



# St Louise's

Comprehensive College, Belfast  
A Specialist College

Step into a Bright Future



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Comprehensive College, Belfast

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## A Message from the Principal



Thank you for your interest in St Louise's Comprehensive College and for taking the time to read our Prospectus. As the Principal of St Louise's College, it is with a sense of pride that I present an insight into the life of our vibrant, successful learning community. I trust that it will assist you in making a well-informed choice for your child's post primary education.

As we embark upon our 60th Anniversary year, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our school that has been a beacon of excellence in West Belfast since 1958. It is a unique school with a long tradition of excellence and service to the community. As a

recognised centre of excellence, we strive tirelessly to nurture the gifts of all young people in a community passionate about social justice, equality of opportunity and compassionate pastoral care. We are truly inclusive in that we welcome and value all young people equally and ensure that all students are liberated to achieve their full potential through high quality learning and teaching.



Representatives from St Louise's at the Aisling Awards ceremony, 2nd December, 2016.

*In partnership with parents, guardians, staff, governors and students, St Louise's promotes excellence in learning and teaching within a Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive ethos*

We have been the recipients of many awards in education including the Jerwood Award for Excellence in Education, the Schools Curriculum Award on three occasions and the BECTA Award for Excellence in ICT. We have also received the Investors in People Bronze Award, the International Schools Award and the Eco Schools Flag. In December 2016 we were the recipients of the Aisling Award for Excellence in Education which is a superb accolade for St Louise's and an indication of how the school continues to flourish as a Centre of Excellence for the young people of West Belfast and beyond.

In March 2006, we were also in the privileged position of being one of the first twelve Specialist Colleges in Northern Ireland. This designation as a specialist school recognises our commitment to excellence and our success in promoting achievement, not only in our chosen specialist area of Performing Arts and Media, but across all areas of school life. Specialism has resulted in improved outcomes in examinations, enhanced curriculum provision and enrichment activities as well as improved accommodation and resources. It has also allowed us to develop further our vibrant links with the community including local schools, businesses and community groups. We have received Leadership Development Partner Status, awarded to centres of excellence which are rated

as outstanding in leadership by the Inspectorate. As the hub school for the delivery of a Teaching and Learning Programme to a range of selective and non-selective schools across the North, we are recognised as a school which promotes and develops excellence in learning and teaching.

We face the future with tremendous hope because we are one of the few schools in Northern Ireland which already offers many more courses than the minimum required under the Entitlement Framework. As one of the only schools which has City and Guilds affiliation, we offer quality technical and vocational courses alongside our huge suite of academic subjects. In our school you can be confident that your child will have access to high-quality pathways and careers advice which will lead to future success in Higher and Further Education or the world of work.

As St Louise's responds to educational change we embrace the future with a renewed hope and that beacon of excellence will continue to shine for our present and future generations.

St Louise's, however, is about much more than qualifications and outstanding results. As a Catholic, Vincentian College whose motto is 'Excellence through Caring', we work tirelessly to ensure that each student is valued and appreciates

his or her dignity and worth as a person and respects others. Our young people are nurtured in a supportive, caring faith community which develops their emotional intelligence as well as the moral and spiritual values essential to growth as a young Catholic and future leader in society.

St Louise's is, above all else, a happy school, a place where students are expected to work hard and where they also find friendship, enrichment and fun. As a sustainable college at the forefront of education for sixty years, we face the future with great confidence. It would indeed be a privilege to work closely with you, the parents, to ensure that your child realises his or her dreams over the next seven years.

I trust that you will find our Prospectus informative and useful. If you require further information, please contact the college by telephone or email. Alternatively you can visit our website at [www.stlouises.org.uk](http://www.stlouises.org.uk)

With best wishes for your child's future happiness and success.

**Mary McHenry**  
Principal



We are delighted that in December 2016, we were awarded the Aisling Award for Outstanding Educational Achievement. For twenty years the Aisling Awards have shone a light on the great and good of the wonderful city of Belfast. This award marks the success of St Louise's as an outstanding school which has shone as a bright light in our city for almost sixty years.





## A Message From Our Student Body

### Caoimhe Kelly

My name is Caoimhe Kelly and I am the Head Girl responsible for Year 8 students. I am currently studying 3 A' Level subjects which are Biology, Geography and Health and Social Care. Throughout my seven years at St Louise's I have developed so much confidence and determination as my teachers have always encouraged me to strive to be successful in my studies. I have been given a variety of opportunities here at St Louise's, especially in the field of Science, which I am extremely grateful for. When I complete my A' Level examinations my ambition is to study Biological Science at Queen's University, Belfast and pursue a career in microbiology.

### Serena Kelly

My name is Serena Kelly and I am a Head Girl responsible for Student Council. I am currently studying A' Level Geography, A' Level Religion and A' Level Economics and I also completed my French A' Level in Year 13. I have had a very positive experience throughout my years at St Louise's College. The St Louise's community has been an amazing support network to me and I have been encouraged to be my best and to achieve everything I have wanted to. The school has opened up countless doors for me, bringing many opportunities to grow as a student and as a person. I can now say I am a resilient, caring and confident young woman and I attribute this to the experiences I have had in St Louise's. I hope to continue the love of learning bestowed upon me by St Louise's through studying Geography at Trinity College, Dublin.

### Shannon Magee

My name is Shannon Magee and I am Head Girl with responsibility for the Year 9 students. I am currently studying A' Level Music, A' Level Drama and A' Level Life and Health Sciences. From the moment I arrived in Year 8 at St Louise's, I have felt that I was part of a big family because of the strong sense of community in St Louise's. Throughout my journey from Year 8 to Year 14, the school has supported me, encouraged me and provided me with countless opportunities to learn, grow and develop into a confident, resilient individual, who can deal with any challenge. In terms of my future career I hope to attend St Mary's University College to study Music and become a Music teacher.



