



# COLÁISTE BRÍDE



## **Coláiste Bríde Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

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## Introduction

This Annual Report provides a summary of the operation of Coláiste Bríde throughout the year, 2018/2019.

Coláiste Bríde is a fantastic school founded by the Sisters of Mercy. We are fortunate to have an extremely dedicated and committed staff and a wonderful student body and acknowledge the contribution of each member of our school community in maintaining consistently high standards. Coláiste Bríde is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School for girls under the trusteeship of CEIST, with an enrolment of 698 students in the school year 2018/2019. We operate an open enrolment system with the vast majority of students coming from the primary schools of Enniscorthy and the surrounding hinterlands. Coláiste Bríde is a school with an established tradition of excellence in all aspects of curricular and co-curricular performance. We consistently perform above the national average in state exams.

We believe that Coláiste Bríde is more than a school. It is a community of people, working together to provide all of our students with an education that prepares them for success today and into their future. Success is measured by the extent to which, each individual realises her full human potential, as a person made in the image and likeness of Christ. Throughout the year, we promoted academic excellence and the broad dimensions of education. We provided opportunities for students to think creatively, to work collaboratively and to develop spiritually. We endeavoured to ensure that students could foster their own human qualities, their social and emotional skills, and to enable them to live happy and healthy lives while making a positive contribution to society.

## Mission & Vision

### Mission Statement

We believe in the value of the Catholic School and in it seek to integrate growth in Christ with the cultural enrichment acquired through human knowledge and skills. Our response requires deep commitment and dedication to the implementation of our mission statement.

"We are working to promote a secure and caring community environment, where respect, responsibility and Christian commitment grow; drawing forth the positive potential of each individual."

### Aim of Our School

To maintain a caring, stable environment where each student feels safe and secure.

To foster in each child a sense of respect and tolerance for herself, for others and for the wider community.

To encourage each student to take responsibility for herself, her learning and her property, and to instil in her an overall sense of honesty, loyalty and integrity.

To develop in each pupil her diverse talents and potential: Spiritual, Academic, Social, Physical, Creative and Emotional.

To recognise and reward effort and achievement, thus promoting a true sense of confidence and well-being.

### CEIST Charter



Senior management made every effort in 2018/2019, to ensure that all decisions, policies and practices in Coláiste Bríde were guided by the vision and values of Catherine McCauley, the Mercy Philosophy of Education, the teaching of the Catholic Church and the core values in the CEIST Charter.

## School Context



## Enrolment

698 students were enrolled in September 2018, this was an increase from 678 students in September 2017. The enrolment profile for each year group was as follows;

1 <sup>st</sup> Year	133
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	115
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	129
Transition Year	98
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	127
6 <sup>th</sup> Year	96

## Teachers

The teacher allocation for 2018/2019 was 48.12. In August 2018 one teachers was granted a Contract of Indefinite Duration.



## **School Grounds, Building & Facilities**

### **Home Economics Kitchen**

Following a tender process Neville Conroy Architects were appointed as architect consultants for this project. Three possible sites on the school grounds were chosen and the details were forwarded to the Department of Education for the final decision on which site they would fund.

During the summer of 2019 the Department informed the school that they have approved the option directly outside Science Labs 1 & 2 as the location of the new Home Economics Kitchen. This site involves building a corridor through the shared preparation room between the two Science Labs and building a new preparation room for Lab 2 using the Sixth Year toilet block. Although this will cause some disruption it will allow for an opening up of the large green space at this side of the school for further expansion.

### **ICT Infrastructure**

During the school year a number of PCs and projectors were replaced. It is proposed that all old PCs will be replaced as they break.

The school purchased 15 Surface Pro devices to facilitate the training of teachers in Office 365.

A number of Surface Go devices were purchased to be used by students.

The Wifi infrastructure has also been improved with the installation of more wireless access points.

