



Junk Kouture

Coláiste Chiaráin (Leixlip Community School) have made it through to the Junk Kouture Grand Final with entry "Mielikki". The team consisting of Alannah Hyland, Laura McGonigle and Florence Sonowo, were one of 15 out of 83 sent through from the Eastern Regional Final which took place on Monday 4th of March at The Helix. Junk Kouture is a national fashion contest sponsored by Bank of Ireland, which encourages young designers in second level education to create striking couture designs from recycled materials and junk.

The dress consists of over 400 card tags that are used to attach to the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert practical work. Every part of the tags was used, including the string which was upcycled into a tassel skirt and a knitted bodice. Coláiste Chiaráin's dress is inspired by birds and the endangerment of their habitat through deforestation. The goddess of forests, "Mielikki", is a fierce warrior protecting the birds and their environment.

The Junk Kouture Grand Final will be held at the 3 Arena on the 2nd of May. The judging panel will include Louis Walsh and Doireann Garrihy.

Principal's Welcome

A Chairde,

Welcome to the April edition of our school newsletter. We are at the business end of a very busy year. This publication should give you a picture of some of the varied activities in which the school has been involved.

In early December we had a visit from three Department of Education and Skills inspectors. They carried out a Whole School Evaluation with a focus on Management, Leading and Learning (WSE/MLL). We are very pleased with the affirmation the report provides as well as some focus for further improvement. I am particularly happy that the students received the recognition they deserved.

Outside the classroom there have been excellent achievements in the arts and sport. The TY class project in designing a dress for the Junk Kouture competition has allowed creativity and skill to flourish. Commitment to STEM subjects was evidenced through Engineering week and the acquisition of a 3D printer. Students excelled in Handball, GAA, Soccer and a lively sports day was enjoyed by all our junior students.

In this newsletter we recognise the contribution of sponsors from our community who have supported sports in our school. In a new section in our publication we hear the stories of past students who having graduated from Coláiste Chiaráin embarked into the world to make their mark. It is very heartening to think that we will be telling similar stories about our current students.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Joe Sweeney

Sports Updates

Wed 10th April, a perfect day for football! The Senior Football team overcame Donabate CS on a scoreline of 2:10 to 1:12. It was a truly thrilling and exciting game from start to finish with Donabate leading for most of the encounter. However, they never gave up. Coláiste Chiaráin was down by 5 points at half time with scores from Ben Travers, Conor Murnaghan and Darragh Melville. Once the second half began, it was a different game. Goals from Andrew Mhondiva and Ben Travers got them right back in the game, along with magnificent saves from goalkeeper Sean Halvey. With minutes remaining, Conor Murnaghan's free levelled the side and in injury time a superb Darragh Melville point won it for Coláiste Chiaráin. It was a brilliant display from the lads who showed incredible heart and determination throughout to steal the win. Roll on the final after Easter!



The Junior Camogie team travelled to Blessington GAA pitch on April 10th to play in the South Leinster Development blitz. Playing Scoil Aireagail from hurling stronghold Ballyhale, Kilkenny in the first game, the girls gave a super performance, winning the game 1-4 to 0-4. They then took on Coláiste Raithín in Bray in what ended up being a very tough game with the opposition defence proving difficult to break down. Again, the girls came away with a win.

In the final, they faced Presentation College of Carlow and dominated the game from the very start with some excellent passages of play. Their convincing win didn't reflect the quality of the opposition. Special mention to goalie Anna Evans who, despite feeling a little under the weather, kept a clean sheet in all three games. We look forward to the Leinster Finals day in Portlaoise on May 8th.

Junior Certificate Presentations



Students who completed their Junior Cycle last year gathered in the assembly hall in Coláiste Chiaráin on March 6th for the presentations of their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) certificates. The principal, Mr Joe Sweeney and year head, Ms Grainne Heffron presented the certificates. There was a lovely atmosphere as students reviewed the grades they achieved and were reminded about the skills they developed in their other areas of learning. To recognise their achievements books and certificates were presented to the fifteen students who obtained the highest grades. Sometime ago, the principal had given them book tokens and asked them to select a book on a topic of interest to each individual which would give an insight into their life beyond school and would be something they could keep. The books were then returned to the school where a dedication was placed inside the cover before the official presentation. Book choices reflected a wide variety of interests such as history, art, theatre, music and sport.

