

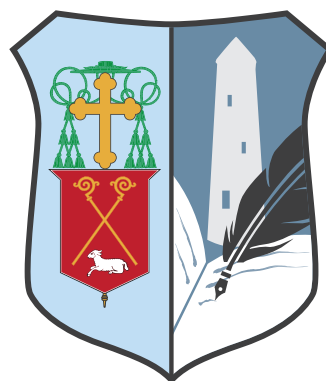
# Coláiste Chiaráin

Summerhill, Athlone

## PROSPECTUS 2017



Coláiste Chiaráin



*Neart le chéile*





## A WORD FROM BISHOP DORAN

*“I could also sense that those gathered there were in their own way creating history – the history of what is to be the newest secondary school in Athlone – Coláiste Chiaráin.”*

On September 9th last, I had the privilege of travelling by boat from Athlone down the Shannon to the site of the monastic settlement at Clonmacnoise to celebrate the feast day of St. Ciarán (c516-c549). On the journey with me were the first year boys from St Aloysius College and the first year girls from St Joseph’s College – both wearing the same uniform bearing the crest of the new Coláiste Chiaráin.

As we gathered with the students and their teachers for a brief prayer service in the chapel – I could sense the very real history of the monastic site over which Ciarán was Abbot and the tradition of faith and learning about the place. I could also sense that those gathered there were in their own way creating history – the history of what is to be newest secondary school in Athlone – Coláiste Chiaráin.

Now the time has come for the first students to enrol as the new school opens its doors on September 1st 2017 and we are very excited indeed. Coláiste Chiaráin will not only preserve the excellent educational traditions of both St Aloysius College and St Joseph’s College but it will also build upon them. It will allow for an enhanced range of subjects, educational programmes, greater provision for students with special educational needs and more extracurricular activities that parents would rightly wish for their children in the years to come.

By September 1st 2017, renovations and renewals will have been made to the large Summerhill site to comfortably receive students and staff. In 2015 the Department of Education and Skills announced major capital funding for the amalgamation of St. Aloysius College and St. Joseph’s College as part of the new programme of capital investment in schools 2016 to 2021. The work has already begun on planning for the building of a brand new school campus that will bring with it some of the best educational facilities in the country.

I thank all those who have worked so hard to bring the project to this important stage and I wish them every blessing in bringing this work to a fruitful conclusion. I wish God’s blessings on all those boys and girls who will enrol in the new school this year and are making their own history by being the first students of Coláiste Chiaráin, Athlone.

Kevin Doran  
Bishop of Elphin, College Patron



## INTRODUCTION

*“One’s mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.”* (Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.)

It is with great pride that we, the management and staff of Coláiste Chiaráin, introduce our new school prospectus. This marks the beginning of a new vision in education for all our students. Drawing from the long tradition of excellence in teaching of St. Joseph’s and Aloysius’ Colleges, Coláiste Chiaráin will serve to enhance the quality of education for all our students.

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 exciting range of extra curricular activities which are now 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.

As a Diocesan school Coláiste Chiaráin will continue to uphold the Catholic ethos. By keeping Christian values at the heart of everything we do we believe that our students will benefit greatly from their time here. We are confident that they will graduate from our school well educated and well rounded individuals.



# FIRST YEAR IMPRESSIONS



**Georgina Kempin,  
Feevagh N.S.**

"I think the school has lived up to my expectations. The transition from primary has been great. I have made some great friends."



**Oisín McAuley,  
Curraghboy N.S.**

"I was so glad that I got to try all the subjects before deciding. I also like that we don't get as much homework as I thought we would."



**Hugh Gaffey,  
St. Ciaráns N.S.**

"I love school because I was able to make a lot of new friends and choose subjects that I enjoy."



**Amy Johnston,  
Camcloon N.S.**

"I like that we have a small year group and all of the teachers know all of our names."



**Jane Egan,  
Summerhill N.S.**

"I think this school is brilliant. Here I enjoy a nice selection of subjects featuring an updated Technology room."



**Eoghan  
Connaughton,  
Cornafulla N.S.**

"It's cool that we get out for break 5 minutes before the rest of the school!"



**Shane Donovan,  
Ballybay N.S.**

"My favourite thing in first year is how nice all our teachers are."



**Aileen Ward,  
Clonown N.S.**

"I found it very easy to find my way around. The other students helped us when we were unsure of something."



