

# ST MALACHY'S COLLEGE BELFAST



PROSPECTUS



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*Gloria Ab Intus  
Glory from Within*

[www.stmalachyscollege.com](http://www.stmalachyscollege.com)



Section of the famous Harry Clarke stained glass windows in the College Chapel

Photograph taken by Mark McAuley and Aaron Aicken



## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

St Malachy's College is steeped in almost 190 years of tradition which continues to be strong through the living of our motto, "Gloria Ab Intus" - "Glory from Within!" The College also maintains its reputation as a flagship for Catholic education, sending out young and good men ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of adult life in this rapidly changing world. We also celebrate the fact that a vast number of our boys become great leaders in their chosen careers, both on a local and global scale. In St Malachy's College, there is an unrelenting pursuit of excellence by all in our community, and we all model the highest standards in our work and endeavours.

Our position in North Belfast is quite unique. We are an all-boys Catholic grammar school that successfully brings together pupils from an extensive catchment area and from varied backgrounds, and we quickly welcome and accept them as part of our College family. Here the boys will make friends for life. Malachians constantly refer to the unique camaraderie, loyalty and special bonds which are initiated and cemented in their years at school, and then stay with them through adulthood. In preparation for our current School Development Plan, we studied further our mission statement and what it means for us to be a Catholic College in the 21st Century. We borrowed and embraced five further phrases to assist our mission. These remind us to continue being: person-centred; life-affirming; welcoming and inclusive; reflective and worshipping; and, gospel-inspired. This wrap-around provision nurtures our strong ethos and creates an environment and platform for producing boys and staff who find and do their best.

What would you expect to find in a typical school day at St Malachy's College? Well, you would immediately be made to feel welcome. If you arrive early enough then you can attend our daily prayer service and Mass every Friday. These are held in our beautiful chapel before the commencement of the school day. You would be greeted by articulate and courteous students, and by friendly and highly professional staff members. You would find that our pupils are very motivated with high levels of maturity and self-confidence. Inside and beyond the classroom, you would meet our pupils who have well-developed personal and social skills and demonstrate excellent learning behaviours. They take pride in their work and respect their environment. They work independently, in pairs and in groups, in an effective way, showing concern and support for others.

They reflect critically and maturely on their learning and respond eagerly to constructive feedback from their teachers and peers. You would witness the important contribution of the pastoral provision to support learning. This is evidenced through the boys managing and taking responsibility for their own learning and developing a broad range of independent learning skills. Before and after school, and during lunch break, you would see the boys participate, in large numbers, in an extensive range of extra-curricular and curricular enrichment activities, taking on roles and responsibilities maturely, which contribute significantly to their physical, spiritual, social and cultural development, preparing them well as contributors to society. Parent and student voice, and the work of our Student Council, continue to inform us that our pastoral care provision remains outstanding.

St Malachy's is a self-evaluating school which does not stand still, relying solely on its reputation for producing excellence. It is a place that is data rich and uses its analyses of relevant information to shape action planning and future developments. There are in place well-embedded systems and practices to secure the highest performance in the key areas of: ethos, moral purpose and values; academic achievement and attainment; curriculum and pastoral provision (including Child Protection and safe-guarding); learning, teaching and assessment; and, corporate and strategic leadership. We are so fortunate to have in place well-established routines and values. On this foundation we are always building for the future so that every boy can realise his full potential and find his true passion for learning.

Photographs within this prospectus show you that the external look of our main building has not really changed over the years – and we are proud of this! We are adept at marrying the

beauty and strength of tradition with current and future trends and needs. Therefore, our building programmes and refurbishments reflect our thinking. The external appearance of our building reminds us of our history, traditions and values. When you enter the College you will see a stimulating and modern environment with state of the art resources and facilities. These are continually being updated and renewed, and we have even more exciting plans in place. We have recently attracted investment from external agencies to successfully complete the building of a creative digital technology hub, providing our pupils and other learners from N Belfast with new and exciting learning experiences and opportunities. When you visit the hub you will see our young people being skilled for future careers through coding, robotics, artificial intelligence and virtual reality. We are confident that our work here will attract further interest and investment so that we can build a major hub on our old seminary site which will serve N Belfast and beyond, forging stronger links with our universities and industry.

A perusal of this prospectus and a browse through our social media will give you a virtual sense of what College life is like. The pandemic has enabled us to become adept at delivering teaching and learning (T&L) remotely, using various digital platforms but it has also demonstrated that T&L and pastoral care are most effective when done face to face. Therefore, you should come and visit us to get a real sense of what a special place St Malachy's College is!

*Gloria Ab Intus*

**Mr. Paul McBride**



**The ethos of St Malachy's college is encapsulated in its Mission Statement and Motto:**

"St Malachy's College, as a Catholic School, is dedicated to provide academic excellence in the context of a Christian community ethos. It seeks to preserve its traditions of spirituality and learning, so that all pupils and staff can experience continuity in achievement and further their own spiritual, educational and personal growth in a pleasant, interesting and stimulating environment"

## GLORIA AB INTUS - GLORY FROM WITHIN

The College Motto "Gloria Ab Intus", Glory from Within, illustrates that the fundamental ethos is that of formative and holistic education. For almost 190 years, the College, as the oldest Catholic post primary school in Ulster, has formed thousands of good men including many great and influential leaders in a wide variety of disciplines.



The mission statement of St Malachy's College charges us with the responsibility of preserving our traditions of spirituality and learning whilst always looking forward to ensure that our environment remains a stimulating one. Since its foundation, pupils from St Malachy's have played a vibrant and active part in events which shaped the history of these islands. This is something which can be both celebrated and commemorated in years to come.

The College ethos is strengthened by the links with our Parent Group, Friends of St Malachy's College and with our Alumni, most significantly the St Malachy's College Old Boys' Association. These links enhance and develop the history and heritage of the College as a community that spans the generations and passes on core values. We believe that our past pupils can play a significant role in helping to skill our boys in ways that will help them develop into good men who can thrive in adult life.

The Catholic Christian ethos of the College is reflected in the school motto:

'Gloria ab Intus'. This reminds us all of the importance of 'Glory from within' and we, through our work, endeavour to honour Bishop Crolly and the founders of the College. St Malachy's, as a Catholic school seeks through its ethos to recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals, to enable them to reach their full potential and to help create the world as God intends it to be (John Paul II). The College works in partnership with priests and local parishes to create and sustain a vibrant sense of spiritual awareness in our pupils. Fr M Spence, the Spiritual Director, celebrates Friday Mass in the College Chapel throughout the school year. Rev. Dowd leads prayer on the other mornings.

Pupils actively participate in assemblies, collective worship, retreats, fundraising for charity and community work. Our Year 13 students have the opportunity to participate in the Pope John Paul II Award. The Ethos of the College is captured in the Annual Mass to commemorate the feast of St Malachy when the entire College community walks to St Patrick's Church in Donegall

Street where Mass is celebrated and each year, a group of senior boys is commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.



# PASTORAL CARE

*"I love how this school sees the boys behind the grade".*  
Year 10 Parent

St Malachy's College promotes an environment in which students, staff and parents are committed to the idea of excellence within a caring, supportive community. The ETI Inspection Report noted that "the quality of pastoral care is outstanding" and this was affirmed in the Sustaining Improvement Inspections in 2016 and 2019.

Each member of staff is committed to the welfare of the students and the ethos of the College. The Vice Principal for Pastoral Care has overall responsibility for leading the pastoral care structures and programmes within the College. The College is divided into 3 sections; Junior, Middle and Senior. Each section has a Head of School. There is a Year Head for each Year Group and a Tutor for each form class group. When Year 8 pupils join the College community, they are cared for by a dedicated team of Form Tutors and a Head of Year who will support them during the transition period and liaise with parents to ensure that all the boys feel settled and happy in St Malachy's College. There is a timetabled tutorial period during which the students follow a Personal Health and Social Education programme that is matched to the needs of each age

group. External agencies also deliver a range of programmes on a wide variety of issues. A real strength of the pastoral care system that has been recognised as excellent practice by ETI, is the fusion of the pastoral and the academic so that all our boys are supported in every aspect of College life.

*"Parents consider the development of moral values, control of bullying, development of potential and development of confidence to be outstanding."*  
Kirkland Rowell Parent Survey April 2018

## PREVENTATIVE CURRICULUM

The College provides a structured and relevant preventative curriculum which includes raising awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection issues and managing risks. Key safeguarding messages are addressed through the Tutorial Programmes, Assemblies and relevant subject Schemes of Work. Messages are also actively promoted through Anti-Bullying Week, Safer Internet Week, Drama Performances and visits from outside speakers. Our Senior students act as role models and mentors to the younger students and we have a dedicated Anti-Bullying Team and Resilience/ Peer Mentoring Team. To promote a sense of self-worth and confidence in KS5 a resilience programme was introduced within Year 13 Enrichment to include accreditation in an OCN Peer Mentoring Skills in Practice Level 2. The students act as Resilience Mentors to our younger students.



