## Athlone Community College Coláiste Pobail Átha Tuain



Where Excellence and Success Flourish and Every Student Counts...

**PROSPECTUS** 







e would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Athlone Community College and we are sure that you will enjoy your visit.

This is a very exciting time to be a young person at Athlone Community College, with our wonderful new building which provides specialist accommodation for Science, Art, Music, Drama, Dance, ICT and PE, a spacious central atrium, large classrooms, wide corridors and a fully furnished library.

At Athlone Community College, every pupil has access to a fully inclusive and challenging curriculum, which is taught by highly qualified and outstanding teachers. We expect all pupils to strive for excellence in their academic studies and that they will always challenge themselves to extend their knowledge and understanding. High aspirations for all pupils will allow them to flourish as life-long learners.

There is an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities for all pupils to experience. Our programme provides an outstanding opportunity for each young person to enrich and extend their learning, whilst developing key social skills that will allow them to access higher education and a suitably challenging career.

We are incredibly proud of our school and as a learning community we work with all stakeholders to allow our pupils to pursue excellence and seize opportunities.

We understand how important the choice of Secondary School is for parents and children. Athlone Community College team are absolutely committed to making your child welcome and happy here and to ensuring they achieve the very best of which they are capable.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in our Athlone Community College community.





# Day to day activities and clubs available include;

BREAKFAST CLUB DRAMA CLUB
GAMES ROOM CHESS CLUB CHOIR
FASHION SHOWS CINEMA CLUB

KIERAN HUNT CUP League for our male football lovers COMÓRTAS PEIL NA MBAN for the ladies who just love Gaelic



CLUB GAEILGE ORCHESTRA
BOOK CLUB MUSIC LESSONS
HOMEWORK CLUB EVENING STUDY



### Hí, I am Alan Sweeney..

I love the Community College because I think it is definitely the friendliest of all the schools I visited. The facilities are brilliant. When I was in sixth class, the first time I came into Athlone Community College, I knew it was the



school for me. The teachers are very approachable and they are brilliant at explaining things. Everybody is valued, nobody gets left behind. There is a great mix of sports in our school from Archery to Gaelic football. All the instructors and coaches are brilliant. You may think it is a massive school but after a short while you know where every class is. The subject options are so broad, I had trouble deciding what to pick! There are a range of practical subjects from woodwork to technology and a variety of languages, we have Spanish now too! We have fantastic facilities for P.E, we can go to the fitness suite or the sports hall when it is raining or the courts and pitches when it is sunny outside. Overall, I could not be happier in this school. I am delighted I chose Athlone Community College and I know if you make the same decision you will be too!



### Hi, my name is Hollie Walsh.

I have just started my first year here in Athlone Community College. On my first day here, I was so nervous but as soon as I walked through the door, all my worries were quickly forgotten. I was greeted by the Transition Year



students who were ready and waiting to point me in the right direction. There is also a mentor/buddy system which really helped us settle in. I went to the sports hall where I was put in my class. Everyone was so welcoming and I instantly felt at home. I have made a lot of new friends here and getting to know everyone has been such a great experience. I am so happy I chose this school as it has so many extra curricular activities and subjects to offer me. Every Friday at lunch time myself and my friends go to hockey training and on Thursdays we have orchestra. I know I am so lucky to have such amazing facilities in my school and with Savoury Fare, I always look forward to lunch time! All in all, I am delighted with my decision to come here. To all the 6th class students, I hope you make the right decision too.





### **Facilities:**

An ultra-modern building which consists of:

- 5 Science Labs dedicated Chemistry, Physics, Biology, General Science and Ag Science
- 2 Art/Craft Studios
- 2 Home Economics Rooms
- 4 Computer Studies Rooms
- 3 Materials Technology/Construction Studies Rooms
- 2 Metalwork/Engineering/Technology Rooms
- Music Room
- Library
- Lecture Room
- Oratory
- Fitness Suite
- Sports Hall
- Multimedia Learning Laboratory
- 2 Technical Graphics/Design and Communications Graphics Rooms

# Why choose Athlone Community College?

Athlone Community College has the following to offer your son/daughter:

- A state of the art educational facility with a longstanding tradition and culture of success, achievement and excellence in the academic, sporting, artistic and scientific arenas.
- High expectations of students in all they do, be it academic, sporting or cultural.
- Outstanding success in Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate.
- An inclusive learning environment where students partake in active learning, collaborate with their peers and also work independently.
- A vibrant, enthusiastic and dedicated teaching staff who are committed to students fulfilling their potential.
- A welcoming and friendly environment for pupils.
- We promise that each student who passes through our doors is valued and recognised for their individual contribution to our close-knit school community.
- Our zero tolerance approach to bullying is outlined in our Anti-Bullying Policy, the most important document which exists in our school.
- A strong sense of community within the school.
- Excellent pastoral care and support systems.
- An unrivalled range of extra-curricular activities.



# We offer the Widest Choice to the Highest Level

Subjects are updated and revised constantly to keep up with an ever changing world.

### **Junior Certificate Subjects**

### **Core Subjects:**

English / Gaeilge / Mathematics / French / German / Science / History / Geography / Computer Studies (IT) / Social, Personal & Health Education (S.P.H.E.) / Physical Education / Civic, Social & Political Education (C.S.P.E.) / Religion

#### **Options:**

Business Studies / Technology / Music / Materials Technology (Woodwork) / Materials & Technology (Metalwork) / Home Economics / Art, Craft & Design / Spanish We also offer short courses

### **Leaving Certificate Subjects**

### **Core Subjects:**

English / Gaeilge / Mathematics / Computer Studies / Religious Education / Physical Education / Link Modules

#### **Options:**

English / French / German / Music / Art / Home Economics / History / Geography / Accounting / Business / Economics / Physics / Biology / Chemistry / Agricultural Science / Applied Mathematics / Architectural Technology / Design and Communications Graphics / Engineering Technology

Leaving Certificate Applied.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

Full-time Post Leaving Certificate course in Nursing Studies and Community Care/Social Studies.

# Teaching and learning: *I am achieving*

Excellence in teaching and learning is central to our ethos in Athlone Community College. We believe in using a range of teaching methodologies that cater for an array of learning styles. Our teachers strive to engage all pupils through the use of technology and innovative practices.

We not only measure student progression through end of term tests, we also monitor progression through assessment for learning. This involves obtaining feedback about a student's development within a subject area through dialogue, informal quizzes, peer assessment and the use of a variety of questioning techniques. A relationship based on mutual respect is imperative in order for the joy of learning to become a reciprocal experience which we readily promote in our school.



Exciting times lie ahead for the new Junior Cycle. New modular programmes are already in full swing with students actively engaging in

digital portfolio work and language through drama.

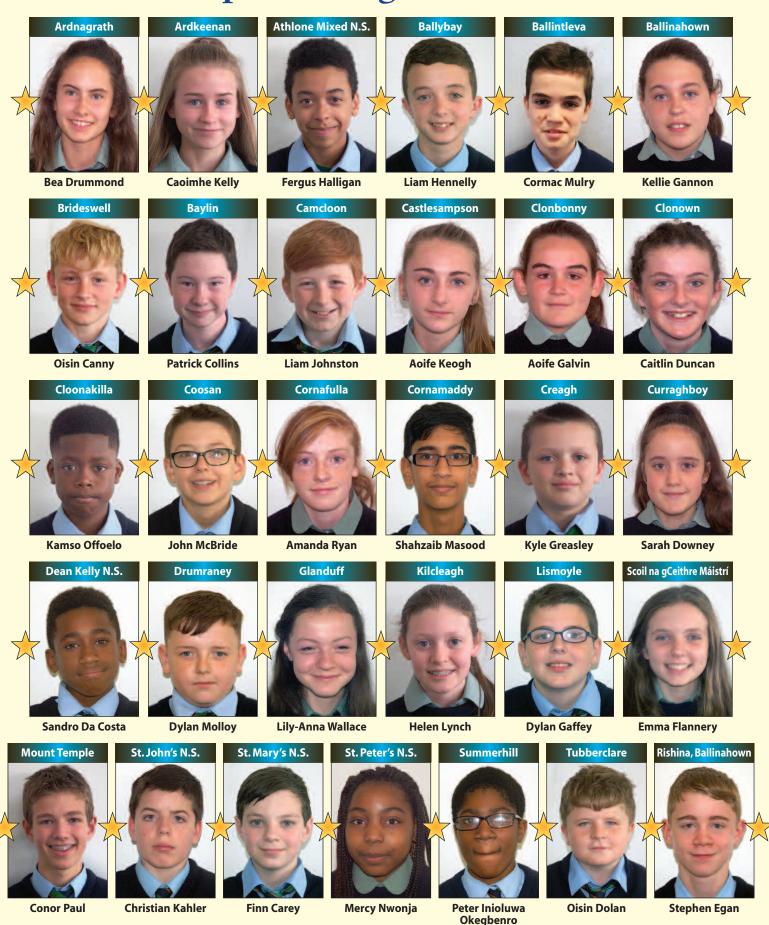
Three 2nd year classes are also taking part in a pilot scheme for a European

