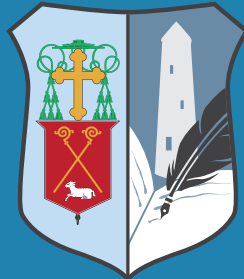


Coláiste Chiaráin

Summerhill, Athlone

Coláiste Chiaráin



Nearc le chéile



PROSPECTUS

A WORD FROM BISHOP DORAN

September 30th 2019

Over the past few years, since Coláiste Chiaráin was established, the tradition has developed of taking the first year group to Clonmacnoise towards the end of September. Almost fifteen hundred years ago, St Chiaráin established a community of hospitality and learning on the banks of the Shannon. To some people this may be ancient history, but today, it is our story. Coláiste Chiaráin seeks to be a community of welcome and of learning, inspired by the same Gospel that inspired St. Ciaran and the monks of Clonmacnoise.

Forty years ago, Pope John Paul II came to Clonmacnoise to pray. He spoke of the powerful influence of the students of Clonmacnoise throughout Europe in the first millennium. Not only did they spread the good news of the Gospel but, as the Pope commented, they enriched the culture of Europe with their art. This year, it was the turn of our first years.

We gathered under the same shelter as Pope John Paul and we prayed about our hopes and our concerns. We asked God to bless our search for truth. I looked around me at all the first years, each with his or her own unique personality and character. I found myself wondering about their particular gifts, some of which remain to be discovered and developed. Their time at Coláiste Chiaráin will be relatively short; just a few years. It is our privilege to support them in discovering their gifts and in becoming the people that God calls them to be.

After the visit to Clonmacnoise I came back to Coláiste Chiaráin to meet the staff. I was amazed to see how things were progressing on the building site. The new school building is taking shape very nicely. We expect that it will be completed by early summer and ready for use by the time the next group of first years is welcomed in September.

But indoors there is another, equally important, building project going on. Without a good teaching staff, the new classrooms would only be an empty shell. Over the past three years the staff, under the leadership of the Principal, Brendan Waldron, has become an energetic team of professionals, combining the energy of youth with the wisdom of experience. I am deeply grateful to them for all that they have done to make Coláiste Chiaráin what it is today. If you are considering sending your son or daughter to Coláiste Chiaráin next September, I am confident that you will not be disappointed.

Yours Sincerely,



Kevin Doran
Bishop of Elphin



INTRODUCTION

Dear Parent/Guardian



Welcome to the prospectus for Coláiste Chiaráin, Athlone. Choosing a secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make about his/her educational future. We hope that this prospectus will help you make that choice.

The holistic education of each boy and girl in our care is at the heart of everything we do. Here, at Coláiste Chiaráin, our priority is to develop academic excellence, independent learning and a realisation in each student of their full potential.

At Coláiste Chiaráin we are committed to offering a broad and comprehensive range of subjects to all our students. This will enable them to choose the academic path that best suits their ability, individuality and ambitions.

The extensive range of extra-curricular activities which are on offer at Coláiste Chiaráin further signal our commitment to our students holistic education. Each student will be offered the opportunity to discover their passion, be it in the area of sport, design, literature or technology.

The school is committed to the development and care of each and every student in a community, where respect for one another is held in the highest regard. I look forward to meeting you and your child.

Brendan Waldron
Principal



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Coláiste Chiaráin. I am proud to introduce our school to you and hope that this prospectus will give you an insight into the special qualities of the school and the excellent all-round education we offer.

We are very proud of the broad curriculum we offer, our excellent facilities and the exceptional array of extra-curricular activities we provide. We seek to promote the holistic development of each student, focusing on the academic, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual development of each individual. We aim to help our students develop personal and life skills which are essential as they prepare to take their places in a challenging modern society.

Our students are encouraged by a dedicated team of teachers to work hard and reach their potential. These teachers embrace new teaching methodologies, curriculum reform and educational initiatives for the benefit of our students. They are passionate about their subjects and profession and have a genuine interest in the development, progress and wellbeing of each student.

I am delighted to welcome you to Coláiste Chiaráin, with a sense of pride in the values we represent, and confidence in the service we provide. I hope that this prospectus will give you a sense of what our school is like and will assist you in deciding on the next stage of your child's education.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries.