*"Head of Year 8 is such a special and unique role that I absolutely love as I have the pleasure of welcoming talented young men into our Malachian family. I love getting to know all the students in my care, watching them grow and find themselves throughout their St Malachy's journey. Our young men are enthusiastic, motivated and full of life. I feel incredibly lucky to work with and learn from my amazing Year 8s!"*  
Miss J Keelan, Head of Year

*"The taught pastoral provision is tailored effectively to the needs of the boys and is proactive in raising their awareness of the social and emotional challenges which they and others face"*

ETI Inspection Report



*"the quality of pastoral care is outstanding"*

ETI Inspection Report

*"The school has an incredible pastoral care team that help to create the family environment that is clear throughout the school. I know from my own personal experiences that the teachers go way beyond the call of duty to help students in need and ensure that everyone in the College feels valued and cared for. The school also has great Bus Prefects and Anti-Bullying and Resilience programmes"*

Year 14 Student

# THE CURRICULUM

St Malachy's College aims to develop the potential of every pupil through the provision of a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. The College offers a range of subjects over and above the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and lays particular emphasis on the pastoral dimension in the curriculum. Our Curriculum reflects the Department of Education's Quality Indicators:

A school culture of achievement, improvement and ambition exists – with clear expectations that all pupils can and will achieve to the very best of their ability.

Every School A Good School (DENI) Our aim is to empower our pupils to achieve the very best of which they are capable, by enabling them to develop as individuals and as contributors to society, the economy and the environment. Through our rich and varied curriculum provision we encourage all pupils to achieve their full potential. All pupils are encouraged to participate in curricular and extra-curricular enrichment activities designed to enhance their school experience. The College learning environment is as dynamic as the learning process itself, and constantly adapts to keep pace with new developments. Further improvements have taken place to enhance the Digital platforms and infrastructure within the College and these enable all pupils to enhance their Digital skills preparing them for the future world of employment.

## EXCELLENCE

St Malachy's College promotes high aspirations for all our pupils by working with them to:

- » understand the uniqueness of each individual pupil;
- » promote literacy, numeracy and ICT to enable pupils to grow in confidence;
- » ensure that, through themed projects that they can link learning from one subject to another;
- » value and respect others and to celebrate diversity within the school community and beyond.

High quality teaching and learning, assessment, monitoring and tracking student progress are at the heart of our curriculum.

## PARTNERSHIP

The aims and ethos of the College are based on partnerships. These come in many forms and their success enables the College to be all that it is. We work very closely with our link primary schools to ensure that the transition from primary school to St Malachy's College is a natural and positive experience. St Malachy's has a very strong Careers Education Department which works in close partnership with a wide range of local companies to provide careers advice and guidance throughout each stage of the pupil's education. We work collaboratively with the numerous schools within the North Belfast Area Learning community ensuring our senior students can access a very wide range of courses at Post 16 and students of all ages partake in the Shared Education Programme.



College Library

## KEY STAGE 3

In Years 8 to 10, all pupils follow the same curriculum, which includes a total of fifteen subjects as well as discrete provision for Learning for Life and Work.

Elements of LLW are also infused across the learning areas, along with opportunities for the development of the cross-curricular skills (Communication, Using ICT, Using Maths).

Art & Design Technology Music Mathematics English Digital Skills	Science Drama Geography History French Irish	Physical Education Home Economics Religious Studies Spanish LLW and Tutorial Enrichment	LLW includes the delivery of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Development</li> <li>• Citizenship</li> <li>• Employability</li> </ul>
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## KEY STAGE 4

### Core Subjects

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Religious Studies

French  
Irish  
Spanish  
Gaeilge

Physics, Chemistry and Biology

(Students may select one or two languages)

### Options

Art and Design  
Business and Communication Systems (BACS)  
Business Studies  
Computer Studies  
Drama  
Further Mathematics

Home Economics  
Learning for Life and Work (LLW)  
Leisure and Tourism  
Moving Image Arts  
Music  
Physical Education

Music  
Physical Education  
Technology and Design

## KEY STAGE 5

The Sixth Form Curriculum aims to build upon the foundations laid in KS4.

The College tries to accommodate any combination of subjects. Pupils normally study three subjects for AS and

those with a strong GCSE performance are encouraged to study a fourth subject at GCE AS-level. Most students take three subjects through to A2 level but some may continue to study four.

### The following subjects are currently being offered at A-level

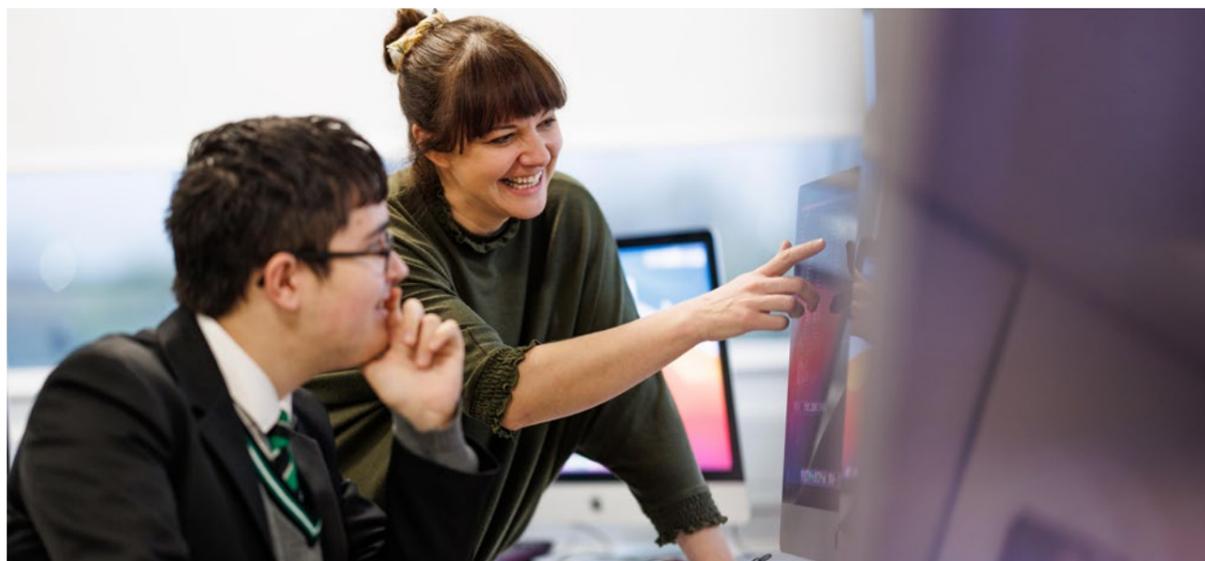
Applied ICT (CTEC)	Drama	Health & Social Care	Politics
Art & Design	Economics	History	Religious Studies
Biology	English Literature	Irish	Sociology
Business Studies	Financial Capability (Dip)	Mathematics	Software Systems Dev.
Chemistry	French	Moving Image Arts	Spanish
Computing (SSD)	Further Mathematics	Music	Sport Studies
Design & Technology	Geography	Physics	Travel & Tourism (BTEC)

Some of these subjects are offered through collaboration with other schools from within the North Belfast Area Learning Community.

All pupils are required to supplement their A-level studies by taking additional courses in Religious Education (except for students taking A-level Religious Studies) and Careers Education. There is a full and varied Enrichment Programme which includes Accredited

Qualifications in areas such as TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), Sports' Coaching and Mental Health and Resilience as well as courses promoting life skills such as Survival Cooking! This is complemented by visiting speakers on a variety of topics including drugs awareness, social media, driving, university life and career opportunities. All students also have a fortnightly tutorial period.

# SUBJECTS



## ART AND DESIGN

The Art and Design department aims to develop students' understanding of how ideas and intentions can be communicated visually. At Key Stage 3 students investigate and refine their practical skills in a variety of media and processes alongside an appreciation of the work of visual practitioners such as artists and graphic designers.

During the two year GCSE course students are encouraged to become critical thinkers, whilst improving their confidence in using a range of media and technologies. Building on from their work at Key Stage 3 they explore new media and processes like drawing with Photoshop, printmaking and photography as they learn how to create an experimental portfolio of work.

More independence and confidence is apparent as the students work through the two years at A level. Direct observation and experimental drawing is developed as is their aesthetic understanding and knowledge of real world contexts.

From GCSE onwards students are supported in their work by visiting galleries, and when possible artist workshops. The knowledge, experiences and specialisms of all the members of the Art and Design department are also vital for the students' experience and enjoyment of this subject.

## MOVING IMAGE ARTS

The Moving Image Arts department offers a state of the art facility for students to learn and develop their film making craft through a combination of practical and theoretical study. The subject is offered at GCSE and A Level, with KS3 students able to avail of extra-curricular opportunities in this area. Students are encouraged to develop transferable skills in relation to visual literacy, creativity, problem solving, team working, thinking skills, use of digital and lens based media and ICT competencies. We are fortunate to have an array of industry standard equipment which offers students the opportunity to gain experience, should they potentially pursue a career in film production. Year after year our students lead the way through exam success winning awards at exhibitions and film festivals. A number of our former Moving Image Arts students currently work in the ever expanding Northern Ireland screen industries, exemplifying our success in building the foundational skills for these students.

