

*“We have a proud tradition of providing the highest in educational standards to those who come through our doors.”*



# BENEAVIN DE LA SALLE COLLEGE

Beneavin Road, Finglas, Dublin II



*You want the very best academic education and opportunities for your son and here in Beneavin De La Salle we work together in partnership to achieve this.*

# WELCOME TO BENEAVIN DE LA SALLE COLLEGE,

We are delighted to have the opportunity to introduce you to our College and to share our ethos and aspirations with you. Beneavin De La Salle College is a school committed to excellence in education in the community of Finglas for more than fifty years. We have an education steeped in history with a tradition of high academic standards in a caring environment. Our teachers are a highly qualified, dynamic, committed team who inspire our students to succeed to the highest possible level academically and personally. We strive to help our students do their very best academically and develop a belief in themselves leading to a strong foundation for whatever profession they choose. All students are encouraged to take as many higher level subjects as possible. Over 80% of the students in Beneavin College go on to 3rd Level education and each year we are very proud of their achievements.

As a Lasallian school, we have an obligation to make a difference in each student's life so that when they leave us they will serve others graciously and lovingly. We strive that all our students become Men for Others through their Lasallian education and develop an awareness of social justice through their various experiences in the College. Our aim is to provide a holistic education and to develop the personal best of each student in every sphere; intellectually, morally, physically, spiritually and socially. The staff provide a huge range of extra-curricular activities in the context of a tradition of sports and music.

Here in Beneavin we cooperate with one another in a spirit of trust and care; our education is academic, accessible to all, and comprehensive. We work together— Staff, Students and Parents.

DR AIDEEN CASSIDY



DR. AIDEEN CASSIDY

Principal



MR. JOE LEONARD

Deputy Principal



The Le Chéile Schools Trust is a trust body acting on behalf of the De La Salle congregation who support the commitment to the future of Catholic Education in Beneavin College. The Le Chéile Schools Trust comprises the schools of thirteen religious congregations. The Trust fulfills the legal, financial and inspirational role of trusteeship that traditionally was done by the De La Salle Brothers.



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# History of the College

Beneavin College opened in 1962 and has been providing an education of the highest standards to the people of the area for over fifty years. It is a school in the De La Salle tradition sharing the mission of human and Christian education of young people while welcoming all faiths. The school is under the trusteeship of Le Chéile. The new school, only rebuilt in 2007 is situated on Beneavin Road Finglas.

# Why Choose Beneavin College?

The Inspectors from the Department of Education and Skills carried out a Whole-School Evaluation of Management, Leadership and Learning recently and found so much positive work going on in the College led by a committed management team of the Principal and Deputy Principal who

*...play pivotal roles in nurturing an environment of high expectations and share a strong and commendable vision for the school and are investing much time and effort in establishing structures to achieve this. Their commitment to the school is clearly evident in the way they carry out their duties.*

” WSE Inspectors’ Report

In their inspection report, the inspection team highlighted five key reasons as to why you should choose Beneavin...



THE MISSION OF A LASALLIAN CENTRE IS TO GIVE A HUMAN AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TO THE YOUNG, WITH SPECIAL CONCERN FOR THE DELIVERY OF EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.





## 5 Highlights from the Inspectors' Report

1

### Academic Excellence

All students are encouraged to take as many higher level subjects as possible.

Clear progress is being made in the numbers of students taking papers at higher level.

Learners' active engagement was promoted and their thinking was challenged and understanding deepened through excellent higher-order questioning.

2

### High Standards of Behaviour and Discipline

During the evaluation, the behaviour of students was very good, both in classrooms and elsewhere in the school. There was a very positive atmosphere in all the lessons and management of lessons was of a high quality.

#### Mutual Respect

All lessons visited were characterised by an atmosphere of mutual respect in which a supportive learning environment was created. Students showed a high level of courtesy and co-operation with their teachers.

3

### Teachers

Teachers show a high level of care and inventiveness in their work and avail of opportunities to lead and implement projects and initiatives to benefit the students.

Enthusiastic teaching and high levels of affirmation of student effort were evident.

Students' written work was carefully monitored by the teacher in lessons and very good directional feedback was provided.

Particularly noteworthy was the setting of distinct targets for individual students ..... excellent practice was seen in students being encouraged to evaluate their own work and discuss success criteria.