**Katie Keegan,  
Cloonakilla N.S.**

"I think this school is great. As soon as I walked in I felt welcome."



**Jake Hourigan,  
Dean Kelly N.S.**

"I love going to matches with the school."

"I think this school is brilliant"

# OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM



## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EDUCATION

All curricular subjects have the potential to benefit the lives of students and to promote their growth and development.

Particular subjects such as Social, Political & Health Education, Relationships & Sexual Education, Civic, Social & Political Education and Religious Education allow students to reflect on their own feelings, beliefs and attitudes and can be very helpful in promoting positive mental and emotional health.



## PROMOTING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

One of the aims of Coláiste Chiaráin is to maintain a strong focus on literacy and numeracy skills within a broad and balanced curriculum. As part of our whole school approach to literacy and numeracy we have introduced a "Reading Wall", "Book in the Bag" and a specially appointed Reading Room. The keyword strategy has been applied across all subject departments. Students take part in public speaking and debating to enhance their literacy skills. Each year students are registered for Maths Week during which they take part in on-line mathematical challenges. Further educational applications are used to enhance mathematical understanding such as "Infused", "Manga High" and "Build Up". Based on our high success rates in Junior Certificate, students have been nominated for All-Ireland Mathematics and Science Olympiads.

## JUNIOR CYCLE CORE SUBJECTS

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

## NON-CORE SUBJECTS

- German
- French
- Business Studies
- Technical Graphics
- Technology
- Art, Craft & Design
- Metalwork
- Materials Technology (Wood)
- Music
- Home Economics

# CAREER GUIDANCE

There are a number of key supports available to enhance the work in the classroom:

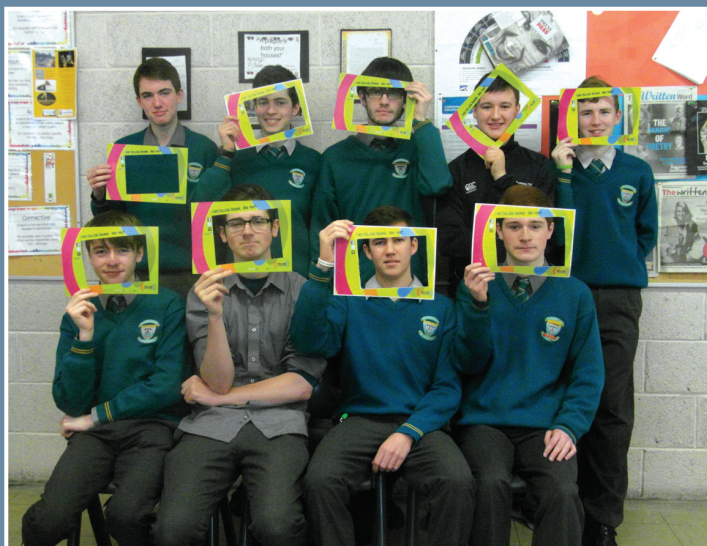
- Incoming First Year Assessment
- First Year "Settling in" programme
- Information evening on subject choice

At Senior Level guidance and counselling also provides:

- Subject choice assistance
- CAO Careers Information Night
- Preparation for college entry
- Transition from second to third level education

# CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

- Mock Leaving Certificate examinations are held in January/February
- Parent-teacher meetings are held following Mock Leaving Certificate examinations
- Subject teachers carry out regular class-based assessments
- Results of October, Christmas and Summer academic assessments are posted to parents



# TRINITY ACCESS PROGRAMME

Since 1993, the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) has formed a central part of Trinity's plan to encourage young adults and ethnic minority students who come from socio-economic groups under-represented in higher education, to go to university.

Students from Coláiste Chiaráin visit Trinity College Dublin every year and may apply for the one year foundation course. After this, students have the opportunity to apply for the full-time courses as listed in the CAO.