## BUSINESS STUDIES

Business Studies is taught at GCSE and A Level, with Business and Communication Systems also recently introduced at GCSE. Business Studies

helps students understand more about how and why businesses operate in the way that they do. Students are able to relate what they study to everyday activities, such as purchasing goods, and the news reported in the media. Business Studies opens up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education or on to a rewarding career.

## CAREERS

The Careers Department is dedicated to the provision of Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance for all pupils at the College. It seeks to ensure that each pupil has access to a range of relevant, stimulating, personalised and supportive learning experiences to help him develop his self-awareness, explore appropriate career pathways, make well-informed decisions, and create, review and implement a suitable career plan. Careers classes are scheduled from Year 10 -14. The Careers Department enjoys excellent support from parents/carers, College Alumni, the Careers Service, representatives from Further and Higher Education, employers from Business and Industry and a range of other relevant bodies.

## COMPUTING AND ICT

The overall goal of the Computer Department is to encourage the creation

of a rich learning environment which will, in turn, prepare students in the use of computers and ICT for future career paths. The department has put in place a framework which indicates how it will meet the needs of the curriculum and implement a strategy to provide positive student experiences, impart knowledge fully and encourage entrepreneurship. Computing is an option at GCSE and A Level designed to stimulate an interest in and an enjoyment of computer technology in such a way that the students may develop skills required for a modern workplace.

## DRAMA

Currently, all Key Stage Three students receive two periods of Drama a fortnight while GCSE Drama and A Level Drama are offered as options. Although preparation for exams is important - the Drama department strives for academic excellence - Drama is also important as a way to teach students valuable life skills: self-discipline, self-confidence,

social awareness and most importantly – imagination.

Our Drama Studio has undergone an exciting transformation with a state of the art refurbishment that accommodates up to ninety audience members, and is fully equipped with video, sound and lighting equipment and a brand new Green Room. Throughout their time at the College, Drama students will also get the opportunity to take part in School Productions, Theatre Visits and Workshops. Our most recent College production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dream-Coat was a resounding success!

## ENGLISH

At KS3, there is a focus on the development of the three strands of English: Reading, Writing, and Talking and Listening. There is also an emphasis on the study of Literature. Underpinning the work of the English Department is a positive embracing of new technologies to support and facilitate each student

maximising their potential. English is a key subject in the core curriculum of the College and all GCSE students take English Language and English Literature. Literature flourishes as an option at KS5 level. In addition to achieving academic excellence and examination success in English Language and English Literature, we wish all our students to acquire a 'Language for Life'; to foster strong emotional intelligence skills to help each individual adapt to, and cope with, the demands of an ever changing 21st century.

## KS3 BOOK CLUB:

The English Department offer a weekly book club for Key Stage Three students. This is a great opportunity for the boys to read a range of contemporary fiction, create reviews, and share their likes and dislikes with other students.

Ethics Cup:

In 2022, the English and Religious Studies Departments have joined together to take part in the University of St. Andrews Ethics Cup. The Ethics Cup

# ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The Additional Educational Needs Provision in St. Malachy's College is designed to ensure the needs of all students with specific individual learning needs such as ASD, Dyslexia, ADHD and Social, Emotional and Behavioural difficulties, are supported within an inclusive and socially integrated learning environment.

There is a Learning Support Co-ordinator, who is assisted by Specialist Teachers, Learning Mentors and Classroom Assistants. The team ensures that each pupil has full access to the curriculum and enjoys a varied, engaging and socially inclusive experience at the College.

There is a strong focus on Continuing Professional Development with staff availing of a wide range of accredited courses such as Understanding ASD and Applied Behaviour Analysis, Mental Health and Anxiety Management, Anxiety Based School Refusal and Peripatetic Hearing.

We have introduced a monthly Parent Support Group which takes place on a Saturday morning. This allows parents to meet staff on an informal basis and to also share experiences and support with each other.

Kirkland Rowell Survey

*'The attitude of non-teaching/ support staff is outstanding.'*

Additional Educational Needs Parent Support Group

*'The support group has been amazing, getting to know the team, meeting with other parents, getting information and sharing information about our children.'*

*'The positivity and insight of the Learning Mentors have been so beneficial.'*



has a dual purpose: to promote interest in philosophy among secondary school students and to model and promote civil discourse on issues of public concern.

## GEOGRAPHY

At Key Stage 3 classes are taught Geography in Years 8 – 10 and take part in fieldwork exercises such as a river study to Colin Glen. Those opting for Key Stage 4 GCSE study the CCEA Specification and, at Key Stage 5 AS/A2 the syllabus is CCEA GCE Geography. GCSE students undertake fieldwork at Tollymore whilst Year 13 pupils carry out a two day residential fieldtrip. Pupils at Key Stages 3 & 4 are welcome to join the Geography Club. GCE students are encouraged to take part in Geographical Association lectures held at Queens University Belfast. All Geography students are encouraged to keep up to date with global issues so that they become familiar with issues that affect their lives presently and in the future.

## HISTORY

The History Department is a vibrant, forward-looking one. The two main History classrooms are based in part of the original school building built in the 1860s on the site of Vicinage House. The curriculum studied at Key Stage 3 includes units on the history of the college, the Normans, World War One and the Twentieth Century World. History is offered at all levels throughout

the college with senior students following CCEA specifications, at both GCSE and GCE A Level. Educational visits are an integral part of bringing History to life. Year 8 History students visit Carrickfergus Castle as part of their study of the Normans in Ireland. Other visits led and organised by the History department include Clifton Street Graveyard, the Somme Heritage Centre, Dublin and Berlin. A Level History students attend conferences at Queen's University Belfast and other venues. Enthusiastic Key Stage 3 historians also participate in History Club on a weekly basis.

## HOME ECONOMICS

In the Home Economics Department, we aim to give all pupils the opportunity to examine key concepts in relation to healthy eating, home and family life and consumer issues. This incorporates practical: essential cookery skills which are important for life- long learning. Pupils should develop an awareness of themselves as consumer in a changing economy while also getting the opportunity to develop skills for independent learning within a fun and enjoyable programme. Home Economics is taught to all KS3 students and is a popular GCSE option at KS4, with students also opting to study HE at A Level. In addition to A Level HE, the department offers A Level Health and Social Care.

## LLW

Learning for Life includes, Personal Development, Local & Global Citizenship, Employability and Home Economics. Home Economics is taught as a discrete subject. In Year 8 & 9 the pupils have one LLW class per fortnight. In Year 10 pupils have a designated Careers class. Learning for Life & Work lessons include a lively variety of learning experiences which prepare our young men to be valuable contributors to the society and future leaders.

Learning for Life and Work is offered as a GCSE and provides an enjoyable and challenging environment for KS4 pupils to explore contemporary issues.

## MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department has a welcoming, vibrant and positive environment where all our students are given the belief and the opportunity to achieve their full potential through high quality learning experiences. A wide variety of approaches to teaching and learning are offered with the aim of engaging and motivating students, demanding their active participation. A rigorous structure of assessment for learning has been devised to support and enhance each student's ability so that all boys will experience individual progress and further develop their mathematical skills. This is enhanced by a valued support network with extra lunchtime 'Maths Support' sessions offered by both

teachers and peer mentors. Enrichment opportunities are also available outside the curriculum to enhance students' enjoyment of Mathematics.

## MODERN LANGUAGES

In St Malachy's, languages form a very important part of our students' learning experience. All boys will study two languages from French, Spanish and Irish in Key Stage 3. These languages are also offered at GCSE and A Level for those who wish to specialise in them.

## FRENCH

The French Department aims to develop in our pupils a positive attitude towards learning French, so that every student enjoys and profits from the experience and wants to achieve their best. Learning French in St Malachy's is a fun and rewarding experience which enables students to use the language creatively and with confidence.

Our goal is to enable our learners to communicate effectively in French, to gain an insight into French culture and to empower them to take their place in a European and global context. French is an official language of the United Nations and the European Union and is the official or administrative language in over forty-five countries or regions worldwide. As well as being an essential language for the international job market, French is the international

language of food, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture.

As part of the French learning experience, students will have the opportunity to visit France, to speak with native speakers and to participate in competitions, to attend film days at local universities and to take part in in other cultural experiences which will enhance their learning. We also have a fortnightly French Duolingo club where Year 8 pupils can further their knowledge of French while having fun.

