



Griffeen Community College

Coláiste Pobail Griffeen



Opening in Lucan,
Co. Dublin, September 2017



Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Education and Training Board



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Education and Training Board

www.dl.etb.ie

Welcome to Griffeen Community College

OUR MISSION

Defines the purpose of our school

To support life long learners in achieving their potential by minimising barriers to learning and maximising learning opportunities for all students.

OUR VISION

What we want GCC to be

A student centred school where students will learn with pride, progress with confidence and achieve with human purpose.

OUR VALUES

Serve as a compass for our direction

At GCC we will be guided by

- ✓ Wisdom
- ✓ Inclusion
- ✓ Dignity

OUR LEARNER PROFILE

We aim to develop students with

- ✓ Thinking skills
- ✓ Digital Learners
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Creativity & Innovation
- ✓ Self awareness

Welcoming Inclusive Co-educational Innovative Multi-belief

Introduction & Ethos

Griffeen Community College (CC) is a brand new co-educational post-primary school located in Lucan, Co. Dublin. It will welcome its first cohort of students in August 2017.

It will be a school of excellence and opportunity, using modern and innovative approaches for an inclusive teaching and learning environment. It will provide an array of educational experiences and development opportunities for students built on the principles of universal design. The goal of the universal design for learning (UDL) is to use a variety of teaching methods and remove possible barriers to learning and give all students equal opportunities to succeed.

The college will operate under the patronage of Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB), in partnership with Scoil Síneád Ltd., a new partner for post primary education in Ireland.

Scoil Síneád's mission is to provide second-level education that facilitates every child to achieve their true potential regardless of individual challenges, thereby providing hope and support for parents and guardians of children with and without special needs.

Griffeen CC will be the first school in Ireland run under this exciting new partnership model. Combining the experience and knowledge of DDLETB and the unique vision of inclusive education endorsed by Scoil Síneád, we will provide a positive, inclusive environment in which all students can learn and grow.

Educational programmes can now be individualised to the learning needs of individual students in a way that was never previously possible and this has both enormous positive effects for the student and a subsequent positive effect on the teaching environment within the school community. We aim to respond to the individual educational needs of students and we do so in an inclusive and supportive way. We propose communal learning spaces that accommodate all learners to work in smaller, less-crowded environments while still participating in everyday school life.

Positive discipline will be valued and involvement in academic and non-academic aspects of school life will be encouraged. Inclusion of all will be the cornerstone of what we do. We will place great emphasis on creating a learning environment that is friendly, welcoming, caring and conducive to learning.

The spirit of the college will be based on respect, tolerance, understanding and appreciation for the diversity of our changing world. The Board of Management will oversee the development of a caring and inclusive community where wisdom, inclusion and dignity will be core values of our school. Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect will be central to what we do.

Mission Statement

Griffeen CC will promote the development of the whole person. Its aim will be to create, with the assistance of parents, responsible citizens equipped with skills for life in the 21st century. We will ensure that every student is given the opportunity to succeed by creating challenging learning environments and by encouraging the development and awareness of the students individual learning styles. Place based education will help ground students as active participants in their communities. The characteristic spirit of the college is based on respect, tolerance and understanding while appreciating the diversity of our changing world.

Facilities

Griffeen CC will be located in temporary accommodation on the 3rd floor of Kishoge Community College for two years until its new 100 pupil capacity building is delivered in 2019 under the Department of Education and Skills (DES) 'rapid build' programme.

Griffeen CC will integrate tablet technology into the curriculum and all students will use iPads, allowing the most up-to-date technologies to facilitate teaching and learning.

It will be a state-of-the-art school designed to the very latest DES specifications. It will have larger classrooms and a full suite of specialist rooms. Flexible learning spaces; bright, well-equipped classrooms; specialist rooms for practical subjects; science labs; and social spaces for students will be carefully planned so that the building is designed for optimal learning.

Curriculum

The opening of the college coincides with the implementation of many initiatives, including reforms to the Junior Cycle. Griffeen CC will implement these from day one, putting the school at the forefront of curricular design, innovation and implementation.

The school will promote an integrated curriculum, the development of all key skills such as learning to learn, and the use of a range of research-based assessment approaches that will not only measure the progress of each student but will also support the learning process. We will focus on developing the skills needed for life beyond the classroom and on nurturing wellbeing.