Julianna Decuseara

I chose 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen because I usually enjoy classical novels and when I received my gift voucher I was unsure of which book to buy. I was talking to Miss Heffron and she suggested that I should buy 'Pride and Prejudice' so that is what I decided to do.

Kerri Thornton

I chose the book 'Shoe Dog' by Phil Knight because it grabbed my attention. It is a memoir by the creator of Nike the American multinational corporation. This book grabbed my attention as I like learning about businesses and how they can be built from nothing.

Jack Quinn

The book that I chose is 'Great moments in Irish Rugby' by Sportsfile. I chose this book because I have a huge interest in the sport and have aspirations of someday playing for Ireland. I am also very interested in Ireland's past achievements in Rugby.

Ruairí Hession

I chose the book "Human Body" because I am interested in science and biology.

Allanah Hyland

I chose the historical book "Pillars of the Earth" because the past has always interested me. I've read another of Ken Follett's novels 'Winter of the World' set in 1940's Europe. I'm looking forward to enjoying another one of his works.

Kila Dunne

'Les Misérables : From Stage to Screen'. I chose this book because 'Les Misérables' is my favourite musical and I thought it would be interesting to read about how it was made.

Matthew Hunt

I chose a 'National Geographic Answer Book' because of my interest in the natural and refined world. I find these facts about Geography, History and Science very enjoyable to read about and want to learn more about them. Also I think I will keep this book for a very long time.

Ella Mc Donnell

I chose my book because after reading the blurb I was intrigued. I enjoy reading fiction and thought this book would be exciting. The bright cover of the book also caught my eye.

Laura McGonigle

I chose my book "Wuthering Heights" because in Primary school I was given the child's version of the book by one of my favourite teachers. Now I have the original version of the book and it means a lot to me.

Darragh Melville

I chose "Hurlers" because I was interested in reading about the history of hurling, its origins and the development of the game. I love hurling and enjoyed learning all about it.

GAA Future Leaders

Leixlip GAA Club and Coláiste Chiaráin spoke to GAA Future Leaders in Croke Park recently about how both groups are working together to increase and improve the involvement of younger people within the GAA community.



1st Year Girls Futsal Champions



The Coláiste Chiaráin 1st Year girls soccer team was crowned Leinster Champions in the Post Primary Schools Futsal (5-a-side Indoor Soccer) Championships on Wednesday 21st November in the National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown. Having won the Kildare Championships in October, the girls were pitted against the 12 county winners from all across the province, organised into two groups of six. A brilliant start saw them claim an emphatic 5-1 win over School Christos Ri, with a hat trick from Jodie Lawlor. Further wins over Moyne CS and St Joseph's set up a crunch clash with the

Dublin Champions, St MacDaras. The girls put in a sterling performance to edge the game 1-0, with Sophie Kelly Buggy grabbing the vital goal. This win ensured progress to the final.

In the decider, they faced off against an old foe, Loreto Kilkenny. Having recently lost out to Loreto in an 11-a-side fixture, the girls had added motivation, and set about their task brilliantly with a well-worked early goal from Lawlor. Ella Malone then took the game by the scruff of the neck, scoring two spectacular long range efforts to put Coláiste Chiaráin 3-0 up at the break. Despite renewed efforts from Loreto, the girls put in a calm, assured defensive effort in the second half and never looked like conceding. At the final whistle, the 3-0 scoreline was greeted with great celebrations and excitement.

Scaling New Heights

A championship record of 2.08m for Ciarán Connolly in the Senior Boy's High Jump was one of the highlights of the opening day at the West Leinster Schools Track & Field Championships in Santry on Tuesday 9th April. Ciarán, who is in his final year and is head boy of the school, was defending the title he had won last year. His huge jump puts him into second place on the current Irish rankings list, with only two athletes over two metres so far this season.

The second day of events brought more success for Ciarán. Competing in the senior boy's 400m Hurdles, Ciarán brought home the gold with another personal best. Later that day, Ciarán ran the last leg in the senior boy's 4X400m Relay, along with team members Daniel Ecock, Robert Hetherington and Keeley Hogan. The team secured a silver medal, and the first medal in the event in the school's history. Ciarán now focuses on achieving the qualifying standard for the European Championships in the coming months.



Scholarship News



6th year student, Ciara Bracken, has recently received a fully paid athletic scholarship to Fairfield University, Connecticut in the United States. She hopes to complete a four year college degree whilst pursuing her basketball career. Over the past 6 years she has successfully represented the schools basketball team, winning 4 all Ireland titles in total.