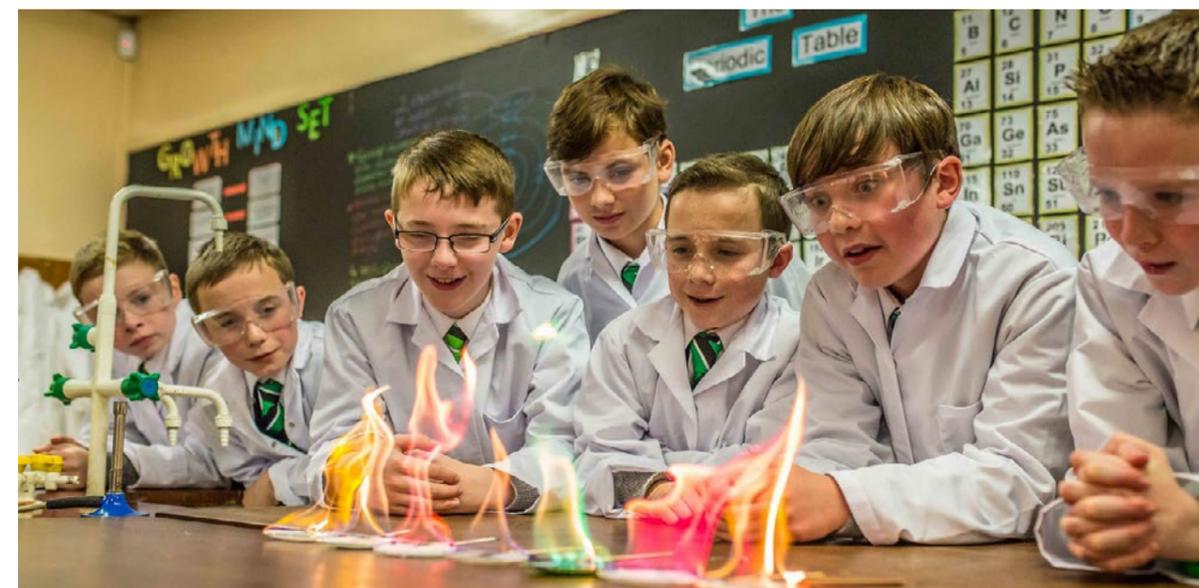
## IRISH

The Irish Department aims to foster a knowledge and love of the Irish language throughout the school and to develop the pupils' ability to speak Irish and to give our pupils a knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage, through the study of the Irish language, place names and family names, literature, music, songs, dancing and games. We visit the Donegal Gaeltacht, Croke Park and An Chultúrlann. We have a thriving lunch time club, 'An Cumann Gaelach' who meet on a weekly basis and play games through the medium of Irish. At the end of each academic year, we reward each level of fluency under 'Scéim na bhFáinní.' Our most recent achievements include: great success at Feis Bhéal Feirste where we were awarded the "File Féirsteach" Shield for most prize-winners in the entire competition; 1st Place in the Regional

Section of "Abair" Public Speaking; competition and, a very proud occasion for our department, was winning of the prestigious and highly coveted "Sciath Mhic Giolla Bhríde" or "Ashbourne Shield" competition run by Comhaltas Uladh. This prize is awarded to the school with the best oral proficiency in the Irish language across the province.

## SPANISH

The Spanish Department is proud of its dynamic and progressive approach to language learning, as well as its welcoming ethos. Pupil numbers at all Key Stages continuing to grow every year and with increased levels of success. At Key Stage 3, learners are introduced to the vocabulary and grammar of a wide range of topic areas, including family, personal interests and local area; this is then explored in more detail at both GCSE and A level. Studying Spanish at St Malachy's College is fun. You learn about the culture, history, literature, and lifestyle associated with Spain and the many Spanish-speaking communities around the world. We also have a very vibrant extracurricular programme, which includes annual trips to Barcelona or Madrid, a weekly Spanish club, and attendance at annual debating competitions and film days organised by local universities. The Spanish passion for living is contagious and once you start to learn about their language and culture, you won't ever want to stop.





Sixth Form Artwork

## MUSIC

The College enjoys a historic and enviable reputation for musical excellence and participation; we aim to celebrate and continue our unique legacy by promoting the highest standards of music-making, teaching and learning by nurturing the musical talents of all boys, by stretching and challenging them, and by providing them with unparalleled extra-curricular opportunities. In the morning, at break time, lunch and after school, the Music Department is a bustling hive of activity– the sounds of boys practising and singing fill the corridors! Our busy calendar of events including internal and external concerts, competitions, trips and workshops, ensures that our musicians are afforded a range of opportunities in varied settings to develop performance skills, self-discipline and self-confidence. Throughout their first year, pupils explore String, Wind and Brass instruments through our bespoke Music curriculum, and they try out a range of instruments with our

talented team of Peripatetic Music Teachers. Boys can choose to take up a new instrument or continue lessons on their existing instrument through our Peripatetic Music Service.

We follow the CCEA GCSE Music and A Level Music syllabi. Music is a highly academic and practical subject, and students who study GCSE and A Level Music are talented individuals, able to stand up in front of others and deliver a performance under pressure, able to work well with others as well as lead. Many former pupils have gone on to study Music at conservatoire level. College Alumni who have studied Music at GCSE and A Level have pursued successful careers not only in Music, but in a range of professions.

## PE

Physical Education

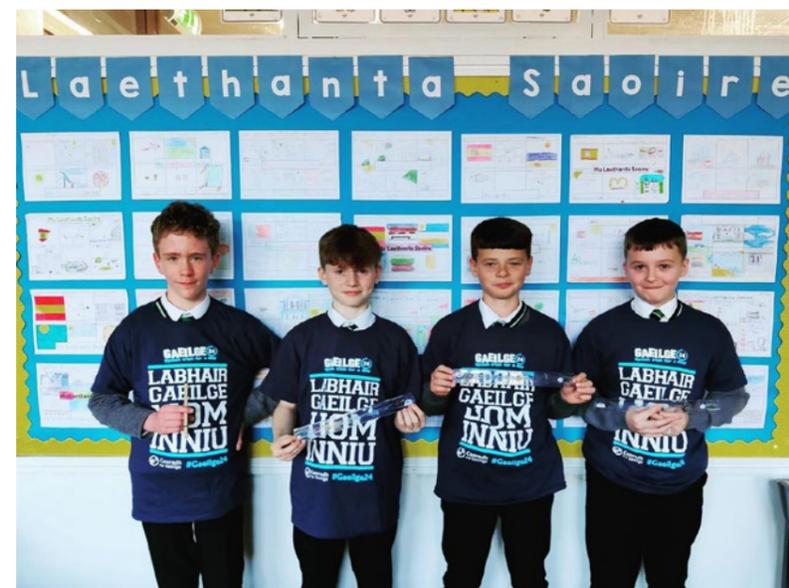
In Key Stage 3, all students are timetabled for PE classes and the emphasis is on experiencing a variety of sports. Throughout Years 8, 9 and 10, students will cover a full

range of activities such as Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Gaelic Football, Gymnastics, Football, Hurling, Rugby, Swimming and Volleyball. In Key Stage 4, all pupils continue with timetabled PE classes where we extend the pupil experience to include use of the Fitness Suite. PE is also a popular choice as a GCSE option. In Year 13 and 14, pupils can choose A Level PE and there are opportunities to choose sports related enrichment opportunities. In the Extra- Curricular section, you will see the range of activities offered by the PE department to all year groups.

## RELIGION

As one of the oldest Catholic institutions on the island of Ireland, our Christian heritage is in our DNA! We seek to foster a practical, intelligent faith as part of the holistic experience of the College. The Christian faith has an intellectual content which believers should know and master. This will enable awareness of the challenges facing Christian belief and practice in contemporary society. Programmes of Study reflect this journey, from Year 8 to Year 14, and this is the reason why GCSE Religious Studies is a core subject and studied by every student.

Year 8, 9 and 10 (KS3) follow a course of study which we have designed in-house, following the statutory requirements. This study covers many aspects of Catholic belief and practice, as well as other denominations and faiths. This has been adapted in year 10 where we prepare for GCSE. At Year 11 and 12 (KS4), all pupils study for a GCSE in Religious Studies (St Mark's Gospel and Ethics). In Years 13 and 14, students who wish to opt for a course in AS and A2 Religious Studies, study the CCEA courses for Religious Studies; Texts (Acts of the Apostles, Corinthians and Galatians) and the course on Ethics (including Medical and Global ethics). As part of our ethos, all KS5 students follow a non- examination course in Religious Studies.



## SCIENCE

### BIOLOGY

In Years 8 and 9, pupils are taught Science, of which Biology is one component. In Year 10, specialist teachers deliver separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons. At Key Stage 4, students can select Double Award Science or Triple Award Science. Specialist Biology teachers teach students at this level and beyond. Students are taught by a variety of methods, including PowerPoint presentations, interactive booklets, tutorials, DVD clips, poster work, field work, practical work and iPads. Biology is one of the most popular A level subjects in the College, and it is a useful preparation for many scientific courses at university.

### CHEMISTRY

In Years 8 and 9, pupils are taught Science, of which Chemistry is one component. In Year 10, specialist teachers deliver separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons. Teaching of Chemistry at St Malachy's College is designed to develop pupil's enthusiasm for and interest in the subject. Teaching Chemistry has to be fun! There is a subtle degree of magic required; what the 'ancient philosophers' called Alchemy. Chemistry is a thriving subject at GCSE and A Level.



## TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

Technology & Design

*"A scientist discovers that which exists. An engineer creates that which never was."* - Theodore von Karman

Technology & Design has been offered in St. Malachy's College for over 20 years in purpose built facilities. All students study T&D at KS3 and CCEA GCSE and A Level are also currently available.