Marguerite Quinlan
Deputy Principal

JUNIOR CYCLE



Students enrolling in Coláiste Chiaráin will follow the Junior Cycle Programme for their first three years in secondary school.

Junior Cycle students typically study 10 subjects for their Junior Cycle exams - 7 from the core list and 3 optional subjects. Optional subjects are only selected after students have completed a taster programme, giving them an opportunity to sample all the subjects on offer.

English, Irish and Maths are assessed at both Higher and Ordinary level. All other subjects are now Common level.

The Junior Cycle is assessed using a combination of continuous and final assessments. This means that during 2nd and 3rd year, pupils complete a series of Classroom Based Assessments and Assessment Tasks. They also sit exams (maximum of 10) at the end of the Junior Cycle Programme. Students' achievements are recorded on their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement and this is presented to pupils on completion of the Junior Cycle Programme.

All Junior Cycle students also follow a comprehensive Wellbeing programme. Wellbeing is a combination of PE, SPHE, CSPE, Guidance and ICT.



JUNIOR CYCLE CORE SUBJECTS

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- History
- Geography
- Science
- Wellbeing: Physical Education, Civic, Social & Political Education, Social, Personal & Health Education, Guidance, ICT

NON-CORE SUBJECTS

- German
- French
- Business Studies
- Graphics
- Applied Technology
- Visual Art
- Engineering
- Wood Technology
- Music
- Home Economics



SENIOR CYCLE

TRANSITION YEAR

In Coláiste Chairáin, a majority of students enrol in our optional Transition Year Programme. This is an excellent bridge between Junior and Senior Cycle. It is a highly structured programme that is designed to develop academic, social and personal skills. Students benefit from the opportunity to sample a wide range of subjects, free from the pressure of state examinations. Students are also afforded opportunities to participate in work experience, educational outings, volunteering and fundraising events, as well as entering a variety of local and national competitions.

SENIOR CYCLE

In 5th and 6th Year, students begin working towards their Leaving Certificate Examinations. They choose an average of seven subjects, which must include Irish, English and Mathematics. Additionally, all students have classes in PE, RE and Career Guidance. Students with the qualifying subjects can also select the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme as an additional subject.



Well Done

AILEEN WARD

Transition Year student
Aileen achieved maximum results in her Junior Cycle Exams with 2 Distinctions and 8A's



SENIOR CYCLE CORE SUBJECTS

- Career Guidance
- English
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- Accounting
- Agricultural Science
- Applied Mathematics
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Construction Studies
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Economics
- Engineering
- French
- German
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- LCVP
- Music
- Physics
- Technology

STUDEN SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Helping our incoming first year students to settle in and achieve their potential is a priority at Coláiste Chairáin. To this end, we have put in place a comprehensive set of support structures. These include:

TRANSFER PROGRAMME

In order to help with the transition from primary to post-primary, Coláiste Chairáin invites prospective students to attend our school for a series of afternoon activities, during their final term of 6th class. These activities provide students with the opportunity to get to know their new school, sample some of the subjects on offer and participate in engaging, team building tasks. Incoming students and their parents find this opportunity to become familiar with the environment, future classmates and a selection of the teaching staff, very reassuring.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

All Junior Cycle classes in Coláiste Chairáin are mixed ability. In order to best assess the needs of our students and create classes in which each student can reach their optimal potential, students sit an assessment in advance of the new school year.

STUDENT TASTER PROGRAMME

To help our 1st Years make an informed decision regarding which subjects will best suit their interests and abilities, they get an opportunity to sample the entire suite of optional subjects during an 8 week Taster Programme.

STUDENT INDUCTION DAY

On their first day in Colaiste Chairáin, 1st Year students are the only students in attendance. This gives them a chance to become familiar with the school building and meet their fellow classmates, teachers, tutors, year head and other members of staff.

BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER

All 1st Year students participate in our mentoring programme, where they are paired with a senior student who acts as their Big Brother/ Big Sister. Through a co-ordinated programme, friendships are forged between the students and it ensures that the 1st Years always have someone to ask for advice or a friendly face to turn to if required.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework club, is a free after-school club, that is open to all 1st Years. Students receive a snack and can then complete their homework under the guidance of a member of the teaching staff.



