

Carrigallen Vocational School

Established 1957



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**Over 50 Years of Education Excellence serving
Counties Leitrim, Cavan and Longford**

PROSPECTUS

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians,

Together, you are about to make a very important decision, choosing a Second Level School. Here at Carrigallen Vocational School we would like to help you make this decision.

Carrigallen Vocational School, situated on the borders of Leitrim, Cavan and Longford is under the auspice of Co. Leitrim Vocational Education Committee. The school boasts a proud tradition in Second Level education. Many of our past pupils have gone on to distinguish themselves in their varied careers. The school places great emphasis on academic achievement, character formation and extra curricular activities.

We have a very highly skilled and dedicated staff who offer our students their expertise in their relevant subject areas, and facilitate an extensive range of extra curricular activities.

Carrigallen Vocational School has in place, specific systems for ensuring the smooth transition from Primary to Post-Primary education.

This includes a:

Big Brother/Big Sister - under the guidance of our school cycle students, whereby our first years are helped settle into their new environment. This creates a sense of security and stability when they are making the transition from primary to post primary.

Induction Day - The First Years are brought in the first day and they are the only group in the school. This gives them an opportunity to meet the staff on an individual basis and also to familiarise themselves with the layout of the school.

This brochure outlines the range of extensive courses available in Carrigallen Vocational School. The school prides itself in being able to offer such a wide curriculum with small classes meaning more class time and attention for our students. We will continue to offer this broad range of subjects to our students even in the current climate of cutbacks.

Carrigallen Vocational School believes in partnership between students, parents and staff. The Student Council allows students to air their views in relation to school issues. We have a very pro-active Parent's Association and Board of Management who ensure that Carrigallen Vocational School is an integral part of the Community.

I encourage you to consider Carrigallen Vocational School when choosing a Second Level School. If you would like further information please feel free to contact me at the school. You are invited to the Open Evening, to see for yourself what it is that makes Carrigallen Vocational School an ideal place to complete your Second Level education.

Yours sincerely,

Declan Conboy
Principal



SUBJECTS

Junior Certificate

English
Irish
Mathematics
French
Science
Technical Graphics
Home Economics
Geography
History
Art
Business Studies
Information Technology
Woodwork
Metalwork
Religion
C.S.P.E.
S.P.H.E.

Leaving Certificate

English
Irish
Mathematics
French
Physics
Biology
Home Economics
Geography
History
Art
Business or Accounting
LCVP Link Modules
Construction Studies
Engineering
Religion
Design & Communications Graphics
Agricultural Science
Information Technology

Physical Education P.E. (While not currently timetabled, is available at lunchtimes and after school, coaches are available to the school and take students for various sporting activities).

L.C.V.P. – the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

All Senior Cycle students sit the Leaving Certificate Examination at the end of Fifth Year. The L.C.V.P. provides an additional enhancement in the form of two Link Module subjects:

- Preparation for the World of Work includes one week of a work experience placement, C.V. and interview preparation, visiting speakers.
- Enterprise Education includes study of local and national business and community enterprises, business start-up, visits out to enterprises.

Points are awarded for this programme by universities and third level colleges. There is a strong emphasis on improving computer and information technology skills through portfolio work.



Pastoral Care

The First Year classes are allocated a Year Head and two Class Tutors.

The Year Head monitors the general behaviour of the students as well as liaising with the Class Tutors, subject teachers and parents where necessary.

The Class Tutor meets his/her class regularly and at Assembly on Fridays. The role of the tutor is to get to know the students in the class well, to support the student and is usually the first person to deal with any personal problems that the students may experience.

There is also a qualified Guidance Counsellor in the school who meets with students and assists with any issues students may have.

Specialist Teachers and Staff

Students have access to the following resources where necessary:

- Career Guidance Counsellor
- Learning Support and Resource Teachers
- English as an Additional Language Teachers
- Special Needs Assistants
- Chaplains – Fr. Denis Murray and Mr. Mike Edwards



Big Brother/Big Sister

During the current academic year the school is participating in the Big Brother Big Sister Mentoring Scheme. This scheme involves a group of first years students being teamed up with a group of senior cycle students on a one to one basis. Participants are interviewed and are then matched with a mentor with similar interests, hobbies and personalities. Students complete an induction course and agree to meet once a week when they chat and play games and get to know each other. The scheme aims to support first year students while they settle into their new school environment.