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## A College Proud of Its Noble Ethos and Values

### WE BELIEVE

- ✓ In supporting all our students in an inclusive, Catholic community so that they have a sense of belonging and being valued
- ✓ In academic excellence for every young person
- ✓ In high expectations for all our students
- ✓ That every student is made in the image of God
- ✓ That every student deserves the best quality education and pastoral care that we can provide
- ✓ In all-ability schools based on justice and equality for all young people
- ✓ That every child has gifts which we must nurture and develop in partnership with the home
- ✓ In service to the local and global community
- ✓ In lifelong learning

### WE WILL

- ✓ Enable your child to realise his or her full potential in a happy, safe, caring and hard-working community
- ✓ Nurture the all-round development of your child
- ✓ Work in a respectful partnership with the home
- ✓ Respect the dignity and potential of your child
- ✓ Empower your child through student voice
- ✓ Promote an ethos of caring and service
- ✓ Encourage your child to follow in the footsteps of great people of faith
- ✓ Promote in your child a desire to play an active role in society in the twenty-first century

- ✓ Encourage participation in activities which promote respect for diversity and mutual understanding
- ✓ Provide opportunities for individual and communal acts of worship
- ✓ Continue to develop a fair and just education system for all young people
- ✓ Encourage all members of the school community to bear witness to Gospel values in their actions and relationships with others

### WE DO

Provide Chaplaincy Support to the Whole Community

Spiritual Development focused on:

- ✓ Promotion of Vincentian Values and Vincentian Education
- ✓ 'Time out' for Post 16 students within our Kairos Retreat Centre
- ✓ Faith and Prayer development
- ✓ Liturgical support and seasonal displays
- ✓ Assemblies based on Gospel Teachings

Support for:

- ✓ Young people and families bereaved
- ✓ Leadership development at Post 16
- ✓ Friendship groups
- ✓ Parish initiatives such as the John Paul II Award Scheme

Promotion of Service through the:

- ✓ Mission Society
- ✓ St Vincent de Paul Society
- ✓ DePaul Trust
- ✓ Daughters of Charity Missions
- ✓ Links between Primary Schools and Post Primary Schools
- ✓ Other Charitable Organisations



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## CORE VINCENTIAN VALUES

In fidelity to its core values St Louise's promotes excellence in teaching and learning in all its educational activities.

- ✓ Holistic – all inclusive and educating all aspects of the person – spiritual, academic, physical, social and emotional
- ✓ Integrated – comprehensive, all ability with a wide variety of courses
- ✓ Creative and flexible – resourceful in adopting to emerging needs
- ✓ Excellence in academic and personal development
- ✓ Person orientated - emphasis on respect for the dignity of each person
- ✓ Collaborative - trusting that each person is working for the good of all
- ✓ Focused – that the Vincentian spirit of service is kept to the fore

## CORE VALUES

Our core Catholic, Vincentian values are inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Daughters of Charity who founded our school.



## Celebration of Achievement

In St Louise's there are three 'Celebration of Achievement' ceremonies celebrated annually.

### Junior School Celebration of Achievement

This ceremony celebrates the completion of a very successful Year 8 in St Louise's. The students are awarded prizes which include excellence in effort, achievement, attendance and contribution to school life in all its facets.

## Middle School Prize Giving

This ceremony celebrates the awarding of Key Stage 3 and Junior certificates to the current Year 11 students who have just completed a very successful Key Stage 3.

Awards also distributed include: attendance and punctuality certificates, individual subject prizes, involvement in school clubs and societies and involvement outside school in the community.

## Senior School Prize Giving

This ceremony celebrates the awarding of GCSE, A/S, A2 and Level 2/3 certificates to the current Year 13 and 14 students and acknowledges the outstanding efforts of our Student Leadership Team. Awards also distributed include: attendance and punctuality certificates, individual subject prizes, involvement in school clubs and societies, involvement outside school in the community and the Sister Genevieve Special Endeavour Award.



