



Columba College Killucan

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Management's Address

We are delighted to introduce you to the new Columba College prospectus. It is designed to give you an insight into the wide range of subjects we offer here. You will also get a comprehensive overview of the wide variety of extracurricular activities available in our school.

We are a medium size school and pride ourselves on our unique ability to get to know all of our pupils personally. Our teachers are a highly qualified, dynamic and a committed team who inspire our pupils to succeed to the highest possible level academically and personally. We strive to help our pupils do their very best academically and to develop in them skills that will benefit them in whatever profession they chose. During our Open Night you will see our school, engage with our staff and see for yourselves what Columba College has to offer. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of our pupils, the best ambassadors for our school who will be more than willing to give you a guided tour.

Columba College continues to upgrade and enhance the provisions for our pupils. We offer your child a safe, secure and caring environment and a friendly school community which will enable them to develop into a mature, confident, well-educated and well-rounded individuals. School choice for your son or daughter is a crucial decision. We, as Principal and Deputy Principal, are confident that Columba College, Killucan will provide a holistic education of the highest quality across academic, pastoral, cultural, physical, psychological and social arenas.

We extend a warm invitation to you, the parents and guardians of prospective first year pupils, to our Open Night in order for you to experience Columba College for yourselves.

We look forward to meeting you.



Bernice Martin
Bernice Martin



Dermot Brady
Dermot Brady

'The principal's leadership style is strategic and dynamic with a commitment to excellence and a clear focus on the management of change.'

- WSE-MML 2013

First Year Induction

Moving to second level is a time of great change for young people and their families. Here in Columba College we are mindful of this transition and the challenges it brings. We offer a comprehensive first year induction which includes a phasing in programme called 'Stepping over to Secondary'. We also avail of the opportunity to run a Summer Camp in August where all our incoming first years partake in a games and activities. All of these opportunities support our pupils as they make the move to our school. It helps them to get to know their new surroundings and to make new friends. Our aim is to make our first years feel confident and happy coming to school each day. Columba College is renowned for the high level of pastoral care which supports pupils in achieving their best.



'I enjoy coming to school because I get to see all of my friends, I enjoy most of my subjects and I like to play on the Astro turf'

Matas



'I like coming to school because the teachers are nice and there are good subject choices and the 6th years are very friendly.'

Conor



'I like Columba College because when we were in sixth class we got to come to the school and see what it was like for the day.'

Grace



'I like coming to school as the classes are fun and the teachers are very helpful and my friends are here'

Rachel

Positive Behaviour

All members of the Columba College school community are expected to treat one another with respect and to abide by our code of behaviour.

We expect and promote high standards of behaviour centred on respect including:

- Respect for self
- Respect for fellow pupils
- Respect for staff
- Respect for the school grounds.

In Columba College we have a zero tolerance policy on Bullying



Subject Choice

In Columba College we pride ourselves in the vast subject choice we offer our pupils. We encourage our pupils to achieve their very best by offering all our subjects as higher and ordinary level subjects at both junior and senior cycle levels. Our first year pupils have the opportunity to sample all subjects before making a decision on their subject choice for Junior Certificate.

Junior Cycle – 3 Years

Irish	French	Physical Education
English	Business Studies	CSPE
Maths	Religion	Art
History	Metalwork	Technical Graphics
Geography	Woodwork	
Science	SPHE	

Junior Certificate School Programme

The Junior Certificate School Programme is on offer as a support to our pupils to ensure that they do the very best in their Junior Certificate examinations. The JCSP 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.

The Leaving Certificate – 2 Years

In senior cycle pupils study 7 subjects. 3 compulsory and 4 optional. Core Subjects are:

English
Irish
Maths

Optional Subjects

French	Art	Engineering
History	Design and Communication Graphics	Geography
Construction Studies	Biology Business	
Agricultural Science	LCVP	

In addition all pupils study Religion, SPHE and Physical Education

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

LCVP

Where possible, eligible pupils are afforded the possibility to participate in the LCVP Programme. Pupils study Link Modules for example, Enterprise Education, Preparation for Work. Pupils also complete one week of Work Experience during fifth year. Portfolio work for this programme accounts for 60% and the remaining 40% is awarded by written examination in early May each year.



Schools Business Partnership

Over the past 4 years we have had a very successful schools business partnership with Trend Technologies in Mullingar. Pupils get the opportunity to view the factory, to experience a day in the life of various personal. They are also given a presentation with various workshops including CV preparation and team building and mock interviews.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Columba College recognises the contribution that extracurricular activities make towards the holistic development of pupils. They enable our pupils to develop fully in mind and body during this time of personal growth and development.