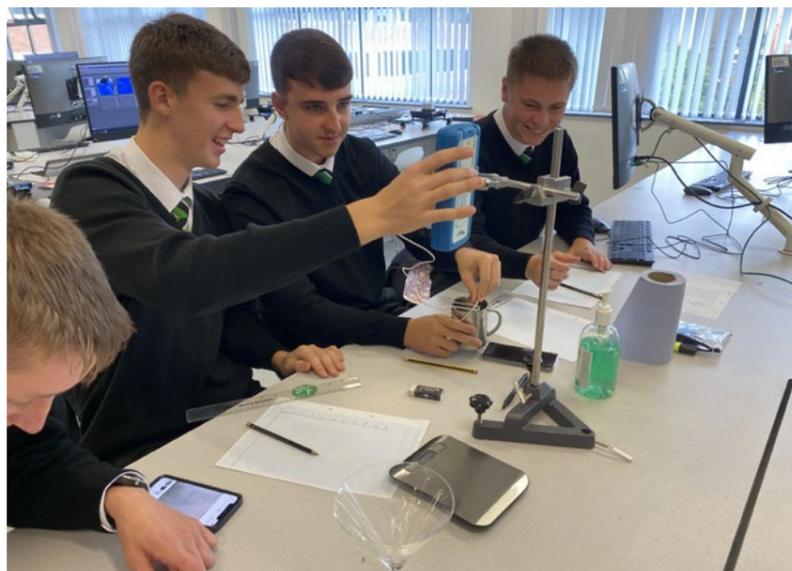
At KS3 all follow the programme of study specified by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland. Classes are timetabled for 3 periods per 2 week cycle. Students are given the opportunity to explore Technology through practical projects. As well as Health & Safety, they study such areas as hand and machine tools, materials such as wood, plastic, metal and control systems such as electronics and mechanisms.

Students studying Technology and Design have continued their studies at University in many areas including Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering, Renewable Energy Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Estate Management, Technology & Design and Product Design.

# KEY STAGE 5

## THE SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

The top floor of our historic main building forms a magnificent and vibrant sixth form centre in which our students are able to embrace new technologies as they refine their skills as highly effective independent learners. This centre of excellence remains open well beyond school hours each evening and on Saturday mornings so that our young men can practise a healthy balance of relaxations and work, developing life skills and resilience to face the challenges of adulthood. The Head Boy team structure mirrors that of the Senior Leadership, enabling our students to use their voice to help shape our vision. Recent developments have allowed us to extend our sixth form provision to a limited number of places for new students who will come to a place renowned for its outstanding pastoral care, curricular and extra-curricular provision, and adept at helping each boy find his true strengths and excel.



### YEAR 13 ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

This programme runs weekly on Wednesday afternoons and offers our students a wide variety of extra curricular opportunities.

Aspire Leadership & Management

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

First Aid (Level 2)

Survival Cookery

Peer Mentoring OCN Level 2 Qualification

Volunteering with the SVP

Volunteering with Newington Care Home

Young Enterprise

IFA National Coaching Certificate (Youth)

GAA Coaching Qualification

Introduction to Sign Language

Photography

'Change Makers' programme (in association with local mental health charity TAMHI)



*"Here at the College, there are fantastic facilities and resources available which enable us to excel in all aspects of college life such as sport, music, arts and academia. In sixth form friendships continue to grow and prosper between the students and staff which creates a feeling of togetherness. As senior students we take pride in honouring the legacy of this prestigious college."*

Diarmuid Hanna  
Head Prefect 2022-23

### OUR SIXTH FORM:

- » Delivers a huge range of academic and vocational subjects at A Level
- » Has achieved many years of excellence
- » Works in close collaboration with other local grammar and post primary schools
- » Offers a wide programme of enrichment activities
- » Has excellent after-school study facilities



*"Given that I lived almost half my life abroad and attended a great school in Dubai I found coming home to Ireland and joining St. Malachy's College to be a struggle at the beginning but in the end I feel it has been one of my greatest personal achievements. Initially, a very daunting experience arriving in as the 'new boy' in lower sixth, it wasn't long before I felt the warmth and appreciation of other students. Quickly acknowledging my peers' enthusiasm around the college, their willingness to learn and succeed both academically and also on the sporting field, I felt honoured to wear not only the St. Malachys uniform, but represent the school on many occasions. The College has provided me with a comfortable, safe and supportive learning environment, continually looking to develop me and my peers in true 'Malachian' style."*  
Neil: Sixth Form Student

# THE YEAR 8 EXPERIENCE

Our Year 8 students experience a challenging and rewarding first year in the College as they embark on their journey as Malachians. Supported by their Form Tutors and Head of Year, they participate in a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences. There is a wide variety of Enrichment opportunities including Anti-Bullying, resilience, teamwork, road safety and health lifestyle.

*The boys also complete a "Becoming A Malachian booklet" which focuses on settling in, key people in the school if you need help, organisation and how to be organised, monitoring and achieving goals, friendship - old and new, finding a 'small win' in every day and at the end they receive a certificate for completing the booklet.*

Parents are invited to an Induction Session, a Parental Information Session and the Year 8 Parent Teacher Meeting.

## Year 8 Summer Camp

The year begins with a two-day camp where our new Year 8 get to know each other, meet key staff and engage in sport and team building activities.

"St. Malachy's is a great option because all of the subjects are amazing and all of the teachers are very nice. There is a lot of after-school clubs like Gaelic, Football, Basketball and a lot more. The food is also amazing. This is why I think it would be a great option for any P6 and P7 pupils."  
Ethan, Holy Cross Boys Primary School

## Parental Information Session

This event is designed to provide parents with all the information they need about what to expect throughout Year 8. It will also be an opportunity for parents to meet their son's Form Tutor.

## First issue of "The Malachian"

Our Year 8 Newsletter designed for Year 8s, by Year 8s. A Year 8 Newsletter team is established and there are 4 issues per academic year: Halloween, Christmas, Easter and Summer!

"I like St. Malachy's College as I love the extra-curricular sport and the coaches are very friendly. St. Malachy's has a variety of music like guitar etc. The teachers are very kind and the practical subjects are fun. St. Malachy's is a great place to be, that's why I have chosen to be a Malachian."  
Joseph  
Holy Trinity Primary School



## Anti-Bullying Workshops

External agencies, along with our Year 14 Anti-Bullying Prefects, deliver workshops.



## Sports Day

Sports Day is the pinnacle of the sporting calendar in St. Malachy's College. It is an opportunity for our young men to showcase their sporting talents in front of their staff and peers in a wide variety of sports.



## OVERVIEW OF ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

### "Sport based"

#### Enrichment sessions:

- Gaelic Football
- Hurling
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Rugby
- Badminton
- Hill-Walking
- Baseball
- Dodgeball

- Disability Sports Awareness
- Assault Course
- Fitness Freddie

#### Other Well-being Enrichment sessions:

- Becoming a Malachian
- Anti-Bullying
- Study Skills
- E-Safety
- Mensana Mental Health
- Scientific Sue



## Year 8 Martin McMullan Race

This is a "rite of passage" for all Year 8s! The first race was in 1975 and won by Stephen Faulkner. Every year since then, each pupil in Year 8 has completed a 1.5k run. It is a day that every boy is proud to call himself a Malachian.

## Trocaire Fundraising Challenge

During Lent, each class raises money for people living in poverty abroad. Our boys are usually very creative when it comes to fundraising and often come up with interesting fundraising ideas that are great fun to be a part of!

"I've been in St. Malachy's College for four months and I've enjoyed every minute of it. I have been enjoying my subjects and working to my best of my ability. I have enjoyed taking part in the Year 8 football team. Most of all, I have enjoyed making friends at the college and getting used to college life. So far at the College I've made life long memories that I'll cherish and I'm sure there will be many more to come."  
Jack, Ballymacrickett Primary

## Year 8 Mass

This is one of the most special occasions in the Year 8 calendar, marking the beginning of our boys' time in the College.



"So far, St. Malachy's has been a really good experience. On the first day, it was nerve-wracking as the school was so big, but I quickly settled in. There are so many extra-curricular activities you can join in, and I would recommend joining at least one. All the teachers and other members of staff are all really welcoming. There are also great facilities you can use such as the pitch, sports hall, both gyms and lots of others."  
Odhran, St. Therese of Lisieux Primary School

## Year 8 End-of-Year Trip

Year 8s will be treated to a day of outdoor fun and activities to round off a fantastic first year in the College!



"I've really enjoyed my time here so far. My favourite is the extra-curricular. There is so much to choose from like chess, drama and a lot of different sports. At the Freshers' Fair there are a lot of different stands to get involved in extra-curricular and to meet new people. During your enrichment period we have presentations for example Uberheroes came to talk to us. Hippsychology came in to talk to us about anti-bullying and how people may feel. I have really enjoyed my time here and so I would highly recommend it. Gloria Ab Intus is our ethos which translates to Glory from Within which represents us Malachians."  
Sean, St. Anne's Primary School



"Since I have come to St. Malachy's College, it has changed my life. I feel that I have improved in a lot of subjects such as English, Maths and Science. If you are a P7 boy, I recommend St. Malachy's because it has everything. There is tonnes of sport, and the equipment is brilliant. If you're not into sport, there is a drama theatre and a library. I have really enjoyed St. Malachy's so far, so I recommend it to all P7 boys."  
Oliver, Park Lodge Primary School

## Year 8 Fresher's Fair

This is always an exciting day whereby the boys are invited along to sample our wide range of extra-curricular teams and clubs. We have everything from Football to Music to Chess and Zoology Club. We are sure your son will find something to suit him!