project where they will work on their transversal skills. They are learning to transfer their computer skills to help with study and learning.





### Students representing National Schools....



...Could you represent your school next year?

### What the First Years think...

I am happy I chose this school because it has a very friendly, welcoming environment. There are lots of subject options and I love all the teachers because they are so caring and really take time for each and every one of us.



Jade Molloy

Hi. My name is Gonzalo, and I am a Spanish boy. I like this school because it's big and modern. I'm enjoying first year with all my friends and classmates.



**Gonzalo Piédrola Fernandez** 

The teachers are very nice and helpful. I like going to the computer club at lunch-time and to soccer after school.



**Daniel Keenan** 

In Technical Graphics we

learned how to use a

computer programme

called 'Solidworks' which

lets you draw objects and

create 3D models. The

more you use it the better

you get, I find it really easy

to use now.

**Sean Conway** 

Bartosz Konwerski

I love this school, all the older

children are so kind and help you if

you're lost. This school looks big

but you get used to it after a while.

I don't regret coming here one bit.

I like Athlone Community College hecause it is an amazing school. We each have a mentor and our class has a tutor to support us throughout the year.

Isabelle Bassey

Everybody in the school is very welcoming, no matter who you are or where you're from, you're always welcome. You will make a lot of new friends here.



We identify links between

different subjects which I really

enjoy, for example we learned

about rocks in Geography and

this was a great help when we

learned about archaeology in

history. I also love music, we

break down music into beats

and notes

Alfie Coogan

would definitely recommend this school, everybody is so incredibly helpful and friendly. You will get used to your new surroundings quickly which was one of my biggest worries coming from a



**Karoline Uselis** 

small school.



Caraiosa Kenny

My brother went here and his feedback made

me want to come here. I

like all the activities and

Savoury Fare but mostly I like the teachers because

they are so nice.

As soon as I walked in the door on open night I knew I had to choose this school as it was really brightly coloured and there was a really nice atmosphere. I met some teachers as well and I really liked them. There are lots of extracurricular activities and the canteen is great too.



**Jack Tiernan** 

This is a great school, all the teachers are so nice and the subjects are so fun. The new language that they brought is really nice,



I chose this school because I

heard lots of people talking

about how good it is. The yard is

good for playing football. I also

like to hang around the monkey

bars with my friends. The

selection of sports in this school is

brilliant, I love football the most.

**Aisling Kamare** 



**Ugne Dirgelaite** 

I am glad I chose Athlone Community College because it is really fun. I like my teachers, friends and classmates because they are good to be around. I like





Kaspar Bogalecki

The teachers are helpful

fantastic. In the canteen

there is Savoury Fare

which has a great range

of dinners and snacks to

choose from.

I chose this school because it is very modern. I was nervous because I came from Greece. I thought it would be difficult to adjust but it was very easy to make friends. I would recommend this school.



**Melissa Tumulty** 



**Renars Sternfelds** 

My name is Renars. My favorite thing about this school is how nice and kind the teachers are and how hully free this school is, I also love all the extra-curricular activities you can do after school or on break like soccer, football, table tennis and there is even a FIFA Tournament.



Siofrá Kennedy

In Woodwork, we went straight into working with wood and we have made lots of interesting pieces already like boats and mini-houses. We get to use a lot of tools like drills which is really fun.