Badminton:

Badminton has rapidly become the most popular sport played in our school and we pride ourselves on the success we have achieved in recent years. We have won multiple Westmeath Championships at under 14, under 16 and under 19 levels in both the boys and girls categories and we have also achieved success in Leinster competitions. We are currently the most successful badminton school in Westmeath and we are very proud of the progress we have made in a short period of time. Badminton coaching takes place after school three evenings per week for boys and girls and considering the current levels of participation the future looks very bright for our badminton club.

Soccer:

Our soccer team has really taken off this year with the addition of our new AstroTurf. We already have in school competitions underway with the aim of partaking in Inter schools competitions later this year.

Some of the other activities we offer here in school are Camogie, Hurling, Football, Athletics, Table Tennis and Horse Riding.

Drama:

Drama was the most recent addition to our extra-curricular activities. Over the past year pupils from all year groups came together and performed a number of short plays and scenes. This took dedication and commitment and the whole performance was a success. We hope that our Drama Club will expand each year and build upon the hard work of our pupils last year.

Choir:

Columba College is in the position to offer choir to any pupils that are willing to participate. It is an extracurricular activity that is offered during the school day. Each year the school choir makes a number of trips to sing within the local community. The school choir visits to the local nursing homes is most definitely a highlight for many pupils.



Gaisce Programme

Gaisce – the President’s Award is offered to all pupils in Columba College. It is the most prestigious award in Ireland for young people aged between 15-25. The Award is a self-directed personal development programme. It challenges pupils to set and pursue personal goals in four different areas, Community Involvement, Personal Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey.







Facilities:

Hot lunches:

Columba College is delighted to be in the position to offer pupils a mid-morning snack and juice and a hot lunch daily. This addition to the school has transformed the school day for pupils as a hot meal helps their focus and concentration in class. Meals provided are healthy and nutritious and include a range of options from Hot Chicken Rolls, Chicken Curry, Lasagne and much more.

Technology:

This academic year will see the introduction of student iPads in our classrooms for the first time. We now live in a digital age and our pupils have grown up surrounded by technology. We need to embrace ICT and incorporate it into all aspects of our teaching and learning. In preparation for this transformation Columba College has the fastest possible broadband installed and every room is furnished with overhead projectors and Apple TVs. This is a very exciting time for pupils and staff alike and allows us to lead the way in attaining the highest academic standards while utilising all available modern mediums, techniques and methodologies. The introduction of iPads into our classrooms is the next step in our journey to provide the highest standard of teaching and learning in Columba College.

Library & Reading Room:

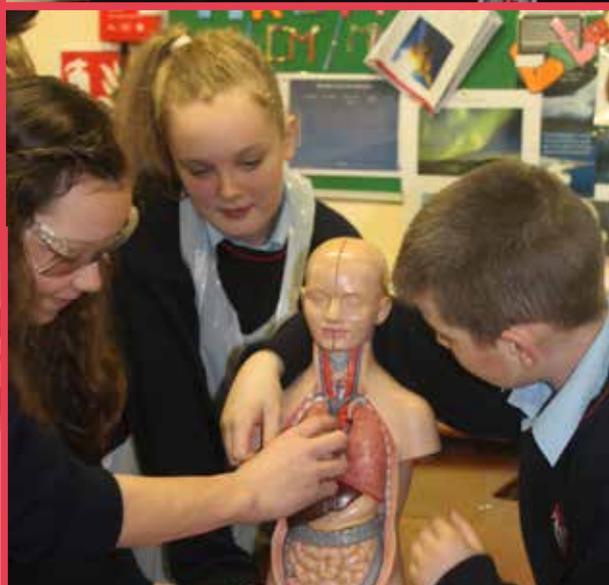
The school has recently opened a fully equipped library, which offers pupils the opportunity to borrow a variety of books. This will work in conjunction with our reading and literacy initiatives in the school. A space has also been developed in the school where pupils can read in a quiet environment.

Homework Club:

Homework Club is available after school and offers pupils the appropriate environment to complete homework and study. It is becoming increasingly popular as pupils see the benefit of a structured setting in which they can complete their work and study with a fully qualified teacher on site to aid them. The School Completion Programme currently fund Homework Club from 4:15 to 5:45 three evenings a week.