GAA Handball introduced a National Handball Academy in January 2019, a new player pathway initiative for juvenile boys and girls aged under 14 - 18. Mollie Dagg has been selected for the initial Academy squad of 14. As a result of winning the All Ireland Intermediate championship in March Mollie now competes at Senior level and is probably one of the youngest female players to break into the senior ranks. She hopes to continue her studies in DCU and study sports science. She has been approached by Lake Forest College Illinois to establish if she would be interested in taking up a handball scholarship with them. Mollie combines her handball with ladies football and is a member of the Kildare Minor football team.

Egg drop challenge during Engineers Week



During Engineers week, 2nd - 8th March, all 2nd Year students took part in a Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) challenge. The activity was 'An Egg Drop Challenge' where students had to work in a team to create a device that would prevent their egg from breaking, when dropped from a height (balcony in the PE hall).

The activity was greatly enjoyed by students and teachers alike and was an excellent means of developing three Junior Cycle key skills, 'Managing Information and Thinking', 'Being Creative', and 'Working with Others' as well as engaging students in STEM topics with a hands on approach.



Click on play icon to view video clip

Where Are They Now?

We are delighted in this edition of our newsletter to include a feature on some of our alumni. We are truly proud of our past students and the contribution they make to society and to the workplace. A big thank you to all who took the time out of their busy lives to provide us with their profiles.

Thank you also to Dr Fiona O'Neill who recently spoke to our senior students about careers in Science and to Brendan O'Donoghue who spoke to our 1st and 2nd years about Philosophy and life as an author. The students were inspired by their contributions.



Derbhile Gallagher

Derbhile Gallagher left Coláiste Chiaráin in 1987. Whitney Houston was in the charts and big hair was in! She secured enough grades - there was no points system back then - to gain a place in Maynooth College. She began an Arts degree, studying Classics, Sociology, History and beginners level German. To improve her German, she took a year out, to work as an English Language Assistant in a secondary school in Austria, which she loved. She earned enough money to travel around Europe. 29 years later, she is still in contact with friends she made in Austria. After graduating from Maynooth, she was accepted into Trinity College to study for a Higher Diploma in Education (H.Dip). It was probably the fact that she enjoyed teaching in Austria so much that she decided to pursue teaching as a career. She returned to Coláiste Chiaráin that year to do her teaching practice. The wonderful Bob Cullen, RIP, who was once her teacher, was now her mentor.



Roger Murray

Roger Murray completed his Leaving Cert at Coláiste Chiaráin in 1992. His fondest memory is participating in the All Ireland Schools Cross Country School Championships in 1988 when his team won Bronze. Participating with him was David Matthews who went on to represent Ireland in the Olympics twice and is still the holder of the 800 metres record. Roger still runs though not at the same level or speed! After leaving Coláiste Chiaráin he completed a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Law at UCD where he obtained the Gold Medal from UCD Law School. He moved to Sligo where he carried out his apprenticeship and was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 1999. He is now lecturing extensively for the Law Society Law School and other courses on medical law. At present Roger is Joint Managing Partner at Callan Tansey Solicitors and Head of the Medical Negligence Department within Callan Tansey at their offices at Law Chambers, 3 Wine Street, Sligo. He deals with medical litigation of all types especially cerebral palsy, birth injury, brain injury, orthopaedic, surgical and delay in diagnosis. On behalf of his clients he has concluded many landmark medical misadventure and medical neglect legal cases and acted for families and patients in some of the largest medical negligence awards by the Irish Courts in recent years.



Colm Dunne

Colm Dunne left Coláiste Chiaráin in 1997. Playing music in Coláiste Chiaráin is a fond memory. His band at the time 'Shallow' won a schools' Battle of the Bands' competition, winning a computer for the school! The band was voted by Hotpress as one of the best live acts in Ireland and won the 'Barcardi Hotpress Unplugged Band of the Year, 1998'. Colm worked with Hewlett Packard in 2001 on the manufacturing lines for approximately two years. Then at aged 23 and being a dad to Caoimhe he decided to go back to college full time as a mature student where he completed a Mechanical Engineering degree. He graduated from Tallaght IT in 2007 and returned to work in Hewlett Packard as an Engineer. Colm took up golf at aged 30 and got his handicap down to 5 within 3 years. He was elected Captain in 2016 and procured a job at Castlewarden Golf Club as assistant professional. He turned Pro and is now in year 2 of a 3-year degree in PGA Professional Golf studies through the University of Birmingham. He is currently a professional golfer and has been working in Castlewarden Golf Club since 2015, while living in Donadea. Being a full time golf coach is Colm's goal for the future.



