anti-racism
- Irish Education System information (for families who may be unfamiliar with the Irish context)
- www.getss.ie/ Google Translate
- Curricular elements (Ethical Ed, CSPE, Art and English)
- Turning the Tide campaign Traveller Movement (intercultural workshops for 1st Years)
- Various student-led campaigns around inclusion



# Schools of Sanctuary Ireland

# STUDENT PARTICIPATION/VOICE

- Student Council elected representatives from each year
- 6th Year Prefects senior students as role models, assisting at school events
- Peer Mentoring older students support 1st years
- Formal Programmes e.g. Foróige Leadership for Life, GAA Future Leaders, LIFT
- Working Groups/student committees Green Schools Team, Amber Flag Team, School of Sanctuary Ambassadors, GCE Team



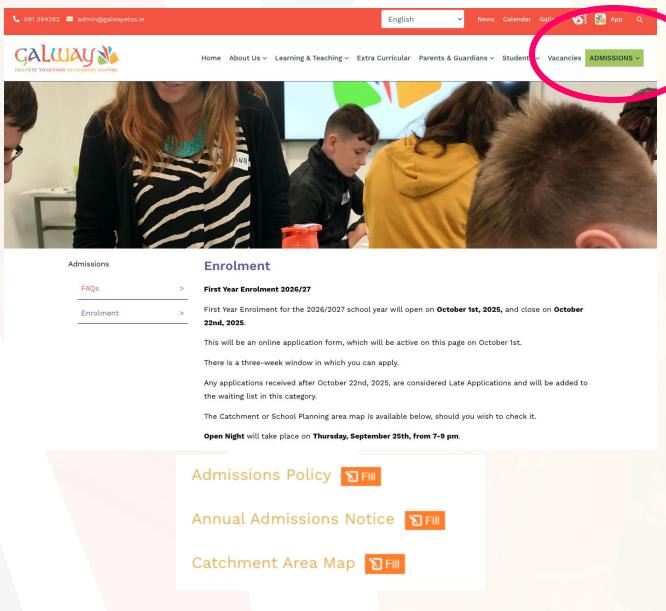


# HOW TO APPLY



### HOW TO APPLY

- Online application form on website
- Application Window <u>October 1st</u> to <u>October 22nd</u>
- If oversubscribed, a lottery system applies
- Late applications will be added to the waiting list in the relevant category
- Order of Categories:
  - 1. Siblings
  - School Planning Area (See map)
  - 3. Outside Planning Area
  - 4. Late Applications
- All details in the Admissions Policy & Admissions Notice on website (<u>www.galwayetss.ie</u>)





# FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LIFE AT GETSS



### Keep up to date and see what life is like in GETSS - Follow us!

### FIND US ON SOCIALS!



www.galwayetss.ie



@galwayetss

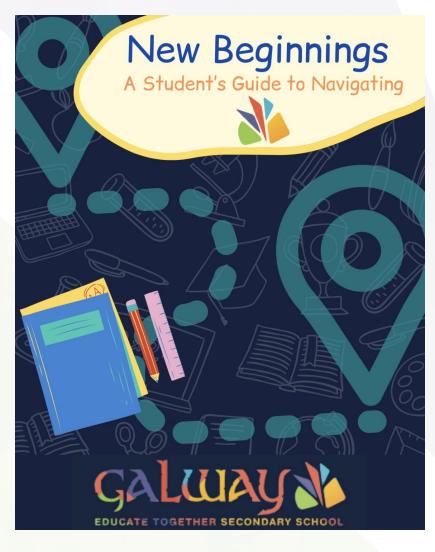


Galway Educate Together Secondary School





### TRANSITION BOOKLET



### Available in multiple languages

- Mandarin
- Hindi
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Ukrainian
- English







### **ENJOY THE EVENING!**

- Visit learning spaces and practical rooms and learn about our school You don't have to go in any order - if you find that a room is full, just move on and come back
- Activities for students in each room
- Take part in the Scavenger Hunt
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