Other facilities include:

- School Canteen
- Parents Rooms
- Playing pitch/ basketball court/ AstroTurf
- Reading Room
- Computer Room
- DCG Room
- Practical classrooms
- Attendance monitoring
- Games Room





Student Leadership

All our pupils are encouraged to join in with the development of our school and this takes the form of our different student organisations:

We offer pupils the following opportunities

- Student Council
- Gaisce
- School Choir
- Class Captains
- Green Flag Committee

Cairdeas Mentors:

As a part of the Cairdeas Mentoring Programme first year pupils are paired with a Big Brother or Big Sister from senior cycle. The senior cycle pupil acts as a mentor, helping the new pupil adapt to their new environment. This enables the first year pupil to cope successfully with the transition from primary to post primary school.

Green Schools:

At Columba College we are very committed to environmental protection through our Green Schools organisation which acknowledges and promotes long term, whole school environmental awareness. We are very proud to be one of the first schools to achieve all six green flags for the themes of litter and waste, energy, water, travel, bio-diversity and global citizenship. Green schools is an on-going initiative and involves huge co-operation between the staff and student bodies.

Management of the school:

Board of Management

The Board of Management is a subcommittee of the LWETB. They have the responsibility for the good governance of the school. The Board is broadly based and consists of representatives from the parent body, the teaching staff, LWETB and the local community.

Student Council

The Student council is of a representative body elected by the pupils in the school. The student's council allows the pupils an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions and to play an active part in the policy making in the school.

Parents Council

A number of parents are elected to form the Parents Council at the AGM of parents each year. The Parents Council meets once a month and acts as a representative body that:

- Represents the views of parents
- Informs parents of developments in education and in the school
- Fosters co-operation between parents, teachers and school management
- Helps with the provision of extra equipment and fundraising.

The Board of Management (board) offers very good support to the Principal towards the effective provision of education in the school.

Student Supports

Awards Scheme:

We here at Columba College believe that it is essential that we reward our pupils. Pupils are nominated for awards in:

- Achievement
- Dedication
- Most Improved
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Subject Achievement
- Extra-Curricular Achievement
- Student of the Year
- Sports person of the year
- Confucius Award



Class teacher:

The Class teacher plays a very important role in the life of your son or daughters. He/she will have daily contact with your son or daughter and is dedicated to making your child's educational experience a positive one. They offer support to parents as their child passes through the school. Class teachers are in regular contact with the home and are available to meet with parents. Pupils are encouraged to communicate with their class teacher to overcome difficulties and share their experiences.

Guidance Counsellor:

Guidance deals with personal and social development, educational guidance and career guidance of our pupils here in Columba College. The primary role of the Guidance Counsellor is to provide advice to pupils on subject choice, study skills and career matters. Our Guidance Counsellor also provides individual assistance and advice to pupils experiencing difficulties of academic or a personal nature in school.

Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

Our HSCL Co-ordinator is the link between the school, the home and the community. They search for ways to support parents and help them to remain involved in their child's school life. The role of the HSCL Co-ordinator is to help with the transition from primary to secondary school. to give parents advice where possible and to answer any questions for parents. In addition, the HSCL Co-ordinator organises classes for parents and encourages them to attend. We here at Columba College believe that parents play a vital role in the ongoing education of their children and the HSCL Co-ordinator helps parents to develop their potential in this area.

All parents are welcome to meet with our HSCL Co-ordinator and the officer will try to visit as many homes as is possible throughout the year.

Care Team:

Columba College has a care team which is dedicated to the pupils of our school. They come together to develop plans to support pupils who face additional challenges in the classroom. The care teams provide a strong insight into the overall wellbeing of our pupils.

Special Educational Needs:

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

'An active and involved parents association has contributed well to the development of the school.'

- WSE-MLL 2013

Why choose Columba College?

Multi-Cultural &
Welcoming of
All Faiths

Professional,
Highly
Qualified
Staff

Striving/
promoting
academic
excellence

Dedicated
Pastoral
Care Teams

Fostering
of holistic
development

Wide
Curriculum

Progressive
in the use of IT

Excellent
facilities

Positive
Approach
to Discipline

Broad Range of Extra
Curricular activities.

Sense of Belonging

Hot Lunches &
Homework
Club

Inclusive
Environment



Mission Statement:

'Columba College, as a Post Primary School, aims to provide a learning environment which will allow all pupils to achieve their full potential and enable them to develop into caring and responsible adults/citizens capable of contributing to and fulfilling their roles in the Community/Society.'