Brendan O'Donoghue

Brendan O'Donoghue left Coláiste Chiaráin in 1997. His outstanding memories mainly relate to the friendships he built during his time there. Most of his friends today are people he met at Coláiste Chiaráin.

After he left school he studied Philosophy and Economics at NUI Maynooth. He went on to pursue an M.A. and PhD in Philosophy at UCD. He taught Philosophy at UCD and UCC. He was a visiting academic at the University of Edinburgh where he completed work on two books 'A Poetics of Homecoming' and 'A Moriarty Reader'.

When he returned to Ireland he trained as a primary teacher and he has been teaching for the last number of years. He continues to write and his most recent work was published in October 2018, 'Adventures in Philosophy, Stories and Quests for Thinking Heroes'. Up until February of this year he was teaching in Lucan CNS but he has now taken time off from teaching to look after his four children who are five years of age and under. He would also like to write more books.



Shona Farrell

Shona Farrell left Coláiste Chiaráin in 2003. When she completed her Leaving Certificate Shona went on to study Business and Marketing, an honours degree, in DIT. She chose Marketing as she always had a keen interest in business. On completing her honours degree she did a Master's in Business Studies and Marketing and did extremely well. While in college she travelled to San Diego on a J1 Visa, working in SeaWorld to fund her travelling adventure around America. She then decided to move to Sydney, Australia. Within three weeks she was working for an International Engineering Company that employs over 6,000 people in 25 Subsidiaries across the world. As marketing coordinator she was involved in many projects, she also joined a GAA club and played camogie while down under! Four and a half years later she is back in Ireland and works with Actavo as Senior Marketing Executive. She looks after Marketing in Ireland, UK, America and the Central Asia area. She recently gained a Diploma in Digital Marketing.



Fiona O'Neill

Fiona O'Neill graduated from Coláiste Chiaráin in 2003. Some of her lasting memories from the school are being involved in the school musicals and also getting the opportunity to visit Bressuire, Leixlip's twin town, as part of an exchange with one of the local schools.

Upon completion of a BSc in Analytical Science from DCU, she went on to achieve an MSc in immunology and Global Health from Maynooth University followed by a PhD in Cancer Biology from DCU. During her PhD she was awarded Outstanding Graduate Researcher from the Faculty of Science and Health. She is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher in the NICB in DCU in the area of cancer research.



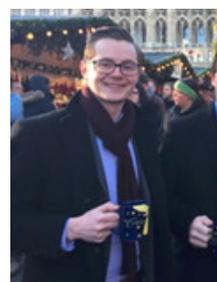
Ellen Gaffney

Ellen Gaffney attended Coláiste Chiaráin from 2006 to 2011. She was a member of the student council throughout school and was elected head girl in 2010. She was thrilled to be awarded the 'Student of the Year' accolade at her graduation ceremony in sixth year. She completed the Leaving Certificate in 2011 and went on to study Law in Trinity College, Dublin. Ellen graduated with a first class honours degree from Trinity in 2015, ranking joint top of her class. She completed the FE1 examinations in 2016 to gain admission to the Law Society of Ireland as a trainee solicitor and then embarked on a six-month whistle stop around-the-world bag packing trip where she visited 11 countries across South East Asia, New Zealand and South America. She began as a trainee solicitor in Arthur Cox, a top Irish Commercial Law firm, in May 2017. She has completed the first of two sets of examinations in Blackhall Place (the Law Society of Ireland) and was delighted to receive three awards at a ceremony in October 2018, including the 'Best Overall Prize' for achieving the top results in her class. Ellen is looking forward to her qualification and is excited to be entered onto the Roll of Solicitors in December 2019.



