

A NEW BEGINNING

In August 2019, ETSSW opened its doors for the first time and welcomed 38 first year students to write the first page in the history of the school. The school is presently in temporary accommodation in Crinion Park, Wicklow Town.

ABOUT ETSSW

ETSSW is state-funded and teaches the National Curriculum. It is open to students of all backgrounds. It is co-educational and has no school uniform. ETSSW works hard to embrace the input of parents, students, staff and the wider community to improve the school in every way possible.

JUNIOR CYCLE

ETSSW provides a broad curriculum of **Core Subjects**, **Option Subjects** and **Short Courses**. Core subjects are Gaeilge, English, Maths, French, History, Geography, Science and PE. Option subjects are Business, Technical Graphics, Home Economics, Music, Art and Coding. Short Courses are Ethical Education, Artistic Performance, EAL, CSPE & SPHE. Next year we are looking at introducing Spanish, Technology and Woodwork.

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

We are a new school with an ambitious plan – we are interested in all methodologies that promote inspirational student-centred learning. That's why we look at practices from all over the world that can help our work – this year we will have a phenomenon-based learning week inspired by the Finnish Education System and a Flipped Learning Week inspired by the U.S. Education System. We use iPads and team-teaching for greater collaboration and group work in class.



**EDUCATE
TOGETHER
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
WICKLOW
(ETSSW)**

DEMOCRACY & DEBATING

We promote democracy at ETSSW – that's why *every student gets to vote for the student president* and that's why *students have two representatives on the Board of Management*.

That's also why debating is a big part of school culture. We participate in competitions like the Concern and UCD debating competitions, but we encourage debating much more than that by having a debate club in the school where every student has an opportunity to learn about public speaking and develop critical thinking skills.

At each debate club meeting, we have a training part – this year so far, we've learned about the power of story-telling, how to improve gesticulation and eye contact and how to use elements of style like listing, pausing and anaphora.

Then we debate – so far, we've debated on lots of topics such as whether cats are better than dogs, whether zoos should be closed or whether the EU should have an army.

Soon we will receive training in using microphones and how Model United Nations works. One day we hope to hold a Model United Nations for schools all over the EU. At ETSSW, we believe in taking democracy and debating seriously!



DAILY LIFE AT ETSSW

At lunch you get to choose between the chill-out group or the active group. The chill-out group relax and chat with friends, the active group do sports like basketball, handball, soccer and table-tennis.

We also run a lot of clubs and you can join as many of them as you like – we have a book club where you can relax and read your favourite books; we have a homework club where you can get all your work done and develop your study skills for the future; we have a music club where you can form groups and share your knowledge of all kinds of music; we have a mathematics club where you can learn just how much fun maths can be and we have a media club which makes films such as vox pops and infographics and helps generate content for school newsletters.

The great thing about the club life at ETSSW is that you can even start your own club if enough people support your idea – for example, this year an **Art Club** was formed because a lot of students looked for it. That's the amazing opportunity about being in a new school – you are writing the history!

WHY CHOOSE US?

- Ambitious for student achievement
- Student-centred approach
- Easy transition for students
- You're the centre of attention
- Opportunity to write history
- Learning with technology



IPADS

At ETSSW, we believe in the power of technology as an educational tool to inspire learning and prepare students for the working environment of the future. Students have iPads with e-books, meaning no more heavy school bags. Teachers use iPads in a **blended approach** to learning, balancing screen time with other activities such as the important work of developing good writing skills. We believe that our blended approach allows us to get the best from technological and traditional approaches to learning.