## Year 8 Parental Meetings

This is an opportunity for parents to meet with their son's teachers to discuss their progress throughout Year 8.

## Online Safety Workshop

This workshop is designed to ensure our Year 8s remain safe when using the internet.



# EXTRA CURRICULAR



## DRAMA

Extra-curricular drama is a thriving aspect of College life. Budding performers in the College get a chance to shine throughout the year outside of the classroom. Students at GCSE and A Level attend a range of exciting live theatre events and workshops recently attending productions in The Mac, The Lyric Theatre, The Grand Opera House and The Abbey Theatre and have taken part in workshops with leading practitioners from The National Theatre, The Lyric Theatre, Frantic Assembly and Bruiser Theatre Company. We are lucky to have excellent links with past pupils who are working in the industry and recent alumni have undertaken courses in acting and stage management in The Lir in Dublin, RADA and Guildford amongst others. Students have the opportunity to develop their skills outside the classroom through Junior Drama Club and a school production every two years in collaboration with the Music department.

## MUSIC

Our Music Department operates a diverse programme of extra-curricular activities for all boys to engage in and develop key ensemble, listening and performing skills including Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Band, Senior and Junior String Orchestras, Senior and Junior Irish Traditional Groups, Brass Group, and a host of smaller chamber ensembles and rock bands. Instrumental and vocal tuition on a wide range of instruments is delivered through our very own Peripatetic Music Service, which caters for all orchestral instruments, voice, piano, organ, electric guitar, drum kit and Irish traditional instruments. Performance is central to musical training at the College and we offer many opportunities to 'practise' performance in formal and informal settings:

- The College has an impressive record of success at music festivals across the country. We

enter ensembles and soloists into competitions including Ballymena and Holywood Festivals.

- Annual events include the St. Malachy's Feast Day Mass in St. Patrick's Donegall Street, the Old Boys' Mass, the Friends of St. Malachy's Annual Ball, the Christmas and April Concerts, the Junior Concert, GCSE and A Level lunchtime concerts.
- Touring has been a regular feature since the College Orchestra performed at the Schools' Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall in 1999. Destinations have included the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Philadelphia, the Kennedy Centre in Washington, New York and Belgium.
- The College is proud of its long association with the City of Belfast School of Music, with whom many boys currently study. We also have pupils who study at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin.





History Trip to Berlin

- St. Malachy's musicians represent the College in high-profile ensembles including the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, the Ulster Youth Orchestra, Ulster Youth Choir, St. Peter's Cathedral Schola Cantorum, St. Polycarp's Choir, and various Musical Theatre schools.
- Performances at charity events, educational and community outreach events, and as part of Shared Education.
- Our ensembles are regularly hired by external agencies to provide background music and light entertainment.

### SCIENCE CLUB

Science club is open to all students St. Malachy's College. It is held every Wednesday at lunchtime in different science classrooms. Each week, we do a new, fun experiment, such as

neutralising acids and alkalis, revealing invisible ink, creating endothermic reactions, and much more. Science club is a great way to learn a bit extra about science, and really helps you to see the world around you in a different way!

### CHESS CLUB

There are, on average, three different sessions of Chess club every week. The senior teams meet separately from the junior teams and each pupil can play at his own level. However, more and more we are finding that the interplay between the year groups is producing more inventive moves and players. It's superb! Younger and older players are contributing to a thriving Chess community within the school. Chess is all about brain play and strategy and in the College the boys show amazing mental dexterity.

### OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Other extra-curricular opportunities include the Irish Club 'An Cumann Gaelach', Junior Visual Art & Animation Club, Cookery Club and History Club.

In keeping with our ethos, our students have the opportunity to join the St Vincent De Paul society and in senior school, the John Paul 11 Award. Students also fund raise for Trocaire and each Christmas, through Barnardos, every tutor group sponsors Christmas presents for a child.

*'In my view, what makes St Malachy's unique is that the education goes beyond the classroom and whilst grades are important, the extracurricular activities are equally important in shaping men for the future. I have had the opportunity to experience this first hand when I took part in the John Paul II award last year. Through this programme I became a Eucharistic minister, read at mass and volunteered regularly in my local community. We also have an excellent Saint Vincent de Paul society who just recently organised a very successful Christmas Hamper appeal.'*

Year 14 Student



Ski Trip, Italy



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT

**GET INVOLVED, STAY INVOLVED, HAVE FUN!**

St Malachy's College has an unrivalled reputation for excellence across a wide range of sports. The College is a recipient of a 'Sports Gold Mark,' awarded by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland in conjunction with the Department of Education, in recognition of excellence in the delivery of curricular Physical Education and provision of a varied extra-curricular sports programme.

Our extra-curricular sporting programme is wide, extensive and inclusive. Athletics, Basketball, Gaelic Football, Football, Hurling, Rugby and Water Polo are all sports played at a competitive level. We also compete in schools Golf competitions. While we continue to have much success across a wide range of sports at local, national and international level, we encourage and value participation and commitment. As a department we look for opportunities to travel and enjoy sporting and cultural exchanges to enrich the experiences of our students. We have included some images of current and past pupils who continue to excel in their chosen sport. Some are studying overseas, others are in the world of work and some are in the professional sporting ranks.

## ATHLETICS

There is a long and distinguished tradition of athletics in the College, both in cross-country and in track & field. From Year 8 to Year 14, the boys train and compete regularly at District, Ulster and All Ireland level with a lot of success.

## BASKETBALL

Our basketball programme is one of the top schools programmes in Ireland. Teams train at least twice a week and play in All Ireland League and Cup competitions from Year 9 to Year 14. Our Year 8 team also trains twice a week and plays in a series of blitz tournaments against other local schools and the Vince Halloran Northern Ireland Championship. No previous experience is necessary to get involved.

## FOOTBALL

There is a very strong tradition of football in the College. High levels of participation regularly result in our

teams being very competitive in both Belfast Schools competitions and Northern Ireland Schools competitions. College teams normally train once a week on our 3G pitch.

## GAELIC

Each year group has a Gaelic team and the teams participate in the Ulster Schools competitions. Training is either before or after school and a number of the staff coaching are current or former county players.

## GOLF

In addition to running our own annual College Championship, we compete in the Darren Clarke Schools Golf League (Year 8 to Year 11) and a number of senior golf competitions throughout the year including the schools Winter League. Most recently the College hosted and competed against Monsignor Bonner golf team from Philadelphia on their Irish tour.

## HURLING

Each year group has the opportunity to train after school and play in the Ulster Schools competitions. Everyone is welcome to get involved and no previous experience is necessary.

## RUGBY

Rugby training is held in either Ophir Rugby Club or Magowan Park, Mallusk and is proving to be a popular choice with students.

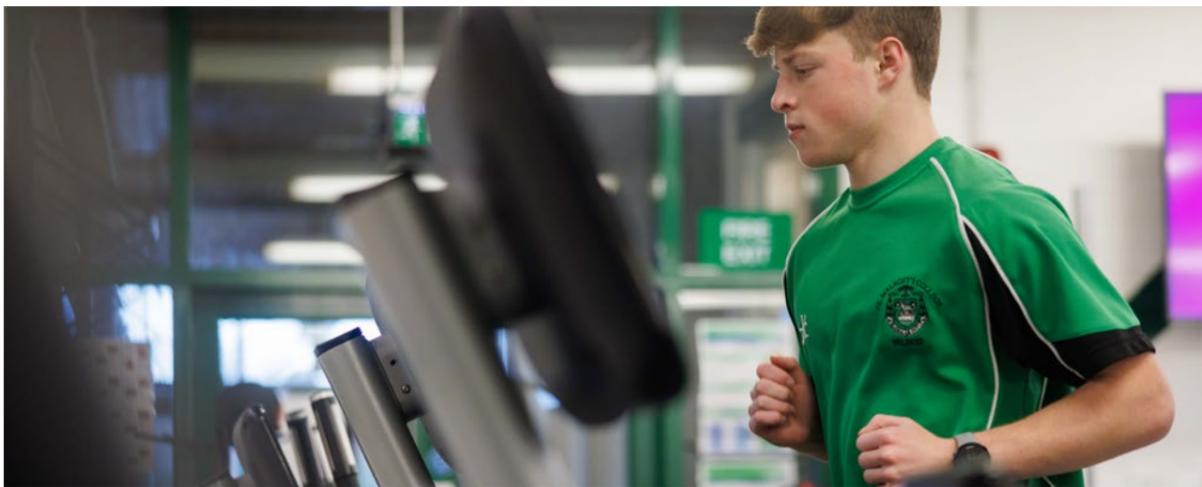
## WATERPOLO

There is long tradition of Water polo in the College and we have a real reputation as being fearless and fair. Our Teams, here in the College are unique in that the older boys mentor and train the younger boys coming through.