There are so many

extra curricular

activities. The teachers

are very kind and

understanding. The

facilities are really

cool.There are science

labs, language labs

and a gym.

Harry Griselain



I chose this school because of its diversity. The canteen is to die for. I am enjoying making new friends, learning new languages and playing sports for my school.

Jim Connolly

I can finally rest my head, I know I made the right choice. At first it was a maze, now it's a stroll in the park. I love this school!



Tara O'Neill

My parents and I had heard

about the fantastic Leaving



Certificate results and this really influenced my decision to come here.

Sarah Jane Macken





**Niall Awogboro** 

the food in the canteen.





**Alexiane Parker** 

I really loved the school

from the moment I first

stepped inside. I knew it

would suit me. If you

are interested in doing

well, this is the school

for you.

**Jed Moylette** 





Success in GAA: Our past pupils have represented counties Roscommon, Westmeath and Galway at senior and minor level. Donie Shine, Cathal McHugh (Captain St. Brigid's football team, Roscommon County Champions 2016), Niall, Conor and Ronan Daly represented Roscommon in 2016. John Connellan, Ray Connellan (moving to Australia to play Aussie Rules football), John Egan, James Dolan, Jack Donoghue and Noel Mulligan reached the Leinster final with Westmeath.

Darren Touhey is a member of the Connacht U18 rugby team and **Rian Callaghan** is a member of the Connacht U18 ladies team.

**Dermot O'Rourke** is a member of the Irish powerlifting team.

Caoimhe Lennon, Sinead Farrell (has represented Ireland in soccer), Amy Quinn and Shauna Connell reached the All-Ireland 'B' final with Roscommon minor ladies. Shauna captained the team.

**Gavin Byrne** is a member of the Roscommon Minor team.

Many of our female soccer players represent the midlands and Gaynor cup soccer teams.

Conor Layng starred for Leinster at the schools' soccer interprovincial competition, he has also been selected for the Irish Schools' squad.

Ali and Robyn Heatherington are members of the Connacht U16 hockey squad.

Megan Bryer is All-Ireland Schools Archery Champion for 2015/16. The school has a very active Archery club.

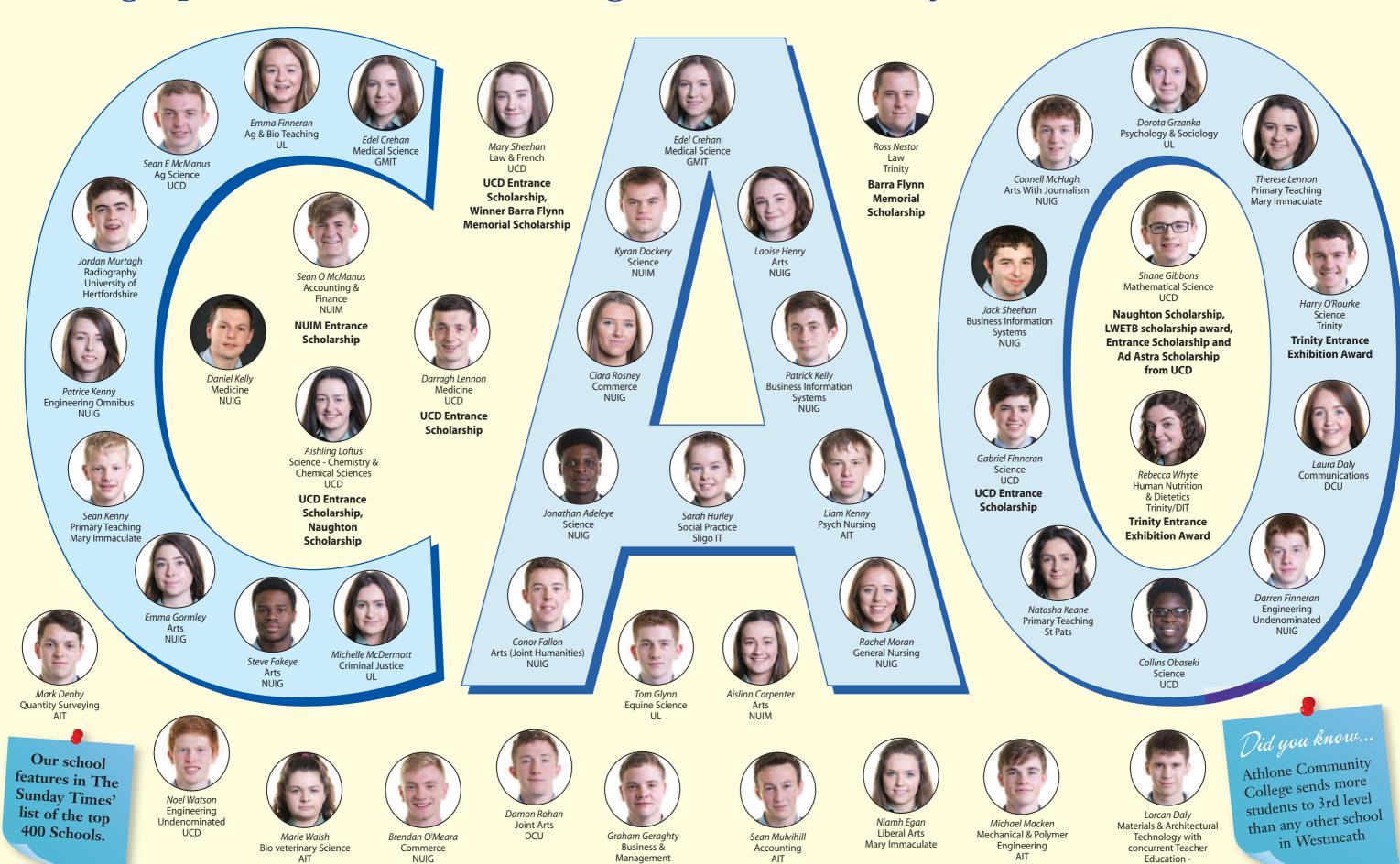
Jade Molloy is the WKA Junior All-Ireland kickboxing champion.

