

Bandon Grammar School
Information for Prospective International Students



General Information

Description of School:	Bandon Grammar School is a fee-paying, co-educational, secondary school recognised by the Irish Department of Education and Science (DES).
Location:	Clancool More, Bandon, Co. Cork
Number of Students:	Boys: 362 Girls: 299 (2015/16)
Principal:	Mr. Ian Coombes
Telephone:	+353 2388 41713
Fax:	+353 2388 44404
Website:	www.bandongrammar.ie
Email:	info@bandongrammar.ie
Average Class Size:	30

School History

The school is enriched and guided by traditions derived from almost four centuries of service in education stretching back to the mid seventeenth century. The prosperous, growing new town of Bandonbridge needed a classical school and the First Earl of Cork, Richard Boyle, proprietor of the town, took responsibility for providing a Free School for boys. Boyle chose a site south of the town wall in Coolfadda (now St.Patrick's Street) and began erecting the building in 1636 but the founding document providing for an endowment is his will dated December 1642 . The first pupil in the 1650's we know of was Sir Richard Cox, later entrepreneur, lawyer, soldier, Chief of Justice and Lord Chancellor of Ireland (1703-07). The first recorded master is William Scroggs in the 1650's.

Today Bandon Grammar School has some 640 pupils (120 of whom are boarders) recreation and development in quiet surroundings, ideal for young people to have the tranquility and stimulation for intellectual, physical, moral and spiritual growth. Pupils from all over the world, from diverse backgrounds, cultures, faiths and races work together in harmony to achieve the very highest standards.



BOARDING

Roundhill House

The boys boarding area is run by Housemaster, Mr. Bartley. Roundhill is currently home to 63 boys who opt for 5 day or 7 day boarding. The house is divided into a junior section which houses forms 1-3 and a senior section which houses forms 4-6. Each section has a number of individual rooms which accommodates 3,4,5 students depending on size. Each dormitory has a single bed, bedside locker, drawers and lockers for each student. The house also has a student kitchen which has tea/coffee making facilities, a microwave oven, a sandwich maker & TV/DVD with full Sky package. There are also washing machines, tumble dryers and a drying room for boarders along with a large shower area with individual private cubicles. We pride ourselves on creating a safe, warm, homely atmosphere in the boarding house and this is reflected by the demand in boarding numbers each year.

Richmount House

There are 60 girls boarding places available each year in Richmount House. Form 1 and 2 students have their dorms in the north wing while students in Forms 3- 6 are in the south wing with Form 5 & 6 in smaller 4 bed dorms. Both wings have their own TV room with kitchenette and dining space and in the senior wing there are laundry facilities which include washing machines, tumble dryers and a large drying area.

Ciaran Harte (Housemistress) looks after the boarder girls and many female members of staff are involved in staying on site for night duty once a week. There is also a matron on duty each night in case of any emergencies. The two Form 6 boarder girl prefects for 14-15 are Belinda Stout and Saoirse O Leary.

Each term the boarder girls have an event to look forward to such as carol singing, DVD night or Katie's Chocolate evening. The Boarders Christmas dinner in December and the Annual Boarder BBQ in May are highlights of the year for both the boarder boys and girls and some photos of these can be seen below.

A typical day as a boarder in BGS

8.15am	Breakfast
9.00- 4.00pm	Class
4.15- 5.30	Extra curricular (Hockey, basketball, Art club, Yoga etc)
5.45	Tea
6.30- 7.45	First Prep (Supervised Study)
8.00- 9.00	Second Prep
9.00- 9.45	Third Prep for Form 5 & 6
9.45-10.00	Lights out for Forms 1,2, 3 & 4
10.30/10.45	Lights out for Form 5/Form 6

For 5 day boarders:

All 5 day boarders must be signed out by a Parent/Guardian when leaving for the weekend.