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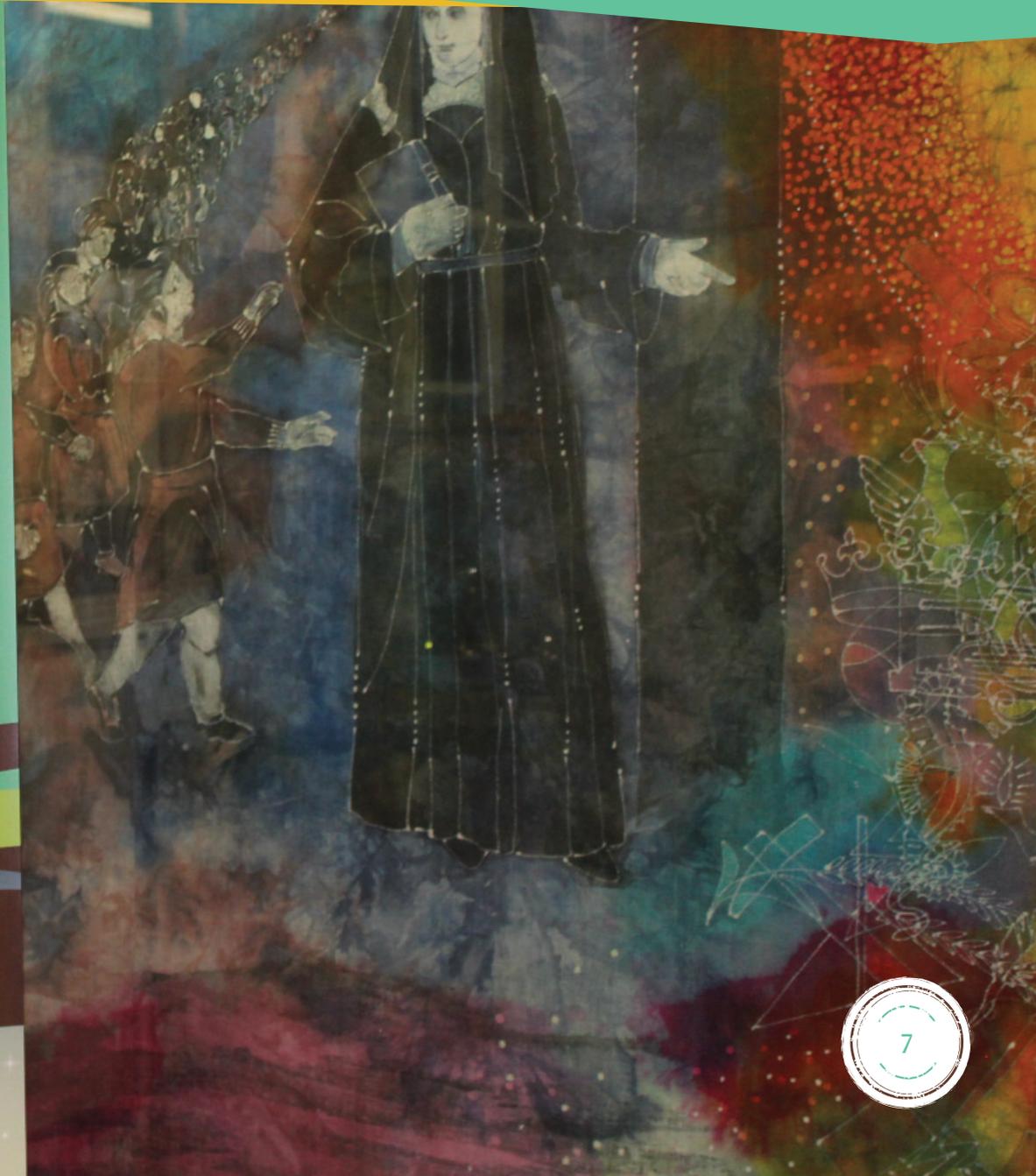
Comprehensive College, Belfast

## St Louise's Secret for success.....

- ✓ Excellence in Development and Reaching Out
- ✓ Excellence in Movements and Standards
- ✓ Excellence in Learning and Teaching
- ✓ Excellence in Partnership
- ✓ Excellence in Student and Staff Care
- ✓ Excellence in Curriculum Innovation
- ✓ Excellence in Personalising Learning
- ✓ Excellence in Education



*... I wish we*





## Child Centred Pastoral Care

The well-being and happiness of each student is of paramount importance. Our mission to provide excellence through caring extends to all aspects of school life, and underpins our approach to pastoral care. We strive to build strong, nurturing relationships with our students and families, placing the child at the centre of a community of love.

## Daily Care

- ✓ Your child will see her form tutor at the start of each day. Form tutors guide, support and nurture the children in their form groups. They help each child fulfil their potential, have high expectations of herself and meet life's challenges with confidence. Form tutors support the children's learning and their personal development. They accompany their form group on their journey through school and they guide them towards success and personal fulfilment.
- ✓ Your child's year team work very closely with form tutors to support their work. The year team monitor the child's health, well-being and progress. They are the direct link between the family and the school.
- ✓ Our pastoral support centre provides for small group work and wrap around support for all our students.
- ✓ Outside agencies provide emotional wellbeing and personalised learning support tailored to cater for the individual needs and development of our children. The range of services offered in order to empower our students are occupational therapy, educational psychology, art therapy, Family Works counselling, health and social services, Amazing Brains, youth mentoring and nurture projects.



## Occupational Therapy Services

'Occupation' means all the activities a person undertakes, enjoys and values. The occupational therapist views each student holistically and offers strategies, knowledge and support with hopes that it will positively influence multiple aspects of their lives. This is achieved through working directly with students either individually or through group work. Occupational therapy interventions vary between children, as a child's unique needs, interests and capabilities are considered.

Interventions include:

- ✓ Tailored programmes focusing on self-esteem, anxiety management, assertiveness and lifestyle design.
- ✓ Mindfulness at the universal, targeted and individual level.
- ✓ Student council selection and training.
- ✓ Positive occupation provision such as yoga, gardening and artwork.

St Louise's has become the first mainstream school in the country offering occupational therapy in education to support students.

## Quality Pastoral Programme

- ✓ A personal development programme for Years 8 to 14 is designed to support the emotional, spiritual and cognitive development of each child as they grow into young adults. The programme promotes constructive decision making and resilience. It is frequently up-dated with relevant resources and it addresses topical safe guarding issues. Personal and spiritual development is also at the core of an assembly programme delivered by year teams and the Principal on a weekly basis.
- ✓ Our school policies include Anti Bullying, Child Protection, Drugs, Mobile Phone, Acceptable Use of ICT and Positive Behaviour, all of which aim to safe guard our students.
- ✓ Our reward system and student leadership opportunities, curricular and extra-curricular activities promote achievement, high standards, positive behaviour, a love of learning and excellent attendance and punctuality.



## *Excellence in Student Care and Transition*

### Transition – Year 8

In the summer term a member of staff visits our feeder primary schools to talk to the primary 7 teachers about the children who are transferring to our school.

