



**Gonzaga College SJ**

**PARENTS' HANDBOOK**

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Here is some information prepared by the Parents' Association Council which aims to highlight the detailed information that is available on the schools' websites – <https://www.gonzaga.ie> and <https://www.gonzaga.ie/transition-year>.

## COMMUNICATION

The school uses various ways to facilitate communication between the students, the parents and the school, for example:

**Compass Platform app** – Parents will be provided with username and password details when their sons start at the school. Each student has their own profile on the app and the school uses the app to issue updates regularly about general information to all parents and students. School reports, attendance notes, approved absences and late notices may also be issued using this app.

**School Journal** - Each student is provided with a school journal each year which is used to record homework and by teachers to enter notes about the students. Parents are required to sign the school journal each week and to sign any notes issued by a teacher.

**Parent Teacher meetings** - These are held by year groups and the dates are set out in the school calendar each year - <https://www.gonzaga.ie/calendar>.

**Student Council** – Elections to the student council are held every September with representation from each year group. The role of the council is to promote the interests of the school and the involvement of students with the co-operation of the board, parents and teachers. For more information please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/opportunities-for-leadership>.

**Parents' Council Association** – An elected council of parents meets monthly with two representatives from each year in the school along with two representatives of the Board of Management. Election to the Council is carried out at the AGM which is held typically in September. Each member is elected for a two year term. Information about upcoming talks is circulated on Compass and queries may sent to the parents' council association at this email address [parentscouncil@gonzaga.ie](mailto:parentscouncil@gonzaga.ie). For more information about the Parents Council Association, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/parents-association>.

**Parents' Fora** – Each year has a parents' forum which is responsible for arranging social events for the parents such as coffee mornings and quiz evenings etc. Information about upcoming events will be emailed to parents. For more information about the Parents' Fora please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/parents-association>.

**Green and White Dinner** – In March every year, the Gonzaga Union runs an annual charity "green and white" dinner for all parents in the school. Information about tickets for this event will be emailed to parents.

## JUNIOR CYCLE

The first three years prepare the boys for the Junior Cycle examinations. For more information about the junior cycle, please see <https://www.gonzaga.ie/junior-cycle>. For updates on all recent trips, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/copy-of-events>.

Below are some of the events and trips that take place during the junior cycle.

1 <sup>st</sup> YEAR	2 <sup>nd</sup> YEAR	3 <sup>rd</sup> YEAR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choir</li> <li>• French exchange</li> <li>• MS Readathon</li> <li>• Play</li> <li>• Ski trip</li> <li>• Trip to Blessington</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choir</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year trip to Germany</li> <li>• History trip to Wexford</li> <li>• MS Readathon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choir</li> <li>• CSPE trip to Dublin zoo</li> <li>• MS Readathon</li> </ul>

## TRANSITION YEAR

The school runs a full Transition Year Programme the details of which are shared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> year parents at an evening meeting hosted by the TY co-ordinator. Early planning of your son's TY experience is highly recommended. For more information about transition year, please go to the specific website <https://www.gonzaga.ie/transition-year>. For updates on language exchanges, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/student-exchange>.

Below are some of the events and trips that take place during TY.

4 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandra College TY Musical</li> <li>• An Gaisce – The President's awards</li> <li>• Aptitude tests</li> <li>• F1 in schools</li> <li>• Festive Fling</li> <li>• Geography trip to Iceland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green schools</li> <li>• Language exchanges</li> <li>• PMV Trust sleep out</li> <li>• School bank</li> <li>• Social outreach</li> <li>• St Vincent de Paul Committee</li> </ul>

## SENIOR CYCLE

For more information on what happens during the senior cycle, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/senior-cycle>. For photographs of the Graduation day, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/graduation>.

Below are some of the events and trips that take place during the senior cycle.

<b>5<sup>th</sup> YEAR</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied Maths quiz</li> <li>• Art History trip to Florence</li> <li>• Biology field trip</li> <li>• Coulson Boston scholarship</li> <li>• Habitat for Humanity trip</li> <li>• History trip to Poland and Germany</li> <li>• IAMTA Applied Maths quiz</li> <li>• “Ides of March” Classics quiz</li> <li>• Maths Olympiad and IMTA Maths quiz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock interviews</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> year musical</li> <li>• Peter McVerry Trust “welcome home” cycle Dublin to Wexford (over 16)</li> <li>• Social Outreach</li> <li>• Supervised Evening study</li> </ul>

<b>6<sup>th</sup> YEAR</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art History trip to Florence</li> <li>• Bevan cup</li> <li>• Brian Ensor trophy</li> <li>• Captains’ cup</li> <li>• Castiglione medal</li> <li>• Danny McNelis cup</li> <li>• Davy medal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founder’s cup</li> <li>• Gaelbhratach</li> <li>• Geography field trip</li> <li>• Graduate Achievement medals</li> <li>• Latin and Classics trip to Rome</li> <li>• Schola Cantorum</li> <li>• Trip to Greece</li> </ul>

## BOOK LISTS

All book lists are set out here - <https://www.gonzaga.ie/book-lists>.

## CALENDAR

Details of the school calendar can be found here <https://www.gonzaga.ie/calendar> and the exam timetable is set out here <https://www.gonzaga.ie/curriculum>.

## CLUBS and OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

For more information about the opportunities that students have to serve and to lead, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/opportunities-for-service> and <https://www.gonzaga.ie/opportunities-for-leadership>.

