

BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



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Committed to Quality Education

BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL *Principal's Address*



Blackwater Community School, Lismore is a state of the art educational establishment that boasts a modern school building on a Greenfield site. The school is an amalgamation of 3 Catholic Voluntary Schools with Mercy, Presentation and CBS traditions. Since opening in September 2003, we have been very much conscious of being innovators and not so much imitators. We are proud of the fact that we have exceptional facilities that have been continually maintained and extended since 2003. Additions over the years have included a classroom extension of 6 classrooms, the purchase of the County Library and County Council offices which have provided additional classrooms and parking spaces.

With all classroom equipped with interactive white boards and 4 Computer Rooms, we are well resourced in the area of IT. A further €13 million extension is planned to be completed during the 2020/21 Academic year which will see our school physically double in size to keep pace with our continued increased enrolment.

This attention to innovation and enterprise is something we try to instil in our students. We provide a personalised form of continuous assessment, which incorporates individual attention to student mentoring and a positive behaviour system that reinforces positive action creating a harmonious and co-operative atmosphere within our school.

However, as I often remind our students the building and facilities we possess are one thing but what goes on within them is what really matters. We are very pleased that an excellent work ethic exists among our students. We are delighted that this is reflected in our results. Our academic progress is due to the hard work and committed efforts of the staff in terms of class teaching, the provision of extra help and tuition after school and individual attention in the area of special needs, and the organisation of a successful study programme which incorporates after school, Mid-term and Easter time.

In the area of extra-curricular activities, BCS has quickly emerged as a force to be reckoned with in sport, drama, choir and enterprise. At County level, we have won titles in all sports at all levels. At Provincial level, we have become a dominant force capturing Munster titles in hurling, camogie, badminton, cross country, track & field athletics, volleyball, basketball, drama and choir. At National level we continue to attain All Ireland titles in volleyball, young scientist and technology, choir, drama and track and field athletics.

Our school has established an International reputation in the area of Science with a combination of Silver & Bronze Medals at the World Science and Engineering Fairs.

Our students furthermore get the opportunity to represent us on an international stage in debating at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and on student exchanges to Germany and France. Our students get to experience foreign tours and engage in history trips abroad also.

It is admirable that our students respond so positively to the constant encouragement of the staff. It certainly gives expression to the seafhacail *'Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí'*.

Our student body representatives have been very proactive in the school in the respective roles of Cairde (Mentors of First Year), Student Council and in mentoring fellow students. Our Parents' Council, like our Student Council, is actively involved in policy making and very energetic in co-ordinating Junior Cert and Leaving Certificate Graduation ceremonies, in various fundraising ventures and study skills seminars. Parents compliment BCS as being a *'listening school'* whereby their requests and concerns are welcomed and responded to. Our Board of Management is extremely positive and supportive to all school activities. Our Trustees play an active role in supporting school related developments, events and activities.

As Principal, I am tremendously proud of the efforts and achievements of all at BCS including staff, secretarial staff, caretakers, cleaning staff and canteen staff in such a short time in our new school. It is the sense of team work generated at BCS by all its inhabitants that makes our school such a vibrant and energetic place to be.

At BCS our Mission Statement expresses that *'we are committed to Quality Education'*. We can assure parents/guardians that not stone is left unturned in our pursuit of excellence and in the delivery of quality education to the young people of East Munster. We feel that it is refreshing to be part of an educational establishment that places as much emphasis on the journey as well as the destination. We are all focused on the ultimate requirements of excellent Leaving Certificate results as the end product or destination. However, 5 or 6 years in school is a long journey, why not enjoy the scenery and our innovative process of education along the way.

Denis Ring.

Mission Statement

Blackwater Community School is committed to **QUALITY EDUCATION**

MISSION AIMS of Blackwater Community School.

1. To foster the Christian values of trust, honesty and integrity.
2. To enable students to develop their academic, physical, emotional and spiritual potential to the fullest extent.
3. To create a safe environment where students and staff feel cherished, secure and happy.
4. To give students access to a broad and balanced education.
5. To equip students with a strong sense of self-belief and self-motivation.
6. To create a caring, co-operative and friendly community in an atmosphere of mutual respect.
7. To enhance students' sense of their role within the local and wider community.
8. To provide a welcome atmosphere for parents and the wider community.

WE REINFORCE
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR
AT EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY

School Motto *Sapientia Et Scientia*

Positive Behaviour

At BCS we like to reinforce positive behaviour at every available opportunity. Our positive behaviour system is constantly reviewed and updated. This is discussed as appropriate with staff, students, parents and Board of Management.