*"One of the great things about St. Malachy's is that school does not end at 3.30. There are so many clubs and activities that you can attend after school each day. I am involved in football, hurling, and Music here in the College, but there are many more clubs including animation, Drama, chess, minecraft, history, cookery, and every sport and musical instrument you could imagine!"*

Ben, Year 9





## SCHOOL COUNCIL

St Malachy's College is committed to facilitating an active pupil voice.

Our Student Council has become a vital channel of communication within the College, ensuring the pupil body has that voice. Elections are held annually in which members of each year group elect two representatives who will best serve the needs of their year group.



The council works in partnership with Mr McBride and the Senior Leadership Team to discuss issues arising throughout the academic year, making suggestions of how to improve aspects of school life and contributing to policy development. Meetings are held at least once a month with an agenda generated by the members of the council in consultation with their year groups and is chaired by Mr Douglas.

## ECO COMMITTEE



Here at St. Malachy's College, we take an active role in our community to protect our planet and make it more peaceful, sustainable and fair.

Engagement in the Eco-Schools Programme helps our young Malachians to develop the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes they need to participate as full members of a global society and to partake in the change that is needed to combat climate change and pollution.

We have a very valued team comprising of the Eco-Committee and the Green Team who are responsible for drawing up action plans, initiating new interventions and disseminating information to the rest of the College through the use of assemblies, information boards, and social media.

They aim to:

1. To reduce waste produced by the College and to educate others on the importance of reusing and recycling waste.
2. To inspire all members of our College community to become active citizens of the world through engagement in our Global Perspective theme, giving generously to SVP, Saphara, Trócaire, and the Uniform Exchange Scheme.
3. To promote healthy-living and encourage wellness of the mind and body.

Participation in this programme will help us all to make the world a better place by becoming more sustainable and more aware of our impact on the planet. We hope we can continue to raise awareness in any way we can.



**stmalachys** Well done to our Green Team, who have currently recycled 191kg of paper as they work towards achieving the Green Flag. Eco NI #Ecoschools #reducingwaste #recycling #smcb #gloriaabintus #malachians @eco\_ni
   
 31 May

# THE COLLEGE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

St. Malachy's College is built on land which once belonged to the famous McCabe family. Thomas McCabe was an important figure in late 18th century Belfast. He was a watch maker, land owner, industrialist and anti-slavery campaigner. Regarded as a strong liberal voice and an advocate of Penal Law reform, he was also a founder member of The Society of United Irishmen. His son, William Putnam McCabe was an adventurous leader in the insurrection of 1798. William is buried in Paris while his father is buried opposite the gates of the College in Clifton Street Graveyard.

Thomas's estate was called Vicinage and his home was known as Vicinage Mansion although it was quite a modest farm house situated at the top of a lane called the Cross Loaning. It had an uninterrupted view of the Belfast Lough and the growing town. The well of Vicinage's farmyard can still be seen beneath the floor of the Drama Studio. At the time this house was entirely surrounded by fields extending up to the Deer Park and Cave Hill. Its nearest neighbours were the workhouse and to the north a lonely farm dwelling called Solitude.

When St. Malachy's opened its doors on the 3rd November 1833, the new College was the culmination of the efforts of Bishop William Crolly, the pioneer of Catholic education in Belfast. Crolly was determined that his flock should take full advantage of a new situation in the predominantly Presbyterian town. This was a time when Daniel O'Connell had given Irish Catholics a renewed sense of confidence as his political agitation helped to dismantle what remained of the Penal Laws. A few years earlier, in 1828, Donegall Street National School had been opened beside St. Patrick's Church. It was to a room in this building that the first students of the new college walked each morning from their lodgings in Vicinage. This 'walk' is celebrated each year on St. Malachy's Day as our students and staff make their way to Mass in St. Patrick's.

Fr. Cornelius Denvir taught Mathematics, Latin and Greek until 1835 when he succeeded Crolly as Bishop. Other classes were taught by Fr. John Lynch and Mr Hugh Harkin.

The cost of boarding was initially £12 per annum. Vicinage House and its farm were purchased by Bishop Denvir in 1837 and numbers of students grew steadily. The Endowed Schools' Commission report of 1854 stated that there were 28 boarders and 39 day-boys. A large proportion of these boys were destined for the Diocesan priesthood although the report does mention 3 Protestant boys on the roll. Vicinage remained merely a residence until Bishop Patrick Dorrinan, an energetic advocate of Catholic education, was appointed coadjutor bishop in 1860. The main buildings of St. Malachy's as we know them were constructed and ready for use in 1868. These took the place of the old Vicinage Mansion which was demolished, apart from a 'kitchen wing' which was retained for a few years. All classes in the Donegall St School ceased. The Christian Brothers

who had come to Belfast in 1866 were given the 'wing' of the new building facing Crumlin Road as a residence. Dr Richard Marner, a native of Crossgar, was appointed the College's first President. He presided over a College with 110 students and 5 teachers (three of whom were priests). During his time the curriculum was extended and the reputation of the College grew.

In 1878 the College roll numbered 170, of whom thirty were "nominally going to the Church," but received their theological instruction after leaving the College. Fifty-eight students were boarders.

The distinctive tower above the main entrance and the Chapel wing were added in 1882. During this decade, when Dr Henry was President, students were allowed to read for university degrees (following the Royal University

Act of 1879) and as many as 35 began a university course in 1886. During that year there were 215 boys on the roll and 69 of these were boarders. When Dr Henry was appointed Bishop of Down and Connor in 1895 the debt remaining from the building work was finally cleared. This was partly as a result of the sale of the upper half of Vicinage estate along Clifton Park Avenue to the Jail authority.

A succession of scholarly and inspiring priests guided the College into the 20th century. Dr Henry was succeeded by three Presidents who held office for a short duration Fr Henry Boyle, Dr Henry Laverty and Canon Patrick Boyle. P.J O'Neill (1907-18) and James Clenaghan (1918-24) faced troubled years and a background of conflict both at home and abroad and yet St. Malachy's maintained its position at the forefront of Irish education. Fr O'Neill was a notable Classical scholar and a keen gardener. Flower beds and walkways lined with shrubs brightened the school campus during his tenure. Just fewer than 250 boys were on the roll. It was a painful experience for the College staff to hear of former students who perished in the awful carnage of the Western Front and in the revolutionary warfare in Ireland. The revival of nationalist fervour left its mark on the College. During Fr James Clenaghan's time there was a noticeable emphasis on Gaelic games and the Irish language as a branch of the Gaelic League was started. The early 1920s were dangerous times for Catholics as the city of Belfast was once again convulsed by



violence and civil disturbances. Fr. John McCaughan's years (1924-1931) as President saw the launch of The Collegian magazine (1925) and the formation of the Old Boys' Association (1926). His interests in music and competitive sport encouraged a surge in extra-curricular activity. A victorious Gaelic Football team secured the prestigious MacRory Cup for the first time in 1929. Swimming, water polo and tennis competitions were entered for the first time.

Faith, as ever, took centre stage. During the 1920s and 30s the College made immense contribution not just to the Diocesan priesthood but the great missionary orders and congregations working in China, Africa and the Philippines. Malachians also became distinguished leaders in the legal and

medical professions, journalism, politics and education in Ireland and abroad.

When Dr Hendley organised the centenary celebrations in 1933 some of Ireland's leading men were in attendance including former student, Eoin MacNeill, founder of the Gaelic League and one of the architects of the Irish Free State. To mark the centenary of the College a High Mass was celebrated with Cardinal MacRory and several Bishops presiding. A very special gift was presented by priests who had been students and teachers. The renowned 'Harry Clarke' stained glass windows, painted by Richard King were installed in the Chapel.

The legendary 'Barney' Gillespie began a well-earned retirement in 1935 having taught for an astonishing fifty years in the College. By the time Fr 'Jakie' McMullan took charge in 1939 a new central heating system had been installed and a modern gymnasium completed. Hitler's invasion of Poland in September probably seemed a dim and distant issue as the daily round of classes, study sport and prayer continued. But on the fateful Tuesday night of Easter week in April 1941 the College found itself at the centre of the first devastating blitz when the lower Antrim Road and Crumlin Road areas were bombed with great loss of life. An incendiary bomb 'bounced' off the Junior dormitory roof onto the avenue and another on the Chapel roof was dislodged by clerical students. Lincoln Avenue and Denmark street had shattered dwellings, craters and burn marks in the road. For a few



## O'LAVERTY'S LIBRARY – A HERITAGE PRESERVED

Originally opened in 1872, the O'Laverty Library houses important book collections, some donated by the founders of St. Malachy's College. It contains almost 6,000 printed works, a small number from as far back as the 16th century comprising a range of subjects including Irish History, Theology, Philosophy, Mathematics, Science and Classics. The library also contains a unique set of Gaelic manuscripts and the archives of the College.

This large book-lined room is also known as the Diocesan Library. It was a central feature of the 1860s building, on the first floor over-looking the quad and yet is largely unknown to generations of College boys. The room has been used as a conference room for Gaelic League members in the early 20th century and as a staff room until 1962.

