

## **St Patrick's College Tour of Ireland 2016**

**Wednesday March 23 – Saturday April 9  
(Easter Sunday March 27)**

### **Selection Policy and Criteria**

#### **Introduction**

The St Patrick's College's Football program is again planning to offer an opportunity for students to tour Ireland in the Term 1 holidays in 2016. This tour follows successful trips to Ireland (2007, 2010 and 2013), Darwin (2008, 2011 and 2014) and Melbourne (2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015) and aims to visit a number of Edmund Rice sites and play a series of International Rules games – the hybrid game incorporating Gaelic and Australian Rules skills and rules. The tour would be open to students from Year 10 to 12, 2016 and is offered in line with the Football Program's Strategic Plan (2012-2015) in providing participants with educational opportunities both on and off the field. Members of the Australian Rules Football programme are invited to apply. This tour is offered in line with the College's Overseas Trips Policy which is available on the [College website](#).

#### **Objectives of Tour**

The tour would have the following educational objectives:

1. To heighten understandings of the heritage of the College, specifically the history and traditions of the worldwide Edmund Rice network of schools.
2. In doing so to increase boys' awareness that they are part of a worldwide network of secondary schools, with the shared charism of Catholic education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice.
3. To provide participants with an invaluable learning experience. Those travelling would spend some time playing International Rules but would also take in the sights of Ireland, in particular some of the places integral to the history of St Patrick's College and the story of Blessed Edmund Rice.
4. To develop further ongoing relationships with schools in Ireland in the Edmund Rice tradition and to explore the possibility of reciprocal visits for sporting, social justice, academic and cultural events.
5. To provide home stay accommodation with student peers from the Irish network of schools.
6. To provide an extension activity for players in the SPC Football program and work on physical conditioning, skill development and team building opportunities prior to the season.
7. To provide an extension activity for student leaders among the College to assist in the development of a strong leadership culture within the College.
8. To enhance the profile and status of the program by providing a significant point of difference from other school football programs thereby assisting in attracting players, coaches, volunteer medical and administration staff and umpires to the College's football program in the current and subsequent seasons.
9. To enhance further the profile of International Rules as a valuable physical activity in its own right and an integral part of the College's Physical Education and Sporting Programs.
10. To provide an inclusive educational experience through the joint efforts of tour support group members. Funds from football program fundraising efforts will be utilised to support students in line with the College's guidelines on Student Bursaries for financially disadvantaged students.
11. To develop further the College's football and sporting programs through exposure to best practice models of sports management. The tour would take in visits to iconic sporting venues and organisations including Chelsea FC, Wimbledon, and Lords.
12. To provide opportunities for personal development through use of reflective learning practices and the requirement of all students to complete a detailed trip report and

presentation to parents and other tour supporters following the group's return to Ballarat.

### **Tour Planning Committee**

The Tour Planning Committee will consist of the Headmaster, the Deputy Headmaster - Wellbeing, the Director of Sport, the Director of Football and Leonie Spencer from Lifestyle Travel, our preferred Travel Agency.

### **Selection Criteria – Students**

All boys wishing to attend the Ireland Tour will need to make a written application to the Headmaster. Boys will be asked to respond to specific questions in line with the tour objectives, in particular an appreciation of the purpose of the tour as an Edmund Rice educational experience, as well as make a commitment to abide by all College expectation and tour rules.

Applications will be assessed by the Headmaster and members of the Tour Planning Committee. Invitations to apply to attend the proposed tour will be issued to the following students within the College community:

- Students with a demonstrated record of participation within the College's football programme from Years 9-11.
- Boarding students entering the College at Year 10, 11 or 12 will be considered for the tour in line with commitment to football at their previous school and upon analysis of their tour application.
- Students in Year 10 or 11 who have a demonstrated record of supporting the school football programme through provision of umpiring, administration or team management services.

The number of students able to attend the tour will be dependent upon a number of factors. The tour will be limited to a maximum of 50 players. It should be noted that 24 students (including 20 players) is the minimum viable number for the trip to proceed. In line with the educational objectives of the tour it is preferable to take more rather than less students, given:

- Availability of staff to provide a 1:6 adult to student ratio;
- Availability of suitable accommodation for tour party – either hotel or billets from host schools;
- Limitations for transport arrangements in Ireland. It is preferable to restrict group to one coach load plus one accompanying car (approx. 55 bus seats) for transportation purposes.

Should the number of applications from the College's football program exceed the number of places available on the tour the following selection criteria will be applied by the Tour Planning Committee:

1. The tour is a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> XVIII football programme. In line with this the Committee will select its best team to represent the College, provided that players considered for selection are making sound academic progress and have a behavioural record that suggests they would represent the College in the manner expected of St Patrick's College students.
2. The committee will be responsible for the selection of students based on their football merit. Factors taken into account include but are not limited to:
  - a. AIS/AFL Academy programme members
  - b. Previous Victorian Country State Representatives
  - c. Current U/18 TAC squad members
  - d. Previous State representation in the AFL National U/16 or U/18 competitions including NSW/ACT, NT, Qld, SA, WA, Victorian Metropolitan.
  - e. Current U/16 TAC squad members

- f. Previous State representation in the National VSSSA U/15 schoolboys carnival
  - g. Community Interleague representation at any level.
  - h. Representation of the College at First XVIII level
  - i. Played senior community football
3. The committee will also take into account student involvement with major fundraising initiatives such as the hosting of students from Shibuya High School, Tokyo, the Trots evening and the viewing of a film at the Regent Theatre, Ballarat.
4. Parents/Guardians of Tour participants must have appropriate financial arrangements (a fee payment schedule) in place with the College and be up to date with fee payments to enable their son to be considered for the tour.
5. The Headmaster will have discretion to select or omit students for the tour in light of circumstances communicated to him in confidence.