Career Guidance and Counselling Service

Our qualified guidance counsellor is available to offer educational, vocational and personal counselling to our students to include:

- Aptitude and assessment testing
- Guidance and assistance with career choice
- Guidance with subject choice
- Personal counselling
- Referral to outside agencies if required



Student Council

All students are members of the Student Council. They elect Ten students who meet at least once a month to discuss issues pertinent to the students of Carrigallen Vocational School.

Two students from each year, one male and one female are elected by their class mates.

Evening Study

The school offers supervised evening study to students four evenings a week. This is offered to third and fifth year students on a first come first served basis. Other students may then avail of the remaining places.



Learning Inside The Classroom

Art

Art is offered to both Junior and Senior Cycle students. The Art Department offers a variety of disciplines including painting, printing, 3-D construction, crafts that include Batik, textiles and puppetry. All First Year students partake in Art class. Art provides the student with an outlet for expression and self-development while also enabling them to appreciate art work and imagery and also gaining points at an academic level.

Science

Science is studied by all students at Junior Cycle. At Senior Cycle the school offers Physics and Biology.

DCG

Design & Communications Graphics has recently been introduced into Second Level schools as the replacement subject for the old Technical Drawing Syllabus. We are very fortunate to have one of the most modern DCG rooms for our students.

Metalwork/Engineering

We offer Junior Certificate Metalwork and Leaving Certificate Engineering to our students; our metalwork room will be renovated and extended this summer with the addition of new machinery and a new machine area.

Woodwork/Construction Studies

Our Woodwork room has recently been renovated with a new machining area added to the room, this complies with Health & Safety and gives our students access to the most up to date equipment.

Information Technology

For the past fifteen years, the use of information and communications technology (ICT) has been developed and strengthened throughout the school. From an early stage the school was involved in video conferencing, intranet use and e-mailing. The hub of the system is an ICT room with 27 computers, printers, scanners, projectors and other peripherals. In addition, many classrooms have computers and soon all will have. All classrooms and offices throughout the school are networked. This means students work on computers, the internet and school intranet can be accessed from all locations.

The school intranet is an internal internet where all types of information on activities in the school can be easily made available and accessed by all. It is also a useful means of displaying students' work, photographs and bulletins. Teachers use the intranet to make extra material available so students can read this material and print it for themselves, if they wish. Computers are widely used throughout the school. In the junior years, students have classes where they learn basic skills, moving on to more advanced skills. At all stages throughout the school, students will use computers in every subject - for research purposes, and for project work. The school is developing an "E-learning" plan which will involve using computers even more widely in all subject areas.

Students are encouraged to use computers for a wide range of activities including digital photography, video editing and web design. Computers are made available during free time to facilitate these activities.



Art by our students



Science: 1st Years dissect a heart

Junior science experiment in progress



Physics: 4th Year Experiment

Home Economics:
2nd Year students record notes
after cheese tasting



Religion:
1st Year Prayer Service

Design & Communications Graphics
Room



Learning Outside The Classroom

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

LCVP Enterprise visit to Belleek Pottery, Co. Fermanagh and The Organic Centre, Rossinver, Co. Leitrim.

History

History visits are organized annually. Past visits include the Museum of Country Life, Castlebar; Glenview Museum, Ballinamore; Enniskillen Castle; Dublinia - The Viking exhibition in Christchurch, Dublin.

Science

Photograph on the right shows First Year Students taking ecology samples in Dublin Zoo

Home Economics

The photo on the right shows Home Economics students visiting the Crafter's Basket in Sligo, here they are choosing materials for their Home Economics project.

French - A Language Adventure

As part of Junior and Senior Cycle French, pupils get the opportunity to visit the Language and Adventure Centre in Donegal.

Here they enhance their French language skills as well as taking part in fun activities such as surfing and climbing.

French Theatre Comes to Town

A French theatre group with native speakers proves a popular visit for all students as they can take part in acting with the group as well as developing their speaking skills.

Geography - Leaving Certificate Field Trip

Twenty students accompanied their teachers on a field trip.

This course work forms 20% of their Leaving Certificate examination.

The students carried out a number of experiments on the processes of transportation and deposition on the River Sillees.