Fiachra Lennon, Alfie Coogan, Cillian Lynam and Darragh Fitzgerald are members of the Swim Team which won the Connacht Schools Senior Relay.

Tommy Coogan is a member of the Irish U15 basketball team.



### Taking Up The Third Level Challenge ..... Where are they now? A selection of Leaving Certificate Class 2016



NUIG

Second Level Teaching



# Meet a selection of our Graduates in their moment of Academic Triumph

#### Top row, left to right:

Gavin Ward, Bachelor of Arts in Law & Accounting, 1st Class Honours, University of Limerick

Evan Mannion, Bachelor of Medicine (MB) of Surgery (BCh) and of Obstetrics (BAO) NUI Galway 2016.

Shane Lennon, Honours Bachelors Degree Agricultural Science (BAgrSc), UCD 2016.

Laura Walsh, Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and French (Erasmus in France) NUIG 2016.

#### Above, left to right:

Dermot Donnelly, Honours Bachelor Degree Commerce, UCD.

Kara Dolan, BSc Physiotherapy, Honours Degree, UCD 2016.

Patrick O'Brien, Bachelor of Business Studies, DCU 2015.

Aoibhin McDaid, Clinical Speech and Language Studies, Honours Degree, Trinity College.



We consistently perform far above the national average in State exams. This year our results in Maths, English, Irish, Geography, Art, French, Accounting, Business and many others exceeded the national average in some cases by 50%.

### **Academic Excellence 2016**

'The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited' - Plutarch



Bank of Ireland Student Of The Year recipients Rebecca Whyte and Darragh Lennon with Eileen Donohoe (Principal).



Aisling Loftus and Shane Gibbons Winners of the Naughton Foundation Scholarship with Eileen Donohoe (Principal).



LWETB Scholars of the Year 2016 recipients Shane Gibblons and Rebecca Whyte.



Principal's Award recipients Sean O McManus and Mary Sheehan pictured with Eileen Donohoe (Principal).



Shane Gibbons, recipient of the Ad Astra Scholarship from UCD 2016.



Gabriel Finneran, Recipient of the JP McManus Award 2016.

### Honour Roll 2012-2016

**Trinity Entrance Exhibition Scholarship...** Niamh Campbell, Daniel Cunningham, Hugh Moody (2012), Megan Lennon (2014), Sean Molloy (2014), Kevin Seery (2015) Rebecca Whyte, Harry O'Rourke (2016).