.....very good use of strategies to promote the active engagement of learners, including paired work, group tasks, games and board work. There were examples of excellent practice in the use of higher-order questioning, challenging students' thinking and deepening their understanding.

4

### Traditions of La Salle

The school lives out its mission statement through its strong ethos of care for both students and staff and the ways in which teachers and school management work together to achieve the best for their students.

5

### Facilities and ICT

The school building is new and so the school has state of the art facilities for the students.

The school infrastructure has been updated and there is very good information and communications technology (ICT) hardware in all classrooms. ICT initiatives taking place in the school include "bring your own device", the Beneavin movie club and teacher pod casts on the school server. In addition, the school has recently been invited to participate in the EU Folio Project to introduce e-portfolios as a means of formative assessment.

ICT was used in every lesson and its potential was used to make a significant contribution to the quality of teaching and learning.

Excellent practice was seen when digital presentations were used.....



# College Programmes

## Junior Cycle – 3 Years

Irish	French	Physical Education (PE)
English	Business Studies	CSPE
Maths	Religion	Art
History	Metalwork	Technical Graphics
Geography	Woodwork	
Science	Social, Personal, Health Education (SPHE)	

## Junior Certificate School Programme

The JCSP is on offer as a support to our students to ensure that they do the very best in their Junior Certificate examinations. The Junior Certificate School Programme is based on the concept that all young people are capable of real success in school and that they can have a positive experience of school.

## Leaving Certificate

The full range of subjects are on offer here in Beneavin College with high academic standards and state of the art facilities to ensure the students get the most from their academic pursuits.

Subjects offered at Leaving Certificate Level in Beneavin De La Salle:

## Core Subjects

The core subjects are:

English
Maths
Irish
Religion
Physical Education (PE)



## Optional Subjects

French	Art	Engineering
Physics	History	Design and Communications Graphics
Chemistry	Geography	Construction Studies
Biology	Business	

All subjects are offered at Higher and Ordinary Level. Subject choices may vary in response to student demand.

# College Programmes

## Leaving Certificate Applied

Students can apply for a place in our LCA class which offers an alternative route to their chosen career.

The leaving certificate applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. All students engage in work experience.

- It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past
- It prepares students for adult and working life
- It recognises talents of all pupils
- It promotes communication and decision making
- It applies knowledge and skills to the solution of real problems.

## Transition Year Programme (Optional)

*The fundamental principles of Transition Year are based on improving Attitude, Skills and Knowledge.*

A survey carried out by the Department of Education & Skills shows that students who sat their Leaving Certificate after doing Transition Year obtained an average of 45 C.A.O. points more than those that sat the Leaving Certificate after two years.

Transition Year is an optional one year programme available to students on completion of the Junior Certificate. Transition Year is a very worthwhile experience for the student who is committed to participating fully in the programme. Applicants for the course are selected on the basis of age, maturity, motivation, application and attendance.

Transition year is designed to:

- Help to gain competence in the core academic subjects and to develop skills and initiatives in a way that may not be possible in the more exam orientated classes.
- Provide a broad range of educational activities and offer a wide range of activities, which involve teamwork and personal initiative
- Help students learn new skills in the likes of computers, film making, photography and a wide range of extra-curricular activities,
- Gain work experience and get involved in community service
- Give time to mature

*There is growing evidence that students who have taken the Transition Year Programme are more self-reliant learners when they enter third-level education than their peers.*

*Source: Commission on the Points System, Final Report & Recommendations, 1999. P46*

All students do English, Irish, Maths, French, History, Geography, Religion, Science as well as modules that might include:

Film Making	Gaisce: President's Award	Linguistics Olympiad
Sports Science	Photography	Young Social Innovator
Computer Studies / Computer Coding	Career Guidance / Personal Development	Involvement in Localise Peace Corp
Social Justice Programmes	Design and Manufacturing	Global Classrooms Project
Student Council	Entrepreneurship and Mini Company	First Aid
	Food Studies	Sci fest
	Horticulture	Mental Health & Well being
	Drama	So many other events and experiences



## Adventure Outings and Team Building Experience

All students participate in a bonding trip at the beginning of the year as well as field trips and outings throughout the year. The year finishes with another trip away.