Rewards for classroom Effort/Behaviour

Junior Students:

1. Merits are awarded by class teachers. This is a stamp which the class teacher inserts for each class in the Merit Chart grid at the back of the school journal.
2. Tokens are awarded for an agreed amount of consecutive merits, depending on the subject. This usually spans a three week period.
3. These tokens can be exchanged for a number of rewards, such as a chocolate bar, lunch voucher, CD voucher etc.

Senior Students

Different Trips and Events are provided for our senior students throughout the year.

Positive Action Cards/Rewards

These are awarded for particular instances where students have made a positive contribution to the school.



Homework at BCS

- The amount of homework given in each subject area will be specified by subject teacher.
- Homework will be monitored to ensure that students are not overloaded.
- A balance will be maintained between written/practical work and oral/learning work.
- Teachers will correct homework and give feedback to students.
- Homework will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of all students.
- Special consideration will be given to students with special needs.
- Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class or to some future work.
- Students will be given specific training in study/homework skills.
- Parents will be informed when students do not carry out set homework.
- Extended exercises will form part of an on-going assessment of each student.
- Records of homework, grades and comments will be kept by each teacher.
- A rough time-guide will be provided for each year group.
- Students will sign all homework to encourage them to produce the best work they can.
- Students should note each day's homework in their PR book.
- Parents will sign each week's homework in the PR book.
- Noncompliance with homework policy will initiate disciplinary procedures



Study

We have our own study supervision for students after school:

Early Study: 3.55-5.55 and **Late Study:** 6.15-7.45. **Friday Study:** 4.00 - 6.30pm

Halloween, Christmas, February Midterm, Easter and Saturday study is available for state exam students.

Junior Certification Students should be studying for two to two and a half hours

per night and **Leaving Certificate Students** should be studying for a minimum of three to three and a half hours per night, 5 nights a week. Some time should be spent over the weekend reading novels or plays, up-dating notes or revising for upcoming tests. There are three elements of study: Homework, revision and exam preparation. Using your study plan will help you get most out of your time. Work for 30 to 40 minutes and then take a five minutes break. Start with a subject you find the most difficult rather than avoiding it, it still has to be done!

Class time should be viewed as an opportunity for learning and clarifying. It is essential to use class time effectively; it will not be done again.

Learning Support and Resource Teaching

Learning Support and Resource Teaching is a fundamental part of school life here because we feel the needs of the individual are of utmost importance. This support is in place for students right throughout the school although we provide most support classes at the Junior Cert. level. The Learning Support and Resource Teaching Team consist of a Special Needs Co-ordinator, Resource Teachers/Learning Support Teachers and Special Needs Assistants. We are a hard working team and are committed to providing for you child should the need arise.

To identify individual needs we proceed as follows:

- Testing in reading and maths in September.
- Consultation with teachers and parents/guardians.

How we organise the support:

- Withdrawal from certain classes, often in a language area
- Support classes are generally in English and Maths
- Team teaching

PLEASE REMEMBER
WE ARE ONLY
ONE PHONE CALL AWAY
TO ADDRESS ANY OF YOUR
CONCERNS

We strongly believe in good communication between parents or guardians and together as a whole school community we will endeavour to do what's best for your child.

Every effort is made to make strides forward in the areas of Literacy & Numeracy with specific targets outlined in keeping within D.E.S. requirements.

Continuous Assessment Policy

Blackwater Community School has a Continuous Assessment Policy to monitor student progress.

Attendance

Blackwater Community School is determined to ensure that student attendance is monitored with great efficiency and effectiveness through our excellent Tutor/Year head system

Pastoral Care

To assist with the implementation of Pastoral Care the school has;

- A dedicated Pastoral Care Team
- A Class Tutor, Year Head and Pastoral Support Structure
- Internal and External Closed Circuit Television Cameras
- Our senior students (The Cairde Group) mentor 1st year students
- We provide a wide variety of lunch time activities for our 1st years



Junior Cycle/Junior Cycle Student Award

Subjects available for Junior Cycle

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| → Irish | → Music |
| → English | → Materials Technology – Metal |
| → Maths | → Technical Graphics |
| → History | → German |
| → Geography | → Religion |
| → French | → Physical Education |
| → Science | → Computers |
| → Business Studies | → Civic Social & Political Education |
| → Home Economics | → Materials Technology – Wood |
| → Art | |



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

THE SCHOOL HAS SPECIAL TEACHING POSTS IN THE AREAS OF STUDENT MENTORING, LEARNING SUPPORT, CAREER GUIDANCE AND CHAPLAINCY.

