

CISTERCIAN COLLEGE

**Information for
prospective
International students**



General Information

Description of School:	Cistercian College, Roscrea or Roscrea College is a private boarding school in Ireland. It is a Roman Catholic seven-day boarding school for boys and was founded in 1905.
Location:	Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.
Number of Students:	182 (2015/16)
Principal:	Mr Brendan Feehan
Telephone:	+ 353 505 23344
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Website:	www.ccr.ie
Email:	info@ccr.ie
Average Class Size:	24

School History

Located within the grounds of Mount St. Joseph Abbey in County Offaly, Ireland, the school is managed by monks of the Trappist branch of the Cistercians. It is situated in the beautiful grounds of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey, 2.5 miles west of Roscrea town. Surrounded by open wooded countryside and thirty acres of grounds and sports fields it also adjoins the Abbey farm of 360 hectares. The original property and lands are Mount Heaton House (now the guesthouse) and Demesne in the towns land of Ballyskenagh which is in the territory of Ely O'Carroll in the Kings County, now County Offaly. The House, School, Abbey, Farm and playing fields are just across the county border from Tipperary in County Offaly and so the school plays its sport in Leinster competitions.

The school was founded by the Cistercian monks in 1905 as a monastic boarding school for boys and has educated students from all over Ireland and Overseas. CCR is one of two monastic schools in Ireland and in 1990 a Board of Governors was appointed by the Abbot to govern the administration of the college.

Notable former students include Brian Cowen – Former Prime minister of Ireland, Dick Spring, former Tánaiste and the international rugby players, Jim Glennon and Gavin Duffy.

The college also celebrated its centenary year from September 2005 until September 2006, giving rise to many events, visits and talks from famous past students and their friends. The speakers included; President of Ireland Mary McAleese, Dick Spring, Brian Cowen, Mary Hanafin and Charlie McCreevy.

Curriculum

Junior Cycle Subjects 1st Year

Subjects are studied at higher level for the Junior Cert with the exception of Maths and Irish, where students have the option to study them at ordinary level.

- Mathematics
- History
- Business Studies
- Religion
- Art (optional)
- English
- Geography
- French
- CSPE
- Chinese
- Irish
- Science
- German
- Music

2nd and 3rd Years

In 2nd year, students have the option to continue studying French and German or just to study French. The students who choose not to study German will study Art during the allocated timetable periods and those who study both French and German, have the option to study Art during the evening timetable.

Technical Graphics is offered to all students as an optional subject in 2nd and 3rd year. 3rd year students may choose not to continue with music as an examinable subject for the Junior Cert.

Transition Year

Cistercian College Roscrea has been educating boys in the heart of Ireland for over one hundred years. Since 1994 the College has offered the Transition Year Programme as a bridge between the junior and senior cycles. The programme has been evolving over the last two decades, reflecting the changing approaches to education and the developments in the school curriculum, as well as the massive advances within the scientific and technological worlds.

Now in the 20th year of this programme, the College has added extra dimensions, enhancing this unique experience as an invaluable preparation for the Leaving Certificate programme and entry to third level education. As a 7-day boarding school Cistercian College offers students the opportunity to live where they learn. Located in the extensive grounds of Mount St Joseph Abbey, the College is a secure environment, the facilities of which are enhanced by the adjoining dairy farm and woodlands. These factors together with the monastic influence of Mount St Joseph Abbey and a dedicated and committed staff are what make Cistercian College unique. Cistercian College has a proud tradition of offering a rounded and holistic education. Their educational philosophy is modelled on St Benedict's advice that in a monastery everything should be organised so that 'the strong have something to strive for and the weak are not discouraged'. There is a focus on developing the individual and unique talents of each student, and on providing a broad and balanced timetable and curriculum.

Transition Year Continued...

The Transition Year Programme at Cistercian College is intended to prepare students for senior cycle and also to provide educational experiences to enhance their personal development and decision making. Research carried out by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment [NCCA] clearly indicates that in the Leaving Certificate examination students who followed a Transition Year course outperformed those who did not.

Transition Year is the ideal time for students to begin to think about what future career path they will choose after school. As part of the academic programme, students attend two career guidance class periods per week, where the initial focus is on C.V. preparation, completion of application forms for University and for the workplace. Students are also encouraged to take part in the various University taster programmes which are on offer in Trinity College, UCD and the RCSL. During the year the students explore different career options through the medium of a programme of career information evenings where guest speakers deliver career seminars, complete with question and answer sessions. An important aspect of the Transition Year career guidance programme is to facilitate subject choice for the Leaving Certificate. The afternoons, evenings and weekends are filled with a variety of activities that complement the classroom based curriculum including:

- Cookery
- film making
- driving lessons
- ECDEL and mini-company
- Chinese Language and Culture
- Live action film making
- Photography Workshop
- Writing Workshop
- Art Workshop
- Certificated Courses n ECDEL, Sage Accounts and First Aid (Fetac Level 5)

5th and 6th Years

Students study the core subjects:

- Mathematics
- English
- Irish
- French or German

Three other subjects are chosen from the following subjects, which are arranged in bands

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| • Physics | • Chemistry | • Biology |
| • Agricultural Science | • Geography | • History |
| • Business | • Accounting | • Economics |
| • Art | • Design and Communication
Graphics | • Music |
| • Spanish | • Agricultural Economics | |

Students may study more than seven subjects for the Leaving Cert, and this is facilitated by offering subjects during the evening timetable. Three additional subjects can be taken by students but are not examined in the Leaving Cert.

Co- Curricular Activities

Music, drama and debating have always played important roles in education at Cistercian College Roscrea. Students are actively encouraged to get involved in the arts including:

- Choir
- Traditional Irish Music Sessions
- Folk Choir
- Musicals
- Plays
- College Orchestra

The college offers tuition in a total of 22 instruments should a student wish to avail of this outside of class time. Students are also encouraged to participate in the College Choir and orchestra.

A public speaking module is taken by all students in first, second and third year. Students compete for the annual Silver and Gold medal public speaking competitions. Students debate at regional and national level in German and Gaeilge and are also encouraged to present for external academy examinations. Debating societies in each year provide opportunities for public oratory, building self-confidence and promoting team work amongst students.

Sport

Rugby

The Colleges' schools' rugby academy is one of the most successful in Ireland and has strong representation at international schoolboy level and on the Leinster and Connacht underage teams, year on year.



Each year Cistercian College fields ten rugby teams including four in Senior House (TY, 5th & 6th years). The Senior Cup Team has been rated among the top five in the country for the last three seasons. Cistercian College also run a senior seconds (SIIXV) and senior third (SIIXV) team every year, as well as a Transition Year rugby competition. The Junior House programme runs six teams, focusing mainly on developing the core skills essential for a successful transition to SCT rugby. Each year there are two junior teams along with two 2nd year and two 1st year teams. All teams have dedicated coaches and play a minimum of 20 matches per season.

Hurling

Hurling in Cistercian College Roscrea is based on the principle of self-improvement. The school has competed in several Leinster Finals since. 7 teams are run in the College from 1st year to senior.



It is the ambition of the College to get back into the top tier of Leinster Hurling and capture a first All-Ireland 'A' Colleges title. The new hurling timetable in CCR will consist of 4 sessions a week. 3 hurling skills sessions are held, including one match, and one supervised conditioning session. The college has access to top of the range video analysis to develop the team and individual. Hurling alley tournaments are also run along with indoor hurling sessions.