## First Year Induction: Belonging Plus

*To ease students' transition to post-primary level, the school has developed an effective structured Belonging Plus induction programme, under the guidance of their tutors and fifth-year student mentors.*

” WSE Inspectors' Report

The first years really enjoy the Belonging Plus programme here in Beneavin College where they have a chance to learn about Beneavin for the first three days before any other students come into the College. Moving to second level is a big change in the lives of our students and we are very aware that we need to support them through this very exciting stage of their lives so that they settle in happily into life in Beneavin College. Belonging Plus is designed to help the students with the transfer from primary to secondary school. The programme gives our first years a head start in the College. They are introduced to their new subjects and teachers. It really helps them to make a successful start in Beneavin College and to settle in well.

Belonging plus is just part of the care supports in Beneavin – which are second to none.

## Year Heads

The year head works with their team of tutors to ensure all students are well cared for. The year head also has the responsibility of ensuring that the Code of Behaviour is implemented. The year head develops a very special bond with their year group as they are in charge of the same group for their time in Beneavin.

## Form Tutor System

The tutor system in Beneavin De La Salle is part of our pastoral care system. Each class has a tutor who is there to take care of the class group. They meet their tutor first thing each morning. They play an important part in each student's life and the student knows that they can turn to their tutor for whatever assistance that they need.

*Tutors play an important pastoral role, attending to the care needs of students in their groups. It is good practice that tutors meet with their class groups each day and follow a tailor-made programme, prepared by the tutor co-ordinator.*

” WSE Inspectors' Report

## What do the Parents Say about Beneavin?

Following a whole school evaluation the Department of Education and Skills found that:

97%

of parents agree that teaching in the school is good – (the inspectors commented that they had not encountered such a high figure previously.)

96%

of parents agreed that their son enjoys school.

96%

of parents agree that their child is doing well in school.

## Breakfast and Homework Club

Each day starts with the breakfast club and finishes with homework club which are both free to the students. These help to ensure a good start to the day and students get their homework done with the support of teachers in the evening.

## Pastoral Care and Beneavin

The purpose of our pastoral care system is to ensure that the academic, physical, moral, spiritual, emotional and social needs of the students are catered for in a meaningful way by the school. To achieve this, the school is divided into year groups and class groups led by a Year Head and a team of Class Tutors.

## Special Needs

The College uses the resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills to make provision for students with special educational needs. The Learning Support Department is committed to providing a comprehensive and effective learning support service for students. This will enable students who have special educational needs to access their curricula and achieve their full potential. Team teaching supports students in the classroom while some are withdrawn for extra support. Some are granted access to the support of an SNA.

## Book Rental

Parents are delighted with our Book rental scheme where books can be rented at a very reasonable rate providing great savings to our families.

## Career Guidance and Counselling Service

Our full time counsellor is always on hand to help the students in the College.

*It is clear that Guidance integrates effectively with all of the school programmes and provides a range of educational, career and personal supports for students.*

” WSE Inspectors’ Report

As a student you will make significant decisions while still at school. These choices are related to personal and social issues, educational issues and career issues. Our Guidance Counsellor is a trained professional with the expertise and knowledge to help you make choices in the three important areas outlined above. We do this through individual consultation, guidance classes and other activities.

## Home School Community Liaison

Our home school teacher is always available for parents to keep in touch with the College. The role is to provide help and support between school and home. Parents are supported and encouraged to get involved in College life.

Parents are welcomed to social and educational activities that are arranged through the HSCL teacher.

## Care Team

The care needs of all the students are closely monitored by the care team who meet once a week consisting of:

- Guidance Counsellor - Full Time
- Home School Community Liaison Teacher
- Sli Eile positive behaviour support teachers
- Care Team Co-ordinator
- Special Needs Co-ordinator
- Chaplain
- Year Head
- Principal and Deputy Principal

## Links with Home

The school operates an open door policy for the parents and we are delighted to meet with parents very regularly. Parents can meet with the home school co-ordinator, Guidance Counsellor, year heads, tutors, class teachers as well as the Principal and Deputy Principal. We work in partnership with our parents and encourage a great deal of interaction between home and school. There are several opportunities throughout the year when the school links with home through:



Parent/teacher meetings



Reports



Information Evenings



Parents' Council



Email and text messages home



Website and Twitter



Home school Community Liaison Teacher

## Open Door

No matter what stage in life we are at; all of us need some kind of support. Our guidance counsellor provides an open door where students can come and receive support in a confidential, supportive and safe way. Many students have used this open door system as their first steps to dealing with a problem or seeking help.