An induction afternoon takes place in June for all students who are transferring in August. This is an opportunity for students and parents to meet the Pastoral Team who will be working with the students when they transfer to St Louise's. Students and parents also have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities facilitated by St Louise's teachers in order to introduce a taster of the Year 8 curriculum.

An innovative and exciting transition programme is delivered to all of our new Year 8 students in August. This programme is delivered by our staff in partnership with our Post 16 students, and our outside partners.

Year 8 students are supported by Post 16 Mentors, some of whom will have been involved in the transition programme.

In term one of Year 8 parents are invited to an individual Curriculum Meeting which allows form tutors and parents, along with students, to draw up a personalised learning plan focusing on key curriculum and pastoral areas.

“The Transition Programme was excellent and really helped my daughter to settle in and make new friends very quickly. I thought the ‘Breakfast Morning’ for parents was a great opportunity to help put parents’ minds at ease” Mrs Siobhan Hale

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## Post 16 Mentors

The Sixth Form Mentors are trained by local community groups. They are twinned with Year 8 tutor groups and work with the Form Tutor and Head of Year to support Year 8 students with their transition from primary to post primary school.

### The mentor strives:

- ✓ To be a role model and confidante
- ✓ To build the students' confidence and self esteem
- ✓ To encourage good attendance, punctuality and behaviour
- ✓ To challenge students to do their best to achieve at the highest level
- ✓ To help students form happy and caring relationships both in and out of the classroom
- ✓ To organise and deliver a weekly activity session in the Pastoral Support Centre for the Year 8 students
- ✓ To support the Year 8 students through a paired reading programme facilitated by the English Department

## Transition – Post 16

We provide a quality transition programme for the increasing number of students who are choosing to transfer to St Louise's for Post 16 study.

## INTERESTING FACT

We recognise the need to support students effectively as they make the transition between primary and post primary school and between key stages.



## Promoting Links with Our Primary Schools

### The partnership:

- ✓ Includes all our local primary schools
- ✓ Provides a Performing Arts programme for primary teachers and students in our key partner schools
- ✓ Provides professional development for our primary teachers in the application of new technologies
- ✓ Invites students and teachers to our excellent School Productions
- ✓ Forges close links through joint ventures across the curriculum
- ✓ Recognises the gifts and talents of all our primary students
- ✓ Offers innovative STEM, ICT and Art programmes

## Promoting Links with Parents

### We value our parents as key partners in the education of their children. We create strong and positive relationships by:

- ✓ Organising regular Parents' Meetings
- ✓ Keeping parents informed of all matters relating to their child's academic progress, health and well-being
- ✓ Consulting on school policies and all aspects of school life, including our Whole School Development Plan
- ✓ Offering additional support from the Pastoral Support Team
- ✓ Having a regular Book Club for parents and their children to develop a love of Literacy and Language in the home
- ✓ Parent 'Drop-In Sessions' linked to Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. These take place on a half termly basis

## Additional support for our students, parents and community

As a member of the Greater Falls Extended School Cluster, we provide additional support services for students, parents and the wider community in our Pastoral Support Centre.

### The Pastoral Support Centre offers:

- ✓ Additional support for students in terms of their social, emotional, behavioural and academic well-being
- ✓ Access to independent counselling support
- ✓ Individual and group support sessions for students and their families
- ✓ External support with outside agencies and local community groups
- ✓ A Parent Support Programme which provides parents with information and advice on a range of issues related to student welfare

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## INTERESTING FACT

We have created vibrant partnerships with all our local primary schools through delivering a creative programme for teachers and pupils.

Pupils from local primary schools at our 2017 production of 'The Wizard of Oz'



St Louise's Secret

- ✓ Excellence in Faith Development
- ✓ Excellence in Achievement
- ✓ Excellence in Learning and Teaching
- ✓ Excellence in Leadership and Governance
- ✓ Excellence in Student and Staff Wellbeing
- ✓ Excellence in Personalisation
- ✓ Excellence in Careers Education
- ✓ Excellence in Resourcing
- ✓ Excellence in Governance

*This is an outstanding school that could bottle their secret formula*

### Mission Statement

In partnership with parents, guardians, staff, governors and students, St Louise's promotes excellence in learning and teaching within a Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive ethos.



## Excellence in Learning and Teaching at Key Stage 3

### Our Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Areas of Learning	Subject Strands
Language and Literacy	English, Critical Thinking and Media Education
Mathematics and Numeracy	Mathematics, Financial Capability and Creative Thinking
Science and Technology	Science, Technology and Design and ICT
Religious Education	Religious Education
Environment and Society	Geography and History
Learning for Life and Work	Home Economics and Learning for Life and Work
Modern Languages	French, Irish*, Italian and Spanish
Physical Education	Physical Education
The Arts	Art and Design, Dance, Drama and Music

### For our most valued partners, our students, we:

- ✓ Ensure a smooth transition from primary school through a series of planned activities and ongoing communication with Primary School staff and parents
- ✓ Provide a wide variety of learning experiences in which our students are able to connect their learning and in doing so, experience a more relevant, coherent and engaging curriculum
- ✓ Develop our students' thinking skills and personal capabilities through a wide range of classroom based and enrichment activities which challenge, motivate and engage
- ✓ Improve our students' skills and performance in Numeracy, Literacy and IT not only in the key subjects but also across the curriculum
- ✓ Have developed a 'Growth Mindset' model of assessment practice which links achievement, attitude, effort and home learning



## A highly successful accelerated reader programme and intervention programme

For our valued partners, our students, we have invested in a new and exciting reading programme. This successful programme engages our students in reading for pleasure whilst developing their literacy skills.