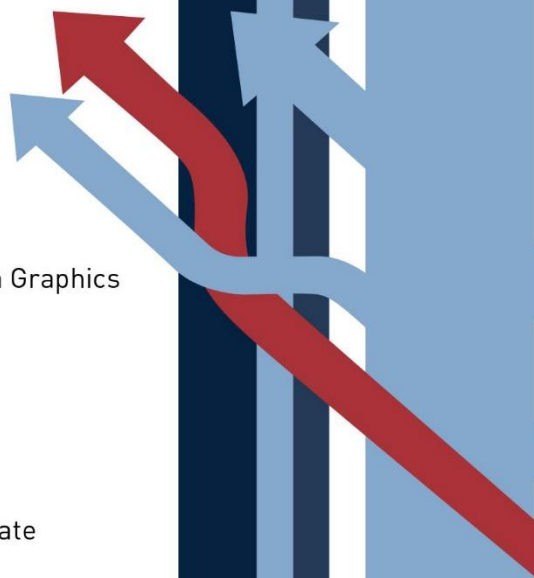


Leaving Certificate Subjects

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| → Irish | → Link Modules (L.C.V.P) |
| → English | → Engineering Technology (Engineering) |
| → Maths | → Biology |
| → Applied Maths | → Accounting |
| → History | → Business |
| → Geography | → Social & Scientific |
| → French | → Music |
| → Physics | → Religion |
| → Chemistry | → Physical Education |
| → Music | → Career Guidance |
| → Agricultural Science | → Design & Communication Graphics |
| → German | → Architectural Technology |
| → Italian (LCA/TY) | → (Construction Studies) |
| → Art | |

Other Senior Cycles options include

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| → Transition Year Programme | → Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|





Extra-Curricular Activities

- Blackwater Community School is committed to the promotion of extra-curricular activities in all areas for all students in the school.
- We recognise the multiple-intelligences of each student and want extra-curricular activities to play their part in the development of these.
- We also believe that extra-curricular activities are important in the holistic education of each student, such as the development of self-confidence, self-esteem and school spirit.
- We view extra-curricular activities as an integral part of education in our school rather than something extra.
- Each area of extra-curricular activities has to be developed separately to ensure this overall objective.

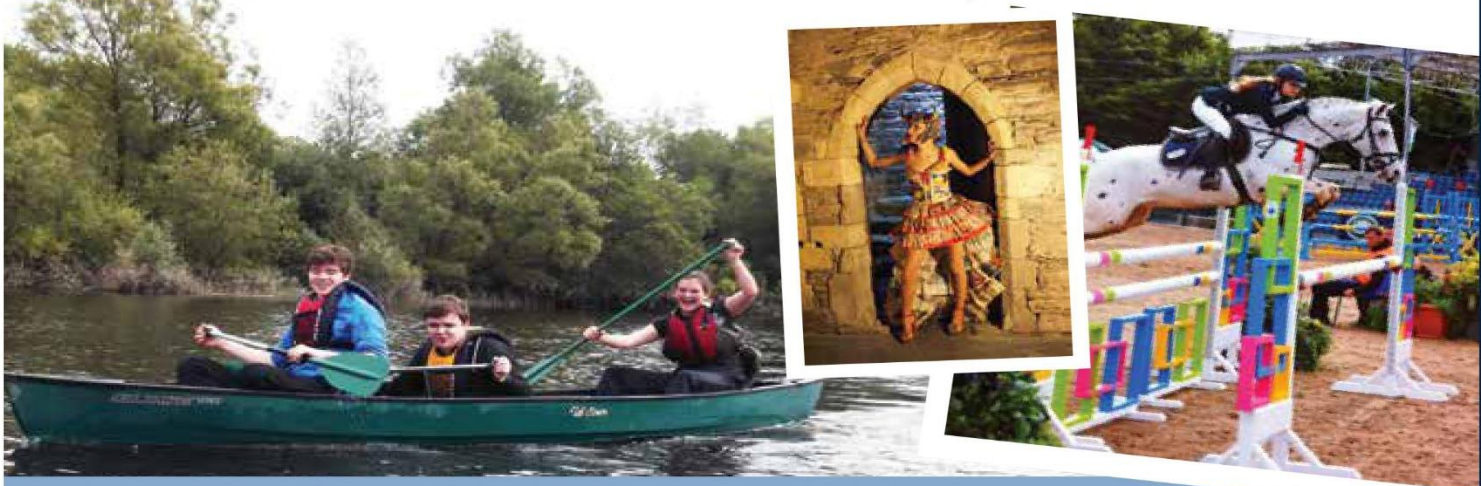
Sport Related

- Hurling
- Camogie
- Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Athletics
- Table Tennis
- Sports Day
- Annual Mini Marathon
- Outdoor Educational Activities
- Orienteering
- Showjumping
- Chess