Stephen Dwyer

Stephen Dwyer graduated from Coláiste Chiaráin in 2011. He is still great friends with some of his classmates. He looks back fondly at the 6th year graduation ceremony where a magnificent night was had with his fellow pupils. That night he was jointly awarded the 'Sports Personality of the Year' award with his best friend since childhood, Aaron Murphy. He fondly remembers the many GAA, Rugby, Soccer and Athletics outings and the 3rd and 5th year trips to London and Paris. Stephen completed a double honours Business and English Arts degree in Maynooth University. While there he was also selected to participate in the college's rugby scholarship programme. He did a Masters in Marketing from 2016-2017 in the National College of Ireland campus in the IFSC, Dublin, gaining a first-class honours (1.1) result. Once he graduated, he got a job working in logistics for a civil engineering company called GMC Utilities Group. He returned to the same company after finishing his Masters, and is currently working in the Marketing and Public Relations team where he liaises with nationwide utility providers such as Irish Water, on behalf of the company. Stephen is moving to Toronto, Canada, in April of this year having obtained a 2 year Canadian IEC working holiday visa. He also plans to travel around Canada and South America before returning to Ireland.



John Lardner

John Lardner left Coláiste Chiaráin in 2011, although it really doesn't feel that long ago. His time there was an enjoyable one and he feels fortunate to be able to say, that many of his closest friends to this day, are ones he met and studied with during his time there.

Some of his most abiding memories include a wonderful trip to Paris in fifth year, a Prefect trip to Carlingford, where he got into his first kayak; an English class, where he saw his first pomegranate and even an ill-advised bomb scare hoax. After leaving school he pursued a degree at UCD and then moved to his girlfriend's native Vienna in 2016. Shortly afterwards, he secured a job for a firm that afforded him the possibility to travel extensively and visit many towns and cities across the country, which further reinforced his decision to remain there. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time in Austria, although integrating and communicating through a foreign language has been challenging. Over the last two years, he has attended German classes part time and it is his intention to expand his professional prospects there by furthering his education and enrolling in another university course in the upcoming winter semester. At times he wishes he had taken German rather than French all those years ago, as the saying goes, hindsight is 20/20!



Bébhinn Keating

Bébhinn Keating graduated from Coláiste Chiaráin in 2011, She trained as a primary school teacher at the Froebel College of Education, now located in Maynooth University, from where she graduated with a first class honours degree in primary education. She is currently living in Lucan and teaching in Scoil Bhríde, Kilbride, Clonee.

In her third college year she volunteered to teach orphaned/abandoned and special needs children in Kolkata, India. This experience was so impactful that she returned for another summer as a qualified teacher in 2017. Further volunteering with the HOPE foundation gave her a whole new appreciation for education, that so many of us take for granted. Her fondest memories of Coláiste Chiaráin are the experiences and opportunities she enjoyed during her Transition Year. Particularly memorable were photography, self-defence and especially the trip to Carlingford, also taking part in the TY musical, 'Grease', though it was very confusing for the audience as the characters were played by different people in every act!



Eliana Jupe

Eliana Jupe left Coláiste Chiaráin in 2014. An outstanding memory from her time there was when she travelled to Zambia with the school's project 'Action Zambia' in the summer of 2012. This was an amazing opportunity to experience another culture and realize the privilege which had been given to her in Ireland. She remarked, "Small things like running water and education can make such a difference to improving quality of life." This experience was inspirational, and since participating in this project Eliana has travelled to Belarus on three separate occasions to work with under-privileged children in a number of Orphanages. In her 5th year, Eliana represented the school as a finalist in the 'Spirit of Community – Pramerica' competition. On graduation night in 2014, Eliana was awarded the 'Spirit of Coláiste Chiaráin' accolade. After leaving Coláiste Chiaráin in June 2014 she was accepted into her first-choice course which was the Bachelor of Education in Home Economics and Economics degree in St. Angela's College Sligo. She Graduated from the four-year degree in 2018 and is currently working in her first teaching job in Ashbourne Community School as a full time Home Economics teacher. She has been accepted to volunteer with Operation Mobilisation in Greece this summer of 2019 to work in Syrian refugee camps, assisting in the education of children and giving practical support to families. Eliana will also be travelling on her 4th trip to Belarus at the beginning of June 2019.

Spelling Bee



Literacy Week at Coláiste Chiaráin kicked-off with what has proven to be a successful Spelling Bee competition. Mr Coplen, ably assisted by Miss Quinn, oversaw the competition in which thirty students eagerly participated. Tricky words, ranging from “accommodation” to “xenophobia” saw the number filtered down until only two teams remained - the Spelling Hornets (Junior Cycle) and Team Ask (Senior Cycle). These two teams ultimately went into a Spell Off so that one member per team would be crowned Spelling Bee champions of Coláiste Chiaráin. Heartiest congratulations to Jamie Power (Junior Cycle) and Shauna Rogers (Senior Cycle) who both reigned supreme. We hope that fun was had and we look forward to hosting similar Spelling Bees in the near future.