At the beginning of the programme students complete a reading test which enables our teachers and librarians to recommend books suitable to their reading ability. The Reading Programme diagnoses problems and directs ongoing reading practice which in turn fosters a love of reading in our students.





## An exciting, creative, innovative approach to teaching Maths

For our valued partners, our students, we have invested in a new and very successful model of Maths curriculum delivery in Year 8.

### What is Maths Mastery?

The Maths Mastery curriculum is designed so that students explore mathematical ideas in greater depth. The emphasis in Year 8 is on ensuring that every student has a strong understanding of the basic mathematical concepts, creating a solid bank for students to utilise throughout their mathematical journey to GCSE and beyond. Lessons and learning activities are structured to support and stretch students, while challenging their mathematical thinking at all stages. Through the use of a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach in lessons, students deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts through a variety of representations.

#### Three Key Principles

- ✓ Develop a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts
- ✓ Develop mathematical thinking and mathematical language
- ✓ Enrich student experience with problem solving learning activities

### Benefits for your Child

Based on international evidence and practice, the Maths Mastery programme aims to enhance students' enjoyment, resilience, understanding and attainment in

mathematics. The Maths Mastery approach promotes a growth mind-set belief that all students can achieve in maths regardless of background.

### Student Voice

- ✓ I really enjoy maths now as I work a lot in pairs. This means if I don't know how to answer a question but my partner does, they can explain what they did and help me to understand
- ✓ I like explaining how I got my answer and listening to others explaining because they may have used a different strategy and that could help me do it faster next time
- ✓ When I go home to do my homework, this is my favourite part because I understand everything that the teacher has explained in class
- ✓ We are learning about new things that I have never seen before
- ✓ I like using all the different apparatus as this helps me to learn

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## Excellence in Learning and Teaching at Key Stage 4

As the Learning Journey continues for our students, we offer a wide range of curricular opportunities to meet the needs of all learners. We are one of the few schools in Northern Ireland offering such a wide range of subjects with over 40 successful general and applied courses.

At Key Stage 4, students are given the opportunity to choose from three pathways with a wide range of subjects to meet the needs of the local and global economy and develop in our learners the skills and attributes required to enter the next phase of their education and learning.

### Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum

**For our most valued partners, our students, we:**

- ✓ Provide exciting, innovative and successful curriculum pathways at Key Stage 4
- ✓ Give all students quality guidance and support to enable them, with their parents, to make well informed choices based on their strengths, aptitudes and possible career pathways

Sectors	Key Stage 4
Arts, Media & Publication Dance,	GCSE Art and Design, GCSE Music, GCSE Drama, GCSE BTEC Level 2 in Performing Arts – Dance, GCSE Media, GCSE Photography
Business Administration and Enterprise	GCSE in Business and Communication Systems, Occupational Studies in Business and Services
Engineering and Manufacturing Technology	GCSE Technology and Design
Health, Public Sector and Care	GCSE Food and Nutrition, GCSE Health and Social Care, Occupational Studies in Child Care, GCSE Learning for Life and Work
History and Theology	GCSE History, GCSE Religious Studies, OCN Level 2 Award in Religious Studies
Information and Communications Technology	GCSE ICT, BTEC in Information and Creative Technology, Digital Technology, Cambridge National Certificate in ICT
Languages, Literature and Culture	GCSE English, GCSE English Literature, GCSE French, Spanish and Irish, Fast Track Irish is offered to our Irish speaking students in Years 8 and 9, GCSE Gaeilge
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	GCSE Physical Education, OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Sport Science, BTEC Level 2 Travel and Tourism
Preparation for Life and Work	Essential Skills in Communication and Mathematics, Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, Employability Skills, Performance Skills
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	Occupational Studies in Hair Therapy and Beauty Therapy
Science and Maths	GCSE Single Award Science, GCSE Double Award Science, BTEC Level 2 Applied Science, GCSE Maths, GCSE Further Maths
Social Sciences	GCSE Sociology, GCSE Geography

\* Subjects will run with viable numbers

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## Excellence in Learning and Teaching at Post-16

The next stage on the Learning Journey is to prepare and enable our students to move into the world of Further and Higher Education or work. At this stage in their career, our students are confident in their own ability and are aware of their strengths and aptitudes. They possess the qualifications, personal qualities and attitudes that have been developed in their journey through St Louise's. Flexibility is the cornerstone of Post 16 curriculum provision. This flexibility is achieved by offering the full Entitlement Framework consisting of a broad range of over 40 subjects, of which at least one third are applied subjects.

## Our Key Stage 5 / Post 16 Curriculum

For our valued partners, our students, we provide exciting, innovative and successful curriculum pathways at Post 16.