Students are encouraged to actively pursue a wide and varied range of in-school and after-school activities during the year.



WHAT OUR CURRENT STUDENTS THINK



Aimee Plunkett – 2nd Year

I never regret my choice to come to Coláiste Chiaráin. All the teachers are so caring. I am in 2nd year now and the staff have guided me onto the right path with my subject choices. The teachers help us to stay on top of the workload. I am excited that I am here a year now and I can help the new 1st years



Amy Harney – 2nd Year

I very much enjoy the sports programmes here. As someone who plays a lot of sport, I find the setup here is amazing and there are very motivated trainers who involve everyone. This makes it fun. I am extremely happy with my decision to come to CCA



Aaron Mullen – 3rd Year

The best part of our school is the community. You can receive an education in any school but in our school it's the encouragement you receive from everyone else here that pushes you that extra mile.



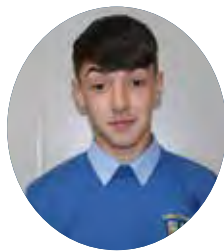
Katie Lyons – 3rd Year

Enrolling in secondary school was nerve-wracking for me especially because I only knew three other people from my primary school. Coláiste Chiaráin was definitely the best choice for me. I love all my subjects and I've made loads of friends. The lunches are cheap and I get a manageable amount of homework.



Katie Keegan Transition Year

From the moment I entered the school both the staff and pupils were really welcoming and helpful. There is a great inclusive atmosphere here.



Cian Gavin – 5th Year

There's a good choice of sports for boys and girls, including soccer, GAA basketball. The Big Brother Programme makes it easy for 1st years to settle in when they engage in activities with the 5th years who all have the opportunity to be a mentor.



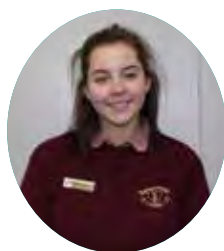
Alan Malone – 5th Year

You really feel acknowledged and supported for your efforts and never just feel like a number. The teachers are helpful and supportive in everything and will go above and beyond to help us achieve our goals. The atmosphere within the school is warm and welcoming.



Andrea Wolny – 5th Year

My experience in Coláiste Chiaráin is probably one of the best so far. The school is lovely, the teachers are very nice, and everyone is very inclusive. When I joined in 2nd year I was really worried but everyone helped me along the way and now I feel confident saying that this is probably one of the best schools!



Kate Nally – 6th Year

At first I was apprehensive about the joining of St. Aloysius College and St. Joseph's. It was a huge change and I wasn't sure what to expect. However from the first day, the new boys and the teaching staff were so easy to get along with and were so friendly and welcoming that by the end of the first day all my worries and fears had evaporated. Two years later the relationships I've formed with everyone have blossomed and I've enjoyed every day since my second level journey.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mark Gannon

Athlone IT
(BA in Applied Social Studies)

Kevin Horan

GMIT
(Mechanical Engineering)

Neill Macken

NUI Maynooth
(Bachelor of Arts)

Rachel Johnson

National University of Ireland Galway
(Commerce)

Kara Earle

GMIT
(Bachelor of Science in Architectural Technology)

Katie Green

National University of Ireland Maynooth
(Biomedical Science)

Blaithin Ryan

Sligo IT
(Bachelor of Arts in Writing & Literature)

Emma Kildea

Dublin City University
(BA in Accounting and Finance)

Brianna Brady

NUI Galway
(Bachelor of Engineering)
Recipient of JP McManus Scholarship 2019

Robbie Powell

Dublin City University (Engineering-Sports Scholarship) Robbie has just returned from South Korea having competed in the Senior World Swimming Championships where his team broke the Irish Senior record in the 200 metres freestyle event. He is currently training in the hope of qualifying for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Lucy Nally

NUI Maynooth
(BA International - German & Music)
Currently on Erasmus in University of Vienna.

Niall Murray

Niall is currently in the Connacht Academy. He was on the Irish Under 20 World Cup Team and was a pivotal performer in Ireland's recent 6 Nations success.

Adele Corcoran

DCU
(Bachelor of Arts in Accounting & Finance)

Chloe Singleton

Currently on a gap year to pursue her promising international football career. Chloe has recently been selected for the Ireland Ladies Senior Soccer Squad.