**UCD Entrance Scholarship Award...** Dermot Donnelly (2012), Eoin Cunniffe (2013), Ethel McManus, Saoirse McManus (2015), Darragh Lennon, Gabriel Finneran, Shane Gibbons, Mary Sheehan, Aisling Loftus (2016).

DCU Academics Scholarship... Oliver Milton (2012) UL 40 Scholarship Award... Gavin Ward (2012)

JP McManus Scholarships... Caoilainn Scouler, Michelle McHugh (2011), Dale Breheny (2014), Gabriel Finneran (2016).

Barra Flynn Memorial Law Scholarship... Gavin Ward (2012), Mary Sheehan (2016)

**Naughton Foundation Scholarship...** Shane Gibbons, Aisling Loftus (2016).

**LWETB Scholars...** Dale Breheny, Sean Molloy (2014), Cian Warby, Ethel McManus (2015), Shane Gibbons, Rebecca Whyte (2016).

**NUIM Entrance Scholarship....** Kevin Fitzpatrick (2014), Olivia Fallon, Sean McManus (2016).

Ericsson Scholarship.... Matija Milenovic (2015)

**Ad Astra Scholarship UCD....** Cian Warby (2015), Shane Gibbons (2016).



Junior Cert High Achievers: Peter Cummins, Ceara Mulry, Niamh McGonigle Murray, All 9As and Megan Coolahan 10As.







Roscommon Co.Championship debating run by NUIG
 NUIG Mace • Concern • Junior Public Speaking
 AIT Mental Health Competition • Soroptimists for girls
 Knights of Columbanus Public Speaking
 • Senior and Junior Gael Linn

Winner of Art in the Park 2015

# Music and the Arts, Public Speaking and Debating To express

We ensure that students have the freedom to embrace their creativity. From *musicals* to *fashion shows* and *dance classes*, students are provided with a wide range of *Performing Arts* opportunities. Music appreciation is high on the agenda in our school.

To express yourself needs a reason, but expressing yourself *is* the reason

We aim to provide a range of opportunities for all lovers of music, these include the *school orchestra*, *traditional music group* and the *school choir*.

Did you know...

- We have won All Ireland titles in Debating, Public Speaking, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Basketball, Academic Essay competitions, BT Young Scientist and more.
  - We have a vibrant Art department and we have won several competitions.
    - Our Music department is renowned nationwide.

To enrich their educational experience, students are encouraged to engage in pursuits that stretch the mind. **Debating** and **Public Speaking** 

opportunities are provided for all pupils both in-house and in co-operation with wider organisations. Our school has a formidable record having won All Ireland titles in *Concern Debating* and *Mental Health Speaking Competitions*.

We have also had success competing in other languages, with a national title in the *Gael Linn Public Speaking Competitions*.

We also have a *French debating team*.

Evie McTeague and Kaelan
Quinn, winners of Mental
Health Public speaking
competition held in AIT.

Juste Skatikaite and Breena Breheny.

"Tread soft

because you

tread on my



Scifest:

Ella Callaghan, Kirsten Greasley and Michaela Quinn.



Members of the school sailing team who were first in their category in the All Ireland Interschools Sailing Competition: Lughaidh Croasdell and Ben Graf.



#### **BT Young Scientist:**

Fiona Molloy, Louise Egan and Sarah Denby won the special EPA award with their project "For Peat's Sake" and the Biological and Ecological Intermediate category. They also won the "One Good Idea" Competition (Senior Category) with this project.

# Extra-Curricular Activities

We encourage our students to get involved in a variety of extra-curricular pursuits to complement their academic studies. Such activities are very important in fostering friendships across the year groups and support the feeling that our school is a community.

Extra curricular activities in our school allow students to benefit in line with the well established maxim:

Mens Sano in Corpore Sano' (a healthy mind in a healthy body) and these activities embellish the lives of students long after they leave school. Success and endeavour in all things is our guiding principle, and the consequent enjoyment that comes with it motivates our students to take full benefit from our unequalled range of activities.



