

Le Chéile Secondary School

lecheileads.com



Today

Since opening in 2014 Le Chéile Secondary School has embraced the potential of technology to develop an innovative and creative learning environment. As a learning community we have created a symbiosis between technology, curriculum development and our learning spaces to redefine and transform the learning experience for our students. The use of Apple technology has enhanced our ability to authentically connect all students to their learning, ensuring that the needs and learning styles of all are catered for whilst also promoting critical thinking and allowing our students to take ownership of their own learning. We have aligned our vision for technology and learning, our Digital Learning Plan and our School Improvement Plan, along with a dedicated cycle of review. This has enabled teachers to actively engage in personalised or small-group activities that extend and support our vision for learning, exploring new ways with which to empower students to have agency in their own learning, acting independently and making their own choices.

As the school transitions from a developing phase to an established phase we strive to ensure that the vision of our founding principal, Dr. Áine Moran and now championed by the Board of Management, Management team, teachers and the wider school community continues to flourish.

Vision

Technology is at the heart of the school's vision for teaching and learning and the clear rationale identified for embedding of digital technology across all aspects of school life in the developing phase of our school journey remains our driving force. This vision to create an inclusive and personalised education for all our students is inspired by three key principles - **Flexibility and Choice, Learning to Learn, Creativity and Innovation.**

In articulating this vision we have created a learning experience for our students which allows for a personalised approach to their learning, the opportunity for them to be creators of content and not just consumers and develops them as resilient and independent learners ready to face the challenges of an ever changing 21st century society.

School leadership ensures that there is an environment which nurtures leadership at all levels, promotes a culture of reflective practice and an openness to new learning and risk taking. Change, innovation, new ideas and new practices are embraced and supported.

Demographic

- A Catholic Secondary School
- Inclusive of students from all cultures and backgrounds
- The 'school with no books', teacher created content
- 855 students and 80 staff members

Students

- 1-1 iPad
- Suite of Apps

Teachers

- 1:1 iPad
- 1:1 MacBook
- Apple Classroom
- Digital Creation Suite

Learning Environment

- Apple TV in all classrooms
- Learning Spaces which reflect the learning process and leverage Apple technology to untether both students and teachers from the confines of the classroom as the only learning space.



Learning

A personalised approach to learning, with a strong focus on innovation, critical thinking, *collaboration and creativity* is at the heart of our pedagogical approach. The implementation of flipped learning as a methodology has enabled a truly personalised and differentiated approach to their learning. Resources are created that align with the curriculum and that are appropriate for the students' abilities and learning styles. Through the flipped approach there is opportunity to stretch and challenge students as well as create resources that are more heavily scaffolded and guide student learning.

This focus on *personalised learning* is articulated most deeply in our TY 'It's Your Choice' module where English, Irish & Maths lessons are timetabled concurrently, and students can choose which lesson to attend each day. Students work at their own pace and complete their assessments when they feel confident to do so. This innovative as well as personalised curricular model has empowered students to determine how they want to learn and how they demonstrate their learning. Building on the success of TY we have introduced a cross-curricular Blue Sky 'maker space' module where students engage in STEM related projects and are taught in 'vertical' groups. Technology has been invaluable in supporting these curricular initiatives. Through these we are supporting enquiry based learning, enabling students to work on solving real-world problems by engaging in collaborative project-based learning activities that go beyond the classroom. Our Apple ecosystem has allowed us to exploit the potential of students as resources to each other and we encourage students to work with and learn from their peers. Teachers' approach to instructional design reflects this emphasis on collaborative learning and apps such as iMovie, Explain Everything and Book Creator are used widely across the curriculum.

Success

At Le Chéile we recognise the importance, in terms of school improvement, of ongoing reflection, review and development. We draw on a range of both quantitative and qualitative data to measure success and to signpost our next steps for improvement. We use a range of data collection methods, both formal and informal.

Our students have showcased the power of technology in developing collaborative practice, critical thinking skills and in giving life to creative ideas through successes in Reel Life Science, Young Scientist, the *EPA Story of Your Stuff* competition and the Fresh Film Competition. Most recently through a 'showcase' classroom our students and teachers have shared their everyday experiences of teaching and learning with technology to a wider audience.

For our two cohorts of graduating students, progression to third level has been strong. Feedback from our past pupils indicate a preparedness for the demands of college in terms of self directed learning which they attribute to the personalised and independent approach to learning which was nurtured throughout their time in school.

- [Benefits of the iPad- What our Students say!](#)
- [Technology Powered Learning](#)
- [Learning Spaces in Le Chéile](#)
- [Staying Connected](#)
- [Reflection, Achievements & Sharing our Story](#)

Next Steps

Moving forward we strive to remain faithful to our vision and continue to be a place of learning where technology allows our students and teachers to flourish. We will build on our *achievements to date* with a focus on teacher CPD and increased access for all.

- Exploiting the full functionality of the iPad has been transformative for many of our SEN students in accessing the curriculum, engaging with the learning, organising their resources and showcasing what they have learnt through various methods including speech to text. Moving forward we will leverage technology, including the functionality of the iPad to deepen access, integration and engagement of our students in the Claddagh Class. (Autism Special Class)
- We plan to include the Apple Teacher portfolio as an element of our new teacher induction programme. We believe that this self-paced professional learning will give our teachers the confidence to be creative in their instructional design, and will align with our culture of collegiality and the nurturing of reflective practice.