Due to our involvement in the Leaving Cert PE Pilot we received an IT grant to support the introduction of this new subject. This grant was used to purchase 15 iPad devices which students will use as part of the compulsory project work for the subject.





## Management Structures

### Senior Management Team

The Senior Management team of the school consist of Principal Kiera O'Sullivan and Deputy Principal Niall Moynihan.

### Board of Management

The current members are;

- **Chairperson:** John Martin
- **Trustee Nominees:** Emmett Boyne, Dermot Davis & Pat Martin
- **Teacher Nominees:** Mary Kavanagh Osborne & Niamh Duggan
- **Parents' Nominees:** Angela Long & Dervla Tierney

The BOM met 7 times from September 2018 to June 2019, including two emergency meetings to ratify Post of responsibility appointments. The BOM acted in accordance with the Articles of Management for Voluntary Secondary Schools, the direction of the Trustees, CEIST and the guidance provided by the JMB. The Finance Subcommittee met before each BOM meeting.

### Middle Management Team

The school has been allocated six Assistant Principal I Posts of Responsibility.

The school has also been allocated one post for Programme Coordinator at AP I level.

There are 10 Assistant Principal II level posts.

Following a retirement, the position of Programme Coordinator became vacant and an interview process was conducted in September. Following this process Margo Whelan was appointed as Programme Coordinator.

In October an interview process was conducted for the vacant Assistant Principal I Post. Following the interview process Rose McConville was appointed to this position.

The current Post of Responsibility Schedule is as follows:



Assistant Principals I:

- 1st Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 2nd Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 3rd Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 5th Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 6th Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- School Development Planning/SSE/Policy Convenor

Assistant Principals II:

- Book Rental & Book Lists
- Awards Night & Open Night & Public Relations
- Wellbeing Coordinator
- Junior & Leaving Cert Exam Secretary
- House Exams
- 1<sup>st</sup> Yr. Assistant Year Head & Classroom Clean-up
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. Assistant Year Head & Fundraising
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr. Assistant Year Head & Environment
- 5<sup>th</sup> Yr. Assistant Year Head & Literacy & Numeracy
- 6<sup>th</sup> Yr. Assistant Year Head & Fire Drill



## Policies & Practices

### Policies

Policy review and development was on the Agenda for each BOM meeting. The following policies were reviewed and ratified by the BOM in 2018/2019;

- Admission Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement and Review
- Code of Positive Behaviour
- Critical Incident Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Dignity at Workplace Policy
- Email & Office 365 Policy
- Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- PME (Student Teacher) Policy
- Relationships & Sexuality Education Policy
- SPHE Policy
- Substance Misuse Policy
- Suspension & Expulsion Policy

### Code of Positive Behaviour

Since the 2017/2018 school year a Code of Behaviour Review committee have been meeting regularly to update the school's Code of Behaviour. This review was conducted using the National Educational Welfare Board publication; *Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools*. A whole school approach was taken to the review in which students, parents and teachers were consulted at various stages throughout the process. The final document, renamed as our Code of Positive Behaviour, reflects the positive learning environment in Coláiste Bríde, an environment that places a strong emphasis on the promotion and reward



of positive behaviours. The Code is cognisant of how we encourage cooperation, openness, and respectful communication between students and staff.

## **Health & Safety**

The following Health and Safety activities were conducted during the year:

- Fire Drills were conducted.
- Fire Exits were regularly checked.
- Emergency lighting was checked.
- Pre-opening and closing supervision is provided.
- Break-time and lunchtime supervision is provided.

In May 2019 we began a review of our Safety Statement and our Health and Safety procedures. This should be completed during the 2019/2020 school year.

In May 2019 an application was submitted by the school for the Summer Works 2020 scheme under the Life Safety Systems category for an upgrade of fire detection and alarm system. The works involves the upgrade of the existing fire detection and alarm system and emergency lighting installation in compliance with the latest regulations.

