

Principal's Opening speech to students and parents from local primary schools Open Night 2025 Tuesday 16th September

You are all very welcome to Open Night 2025. It is great to be here in our school cafeteria talking to such a large crowd here this evening. You are all representing our local feeder schools and some of you have come to us from a further distance and you are all very welcome. We are very proud of all our students and tonight you will get the opportunity to meet and listen to lots of our students.

You have just heard music from our talented students and isn't a great sight to see students playing music and enjoying themselves with their teachers. A big thanks there to Ciara, Brooke, Callum, Sam, Clara, Mr. Casey, Mr. Hurley and Ms Carne. Thank you all.

I am going to start from the end with the Leaving Certificate class of 2025. Just to give you a sense of where they progress to after their Leaving Certificate. This year 1 in 5 of our Leaving Certificate class are taking up places in UCC, a further 13% of our class are starting in the Munster Technological University (MTU), and another 45% are starting Further Education courses with Cork ETB and finally 9% have been offered apprenticeships with another 15% going directly into the world of work. We are very proud of these young adults and we wish them every success in their exiting futures.

As I said, you are going to hear a lot from our students and what they say about their school:

Maedbh Heaphy in second year tells us that:

"all the staff in Mayfield Community School have been so friendly and welcoming. There are so many subjects to choose from in First Year..."

Daniel Meade in TY tells us that

"I enjoy the many clubs in our schools. The teachers run many great clubs like Chess and the History Club..."

Amayah Sreenan in sixth year tells us that:

"I think this school is great because it supported me to achieve really high results in my Junior Certificate exams..."

Dean Quinn in TY tell us that:

“I love the school’s fantastic facilities, like the astro, sports hall and gym. Being able to use them for football and competing against other teams is always a great experience..”

Adrian Kusnierz in Leaving Certificate shares that:

“The staff at Mayfield Community School are the very best at what they do. In my five years of secondary school, I’ve never had any complaints about the school. I would give Mayfield Community School a 10/10 score.”

Again in an independent survey from students carried out by inspectors from the Department of Education, we heard that:

96% of our students believe that teachers encourage me to do the best I can

95% of our students believe that in our school, there are clear rules against hurting people by what we say or do.

We have very clear guidelines and high expectations when it comes to preventing and addressing any bullying behaviours in our school

92% say that they are proud to be in our school

In the same independent survey:

100% of our parents asserted that they feel welcome in our school

We will offer you a progressive, student centered curriculum in our school. Teaching and learning in our excellent facilities, we can offer you a broad range of subjects including up to 15 subjects at Leaving Certificate level.

What our students like about our school as well is that they get the opportunity to do a taster programme of all our option subjects when they join us in First Year. Our First Year’s experience classes in Music, Art, Graphics, Engineering, Wood Technology, Home Economics and Business up until Mid Term and then they pick their two favourite subjects they would like to learn more about for Junior Certificate.

We are delighted to share with you that we have just received over €600,000 from the Department in funding to upgrade our school furniture and equipment.

All our classroom chairs and tables were replaced in May of this year and in the last few days, we received half a million euro from the Department to upgrade our equipment in Construction, Engineering, Graphics, Art, Home Economics, PE, Music and Graphics.

We expect a large delivery of brand new work benches and chairs in our Construction Rooms and brand new easel desks and chairs in our Art room in the coming days.

Exciting times ahead for our school.

We are also delighted to share with you that we have a restaurant in our school staffed by two full time caterers. Our students come into school every day knowing that they have the option to eat healthy hot food available in our cafeteria. Every day our cafeteria is filled with the sounds of students eating together and talking to each other as they sit in comfort with each other. There is no cost for this to you and you can know that they always have access to good food. If your child has any dietary requirements, please let us know and we will arrange the right food for them.

We will mind your children in our school. We will treat our pupils in the same way that we would like our own children to be treated. Meas Ar Gach Chraobh Respect for All is our motto and that credo guides all of us every day in our school. I can promise you if you asked any of our pupils in our school the question:

What is the most important word in our school?

Their immediate answer would be respect.

So what happens next?

Please complete the application forms available in your pack and return them by Friday 24th October.

Once we receive your forms, places will be offered in October and then we will meet all of our incoming First Years for 2026 in January.

We will also meet with you and your son / daughter in one on one interviews from February to May. These interviews will give us the opportunity to get to know your child and give you both the chance to ask any questions you may have.

Enjoy your visit to our school.