



# Rockwell College

Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

MORE THAN  
**150 Years**  
of learning &  
growing







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## **A heritage spanning more than 150 years**

Established in 1864 in the heartlands of Tipperary, Rockwell College is one of Ireland's leading co-educational boarding schools for second-level students. Located on a picturesque lakeside estate, Rockwell College is immersed in history, but while there have been many changes throughout the years, providing students with a world-class education has remained at the forefront.

Rockwell College was founded in 1804 by the Holy Ghost Fathers, starting from the former country house which remains at the centre of the expansion of Rockwell College to this day.

Rockwell College initially opened as a seminary, evolving later into an all-boys school and in 1988, a new chapter began at Rockwell College with the first intake of female students, becoming the first of Ireland's larger boarding schools to introduce co-education. Rockwell College has always welcomed overseas students and this tradition continues to this day, contributing to Rockwell's strong multicultural environment and global reach.

Rockwell College has a fascinating history of past students and teachers, with two former Presidents of Ireland among those. Éamon de Valera was once a teacher of Mathematics at Rockwell College and a keen rugby player before commencing a distinguished political career, including serving as President of Ireland from 1959 to 1973. Not long after this, former Rockwell College student Patrick Hillery served as President of Ireland from 1976-1990.

In 2012, Audrey O'Byrne became the first female Principal of Rockwell College and since then, has overseen significant developments as Rockwell College continues to provide world-class education and facilities, looking forward to the next 150 years.









Audrey O'Byrne - Principal



Conor Desmond - Deputy Principal



## Welcome address from the Principal

I am delighted to share the Rockwell College story with you and to show you the very special secondary school education and experience that's available to your son or daughter.

These important second level school years will be your child's key formative years, where they make friendships and connections that will last a lifetime and where they learn so much about life and living inside and outside of the classroom.

In choosing Rockwell College, you are choosing a school with a reputation for success. We offer a broad curriculum, combined with our unparalleled range of on-site facilities, where our pupils develop a strong foundation for their future, ensuring that each student can reach their full potential in every aspect of their lives.

Our academic, sports, and residential teams take a genuine interest in the development of our students and work hard to prepare them for the next stages of their education and of their lives. The daily College programme benefits our students by providing a home away from home, and giving the reassurance of a well structured, fulfilling and balanced day.

Our college motto "**Inter Mutanda Constantia**" (*retaining constant values in the midst of a changing world*) has never been more important than in today's fast-changing society. As our world changes, the need for respect, honesty, kindness and courage remain and here at Rockwell College, we work to ensure your sons and daughters leave Rockwell College with the best foundation for life that we can impart.

We would like to invite you and your family to come and visit our College first hand, meet with some of our students and teachers, so that you can understand what makes Rockwell College so special and to give you and your child a little glimpse into what life at Rockwell would be like during the very important years ahead for them.

**We look forward to welcoming you soon to Rockwell.**

**Audrey O'Byrne**

Principal, Rockwell College

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## Mission Statement

Rockwell College is a Catholic, co-educational school, where boys and girls can grow and develop in a caring and supportive atmosphere. The pupil body comprises boarders and day-boarders educated in the Spiritan tradition. The College operates under the trusteeship of the Spiritan Education Trust. The Spiritan Education Ethos is guided and grounded by seven core values:

- Openness to the Spirit
- A Sense of Community
- High Educational Standards
- Global Vision
- Personal Development
- Option for the Poor
- Commitment to Service





## Home from Home

Boarding at Rockwell College offers students a home away from home while allowing students to maximise their potential by participating in a structured educational and extra-curricular environment. Boarders can avail of a strong academic, sporting and extra-curricular programme aimed at improving all aspects of a pupil's development.

“Rockwell College Boarding provided my boys a safe, nurturing, fun environment built on mutual respect where each individual was a valued member of this close knit community. They enjoyed every minute of their six years and I am extremely proud of the young gentlemen they have become.”

**Sandra McNulty**



Shanahan Hall provides boarding facilities for 130 boys between the ages of 12 and 19. Recently modernised dormitories provide facilities which house single and double bedrooms. Boarders can also avail of an in-house cinema and weights room. Regulated internet access is also available.

Girls from Ireland and abroad have attended Rockwell College as Boarders for almost thirty years. Girls are resident in the homes of local host families to the College. These families have a long-standing relationship with the management and staff of Rockwell College. Weekend facilities are arranged by the College for girls and boys at parents' requests.

## Home away from home:

### The School Day

8:40am:	Assembly for all pupils in designated Studies
8:50am:	Classes start (3 periods x 40 minutes)
10:50am:	Morning Break
11am:	Classes continues (3 periods x 40 minutes)
1pm:	Lunch served to all pupils
1:45pm:	Classes continue (3 periods x 40 minutes)
3:45pm:	Classes end
4:00pm:	Extra-curricular programme for all pupils
5pm:	Tea served
5:45pm:	Supervised Evening Study
8:15pm:	Evening Study finishes, day boarders leave for home.