## Slí Eile NBSS Positive Behaviour Support

The behavior support programme is in place for students to ensure that they enjoy a very positive experience of school. The Slí Eile personnel play an integral role in promoting positivity among the students with whom they work, their teachers and their parents.

## Anti Bullying

Bullying is not tolerated in Beneavin College.

*The guidance counsellor plays a key role in restorative circles that provide support and facilitate conflict resolution within the school as well as in providing information for students and their parents on a group and one-to-one basis.*

” WSE Inspectors’ Report

Restorative practice is part of our pastoral care programme here in Beneavin. Issues are dealt with in restorative circles, circles where the boys can resolve any issues in a safe environment. We also find it a most effective and positive way of dealing with bullying incidents.



## The De La Salle Team

Lasallian teachers are committed to adhering to the five core principles set forth by De La Salle:

- **Quality Education:** We engage in quality education together by thinking critically and examining our world in light of faith. We are constantly reviewing and revising our curriculum and teaching methods in order to provide students with the best possible educational experience.
- **Respect for All People:** We honor and respect the dignity of all individuals.
- **Inclusive Community:** We celebrate diversity and welcome all members to our vibrant community.
- **Faith in the Presence of God:** We believe in the living presence of God in our students, in our community and in our world.
- **Concern for the Poor and Social Justice:** We are in solidarity with the poor and advocate for those suffering from injustices. Through our social justice programmes the boys become aware of social issues and are encouraged to get involved in projects and activities to help all in need. We are thinkers and doers.

## Bereavement Support

The loss of someone close through death or separation is one of the most traumatic events in a person's life. When the loss occurs during teenage years, the effects can be even greater. The Chaplaincy team at Beneavin De La Salle College provides bereavement support.

## State-of-the-art Facilities

The modern facilities provided at Beneavin De La Salle College set the stage for academic excellence. It is this excellent infrastructure that allows us to deliver our comprehensive curricular and co-curricular programmes in a range of subject areas.

The school is very new and so is lucky to have facilities second to none available to the boys.

- The **technology** suite of rooms are very well fitted out to the highest standard with state of the art modern equipment in each, an individual computer for each student. The school has 100mb high speed broadband and a Wi Fi network throughout.
- We have a **Guidance Suite** for visiting lecturers and various **learning support rooms**.
- There are separate Physics, Chemistry and Biology **labs**.
- There is also a beautiful **meditation room** which helps the boys get away from the stressful busy lives they live.
- Fully stocked **modern Library** with a librarian.
- There are three **technology rooms** – Metalwork/engineering, Woodwork/Construction Studies, technical drawing/Design and Graphics room all furnished with industry standard equipment.
- Of course our **sporting facilities** are known across the country with our own playing fields, basketball courts, and a modern championship sized gym and sports hall with a separate weights room.
- Our magnificent **grounds adjacent** to the College offer the opportunity to participate in sporting endeavours as well as providing quiet places for relaxation, reflection and conversation.



## The Chaplain

While the chaplaincy is primarily concerned with the spiritual development of students it also plays an important role in integrating these with other dimensions of education; social, personal, academic and physical. The Chaplaincy team operates on an interdenominational basis, and enjoys the services of a part-time chaplain who works with the Religious Studies Department.



*All lessons visited were characterised by an atmosphere of mutual respect in which a supportive learning environment was created. Students showed a high level of courtesy and co-operation with their teachers.*

” WSE Inspectors’ Report



## Computers and technology - Beneavin is a technological school for the future

All classrooms are fitted with interactive whiteboards, we have two state of the art computer rooms and Apple Mac facilities are growing in the College with an iPad project now in place. We have a Movie Room where students are taught every aspect of producing a film from storyboarding to editing the final product using the Apple Mac facilities and with the help of Apple accredited teachers. Advanced computer skills are also taught across the College including Coding.