## **Child Protection & Vetting**

The BOM & Senior Management adhered to all guidelines & regulations with regard to Child Protection & Vetting. Child Protection/Bullying was on the Agenda for each BOM Meeting & the Principal reported on any Child Protection concerns that arose. A Child Protection Oversight Report was made at each Board meeting. In March 2019 a review of the Child Safeguarding Statement took place using the Department of Education Review Checklist. Both Parents and Staff were notified that the review took place.

During 2018/2019 the following was implemented;

- Vetting of new staff members.
- Vetting of all visitors to the school who engage with students.
- Child protection questions were asked of candidates in all interviews.
- The BOM completed its mandatory Annual Review of Child Protection Procedures.



- The BOM ratified the Child Safeguarding Statement.

## **Management Meetings**

Each morning the senior management team met to review and plan.

Senior management held weekly meetings with the Care Team to support & develop practice.

Senior management also held weekly meetings with the school's Year Heads.



## Finance

### School Accounts

The BOM has a Finance Subcommittee and the school secretary, Martina Foley, provided a summary of accounts for each meeting of the subcommittee throughout the year.

At each Board of Management meeting Dervla Tierney makes a report to the Board on behalf of the Finance Subcommittee.

The school accounts were forwarded to the auditors at the end of the financial year.

The BOM was satisfied that the school was in a financially sound position and a clear budgeting plan was in place.

### Trustee Directives

Coláiste Bríde submitted its budget online to CEIST.

The school accounts were also submitted online to CEIST and the FSSU.

A reporting template for the school to advise CEIST on the accounts is completed following each meeting of the Finance Subcommittee.

### Fundraising

A number of school fundraising events took place during the school year:

- The Transition Year Fashion Show raised €3646
- The Christmas Quiz raised €1455
- The Parents' Council raised €325

The students, their parents and the teachers are to be highly commended for their efforts in fundraising.



## Links with Community

### Parents' Council

The Parents' Council AGM was held at the beginning of every school year and the council met regularly throughout the year.

During the 2018/2019 school year the Parents' Council:

- Organised talks for parents.
- Funded Study Skills workshops for students.
- Funded Online Safety workshops for students.
- Consulted the school about policy development and policy reviews.
- Organised fundraising events which supported the school.

### Parent Support

During the 2018/2019 school year the following events took place to support parents:

- Internet Safety Talk
- CAO Information Talk
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year Subject Choice Talk
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Subject Choice Talk
- Junior Cycle Information Talk
- Transition Year Information Talk
- DATS Results & Information Talk
- Incoming First Year Information Talk

### School Newsletter

A Digital Newsletter was published four times during the school year. The newsletter was emailed to all parents who have subscribed for it and is also published on the school's Twitter feed and website <http://www.colaištebride.ie/newsletter.html>.



## Open Night

An Open Night took place in October 2018. It was well attended, and each Subject Department was represented.

## Parish

Father Paddy Banville, our school chaplain, was always available to the Senior Management team and the general school community throughout the year. He gave advice, visited the school, celebrated at each Liturgy, visited on Ash Wednesday and lots more.

## Local Community

The school linked with various groups and representatives in the local community for various educational and pastoral projects. Some of the projects included volunteering with;

- St Senan's Primary School
- St Aidan's Primary School
- St Patrick's Special School
- Community Workshop
- St John's Hospital

## Social Awareness

In keeping with our Mercy ethos and the CEIST core value of being Just and Responsible our students and teachers conducted several fundraisers throughout the school year for various charities and causes:

- Down Syndrome Ireland €1,653
- Autism Ireland €1,136
- Focus Ireland €700
- Irish Pilgrimage Trust €324
- Alzheimer's Society €193
- Lourdes Pilgrimage €2377
- St. Patrick's Special School €477





We also supported the Irish Cancer Society, Christmas Shoebox Appeal, Temple Street, Irish Heart Foundation, Give Blood and St. Vincent de Paul.