### **Leadership Component of the Tour**

The objectives of the tour complement the College's leadership program. Places for other students to attend the tour will be considered on merit and will be judged by the Tour Planning Committee using the following criteria:

1. The tour complements the College's Leadership program. In line with this the Committee will select its most appropriate students to represent the College, provided that students considered for selection are making sound academic progress and do not have a behavioural record that could suggest they may not represent the College in the manner expected of St Patrick's College students.
2. Preference will be given to the College Captain and Vice Captains to represent the College on the tour. Places for other students will be decided upon the merit of their application.
3. Parents/Guardians of Tour participants must have appropriate financial arrangements (a fee payment schedule) in place with the College and be up to date with fee payments to enable their son to be considered for the tour.
4. The Headmaster will have discretion to select or omit students for the tour in light of circumstances communicated to him in confidence, for example financial circumstances.

### **Checklist for Candidates' Applications**

Applications will be reviewed by the Tour Management Committee.

Applicants will be assessed upon the following criteria:

- Academic progress
- Behavioural progress
- Sporting representation of the College
- Cultural representation of the College
- Leadership skills evidenced

Applicants will be required to submit their application using the attached pro forma and should ensure all questions are appropriately answered.

### **Selection Criteria – Tour Staff Members**

As noted, the recommended staffing ratio for the trip will be one staff member for every six students which is in excess of statutory regulations. Staff selection for the tour will be prioritised according to the required needs of the students, the tour's coordination requirements and the educational objectives of the tour.

## **Staff Role Descriptions**

With the exception of a medical practitioner, preference for these positions will be given to staff members of St Patrick's College. Where positions cannot be filled by staff an application process will be advertised amongst parents and friends within the St Patrick's community.

### **Tour Manager:**

- Will coordinate all pre-planning of the tour
- Will coordinate day-to-day activities on the tour
- Will be responsible for the operations and behaviour expectations of the tour
- Will be the point of contact for families

### **First XVIII Coach**

Will be responsible for Football Operations including match scheduling, team selection, overseeing the coaching and training programme and providing feedback to players,

### **Second XVIII Coach**

- Will assist the head coach in all areas of football operations
- Will be responsible for meeting coaching outcomes

### **Logistics/Property Assistant**

Will be responsible for all College owned property

- Will assist the tour manager in all areas and be responsible for hands on day-to-day issues arising.
- Will assist the football operations with respect to property
- Will negotiate the washing of apparel including match jumpers

### **Team Manager**

- Will assist the head coach in all areas of football operations
- Will assist the head coach in the administration for all matches such as team sheets, media and communication reports,
- Will liaise with Logistics/property Assistant to ensure equipment is readily available for matches including playing apparel for example.

### **Medical/Physiotherapist**

Dr Charlie Flynn

Will be responsible for strapping players

- Will support the tour doctor
- Will act as team runner
- Will ensure that medical kit is adequately equipped at all times

### **Communications Manager**

- Will be responsible for liaison between the official tour party and accompanying guests/friends of St Patrick's.
- Will be responsible for regular communication back to the College and tour participant's families via all College communications channels including the College website, the College Facebook account, the Weebly football homepage, twitter and email.

### **Leadership**

- Will be responsible for taking the students through a series of leadership opportunities and heighten their awareness of the charism of Edmund Rice
- Will be responsible for coordinating a visit to various Edmund Rice Schools within Ireland providing our students with contacts emerging leaders within fellow Edmund Rice Schools

Selection criteria

## Accompanying Parents/Staff

The Tour Committee appreciates that parents and/or staff who are not part of the official touring party may wish to join the tour to take advantage of the opportunities it will provide. In such circumstances parents and staff should liaise with the College's preferred travel partner Lifestyle Travel to arrange a complete travel itinerary that complements the official touring party. This would be inclusive of all international and domestic travel, accommodation, meals etc. The final itinerary for the official tour party will reflect numerous opportunities where the official touring party could welcome travelling guests to share such experiences. Significantly however this would also allow such adults the opportunity of independent travel experiences away from the official touring party. If there is sufficient interest expressed, there could be a mini-bus and guide organised for those who do not wish to travel independently.

## Key Dates

<b>June 19 2015</b>	Registration of students receiving information letter
<b>July 16 2015</b>	Initial students and parents meeting calling for expressions of interest
<b>August 14 2015</b>	<i>Applications for attending the tour close</i>
<b>September 3 2015</b>	<i>Successful applications announced. (Term 3 Week 9)</i>
<b>October 2015</b>	Preliminary tour package circulated including fundraising requirements, things to do etc.

## Proposed payment schedule for tour.

The final schedule to be determined after costings are finalised

<b>August 14, 2015</b>	<i>Tour deposit \$500 (as part of application process)</i>
<b>September 7, 2015</b>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Instalment \$1500 (on successful application)</i>
<b>October 26, 2015</b>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment \$2500</i>
<b>February 1, 2016</b>	<i>Payment Balance \$2200</i>

## Tour Applications

*Applications must be completed on the attached form. All applications are required to be submitted to the Headmaster prior to 5pm August 14, 2015 with a \$500 refundable deposit.*