6th Careers Information

Our 6th years have had a busy year considering their options after their Leaving Certificate. They visited the Higher Options in the RDS in early September and since then have listened to a number of third level representatives. Our first speaker was Matthew Hoban who talked to them about a career in accountancy. The major third level colleges all gave presentations including Maynooth, DCU, UCD, TCD and TU. Shannon College also visited us again this year to talk about careers in the hospitality industry (students from the school have gone to Shannon for the past two years). The National College of Ireland and Dublin Business School also gave presentations. Denis Leonard from Dunboyne College of Further Education talked to the students about the PLC choices available to them and the alternative routes to a career and college. Ruth Daly from the Pontifical University talked to the 6th year and 5th years both about college life and the alternative routes to college.



On the 28th of March, we were delighted to welcome back past pupil Dr. Fiona O'Neill. Fiona gave a fascinating talk to 6th year Biology students about her road to becoming a postdoctoral researcher in Dublin City University (DCU). Fiona's journey started with a keen interest in science during her days here in Coláiste Chiaráin. Studying both Chemistry and Biology for her Leaving Certificate, Fiona went on to complete an Analytical Science course in DCU. With an initial aim of becoming a forensic scientist, Fiona credits the fact that her course was quite general which allowed her to divert down a different career path. During the final year project for her undergraduate studies, She found herself developing a keen interest in carrying out

research. This was aided by the fact that DCU provided placement for her and her fellow classmates allowing them to get some hands-on industrial experience. Fiona is currently completing research on pancreatic cancer and ways of improving radiotherapy treatment. Towards the end of the talk, students asked interesting questions about radiotherapy, chemotherapy, types of cancers, the benefits of a Masters degree and different types of undergraduate science courses available to them.

Resilience Academy

The **Resilience Academy** from Pieta House is working with the 2nd year students on a programme called 'Building Resilience Building the Future' over a six week period. This is a valuable programme which provides knowledge, skills and tools to help young people respond to life's challenges in a healthy and constructive way. Thank you to Pieta House for facilitating this worthwhile educational experience.



Class Token Competition

Over the course of this school year, the 1st Year classes have been involved in a class competition, which sees students earn tokens for positive behaviour and effort in class. Over the course of a term, students amass as many tokens as possible, and the class with the most tokens are declared the winners. This has had very positive effects on behaviour and effort, with students encouraging one another to be the best that they can be in school. It has also helped bonding between members of the same class, something which is vitally important for 1st Year students starting life in a new school.

In the first term of the year, 1A2 were the pace-setters and managed to hold off their rivals to claim the winning class prize. This saw them spend a double period in the PE hall "chilling out", playing music and taking part in some games and activities. For the second term, the emphasis of the competition was placed on homework and the correct use of the journal, and a big improvement in standards was seen across 1st Year as a result of this. This time around, 1A1 came out on top, and they claimed their prize at the end of March.

The 2nd Year classes are now also involved in the token competition, with their emphasis also on homework and the journal, and we expect to announce the winning 2nd Year class in Term 3 after Easter.



Support from Sponsors

We are very grateful to our sponsors who contribute immensely to our school community. In particular we thank the Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish bank, The Credit Union, MACE, INTEL and we would also like to acknowledge two past students, Cathal Byrne and Seamus Sheehan (1991), who have very generously offered to sponsor much needed repair work in our memorial garden. Thank you to all for your generous support.



AIB Sponsor Girls Soccer Team

AIB Leixlip Manager, Fiona Dunning, presenting the new girls' soccer jerseys to Ríon Nallen and Lily Daniere-Doyle from first year. Many thanks to AIB Leixlip for their very generous sponsorship of the girls' team. The girls won the Leinster futsal title before Christmas and are continuing their great form on the 11 a-side pitch. They will now be kitted-out in the manner befitting champions!

BOI Sponsor Boys Soccer Team

There's been a spate of new football jersey reveals around Coláiste Chiaráin recently and this also includes the senior team. Here's 5th Year's Tobi Shokeye being presented with new shirts by Ms. Patryca Wroblewska from Bank Of Ireland. BOI have very generously partnered with the school on this for which we're very appreciative.