Amy Gannon

NUI Maynooth
(Professional Masters in Education in Primary Education)

FOSTERING STUDENT WELLBEING

While Coláiste Chairáin is committed to ensuring that each student achieves their academic potential, this is never at the expense of a child's social and emotional development. In order to ensure that students are healthy and happy during their time at school, whilst still striving for academic excellence, a large array of student supports and services are in place. These include:

PASTORAL CARE SYSTEM

The Pastoral Care Team, supported by the entire school community, work to create a positive atmosphere where student welfare, safety and happiness take centre stage. The Pastoral Care Team is supported in its work by a dedicated team of year heads and tutors who are there to offer support and guidance to the young adults in their care.

GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

Our comprehensive guidance programme commences before a student enters 1st Year and is initially designed to fully support students in their transition from primary to post-primary school. The comprehensive guidance programme continues throughout the student's entire time in the college, with all students receiving both in-class and individual support covering areas like study skills, aptitude testing, pathways to third level and advice on career options.

LEARNING SUPPORT

A support structure for students with additional learning needs is provided through our Learning Support Programme. The Learning Support Team assess the needs of individual students and where appropriate design a programme for those students with specific needs. These supports are offered following formal and informal assessments and consultations with parents, primary school teachers and other relevant educational professionals.



STUDY SKILLS

All students (including all 1st Years) are given the opportunity to participate in a Study Skills Programme. This is an invaluable aid when it comes to preparing for both school and state examinations, given its emphasis on developing good study habits and motivating students to learn effectively.



LIBRARY

Coláiste Chairáin offers students an extensive and ever expanding stock of library books, which they are encouraged to borrow and read at their leisure.

ACADEMIC TRACKING

The college operates a staff led academic mentoring programme, titled "Aim Higher". This successful intervention is based around the principle of students reviewing their academic performance after every set of formal exams and working with a mentor to set realistic academic targets for the following term. It allows students to take ownership of their own learning and ensures that academic performance is under constant review.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is an intrinsic part of the school community. It gives students an important voice in matters pertaining to the student body and the general running of the school. It is a democratically elected council, representing students from every year group in the school. It provides a direct line of communication between students, management, staff and parents/guardians and offers valuable leadership experience for students elected to sit on the council.

SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY & HOMEWORK CLUB

Coláiste Chiaráin offers all students an opportunity to avail of supervised study for two hours after school from Monday to Thursday. Evening study is run under the supervision and guidance of the teaching staff.



FOSTERING STUDENT WELLBEING

CANTEEN

Canteen facilities are available on-site. Students can avail of a wide variety of hot and cold lunches, provided at a subsidised cost. All students are welcome to attend Breakfast Club, which is open every morning before school, providing free tea and toast, for students arriving on-site early. The school also provides juice and a snack for each student at 11 o'clock break.

BOOK RENTAL SCHEME

Moving from primary to post-primary school can be an expensive time for parents and guardians. The book rental scheme assists in reducing some of these costs.

PREFECTS

Prefects play a very important role in the school community, providing an important link between pupils and staff. Nominated students are assigned duties such as representing the student body, meeting school guests and assisting at parent/ teacher meetings. Becoming a prefect forms a valuable part of a student's personal development, giving him/her an opportunity to develop skills pertaining to communication, leadership and responsibility.

LINKS WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Acknowledging that parents/guardians are a vital partner in providing quality education, Coláiste Chiaráin is dedicated to forging strong formal and informal links with home. The Parents Association has a vital role to play within the overall school community. The school also has an open door policy in relation to parents/guardians and appointments can be scheduled to discuss any aspect of a child's educational life.



LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Coláiste Chiaráin is very proud of the strong links we have forged with businesses and organisations in the community. These links provide our students with invaluable real world experience and are a huge asset to them in their future endeavours.

We work with Alkermes in the School's Business Partnership Skills at Work programme. This initiative, delivered in conjunction with the global Athlone based pharmaceutical company, provides LCVP students with an invaluable experience of the world of work. Representatives from the company facilitate workshops for the students that incorporate CV development, interview skills, team building, problem-solving and an on-site visit to the Athlone plant.