*\*Wednesday class finishes at 1pm*





“Besides an exceptional academic learning environment, Rockwell College and especially its Boarding School offered me a phenomenal climate for my personal development.”

**Felician Wirxel, former boarder.**

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## Wellness

### *Guidance & Pastoral Support*

**Guidance & Counselling:** Deciding on the all important next step after secondary school can be overwhelming for many. In order to support students, Rockwell College has developed a Career Guidance programme which includes aptitude testing, interest identification and subject choice for our senior cycle.

Intensive career and job investigation takes place; career talks are given by professionals, many of whom are our alumni. The application systems for Irish and British third level institutions are comprehensively covered.

**Pastoral Team:** Our Chaplain forms part of a team working closely with the Year Deans and the Guidance Counsellor. The Pastoral team liaises with the teaching staff and Deans.

Counselling is always available to support students who may be under stress in the school environment or in their own personal lives.





## International Dimension

Rockwell College is very proud to welcome students from across the world who choose Rockwell College for their second-level education. Our pupils travel from the U.K., Germany, Mexico, Spain, France, UAE, Russia, U.S., Bahrain, Japan and Hong Kong.

This diversity and international dimension provides a unique environment for all pupils attending the College and is part of the College ethos of inclusivity. Students get the opportunity to make lifelong friends, achieve a greater understanding of different cultures, experiencing life from a global perspective and share memories of their school experience with students from across the world.



## **Co-educational Ethos**

Rockwell College is one of Ireland's leading co-educational secondary schools in Ireland and has always had a forward thinking approach to education, being the first of Ireland's Catholic boarding schools to introduce co-education in 1988.

Rockwell College offers a co-educational environment which contributes significantly to the social and personal development of the pupils, as well as giving families the benefit of a single location for their male and female children's education.

Co-education helps to prepare students for a diverse and inclusive world. As a result of our inclusive environment, students learn to collaborate with each other and develop mutual respect, empathy and understanding. Students achieve higher levels of social skills and increased self-esteem.

## **Academic Life**

Rockwell College attaches great importance to its reputation for high academic standards. In 2020, 38% of students achieved 500 points or more.

Close to 100% of students progress to third level education each year. Our class sizes combined with close personal attention ensures every student reaches the best of their abilities. Our teachers are passionate about providing students with the best education as they pave the way for their future career.

A positive environment is shared by both students and teachers which results in an ambitious outlook from students to achieve the best results they can.

There is regular contact between the school and parents on academic issues and any other issues that may arise. Year Deans are available to speak with parents at each week, and comprehensive Assessment Reports are issued to parents during the school year, in addition to the Christmas and Summer exam results.



## Academic Life: Leaving Certificate Results

YEAR	over 400 points	over 500 points
<b>2020</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>38%</b>
2019	73%	33.3%
2018	79%	32.2%
2017	66%	30.3%
2016	55%	27.5%
2015	64%	25.7%
2014	69%	29%
2013	60%	21.4%
2012	72.6%	26.4%





## Academic Life: Junior Cycle & Transition Year

In order to ensure that pupils have the benefit of a broad education, the Junior Cycle curriculum provides all our pupils with a range of subjects:

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Business
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Religion
- Wellbeing (*Incl. PE*)
- Modern Foreign Language (*French German/Spanish*)

We encourage students to sample each of our four practical subjects before choosing one for the Junior Cycle.

- ..... Visual Art
- ..... Music
- ..... Graphics
- ..... Home Economics





## Academic Life: Transition Year

Having completed Junior Cycle Programme, our students have the option of participating in Transition Year. This year places an emphasis on the student's growth in maturity and personal development, including social awareness and social competence. Our TY programme also includes the continued development of academic skills and self-directed learning in preparation for the Leaving Certificate cycle.

Pupils sample modules of all Leaving Certificate subjects during T.Y., thus enabling them to make a clear, informed choice of subjects for the important Leaving Certificate programme.

The pupils also take modules, including Public Speaking and Presentation Skills, Film-making, and Sports, on a rotation basis during the year.

Developing a social consciousness is a key part of developing rounded individuals and something we like to instil in everyone who is part of the Rockwell College community.

Both students and staff support a number of charities, most prominently the Hope Foundation, an Irish charity which works with street children in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India. Many of our students have travelled to India as part of this partnership.

All TY students also participate in a Work Experience Programme which is part of the DES guidelines for the Transition Year programme.



## Academic Life: Leaving Certificate Cycle

Senior cycle students at Rockwell College take seven subjects for the Leaving Certificate programme. As per Department of Education guidelines, English, Mathematics and Irish (Irish does not apply to international students) are compulsory. Pupils then select four additional subjects from Option Blocks.