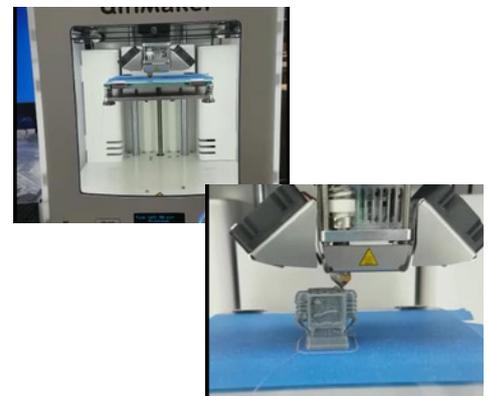
MACE Sponsor Boys Soccer Team

First year footballers Sean Mackey and Jodie Lawlor, helped unveil our new soccer jersey. The school is very grateful to Mr. Ronan Ardiff of Mace, Leixlip who very generously sponsored the shirts.



Intel Sponsor 3D Printer

Last September, Transition Year students from Coláiste Chiaráin attended a showcase and Q & A session at the INTEL site. Kieran Mulholland, Fab 24 Supply Line Manager and other staff were very impressed with the level of interest shown by students in the engineering products on display, especially the 3D printers. As a result, Intel have kindly donated a 3D printer and on the 30th of January, Coláiste Chiaráin was delighted to welcome Kieran to the school to install the machine and provide training to the staff in the Engineering department. The machine donated is a small scale hi-spec model of 3D printer, perfectly suited for teaching STEM based subjects, in particular Engineering and Technology, in secondary school. It will provide an excellent resource allowing students to realise their designs through the rapid prototyping that the machine provides.



Memorial Garden

Recently, two of our past students, Cathal Byrne and Seamus Sheehan (1991) visited their old school to have a walk down memory lane. While chatting and reminiscing, they visited the memorial garden and heard about much needed repairs that our hardworking caretaker, Liam Farrell, would love to complete. Without hesitation, the two gentlemen offered to sponsor the repairs which involves the rebuilding of the walls where the flowerbeds are located. Their generosity is much appreciated.

Parent's Council

The committee that represents the interests of parents whose children attend Coláiste Chiaráin support the school in many ways. These include advising the principal on policy development, student interests, book & uniform sales and fundraising. Recently the committee has donated prizes for the Sports Day, €400 for equipment for the ASD class and €1200 to provide counselling for vulnerable students. These contributions make a real difference to students in our school.

Garden Maintenance

Over the years we have been most fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who have given of their time and skill in development and maintenance of the ASD and memorial gardens. In the past, Jodie Price (RIP), lovingly cared for the plants and vegetables and encouraged students to become involved. Presently we are so thankful to Tony Lawlor for his amazing contribution to gardening in the school. Tony quietly gives of his time and is slowly transforming our garden areas. Thank you to both.



Coláiste Chiaráin

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

As you know our school was involved in a Whole School Evaluation/Management Leadership and Learning inspection before Christmas. The Board of Management and staff of Coláiste Chiaráin welcome the positive and affirming WSE-MLL report identifying the school's key strengths which are summarised for you below:

- The quality of teaching and learning - good or very good.
- The day-to-day running of school is very good and there is a very good range of policies developed in consultation with stakeholders.
- There is a very good rapport between teachers and students. Students are affirmed and encouraged with classroom interactions being congenial and student behaviour was generally very good.
- There is a very good range of pastoral supports for students' care and wellbeing with good practices in place supporting students with special educational needs.
- There are some very good opportunities for student leadership - Prefects, Gluais and Student Council.
- The school has strong support of parents
- There is very good capacity for school improvement due to the leadership capacity among staff, the hard work and enthusiasm of teaching and learning teams and staff and management's positive attitude toward improvement.
- Teachers were commended for providing a very good variety of extra-curricular activities that create opportunities for student learning and success beyond the classroom.
- A digital strategy is being developed, and staff and students are upskilling in the use of technology for teaching, learning, communication and collaboration.

The BOM and staff acknowledge recommendations made in the report. Work to address these recommendations has already commenced and the board will take an active part in leading and supporting their successful implementation:

The Senior Management Team has undertaken a curriculum review to address the sustainability of subjects with low uptake in timetabling for 2019-20. The Principal will oversee the development of TY and LCA policies. The Board is developing a schedule for the updating of school policies.

The school's TL21 committee has made significant progress in the preparation of a homework policy.

The school has begun the process of student academic tracking. Subject planning will be developed to include evidence-based planning for improvement.

We are committed to working towards school improvement and enhancement of learning at every level.

Joe Sweeney.