The curriculum available in Griffeen CC will be based on the syllabi of the Department of Education and Skills. The core subjects are English, Irish, Maths, foreign language, History, Geography, Religion, Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and PE. Options in the early years will be determined by the range of teaching subjects among staff, and by student demand. Subjects may include: Art, Technology, Home Economics, Music, Materials Technology Wood, Technical Graphics, Science, Business Studies, and Computers. As the student cohort expands, the college will opt to provide the full range of DES programmes at senior cycle.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning are the core business of what schools do and, at Griffeen CC, there will be a continual focus on the improvement of teaching and learning practices in a positive and caring environment. In keeping with the best national and international practice, it will be school policy to encourage the use of various active pedagogic strategies that further the quality of education alongside the development of ICT Skills. The staff at Griffeen CC are committed to establishing it as a recognised centre of excellence and innovation.

Staff and Student Supports

DDLETB and Scoil Síneád will work closely with the teaching staff at Griffeen CC to ensure quality personal and professional development. Griffeen CC will provide a comprehensive range of student supports that will help students to reach their full social and academic potential, including: Pastoral Care, Leadership Development, Student Council, Learning Support, Behaviour Management and Counselling. We will strive to ensure all students are safe and happy, with an emphasis on wellbeing and mindfulness.

Assessment in Griffeen Community College

Parents / guardians and learners will receive regular updates on progress and achievements via parent-teacher meetings and school reports. Learners will be assessed on a continuous basis, not just on subject knowledge but on skills development. This formative assessment is in line with the new Junior Cycle and encourages learning and skills acquisition.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The students of Griffeen CC will enjoy a growing range of extracurricular and co-curricular activities that will enrich the educational experience, support student personal growth and foster positive relationships. There will be particular emphasis on music and sporting activities.

The school will provide many other development opportunities as part of the Other Learning Experience (OLE) aspect of the new Junior Cycle. Such activities may include guest speakers, collaborative learning projects, fundraising, student leadership development programmes, etc.

Role of Parents / Guardians

Griffeen CC will adopt a partnership approach with parents and guardians, who are recognised as the primary educators of their children. Parents and guardians will be encouraged to take an active role in their child's education throughout their time at the school. An active, democratically-elected Parents' Council will be established early in the life of the school. Our college will welcome parents into the educational experience of their children.



Enrolment 2017/2018

Griffeen CC will cater for students living in the Lucan area in a fully inclusive manner. The school will be multi-belief, co-educational and learner-centred, welcoming students of all social, cultural, belief and non-belief backgrounds.

You can enrol your child in Griffeen Community College for September 2017 (1st Year only).

1) Complete the application form included in this pack or request an enrolment pack from info@griffeencc.ie.

2) Return application form before **17th May 2017** at 4pm to:

Rachel McGrath
Principal
Griffeen Community College
c/o Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB
1 Tuansgate
Belgard Square East
Tallaght
Dublin 24

We are also taking applications for 1st Year 2018; information, admissions policy and application forms available by request from info@griffeencc.ie

Management

At Griffeen CC, the management process will be open and inclusive. The Board of Management will have responsibility for the good governance of the school. The Board will consist of nominees from DDLETB, Scoil Síneád, parents / guardians, school staff and the local community. The day-to-day management of the school will be the responsibility of the Principal and her team.

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

DDLETB Community Colleges form an essential part of life and living throughout their local communities. Our educational ethos is one of total inclusion and mutual respect in the formation of life skills that enable young people to meet their full potential in society.

We have a heritage of expertise and experience in community-based education, spanning some 80 years of service throughout County Dublin. Our schools have evolved constantly to offer an educational experience that is reflective of modern-day needs and changes in society.

Our teachers are skilled in the delivery of an all-round education that meets the personal and career development needs of young people. As student-centred secondary schools, our community colleges believe in partnership, accountability, transparency, inclusion and respect for diversity, parental choice and equality.

Community Colleges empower students, teachers and parents collectively to achieve educational progress in a positive and encouraging atmosphere. This extends into the built environment where new schools are designed to contribute to the overall achievement of a high-quality educational experience.