### Social Awareness:

Students are encouraged to respect and value the world around them. The school has been awarded on many occasions as a result of this:

- Green Schools Flag
- Amber Flag (Anti-Bullying)



Jack Connaughton, Sarah Muldoon and Louise Payne pictured at the Ploughing Championships, winners of the Irish Angus Beef Schools Competition'. We are one of five schools in the country who received five Angus Calves at the National Ploughing Championships 2016 to rear until slaughter.







### I am maturing and developing

### **Transition Year**

This is a unique one year programme that promotes the personal, social, educational and vocational development of students. It prepares them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.

Transition year encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. It provides students with the opportunity to discover their own talents and abilities whilst developing skills and competencies within a well-defined academic structure.

This year challenges students to take responsibility for their own learning, to improve their performance in core areas, explore new subjects, develop their own interests and to evaluate their own progress. It will also introduce students to the working world. Key-skills such as engaging with others and managing time are central to all transition year courses.

## Transition year in our school provides students with the opportunity to:

- Create and moderate a *TY website*.
- Partake in *funk Kouture*, a national competition which challenges teenagers to create high-end wearable fashion from everyday waste that would normally find its way into the bin.

**funk Kouture** aims to inspire and ignite passion in these teenagers while at the same time subtly educating them about the importance of recycling and reusing waste.

- Hone business skills: Young Entrepreneurs competition.
- Participate in One Good Idea Science competition, Irish Angus Beef Schools Competition and BT Young Scientist.
- Volunteer with charitable organisations
- Gain work experience in a field of their choice
- Participate in Gaisce, the President's Award
- Take a trip to the Special Criminal Court
- Become competent in ICT by creating videos and interactive presentations such as **Prezi**.

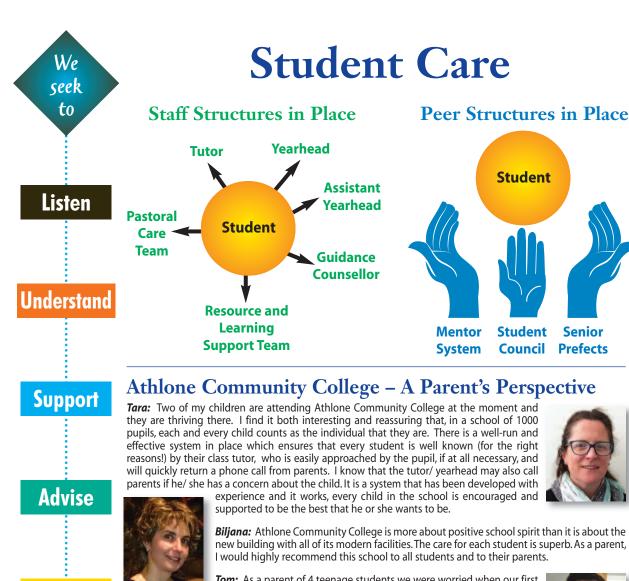
For instant updates check out our website

### www.athloneccty.weebly.com





"Every experience makes you grow."



Integration

Biljana: Athlone Community College is more about positive school spirit than it is about the new building with all of its modern facilities. The care for each student is superb. As a parent,

**Tom:** As a parent of 4 teenage students we were worried when our first son started in the Athlone Community College in 2010 especially when

going to a school with almost 1,000 students. How would he settle? Would he make friends? As it transpired there was no need to worry he settled almost immediately made a cohort of new friends. He completed his Leaving Cert in 2016. Our other three children, a girl and two boys, followed to the Athlone Community College as they were very impressed by the way our son had taken to school life there. Athlone Community College continuously encourages and challenges the students to partake in all aspects of school life whether it is in the

**Encourage** 

Help

Athlone Community College.

academic, social or sporting roles in the school. As parents we are very happy with our family's progress in the

Respect

Acceptance

We promote

Learning

Tolerance

**Individuality** 

**Faith** 

### A Word of Thanks

We would like to acknowledge the excellent contributions made by both The Board of Management and The Parents' Association.

We would also like to voice our sincere appreciation for the hard work carried out by all members of Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) and in particular the Chief Executive, Dr. Christy Duffy. There have been many welcome innovative initiatives brought to our school within the last year and we look forward to making further educational strides in the future.