Non –Sport Related Activities

- Drama
- Musicals
- Quizzes
- Choir
- Traditional Music
- Dance
- Field Trip
- School Tours
- Student Exchanges to France & Germany
- Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition
- Project Work
- Young Social Innovators
- Subject specific trips and tours in Geography, Irish, Science and History

WE ARE COMMITTED
TO THE PROMOTION OF
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
IN ALL AREAS FOR
ALL STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL



Blackwater Community School has excellent internal & external school facilities which include:

- General Classrooms
- All Classrooms have interactive whiteboards
- 3 Science Laboratories
- 2 Metalwork Rooms
- DCG Lab Room
- 2 Woodwork Rooms
- 2 Art Rooms
- Canteen
- 4 Computer Rooms
- Meditation Room
- Science Demonstration Room
- 2 Home Economics Rooms
- Music Room
- Library
- Autism Unit
- Art Gallery

NEW EXTENSION PLANNED
FOR 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR



Sports Facilities:

- Gymnasium/Weights Room
- Sportsfield
- Floodlit Astro turf Pitch
- Sports Hall
- Presentation Area



**Blackwater Community School
COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION**



"The root of TRUE ACHIEVEMENT lies in the will to become the BEST that you can BECOME." Harold Taylor

WE
REWARD EXCELLENCE
IN ALL ITS FORMS.



Scholarship and Awards Scheme

Blackwater Community School Committed to Quality Education

Our commitment is to education in the broadest sense. We reward excellence in all its forms. We sincerely thank our sponsors for their financial help, which has made these annual awards possible.

Student of the Year

A student will have to receive a written nomination from a teacher to be eligible for an award. These nominations will go before a panel. The student of the year for each year and the overall senior student of the year will be decided by this panel.

Individual Sports Award

Winners will be selected by their coaches.

Scholarship

These awards will be of a substantial nature and will be awarded in each subject area in the Leaving Certificate class or for students who achieve the highest points in their respective 3rd level faculties of choice.





Local Community Achievements

- Choral Performance for Senior Citizens
- Host venue for Immrama Festival Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan, Fashion Shows
- Christmas visits to Cappoquin Day Care Centre and St Carthage's House
- Carol Service
- Choral Recitals
- Musical Productions
- Drama Productions
- Donations to charitable organisation

County Achievements

- Waterford Football, Hurling & Camogie Champions
- Waterford Badminton Champions
- Waterford Mini-Company Champions
- Credit Union Art Winners
- Waterford Schools Athletics Winners

Provincial Achievements

- Irish Science Teachers Association Quiz
- Business Studies Teachers Association Quiz
- Earl of Cork Scholarships
- Munster Senior Camogie Champions
- Munster u16/1/2 Hurling Champions
- Munster u15 Hurling winners
- Rice Cup Shield Winners
- Munster Badminton Champions
- Munster Cross Country & Track & Field Winners
- Munster Volleyball Champions
- Dean Ryan Cup winners
- Pope John Paul II Awards. Recipients of Papal Cross

National Achievements

- All-Ireland Enterprise Winners.
- All-Ireland Patent Award in Young Scientist Exhibition
- All-Ireland Technology Award
- All-Ireland Choral winners
- All-Ireland Senior & Junior Boys Volleyball winners
- All-Ireland Track & Field winners
- National Drama winners
- All-Ireland Award in Biological & Ecological Sciences
- All-Ireland Awards in Social & Behavioural Sciences
- All-Ireland Award in Technology & Science
- All-Ireland Award in Scifest
- All Ireland Soccer Champions
- All Ireland Camogie Champions
- All Ireland ACCS Hurling Champions

International Achievements

- Annual French & German student exchanges
- Irish representatives at the European Parliament
- Show Jumping Nations Cup winner in Italy
- Annual Fundraising for Third World Countries
- World Science & Engineering Fair Champions
- Annual Hope Foundation Kolkata
- Annual Lourdes Helpers during Diocesan Pilgrimage