Sectors	Key Stage 5
Arts, Media & Publication	A'Level in Art and Design, A'Level in Music, A'Level in Theatre Studies, A'Level Dance, BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts – Acting and Dance, A'Level Media, BTEC Creative Multi Media Production (I-Media), OCR Level 3 Photography, Moving Image Arts, GCE Performing Arts
Business Administration and Enterprise	OCR Cambridge Technicals Introductory Diploma in Business, OCR Cambridge Technicals Diploma in Business, GCE Business Studies
Engineering and Manufacturing Technology	A'Level in Technology
Health, Public Sector and Care	A'Level Food and Nutrition, A'Level Applied Health and Social Care, Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development at Level 2 and 3, City and Guilds Level 2 in Playwork, BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Hospitality
History and Theology	A'Level History, A'Level Religious Studies
Information and Communications Technology	A'Level Applied ICT, BTEC in Information and Creative Technology, GCE Software Design
Languages, Literature and Culture	A'Level in English Literature, A'Level in French, Spanish and Irish, A'Level English Language
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	A'Level Physical Education, OCR Level 3 Sport, BTEC Level 3 Travel and Tourism
Preparation for Life and Work	Essential Skills in Communication and Mathematics, Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, Employability Skills, Performance Skills, OCN in Mentoring and Youth work, Young Enterprise programmes, Prince's Trust, President's Award
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	VRQ in Hair Therapy at Level 2 and 3, VRQ in Beauty Therapy at Level 2 and 3
Science and Maths	A'Level Biology, A'Level Chemistry, A'Level Physics, A' Level Life and Health Sciences, A' Level Maths
Social Sciences	A'Level Sociology, A'Level Geography, A'Level Economics, A'Level Politics

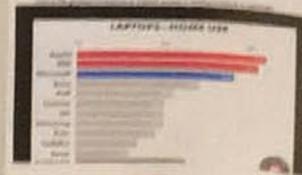
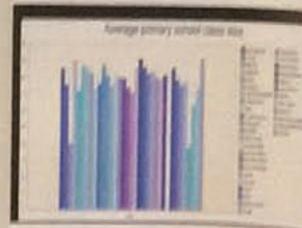
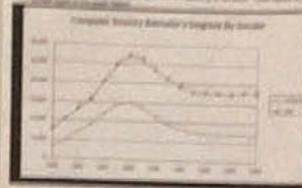
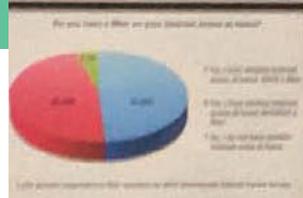
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## Ensuring success for all our learners

### St Louise's:

- ✓ Is one of the few schools in Northern Ireland to achieve City and Guilds status allowing us to provide VRQ at Level 2 and 3 in an expanding repertoire of vocational areas
- ✓ Has a custom built Hair Centre and a Beauty Centre on site
- ✓ Provides a Bridging Course at Year 13 to enhance the GCSE profile of the learner
- ✓ Provides the widest range of General and Applied Courses in the West Belfast Learning Community
- ✓ Provides a wide range of enrichment opportunities in partnership with our community groups
- ✓ Provides after school and Saturday silent and supported study from October to June at Post 16

IT  
&  
EDUCATION





## Sharing Excellence in Learning and Teaching

Recognised as one of Northern Ireland's leading schools, St Louise's is in the privileged position of being invited into a number of pilot studies and initiatives at Key Stage 3, 4 and Post 16. We have disseminated excellence in practice to our Northern Ireland Primary and Post Primary Partners and our International Partners at systems level. Examples include:

- ✓ Lesson Research Studies in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and General Teaching Council of Northern Ireland. This research project involves our learners at all key stages in co-constructing the learning
- ✓ Involvement as a Research Partner with key academics linked to the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3
- ✓ Working in partnership with the Regional Training Unit and the General Teaching Council of Northern Ireland in the dissemination of effective assessment practice and developments linked to Personalised Learning
- ✓ Dissemination of good practice to our Primary Partners in terms of effective transitional arrangements
- ✓ Presentation of a Thinking Skills Paper at the International Thinking Conference attended by world academics
- ✓ Recognition as a Leadership Development School in partnership with the Regional Training Unit



- ✓ Dissemination of effective curricular practice at board level
- ✓ Presentation based on Quality Pupil Tracking and Improving Performance at GCSE to our Area Learning Community of Post Primary schools
- ✓ Dissemination of effective curriculum practice to our global partners
- ✓ Involvement in highly innovative E-learning Programme in partnership with I-Teach linked to improving classroom pedagogy
- ✓ Presentation at SCOTENS Ireland on 'Improving Pedagogy across the System'
- ✓ Hub school for 'Teaching and Learning Schools NI'
- ✓ Involvement in Middle and Senior Leadership Masters Training with the University of Ulster
- ✓ Presentation at British Education Conference on School Improvement
- ✓ Dissemination of practice and presentation to a range of educational groupings in Action Planning, Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation
- ✓ Partnership with Amazing Brains linked to Growth Mind-set, Study Skills and Building Resilience in our Young People
- ✓ Research based school in partnership with CUREE (Centre for Use of Research and Evidence in Education)

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## Our personalised learning approach at Key Stage 3, 4 and Post 16

'Staff in St Louise's College are firmly focused on and dedicated to, providing the very best development opportunities for their pupils, whatever their potential' (Investors in People, June 2011)

### **We promise to:**

- ✓ Set high expectations and encourage high aspirations in partnership with parents, staff and students
- ✓ Track student progress by assessing levels of ability and achievement on entry using CATS baseline testing, CATS at Key Stage 4 and Alps at Post 16
- ✓ Set minimum target levels and grades for all students according to their abilities and aptitudes
- ✓ Provide our students with an overview of their curriculum in all subjects through Learning and Assessment Calendars and Topic Models highlighting knowledge, skills and attitudes to become confident, successful learners
- ✓ Give our students opportunities to engage in a wide range of assessment for learning activities including peer and self assessment
- ✓ Monitor the academic progress of every student through our Assessment for Learning model using outcomes from challenging Learning Opportunities
- ✓ Mentor students throughout the year using staff, peers and Post 16 students

- ✓ Engage students in one-to-one Learning Conversations and draw up Personalised Learning Plans which are shared with all stakeholders
- ✓ Review progress of all students every six weeks and update parents
- ✓ Provide Progress Updates to parents at all Key Stages, three times per year
- ✓ Provide our students with a wide range of activities which enable them to identify their talents and strengths and overcome any barriers to learning through a Learning to Learn Programme
- ✓ Involve our students in co-constructing learning
- ✓ Ensure that all students reach their full potential through a range of intervention strategies which enable all learners to achieve excellence
- ✓ Use attitudinal data (PASS) to inform intervention and support

## Additional Educational Needs

St Louise's staff are highly skilled in addressing the needs of all learners and provide differentiated support at all times. We successfully meet the needs of all students including those with additional learning needs and the gifted and talented through our personalised learning approach.