Each five day boarder is allowed stay in school for up to three weekends over the academic year. If a student wishes to stay in for the weekend or on a Friday night, an email is required from parents to let the housemistress/housemaster know **before Friday 9.00am.**

Please send all emails to boarding@bgsmail.ie

On a Sunday evening the school asks boarders return back no later than 9.00pm. While we understand that in some cases students may need to return earlier than that we would ask that they do so **no earlier than 6.45pm.** Boys are asked to go straight to Roundhill where there will be a teacher on duty and girls can return to Richmond House where the evening staff and matron will be present. **If a student returns between 6.45 and 9.00pm they must immediately sign in to the staff member on duty in each boarding house.**

Facilities



- Sports Complex
- PE
- Basketball
- Indoor Soccer
- Badminton
- Fully Equipped Gym

Curriculum

Junior Cycle Subject Choice

Core Subjects

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- C.S.P.E.
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- S.P.H.E.

Choice Subjects

- French
- Spanish
- Business studies
- Home economics
- German
- Technical graphics
- Business
- Materials technology
- Music
- Art

Transition Year

This is an innovative, exciting curriculum helping the pupils develop from junior cycle, where they have little choice in what they study or how they learn, to becoming self-directed learners taking more personal responsibility in all aspects of life. It is a holistic programme offering opportunities to

- Deepen knowledge and understanding of core subjects
- Sample all the senior cycle subject options
- Take on new challenges in ICT, projects, drama, debating, music, sport, leadership etc
- Enter for the challenges of the President's Award Scheme – Gaisce
- Undertake personal development and build confidence in the peer group – Cappanalea Outdoor Pursuits and the Skiing Tour
- Learn to plan and manage events – begin to take on leadership roles
- Develop a Young Scientist project, Business project, Green Schools Environmental project etc
- Learn lifeskills from the Driver Theory test to First Aid, charity work to understanding politics • Engage with speakers on numerous topics
- Take on two work experience placements
- Build up a great team spirit with classmates to sustain on through senior cycle

The TY programme involves study of the following subjects and modules: Core Subjects Mathematics English Irish (International students take 'English' as a foreign language course at that time) Science (Modules of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science) History / Geography Computer Studies (ECDL – 7 module examination course for certification) Physical Education Optional Subjects French / Spanish German or Business / Economics / Accounting Music / Construction Studies Modules of Study Chinese / Human Rights / First Aid / Environmental Studies / Safety Debating / Drama / Woodwork Projects Music / DCG / Art / German / Applied Mathematics/ Business

All students have short courses in Career Guidance, Social & Health Education and Religious Education Work Experience Pupils and parents are asked to obtain a work placement for one week in the Autumn. Either (1) 26th – 30th September 2016 or (2) 3rd – 7th October 2016 Spring Work Experience: 3rd – 7th April Students are encouraged to take work experience during school holidays and breaks but NOT during normal term time. There is a compulsory terminal examination and project assessment during the course. Projects During the year students will be invited to take part in several major project work initiatives. They include Young Scientist Competition, Business competitions, Art competitions, Junk Kouture, Gaisce, Charity Fundraising etc. Please encourage your son / daughter to take part. An exhibition of work and presentation of the many projects and initiatives undertaken will be held in the final term.

Senior Cycle

- Exam Core Subjects: English, Irish, Mathematics
- Non Exam Core Subjects: Religious Education, Physical Education, Careers Guidance & Computer Studies.

Choice Subjects

- Spanish
- French
- LCVP
- Geography
- History
- Design and Communications Graphics
- Applied Maths
- Biology
- Physics
- Home economics
- Music
- Ag Science
- Geography
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- German
- Art
- Business
- Accounting

Co-Curricular Activities



- 2 Full Size Rugby Pitches
- Additional Training Area
- Excellent Facilities
- Boys of all ages and abilities catered for



- Floodlit Mini Astro Pitch
- Three Tennis Courts
- Soccer
- PE
- Hockey Training



- McCutcheon Hall
- Assemblies
- Drama Productions
- Talent Night