## SENIOR CYCLE CORE SUBJECTS

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

## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

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

## ACTIVITIES

- Young Entrepreneur Competition and Student Enterprise Awards
- BT Young Scientist Exhibition
- School Musical
- Educational trip to France/Germany
- Gaisce Awards
- Junk Couture
- Driving School and Road Safety
- Work Experience
- ECO-UNESCO Environmental Competition
- Trip to Ploughing Championships
- Manual Handling Course
- Fire Safety Course
- First Aid Course
- Peer-led Sports Training
- Army Boot-Camp
- Cookery Classes
- Water Sports Adventure Trips
- "Log-On Log-Off" Digital Learning Classes for Adults
- Music Generation
- Production of a School Magazine
- Drive for Life Programme
- Charity Work



**Our unique programme is designed by the Transition Year Co-ordinators. Each year they develop a wide and varied programme based on past experiences, designed to meet the needs of the students enrolled in T.Y. for the year.**



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



## **ANNUAL FRENCH SCHOOL TRIP**

One of the highlights of Transition Year since it was established in the early 90's has been the annual school trip to France. Each year a total of 25 students take part. The trip normally lasts for six days most of which are spent in the Paris area.

The daily excursions include visits to famous places such as L'arc de Triomphe, Le Musée du Louvre, Montmartre, Le Tour Eiffel and Le Stade de France. The one day visit to Disneyland Paris is the highlight of the tour. Another memorable visit is to the American War Cemetery and the beaches where the Normandy landings took place towards the end of the Second World War.

We consider the School Trip as an integral part of the Transition Year Programme which undoubtedly broadens the students' minds.

# STUDENT SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

## 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

Coláiste Chiaráin is extremely fortunate to have two fully qualified guidance counsellors on its staff. 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

Combining the resources of the two existing campuses means that Coláiste Chiaráin offers students an extensive and expanding stock of library books, which students will be encouraged to borrow.

## BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER

The Big Brother/Big Sister Programme involves a commitment by Senior Cycle students to support their 1st Year "little sister" or "little brother", in order to help them adjust to life in secondary school. This programme runs for the entire year and is social in nature. It involves lots of fun activities designed to foster friendships and social skills between students and creates a peer mentoring system whereby older students keep a caring and watchful eye on the youngest members of the school community.



## AIM HIGHER

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.

Junior Cycle students can also attend a Homework Club during the week, where a member of staff is on hand to offer support or guidance if needed.

## CANTEEN

There are canteen facilities serving hot and cold food available on-site. Coláiste Chiaráin is committed to the promotion of healthy eating. The canteen is also open each morning for Breakfast Club.

## 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.



## MINDFULNESS & RELAXATION CLASSES

Mindfulness in schools has become increasingly popular of late and is useful for all students across the entire school. Mindfulness forms part of the both the curriculum and extra curricular programme. Exam classes in particular, are given an opportunity to partake in mindfulness/relaxation classes but this support is open to all students.

## 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.



# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## 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, to meet and interact with fellow students. Participating in sport plays a key role in the development of crucial life skills.

Colaiste Chiarain 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.



At Coláiste Chiaráin we offer the following sports and physical activities:

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Gaelic
- Soccer
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Hockey
- Handball
- Golf
- Yoga
- Aerobics
- Table Tennis
- Dance



## 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 CLUB

This is a fun and exciting club that links the curricular and extra curricular. The aims are to stimulate greater understanding of science through active experimentation and to promote independent thought by encouraging project work. Students participate in the regional AIT Science Quiz. They also develop research skills and work as a team to complete projects for BT Young Scientist, Sci-Fest and 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.

## ECO-UNESCO YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS

Each year the Transition Year students take part in Ireland's largest celebration of youth Eco-Action. The competition is held to recognise the hard work of young people in protecting and conserving their local environment. TY students have had huge success in this competition and were overall winners of this national award on two occasions.



## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The Green Schools Programme promotes and acknowledges long term action for the environment. Students are encouraged to become active members of the Green Schools Committee.

The Neat Streets Programme, sponsored by An Taisce, encourages students to make tangible improvements to the school and local environment in a host of creative and effective ways.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING & DEBATING

All year groups participate in public speaking and debating. This encourages students to voice their concern over 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, 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 AND FILM

Coláiste Chiaráin actively promotes the Arts. Drama Club, Film Club, Choir and music lessons are all part of our extra curricular programme. 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 2017 and beyond... What does the future hold?

- 28 acre campus setting in a quiet, out of town environment.
- A new school 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
- An I.T. suite
- Specialist rooms for Art, Home Economics, Construction Studies, DCG, Music, Engineering, Technology, etc.
- Multi-media room
- 37 general classrooms
- A special educational needs facility and an ASD unit
- Library
- Canteen



## CONTACT DETAILS

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# Moving FORWARD TOGETHER