### **For our valued partners, our students we:**

- ✓ Engage in early identification and intervention, availing of the knowledge of parents and primary school teachers
- ✓ Provide individual support through fully qualified classroom assistants
- ✓ Access ongoing assistance from relevant and appropriate external agencies
- ✓ Provide a happy, sensitive and secure pastoral care environment which complements effective learning
- ✓ Use a variety of teaching methods and strategies which encourage active, creative and independent learning
- ✓ Develop and review Individual Educational Plans in partnership with parents, students and staff
- ✓ Ensure that improvements and achievements are recognised, recorded and rewarded where appropriate
- ✓ Ensure the development of all teachers to meet the needs of the learner
- ✓ Provide high quality Intervention Programmes in Literacy and Numeracy and across other curriculum areas to meet the needs of all learners including the gifted and talented

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## Our world of multi-media and innovative approaches to learning and teaching

As a school at the forefront of developments in Learning and Teaching and effective classroom practice, we have embraced new and emerging technologies.

### We create for all our learners:

- ✓ The most effective learning environments equipped with the latest ICT hardware and software
- ✓ An effective learning framework through the development of a range of innovative strategies to develop independent learning
- ✓ Online opportunities to work at home and in school through the use of our Virtual Learning Environment

### We provide:

- ✓ Opportunities across all Key Stage 3 subjects for the development of all facets of ICT
- ✓ Quality classroom experiences through the use of multimedia at all Key Stages with a focus on I-pad development
- ✓ Access to over 700 computers
- ✓ Computers in every single classroom
- ✓ At least one computer suite in all departments
- ✓ Computers in the Sixth Form Study
- ✓ Video conferencing facilities
- ✓ 4 up-to-date Media Suites
- ✓ Interactive whiteboards, smartboards and e-beams in all departments



## Our 21st Century Facilities

### Excellence in Performing Arts

A state-of-the-art Dance Studio with accompanying Gymnasium, a suite of fully furnished Drama Studios and a Media Suite made up of three fully equipped classrooms.

### Excellence in Physical Education

A Sports Hall, Gymnasium and Fitness Suite, all fully equipped to provide a wide range of physical

activity and team sports to meet the demands of our expanding subject provision and extra-curricular activities.

### Excellence in Technology and Design

A modern fully equipped Technology block which enables all students to develop their skills in Technology, Production and Engineering at Key Stage 3, 4 and Post 16.

## **Excellence in Careers Education and Resource Facilities**

Two newly refurbished Libraries/Resource Centres with internet access and a Careers Suite with up-to-date career resources and advice.

## **Excellence in City and Guilds Provision – VRQ Level 2 and 3**

Two ultra-modern fully furnished Hair and Beauty salons which offer a professional service to clients from the school and local community.

## **Excellence in Home Economics, Child Care and Health and Social Care**

Five newly refurbished Home Economics rooms with state-of-the-art facilities and a Playwork room to meet the requirements of the Key Stage 3, 4 and Post 16 Curriculum.

## **Excellence across the Curriculum**

In addition we have excellent: Art Rooms, ICT Rooms, Science Rooms and attractive learning environments with state-of-the-art technology in subject rooms.

## **Our School Oratory**

A quiet place of prayer and reflection, amidst the hustle and bustle of the school day, which provides a space for individual prayer or class worship.

## **Kairos**

Our Retreat Centre situated on-site allows students, staff and parents to take part in a range of faith based activities throughout the school year.

## **Our Healthy Eating Restaurants**

A recently refurbished Senior Restaurant and a separate restaurant for Junior students which provide healthy choices from an extensive range of tasty meals. The restaurant is open in the early morning for breakfast, at break time for a snack and at lunch time for all students.





## Careers Education, Information & Guidance

Careers Education, Information & Guidance extends throughout the school and its primary aim is to assist students to know themselves better, to be aware of education, training and career opportunities and to make the transition from school to working life. Careers Education is embedded in the teaching of every subject.

### Education for Employability in Years 8-10

#### At Key Stage 3 students:

- ✓ Examine their own skills and qualities
- ✓ Consider local and global employment opportunities
- ✓ Learn about the changing world of work
- ✓ Investigate aspects of enterprise and entrepreneurship
- ✓ Participate in a number of events which empower them to make informed and positive career choices
- ✓ 'Learn by Doing' by forging partnerships with Young Enterprise, our Business Partners and the STEM Ambassador Programme

### Careers Education at Key Stage 4 and Post 16

#### All students:

- ✓ Experience dedicated Careers Education classes
- ✓ Engage in an extensive work experience programme in a range of institutions linked to the potential career pathway of each student
- ✓ Receive additional support from personnel in the Northern Ireland Careers Service
- ✓ Avail of the opportunities to attend annual Open Days in local and national universities
- ✓ Participate in Mock Interviews directly related to their preferred pathway which is supported by local Business Partners and working professionals
- ✓ Engage in a Careers Convention with ambassadors from the world of work