On a practical level attendance and punctuality are now monitored electronically. We have a powerful web-based interface that allows all teachers in Beneavin College to input and access student data. Students are assessed by academic performance and now it is computerised through our database. This allows year heads, tutors and teachers to monitor students' progress over time.

As a result of our facilities the school was chosen to participate in the **EU Portfolio programme** with 25 other schools. This European project will see seven countries - Ireland, Slovenia, Austria, Spain, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Lithuania - work concurrently on piloting e-portfolios in classrooms and investigating current e-portfolio practice in teaching and learning.

## School Library

A love of reading changes everything. Strong readers can really succeed academically. All our students are encouraged and supported to read more. A new fully stocked school library has been recently put in place with books to suit all interests and levels.

**Accelerated Reading** is run from the Library which is one of our very successful reading interventions. Students are motivated when they see their progress through this advanced on line reading programme. Teachers monitor and manage students' independent reading practice. It has proven to be a huge success in Beneavin College with great progress in reading across year groups being recorded.

## Our Facilities also include:

- **Art Room**
- **Sound proofed Music Room**
- **Meditation Room**
- **A Lecture Room**
- **Parents' Room**
- **Dining Area for Students**
- **Landscaped Courtyards and Gardens**
- **Polytunnel Garden**
- **Lift access for students or staff with a disability**
- **Outdoor basketball and tennis courts**
- **Full playing pitches**

## School Canteen

All students can stay in the College for lunch with a range of food both hot and cold along with drinks sold in the Canteen. Healthy eating is promoted across the College. Students are invited to the free breakfast club in the canteen serving cereals, tea and toast.

## Extra Curricular

There is a massive range of extra curricular activities for the boys to choose from. Our extra -curricular activities underpin our school ethos and offer our students the opportunity to develop through involvement with activities like the annual Beneavin Has Talent show, the President's Award (Gaisce), Arts and Sports Festival Week, Student Council, La Salle Week, fundraising events, and the Green School's Committee.

At Beneavin De La Salle we encourage our students to participate in extra-curricular activities. These activities can help develop social and cultural skills as well as adding an enjoyable element to school life.

We have a strong sporting tradition with many of our past pupils becoming sporting heroes. The school is also renowned for its music with a College Band leading our annual Beneavin Has talent each year and with many spectacular musicals over the years.



## Our activities include:

Athletics	Badminton	Computer Club
Soccer	School Band	Table Tennis
Hurling	Photography	Movie Club
Basketball	Gaisce President's Award	Board Games
Gaelic Football	Green Schools	Justice Awareness Group
Hiking Cub	School tours (home and abroad)	Homework Club
Golf	Art Competitions	Breakfast Club
Drama	Poetry Competitions	Arts and Sports Festival Week
Rugby	Coding Club	Environmental Studies with hands-on-experience in the organic garden
Guitar lessons	Young Scientist Competition	



## Parents' Council

*The College recognises the role of parents as the prime educator of the child. The staff in Beneavin De la Salle College work in partnership with parents/guardians to maximise the learning opportunities for each child.*

” WSE Inspectors' Report

At the Annual General Meeting of parents each year parents are elected to form the Parents' Council.

The Parents' Council meets once a month and acts as a representative body who:

- represent the views of parents
- inform parents of developments in education and in the school
- foster co-operation between parents, teachers and school management
- provide opportunities for parents and the school principal or representative of staff to meet and

exchange ideas on the education of their children, to discuss issues such as discipline, homework etc. and to address topics of mutual interest

- help with the provision of extra equipment and fund-raising.

*Parents who wish to become actively involved in the school are welcome and encouraged to join the Parents' Council.*

” WSE Inspectors' Report

## The Student Council

The Student Council consists of a representative body elected from and by the general cohort of students in the school. The Student Council give students an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions and to play an active role in the school.

## Links with DCU

The College has close links with DCU and they support our very talented students to excel in Maths and their studies. Each year a groups of our students receive awards from DCU for their various achievements.



Teachers are very ambitious for the students in the college resulting in over 80% going on to third level Colleges.

## The Senior Mentor Project

*A Programme of Welcome and Support for the Incoming First Year Students*

This is a joint initiative led by the Guidance and Counselling Department, in conjunction with the Slí Eile team. It is aimed at making the transition from primary to secondary education more enjoyable for our in-coming First Years.