Irish Summer Course

Each summer the school in conjunction with the VEC, run a week-long Irish course for Junior Cycle students.

Students focus on aural, written and spoken Irish in preparation for the Junior Certificate Examination.

Afternoon activities include Basketball and Soccer games, Treasure Hunts, Drama, Music and Dance.



Extra Curricular

Sport

Sport plays a very important part in the life of a student in Carrigallen Vocational School with many sporting activities offered in our school. We have had numerous successes in various competitions over the years, some of the more recent are as follows:

- All Ireland Badminton Finals 2007
- Basketball North West Winners
- Senior Boys Connaught Champions 2006
- Girls Football 2007 Connaught Champions

Adventure in Lisnaskea

Ten students enjoyed a fun-filled mid-week break last November in the Share Centre, Lisnaskea. The trip was funded by County Leitrim Partnership.

Gaisce - the President's Award

Our Fourth Year students are taking part in the hope of achieving a Bronze medal. Participants must take part in a 4-stage process over a 13 week period. Our students undertake the following activities:

- Learning Sign Language
- Running a Homework Club for First Years
- Updating the school website
- Helping with Drama/Foroige groups in the area
- Assisting with School News for local papers.

All students will take part in an adventure trip to Lough Allen Adventure Centre in the coming months.

School Tours

The school organises an educational trip to a European destination every two years. Barcelona was the destination of the 14th school trip abroad in 2007, the first ever being a tour to Stratford on Avon in 1980. We also organise an annual trip to Old Trafford to see a Manchester United game. Last June fourteen fourth year students went to Lourdes as helpers with the Diocese of Kilmore.

Soccer

Soccer has become a very popular sport in our school, the F.A.I. and Leitrim County Council recently appointed a soccer coach in the county, there have been various one day competitions played this year on the astro-turf in Carrick. Our first year boys and girls were both represented recently, it is hoped to develop this further next year with more inter-school competitions.

School Choir

There are more than 40 of our students involved in the school choir under the guidance of Mrs. Mary Harte. Highlights of the current school year have been charity fundraising in Longford Shopping Centre for our Lourdes Fund and a wonderful performance at our Christmas Ecumenical service.

School Concert

We have had a rich and varied selection of school concert performances. The local Cornmill Theatre has been the venue for our concerts including 50th Anniversary celebratory concert 2008, EuroLark, Celtic Talent Celtic Myth, Into the West. Last April the school hosted a fundraiser entitled Stars in Your Eyes where students and staff performed various acts.



Facilities

- ✓ Art, Craft and Design Room
- ✓ Science Laboratory and Preparation Room
- ✓ Biology Room
- ✓ Home Economics Room
- ✓ Construction Studies/Woodwork Room with new Machine Area
- ✓ Construction Studies Project Room
- ✓ Engineering and Metalwork Room
- ✓ Languages Room
- ✓ Three Special Educational Needs Rooms
- ✓ Library Area
- ✓ Computer Room
- ✓ Design and Communication Graphics/ Technical Graphics Room
- ✓ Career Guidance and Counselling Room
- ✓ Lockers available to all students
- ✓ Two hardcourt areas for Basketball and Soccer.
- ✓ Football Training Pitch
- ✓ Sports Changing Rooms
- ✓ Business Studies Room
- ✓ Art Display Area
- ✓ Supervised Evening Study

- ✓ Recent Developments:
 - Extension to Woodwork Room
 - Metalwork Room Extension

- ✓ More to come:
 - Second Science Laboratory (Summer 2010)
 - Additional General Classroom (Summer 2010)

- ✓ Access to Excellent Local Facilities:
 - *Cornmill Theatre*...A 200-seater purpose built theatre, location of many wonderful, memorable nights of school concerts, excellent venue for visiting artistes to the school.
 - *Carrigallen GAA pitch*... The pitch is used regularly throughout the school year for all home inter-schools Gaelic football matches.
 - *Carrigallen Community Hall*...This indoor facility is used for a wide variety of purposes including Badminton practice, religious retreats and visiting musicians, dancers, etc.
 - *Churches*...the two churches, St. Mary's RC, and the Church of Ireland are alternately used for our annual Ecumenical Service.



We are very fortunate to have these excellent facilities at our disposal and we are grateful for the support of the local community.