We also work closely with Ericsson, the world's largest telecoms network services provider, to offer students a Python Programming course. This course gives students a great introduction to the world of software engineering, allowing them to develop skills not always catered for in a post primary setting.

Finally, our students work on a voluntary basis with the students of St. Hildas, Shannon Academy, St. Peter's NS and the Coláiste Chiaráin ASD class. The skills gained by students from these experiences are innumerable but include enhanced communication skills, greater empathy, leadership skills and the ability to be organised and problem solve in a real life, working environment.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In order to provide students with a broad and varied experience in secondary school, Coláiste Chiaráin, delivers a comprehensive and ever-evolving extracurricular programme. Opportunities available to students include:

SPORT

At Coláiste Chiaráin we encourage our students to get involved in a variety of sporting and extra curricular pursuits to complement their academic studies. Such activities are very important in promoting well-being and in fostering friendships across year groups.

Sport encourages students to work as a team, to develop discipline and to meet and interact with fellow students. Participating in sport plays a key role in the development of crucial life skills.

Coláiste Chiaráin is situated on a 28 acre site. The availability of this land provides a unique opportunity for the development of extensive sporting facilities.

We are proud of our sporting heritage and we are delighted by the continued success of our students in all sports.

SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Gaelic
- Soccer
- Rugby
- Swimming



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL TOURS

Complementing both the academic and the social side of life in secondary school, annual school tours allow students to experience foreign travel, culture and educational activities. The experience allows students to observe the sights whilst also enjoying social time with their peers and creating lifelong memories.

SCIENCE APPRECIATION

Students are encouraged to appreciate the role of science in their everyday lives and to link the curricular with the extra-curricular. We aim to stimulate greater understanding of Science through active experimentation and to promote independent thought and research skills by encouraging project work. Each year senior students participate in the Regional AIT Science Quiz. Junior students participate in the School Excellence Fund which increases the uptake of Science subjects at Senior level. All students are invited to complete projects for BT Young Scientist, Sci-fest and many other National Science competitions.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

The IBYE is a national competition to find Ireland's best young entrepreneur. The students promote their products and merchandise by selling them with great enthusiasm at market day in school.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Coláiste Chiaráin takes its commitment to the environment very seriously, especially given the growing global concerns regarding climate change. We are justifiably proud of several recent successes in this area.

In 2019, Coláiste Chiaráin was awarded the Green Schools Litter flag. The hardworking students on the Green Schools' Committee are now working to add the Water flag to their repertoire. These students also received a Sustainability Award for 2019/20 from the Tidy Towns organisation, acknowledging their work in this area. Added to such successes, the TY Environmental group have had their recycling themed advertisement screened in both Athlone and Roscommon cinemas for a three week period, a very exciting reward for their creativity and powerful campaign about chewing gum and its environmental impact.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & DEBATING

All year groups participate in public speaking and debating. This encourages students to voice their opinion in relation to social, political and global issues.

The school participates in many local, regional and national competitions including the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition, Roscommon Schools Public Speaking Competition, Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force Public Speaking Competition, Joan O'Brien Public Speaking Competition, Inter-Class Debates and community radio debates.



COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY CLUB

This club is a popular element of the school's IT programme. Students meet on a weekly basis to develop their ICT skills and discuss the latest events in the technology sector. The students can use this time to work on projects relating to computers and technology.

MUSIC & DRAMA

Coláiste Chiaráin actively promotes the Arts. School talent show, music during religious ceremonies and the TY Musical all provide students with an opportunity to display and develop their talents.



Coláiste Chiaráin New School Development

- 28 acre campus setting in a quiet, out of town environment.
- State of the Art building to cater for up to 1,000 students.
- State of the Art Physical Education facility exceeding 1,000 sqm, to include a large gymnasium, fitness suite, 6 hard play courts and numerous pitches.
- 6 Science laboratories.
- Cutting edge ICT facilities
- Specialist rooms for Art, Home Economics, Construction Studies, DCG, Music, Engineering, Technology, etc.
- Spacious indoor and outdoor social areas for students.
- 37 general classrooms.
- A special needs facility and ASD unit.
- Library
- Canteen.



CONTACT DETAILS

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Opening in May 2020