- All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) - <https://www.gonzaga.ie/ailo>  
Contact – Mr Lynch  
Timing -
- Altar servers  
Contact – Ms Desmond  
Timing -
- BT Young scientist and Technology exhibition- <https://www.gonzaga.ie/bt-young-scientists>  
Contact - Mr McGrogan  
Timing -
- Café Craic  
Contact – Ms Ní Bhraonáin  
Timing –
- Culture club  
Contact – Ms McNamara  
Timing -

- Debating - The Forum and An Chomhdháil –<https://www.gonzaga.ie/debating>  
Contact – Dr Clark  
Timing -
- Homework club  
Contact – Ms Crawford  
Timing -
- Green schools - <https://www.gonzaga.ie/green-school>  
Contact – Ms McNamara  
Timing -
- Justice and peace group - <https://www.gonzaga.ie/educating-for-justice>  
Contact – Ms Clarke  
Timing -
- Law Society <https://www.gonzaga.ie/law-society>  
Contact – Patrick Hickey (6<sup>th</sup> Year)  
Timing -
- Model United Nations <https://www.gonzaga.ie/model-united-nations>  
Contact – Ms O’Brien Quinn  
Timing -
- Overseas Aid <https://www.gonzaga.ie/overseas-aid>  
Contact -  
Timing -
- Photography club <https://www.gonzaga.ie/photography-club>  
Contact – Mr Earley  
Timing -
- Retreats- <https://www.gonzaga.ie/spiritual-cycle>  
Contact – Ms Clarke  
Timing -

## CURA PERSONALIS AND SCHOOL GUIDANCE

The Latin phrase 'cura personalis' is common to all Jesuit educational institutions. It might be translated, literally, as 'care of the individual'. A central tenet of Jesuit educational philosophy is that the whole pedagogical process is based on the individual student, recognizing that he or she has particular needs, talents, and potential, and that the educator must take these into account in the formation of each student. For more information on the guidance offered by the school, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/cura-personalis>.

## DINING

The dining room operates on a cashless system and students need to front load their "dining cards" online with money before going to lunch in the dining room. For more information about where the students eat lunch every day and the TY cookery school, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/dining-hall>.

## LIBRARY

For more information about the Sutherland library, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/library>.

## MASSES

There is a daily mass in the school at 8am. There are also annual group masses to which grandparents are invited. Every November there is a mass for deceased past pupils and members of staff.



## MUSIC

For more information on musical events, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/music>.

- Brennan Cup
- Chamber choir
- Chamber group
- Concerts – Christmas and summer
- Orchestra
- Recorder consort
- Staff choir
- The Call – creative arts, literature and learning
- Traditional Music group
- Wind ensemble
- Zagapalooza

## REMOTE LEARNING

For more information about remote learning and teaching facilities offered by the school along with links to external online resources, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/remote-learning-and-teaching>.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

For more information on the assistance offered by the Special Education Needs Department in the school, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/special-ed-needs>.

## SPORTS

For information about each of the sports listed below along with the names of all relevant coaches, please go to <https://www.gonzaga.ie/sports>. See also <https://www.gonzaga.ie/sportsday> for photographs of the annual sports day.

- Athletics  
Contact - Ms Gallagher (Room 25)  
Timing - Thursdays after school on front lawn
- Badminton  
Contact - Ms McCague  
Timing - Tuesdays after school in Sports Hall
- Basketball  
Contact – Dr Clark (Room 46)  
Timing – Mondays after school in sports car park
- Chess  
Contact – Mr Lynch (Room 47)  
Timing - See chess noticeboard
- Cricket  
Contact - Mr Murray  
Timing - Training to begin later in 2021 for all years
- Cross country  
Contact - Ms Gallagher (Room 25)  
Timing - See timetable
- GAA  
Contact - Mr Slevin and Ms Ní Bhraonáin  
Timing - Blitzes versus other school(s) (scheduled for later in 2021)
- Golf  
Contact - Mr Murray  
Timing - awaiting news from GUI re: school competitions in 2021

- Rugby  
Contact - George Naoupu  
Timing - see timetable
- Sailing  
Contact - Mr Murray / Mr Etchingham  
Timing - Spring and Summer term (TBC)
- Swimming  
Contact - Mr Murray  
Timing - Awaiting news from Swim Ireland re: Schools Galas in 2021
- Table Tennis  
Contact - Mr Murray  
Timing - see timetable
- Tennis  
Contact – Mr Howlett (Room 20)  
Timing - See timetable
- Ultimate Frisbee  
Contact - Mr Earley (TY office)  
Timing - see timetable

## CO - CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

Summer term – April 12<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup> (subject to change weather depending)

Please see staff below in relation to summer sports or Mr Murray in the Gamesmaster’s office.

Cricket – Dr Clark (senior), Mr Lynch (senior 2), Mr Naopu (junior), Mr Kiernan (2<sup>nd</sup> year) and Mr Pelly (1<sup>st</sup> year)

Tennis – Mr Howlett

Athletics – Ms McCarthy & Ms Gallagher

Basketball – Dr Clark

Badminton – Ms McCague

<b>Day</b>	<b>Sports Hall</b>	<b>Outside</b>	<b>Gym (TBC)</b>
Mon	Basketball – outdoor session	Cricket (Junior & 2 <sup>nd</sup> year) Tennis (Senior) Athletics	Closed
Tue	Badminton	Cricket (Senior 1 <sup>st</sup> & 1 <sup>st</sup> year) Tennis (Junior)	Closed
Wed	Closed	Cricket Tennis (Minor) Athletics	Closed
Thurs	Senior & Junior Frisbee - outdoor	Cricket (Senior 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> year) Tennis (open courts) Athletics/Cross Country	Closed
Fri	Closed	Cricket or Tag Rugby (1 <sup>st</sup> year)	Closed