- Accounting
- Agricultural Science
- L.C.V.P. - Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- Applied Maths
- Art
- Religious Studies
- Biology
- Business
- L.C.P.E
- Chemistry
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Geography
- Economics
- Physics
- History
- French
- Home Economics
- German
- Music
- Spanish

Option blocks vary annually in accordance with student preferences. Students select their subjects in April prior to entering 5th Year







## Academic Life: Supervised Study

Most pupils, both day and boarding avail of fully supervised study each evening. This structure enables pupils to focus on homework and study without distraction and develop positive, independent study habits. Facilities are provided as part of the Full Day Fee and are available Monday through to Saturday. *(A limited Saturday morning study is available to Third and Sixth year students exclusively)*

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

5.45 pm. – 8.15 pm

Wednesday:

3.30pm – 5.00pm, 5.45 pm. – 7.15 pm

Friday:

4.15 pm. – 5.30 pm., 6 pm. – 7.15 pm

(During State Examinations, pupils sitting their exams can avail of meals and study at no additional cost.)







## Sports & Facilities

Located on a lakeside campus of over 350 hectares, Rockwell College enjoys some of the finest extra-curricular facilities available to cater for our students' recreational and personal needs. Whether they enjoy sporting or cultural pursuits, on a team or individual basis, students in Rockwell College can develop lifelong interests outside of the classroom, which helps us develop well rounded and grounded young adults heading out into the world.

“A strong emphasis on the development of the whole person is evident in the (extra-curricular) programme offered, which provides experiences of a sporting, cultural, social & spiritual nature...the outstanding efforts of the staff in devoting their time and energy to the holistic development of the pupils can be roundly applauded”

**DES WSE Report**

**The following is an indication of what we have to offer:**

- A 25 Metre Indoor Heated Swimming Pool
- All-weather 5-a-side pitch
- All-weather Hockey pitch
- Fitness Suite
- A Gymnasium
- Basketball Courts.
- Weights Room
- 20 acres of Sports Pitches
- Three Tennis Courts.
- A lake, covering 23 acres on our grounds



### Our pupils participate and compete in:

- **Rugby** - The game has a history in the College dating back to 1896, coached at all grades to the highest standards. Competition takes place at Munster and Irish level. 'Friendlies' are played with other Irish and International rugby schools. Both schoolboy and senior Irish internationals have graduated from our school teams. Rugby is available for both boys and girls.
- **Basketball** - Competitions at several grades, including national level.
- **Swimming** - Recreational swimming, lessons, life-saving and inter schools competitions.
- **Hockey** - 'Friendlies', Munster Cup and League competitions at all levels.
- **Tennis** - Three tennis courts on site; participation in the inter schools competitions.
- **Hurling and Gaelic Football** - At senior and junior level for boys and girls, competing at county and Munster level
- **Soccer** - Available for boys at both junior and senior level, with competition at provincial level

Our students also compete in golf, equestrian and rowing competitions as a College team.

### Additional extra-curricular activities include:

- **Debating** - In-house at junior level, with seniors participating in the Munster Schools Competition
- **College Choir** - Participation in College events and national competitions
- **College Musicals**
- **Art Club**
- **Access to College Library**





## Alumni

### The Rockwell College Union

Founded in 1927, this organisation of Rockwell College past pupils has a very active network of more than 7,000 past students based all around the world and is one of Ireland's foremost Alumni networks.

Due to this strong connectivity, the Union has been valuable for past pupils starting their careers at home or abroad, giving them an established network that they can tap into from both professional and social levels.

The Union hosts multiple annual networking events and social gatherings, seeking to maintain and develop the association between the College and its diverse past-student body.

It encourages the building connectivity between present and past pupils, and provides valuable contacts across all aspects of professional life throughout the world.

Union members stay very collected with Rockwell and provide our current students with support in career guidance and employment placement, and they also support many of our College development projects.



Rockwell College Union



## Rockwell College

Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

T: +353 626 1444

E: [info@rockwellcollege.ie](mailto:info@rockwellcollege.ie)

[rockwellcollege.ie](http://rockwellcollege.ie)

### Location

Centrally located beside the M8 (main Dublin to Cork motorway), 6km south of Cashel, Rockwell College is situated on a large lakeside estate of approximately 350 hectares.

It is part of the Golden Vale, an area, recognised internationally for its rich farmland and a major centre of the dairy industry.

The College looks out on the impressive vista of the iconic Galtee and Knockmealdown Mountain ranges.

- **Cork City:** 1 hour
- **Dublin:** 1.5 hours (Red Cow Roundabout)
- **Galway:** 2.5 hours
- **Waterford City:** 1 hour







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