Now, after almost 150 years, the College's Old Library has been completely refurbished as part of a complete re-structuring of the 1860s building. A corridor with adjoining small rooms, essentially the living quarters for priests on the teaching staff until the 1980s, was demolished. The Heritage Lottery Fund provided a development grant with additional funding from the Diocese. This little-known and neglected library has been opened up for scholars, researchers, our students and the wider College community. A staged programme

of cleaning and conservation of damaged volumes is nearing completion and the production of a catalogue has begun. Beautiful Irish manuscripts, folio-size Bibles, psalters and other important works will soon be available for all to enjoy.

The Library is now part of a 'heritage hub' incorporating the Dorrian Reading Room and a display unit with interpretative panels. This helps us to tell the stories associated with the library contents and the rich heritage of St. Malachy's from the influential McCabe family to the achievements of distinguished past students. One panel tells the story of Eoin MacNéill, the Gaelic scholar and statesman who attended St. Malachy's in the 1880s. To mark the 150th anniversary of his birth, the College, with the help of Conradh na Gaeilge and the Ulster History Circle, erected a blue plaque to his memory. The unveiling ceremony was performed by his grandson, former Tánaiste Senator Michael McDowell in April 2017.

We now have a vibrant and engaging learning space in which the illustrious legacy of St. Malachy's College can be viewed and provide inspiration for present and future generations of students.

*'A library of wisdom is more precious than all wealth'*  
Plato



O'Laverty Library

weeks the College gym served as an ARP billet.

After the war it was clear that accommodation would have to be increased. The Education Act of 1947 changed the nature of the College as numbers increased to almost 800. Some priests left to establish a new school at Garron Tower on the north Antrim coast in 1950. During Fr Patrick Kerr's time music and drama increased in importance with annual concerts and plays. A boxing club was formed and the College excelled at basketball and Gaelic football. A major building programme began and by 1962 the new College Hall and the D block classrooms were finished as the 'Wee Field' disappeared under concrete and tarmac. Canon Larkin had succeeded as President in 1960. Within a few years the student population rose to over 1100 taught by a staff of 60 teachers. One of the sporting highlights of Canon Larkin's time was the 'recapture' of the MacRory Cup by the Gaelic footballers.

The modernising influence of Fr Patrick Walsh saw a reorganisation



of the pastoral system, an end to corporal punishment, a new Careers department, more women on the staff and the end of boarding in 1973. This latter measure changed the character of the College but the numbers had dwindled. Rioting, sectarian shootings and the IRA bombing campaign plagued the city and yet the College managed to maintain normality throughout the turmoil. The new Sports Hall, the E Block classrooms and a clerical wing were completed by 1978. As the 'Big Field' was transformed into an all-weather pitch new playing fields at Marmount were acquired. Competitive sport continued with success in cross country running, water-polo and basketball. A new Music Department was opened in 1980.

The 150th year of the College was celebrated in 1983. The first President of the 'digital age,' Fr Noel Conway, managed the introduction of the Common Curriculum and the completion of the C Block Science, Art and Technology building. His detailed records show much success in music, art, science and debating competitions. The 'new' child-centred educational philosophy and effective

team work were high on the agenda of the energetic Fr Donal McKeown as he reorganised the management structures of the College in the 1990s. Foreign travel for sport, languages and music increased. His tenure saw an emphasis on outreach to the local community as the College became a venue for lectures and seminars from high profile members of Ireland's judiciary and political world.

The arrival of the new millennium marked a major watershed in the history of St. Malachy's. When Fr McKeown became an auxiliary Bishop the College Board turned to award-winning coach and vice-principal Dr John Morrin to be the first lay principal of St. Malachy's. Continued improvement in teaching and learning was his specialist field. Experts from a variety of disciplines addressed staff gatherings. A new telephone system was installed and the staffroom refurbished. The College achieved specialist status in music. Links with colleges in the USA were promoted and provided new opportunities. Orchestras, choirs and teams travelled to Philadelphia and Washington DC. The 175th anniversary was marked with a splendid concert and a new

statue of St Malachy was presented by the Old Boys' Association.

A continued emphasis on IT as a learning tool characterised Mr David Lambon's short time as principal but the conversion of the old dormitories into a sixth form centre complete with a bistro/coffee shop was the most obvious physical change. The extra-curricular range of opportunities offered to students was now greater than ever with Young Enterprise, St. Vincent de Paul, Saphara, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, St. John Paul Awards Scheme, Chess Club, Green Team and Junior Debating Club all added to the more traditional clubs and societies.

'Coming home' was how Mr Paul McBride described his appointment as 18th principal of St. Malachy's College in 2014. The first 'Malachian' in more than half a century to hold the post, Mr McBride had already been Head of Music, a department he left in robust good health. A north Belfast native, he brings a wealth of experience to his post and a clear set of priorities with academic success, a strong pastoral dimension and reinforcement of the College ethos to the forefront.

# CREATIVE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HUB

## ST MALACHY'S COLLEGE IS LEADING THE WAY IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, PREPARING AND SKILLING OUR PUPILS FOR CAREERS WHICH ARE NOT EVEN INVENTED YET!

The College has been successful in attracting major investment from the Belfast Charitable Trust and The James Kane Foundation to fund a new Creative Digital Technology Hub in St Malachy's. Here you will find expert staff enabling not only our students but other staff and pupils from the North Belfast Area Learning Community to learn in new ways which will skill them for a multitude of careers in the future. The Hub houses a gaming arena, robotics room and breakout areas. The physical look is designed to excite and stimulate both pupils and staff. The hardware and software are state of the art, and include high spec gaming computers, lego robots and VR machines.



Industry and the economy are in great need of a workforce which is adept at using digital technology. In St Malachy's we will ensure that our students will use this vehicle to continue to be first class problem solvers, creative innovators, effective team players, strong leaders, outstanding managers of information and excellent communicators. Coding, artificial intelligence, robotics, gaming, augmented and virtual reality feature on the curriculum menu! We are confident that our latest Creative hub and the impact it makes will lead to an even bigger building project in the near future. You must come and visit the Hub!



## DIGITAL SKILLS

Digital Skills is a newly developed subject at Key Stage 3, which is offered once per week.

With global technological advancement, the need for young people to develop and improve their digital skills has never been greater. The digital skills sector now forms the backbone across numerous industries, including financial services, ICT and Creative Industries. In our brand new Digital Hub, students at Key Stage 3 will learn the skills that enable them to take part in digital aspects of society using Google Workspace Skills and will gain their own digital skills passports. They will learn to create their own technology by learning to code using LEGO robots, Minecraft and Game Design, and they will learn to digitally draw and animate using a range of softwares. They will also have the opportunity to design 3D worlds and check them out with our VR headset technology. This technology is also used to enhance the teaching and learning across other subjects within the College. Developing these skills at an early age helps students in all aspects when choosing GCSEs and A-Levels. They will, however, prepare students directly for Computing-based GCSEs and A-Levels.



# SOME NOTABLE ALUMNI



## Eamonn Holmes: Television Personality and Broadcaster

In October 2018, Eamonn visited the College to film for the UTV Series "Back Home". Eamonn met two of his former teachers and his Instagram post sums up his fond memories of the College.

'If you have been part of St. Malachy's College then St Malachy's College will always be part of you. So much of me believes that without that School I wouldn't be doing what I do.'



## Ciaran Hinds: Actor

Ciaran has been a guest speaker at the College prize-giving. He has starred in many films and movie block busters, including: Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, Munich, The Debt, Justice League and many more.



## Bill Neely: International journalist and presenter for NBC Universal

"St. Malachy's is to blame; sparking my curiosity about history and a lifelong love of words; starting a journalistic ball rolling that would take me around the world. I played for the school Gaelic football team, played in a punk band there, and I keep coming back in my head to a great place that gave me the greatest start in life."

Bill Neely visited the College recently, taking a well-earned break from assignments in some of the world's most troubled countries to visit Belfast and talk to some Sixth Form History and English students.



## Tim McGarry: Comedian and Actor

Tim is well known for his role as 'Da' in 'Give My Head Peace' and as host of "The Blame Game". As one of our guest speakers, he entertained the audience at prizegiving with a range of anecdotes about his time as a student in the College.



## Martin O'Neill: Football Manager

Martin won the MacRory Cup with the school Gaelic team in 1970 and went on to a very successful soccer career winning the English league title and the European Cup with Nottingham Forest and played in two World Cup finals. As a manager he also won League Cups with Leicester City and numerous trophies with Celtic. He managed the Republic of Ireland Team from 2013-2018.



## Niall Trainor: Lawyer ...Legal Representative for Peppa Pig

Niall was guest speaker at the 2018 Junior Prizegiving where he spoke eloquently and entertainingly about his memories of the College and his current job as Lawyer for Peppa Pig! 'For me, the thing about St Malachy's that differentiates it from other schools is its ethos of loyalty, camaraderie, and a respect for the history and legacy of the College.'







Principal: Mr P. Mc Bride  
Chair of the Board of Governors: Sir G. Loughran

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the College website [stmalachyscollege.com](http://stmalachyscollege.com)

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