#### Through our Personal Career Planning we:

- ✓ Encourage traditional and non-traditional pathways based on up-to-date labour market information
- ✓ Offer one-to-one individual guidance at all stages of transition
- ✓ Offer an extensive Work Experience Programme
- ✓ Prepare students for Higher Education, Further Education and Employment
- ✓ Have strong and ever increasing links with business and industry
- ✓ Offer opportunities to explore Career Development pathways
- ✓ Offer opportunities to reflect on individual strengths, personal qualities, aspirations and aptitudes
- ✓ Organise a series of workshops led by visiting speakers from diverse employment sectors
- ✓ Offer programmes to develop self presentation and interview skills

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St Louise's creates many opportunities for students to develop their talents and gifts both within and outside the classroom. The enrichment opportunities that our clubs offer play a pivotal role in character building and leadership development. Clubs operate before school, at lunchtime, after school and

at weekends. This allows all our young people to participate in a myriad of activities and use all their gifts to the full. From the Breakfast Club in the morning to the Homework Club in the afternoon our students' needs are catered for.

## Sports & Physical Activity

Athletics	Cross-Country Running	Netball
Table Tennis	Basketball	Dodgeball
Orienteering	Tennis	Camogie
First-Aid Training	Rock Climbing	Trampolining
Canoeing	Gaelic Football	Rounders
Cheerleading	Keep Fit	Soccer

## STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

Home Economics (Bakewell Club)	Maths Science	Technology
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## Music

Guitar Club	Musical Theatre	Senior Choir
Voice Coaching	Instrumental Tuition	Orchestra
String Quartet Group	Junior Choir	Religious Choir
Traditional Choir		

## Performing and Creative Arts

Art Club	Dance Club	Knitting Club
Reading Club	Book Editing	Drama Club
Photography Club	Ceramic Club	Film Club
Poetry Club	Handwriting Club	Craft Club

## Award Bearing Courses

John Paul II Award	President's Award
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## The World of Media and Personal Development

Bar Competition	Movie Club	Public Speaking
Debating Society	School Magazine	Team
Newsletter Writing Team	Rotary	Student Council

## Subject Based Clubs

Ecological Club	Geography Club	Irish Club
French Club	History Club	Spanish Club

## Stretching out the Hand of Friendship

Breakfast Club	Marillac Society	Trocaire
St Vincent de Paul	SERVE	DePaul Trust
Community Outreach		

Through our Mission Fund we support a range of local and global charities.

## School Trips

The college organises a broad range of local and international trips for our students. In this last few years we have enjoyed visits to Rome, Berlin, Spain, Munich, London and Bulgaria. These are designed to meet students' interests and developmental needs. The destinations change as our staff respond to the student voice and create ongoing opportunities for personal enrichment.





*Excellence in Performing Arts*



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# PERFORMING ARTS





*Excellence in Student & Parent Voice*

"I love this school and I know I will enjoy the next seven years here"



"I like coming to school every day"

"I like that we have guides to show us our way around the school"

## Our New Year 8 – The Voice of our Students



"The Induction week made me feel more confident and helped me to make lots of new friends"

"The teachers really helped me to settle in very quickly, they are so friendly and helpful"

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"I was so impressed by this as I am an NLP practitioner and coach who knows how important growth mind-set is"



"An enjoyable and interesting evening"

"I found Amazing Brains so interesting, informative and enjoyable"

## 'Amazing Brains' – The Voice of our Parents

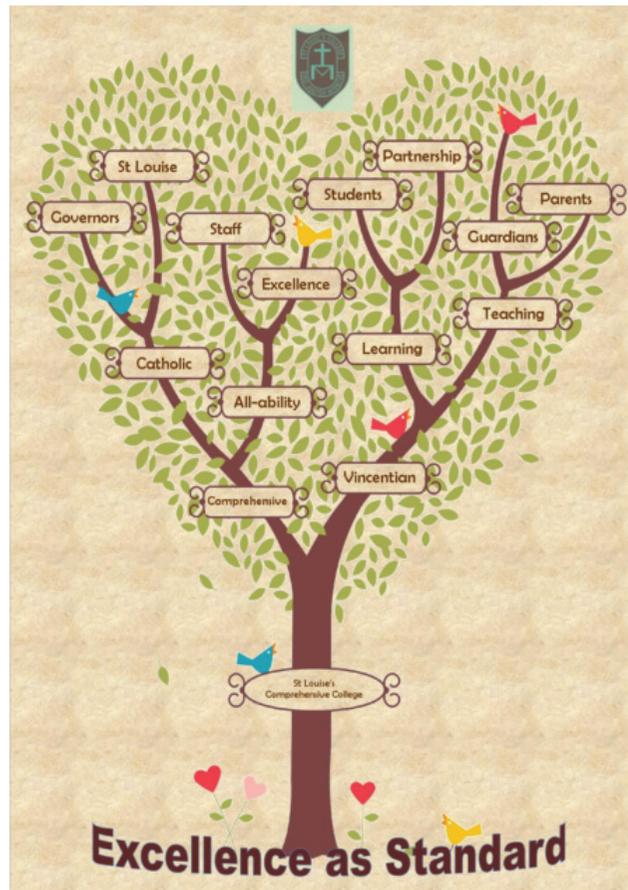
"I am happy I came to this session and I feel better knowing what my child will be learning"

"I am very impressed that the school has identified and implemented this resource and I am excited about attending further sessions"



## St Louise's Mission Statement

In partnership with parents, guardians, staff, governors and students, St Louise's promotes excellence in learning and teaching within a Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive ethos



Staff and students from St Louise's at the 60th Anniversary Art Exhibition, 21st October, 2017