Senior students may volunteer to act as mentors to First Years and are interviewed, where their suitability for the project is assessed. They attend a workshop where their role is clearly shaped.

Throughout the year they work closely with the Tutors and Year Head of First Year.

The Mentoring System provides opportunities to experience the following:

- Student leadership skills
- Personal and social skills
- Listening skills
- Social awareness
- Sense of responsibility
- Teamwork
- Communication skills

## Student Enrichment Programme

Beneavin is committed to providing an environment which facilitates all students in order that they maximise their potential. All children have a right to a broad, balanced and relevant education which provides continuity and progression and takes individual differences into account. In our College we aim to provide a curriculum that is appropriate to the needs and abilities of all our children.

*Exceptional students are identified by the guidance counsellor.*

We strive to maintain an ethos that promotes the talents of exceptional students, by recognising their achievements and encouraging them to work with like minded peers.

Student Enrichment Programmes offered to date

- First year students are encouraged to participate in the "Talent Search" which is organised annually by the Centre for Talented Youth in DCU.
- Students are offered the opportunity to take CTYI course in Mathematics.
- Talented students in Sport are nurtured by our skilled sports department
- And many of our past pupils have gone on to be sporting heroes.





## Centre for Talented Youth Ireland

Each year the school provides a scholarship to many of our gifted students to participate in the Centre for Talented Youth Ireland (CTYI).

## Awards & Achievements

*The school operates a student awards system that recognises, among a commendably wide range of items, students' academic achievements. This supports the nurturing of high expectations within the school community.*

” WSE Inspectors' Report

The school is committed to a policy of recognition, encouragement and reward of positive behaviour and achievement. We have in place good school and class routines where students are clear on the boundaries and expectations. Students are given recognition for:

- Outstanding achievements
- Sporting accomplishments
- Extra Curricular success
- Attendance
- Good manners, demeanor and behaviour
- Academic awards are given to students who receive the highest result in their exams. A special award is given to the student who receives the highest result in the Junior

Certificate and Leaving Certificate Examinations

- Sports awards are presented to winning teams and to individual students who have excelled in their chosen sport as well as sportsman of the Year
- The O'Donoghue Music Award for musical excellence
- The President's Award is presented to a sixth year student who displays the values most cherished in the school which was inaugurated by Michael D. Higgins during his visit to Beneavin College.
- Gaisce Award is presented to students who complete the Gaisce Programme awards. These students are encouraged to set themselves challenges and to develop personal skills.

## Community Links

We are firmly committed to forging links with our local community. We achieve this through local parishes, sporting and cultural links, local employers, other schools and charitable organisations.

*The school's commitment to supporting students in developing their role within their community is highly evident. Good links have been established with the adjacent Beneavin Lodge nursing home, local primary schools, youth clubs and local Gardaí. The school also honours the Lasallian tradition through its involvement in the recently introduced Young La Salle project.*

” WSE Inspectors' report



## Application Process

You can contact us and we will send all the information to you – also please check out our website [www.beneavin.com](http://www.beneavin.com) where you will find our application form.

Application forms and information regarding our Admission Policy will be delivered by representatives from Beneavin College to our local primary schools and other feeder schools or can be collected from the school office.



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**4**Schools.ie



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@BeneavinCollege



I will continue O my God to  
do all my actions for the  
love of you.

## Why Choose Beneavin College?

- Academic Excellence
- High Record of College Entry
- State of the Art Building
- Links with DCU
- Excellent Dedicated Innovative Teachers
- IT Facilities and fully stocked Library
- University Standard Engineering/Metal/Wood/ Graphics Design Rooms
- 3 Modern Fully Equipped Science Labs for Physics, Chemistry & Biology
- Sporting Facilities with Sports Hall, Weights Room & Extensive Playing Fields
- High Standards of Behaviour and Discipline
- Tradition of Music
- Tradition of Sports
- Individual Talents Nurtured
- Welcoming of all Faiths
- Broad Curriculum
- Multicultural
- Pastoral Care Team and Learning Support Team
- Inclusive Environment
- Community Engagement
- La Sallian Tradition which fosters Holistic Development
- Student Enrichment Programmes

Check our Website for our Open Night [www.beneavin.com](http://www.beneavin.com)