## Staff Professional Development

### Whole staff professional development in 2018/2019

- Whole Staff Junior Cycle CPD
- Junior Cycle Subject CPD
- Office 365 Training
- Teaching & Learning, AfL techniques, peer observation
- Staff Wellbeing Workshop PDST
- Data Protection

### Small Group CPD:

- Digital Leaders Office 365 Training
- Peer observation
- Office 365
- Junior Cycle Subject CPD

### Individual Teacher CPD:

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ➤ NIPT/Droichead                   | ➤ Home Economics Food Studies       |
| ➤ Relationships and Sexuality      | Assignments                         |
| Education – PDST                   | ➤ Leaving Cert PE                   |
| ➤ Junior Cycle Subject CPD         | ➤ First Aid                         |
| ➤ The Role of the Year Head in the | ➤ SafeTalk Suicide Alertness        |
| Post Primary School                | ➤ A Common Approach to Grammar      |
| ➤ Subject Association CPD          | in MFL                              |
| ➤ Subject Association Conference   | ➤ Legislation in Business           |
| Workshops                          | ➤ 'Be the Spark': Nurturing Student |
| ➤ Backwards Planning a Unit        | Inspiration                         |
| ➤ Digital Technology for Teachers  | ➤ Delivering Questions Effectively  |
| ➤ LCVP Case Study                  | ➤ Creating Classroom Rule           |
| ➤ Assessment & Digital Technology  | ➤ Causes of Misbehaviour            |



- Preparing to Differentiate: Student Readiness
- Assessment for learning Bootcamp
- Y-path PE 4 Me
- Approaching French in the New Junior Cycle
- Pedagogical Differentiation in the French Class
- Approaches to teaching 'Rates of Reaction'
- Post Primary languages Initiative
- Olympic Handball
- Let's Talk
- Differentiation & Inclusive Education in the Classroom
- Anti-Bullying: Cyber Bullying & Internet Safety
- Reflective Teaching, Reflective Learning: Continuing the Conversation
- Cracking the Oral English CBA
- Curricular Reform: Research, Policy & Practice
- Teaching Responsibility through badminton
- Science Coursework Investigations
- Music in the French Classroom
- Helping Students Believe they "Can" Achieve
- Learning Support/Guidance Department Training
- RACE – SEC
- CEIST Middle Leadership Training
- Proactive Classroom Management Strategies
- Addressing Bullying Behaviour
- Coping with Teacher Stress
- Building Relationships with Students

### **Principal & Deputy Principal CPD;**

- VSware Timetabling
- JMB Allocations
- Data Protection/GDPR
- ICT Workshops
- Junior Cycle Management Training
- Child Protection Training

## Faith Formation



### Religious Education

All students had Religious Education every week in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Episcopal Conference. Religious Education was timetabled for three classes per week for all year groups. All teachers who taught Religious Education in 2018/2019 were qualified to do so.

Faith formation was promoted through the following:

- A Morning Prayer is read each school day over the school intercom
- Annual Opening of Year/Mercy Day Mass
- November Masses for all Year Groups
- Advent
- Christmas Carol Service
- St. Brigid's Day Mass
- Feast of St Blaise
- Ash Wednesday
- Lenten Mass each Wednesday in Lent
- Retreats for all Year Groups



- Pope John Paul II Award
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation Mass
- Catholic Schools Week
- Fundraising for Charities
- Lourdes Pilgrimage Assistants

2011 saw the departure of the Mercy Sisters from Enniscorthy. In recognition of the many years of dedication to education in the town, and in particular to Coláiste Bríde, we have a special award in their honour. At our Awards Night the Staff award The Mercy Cup to a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student who they feel has truly embodied the Mercy ethos of love and service to others. The Mercy Cup Award is presented to a student who has met the challenge of living a life where Mercy values are lived and not just spoken.



Since 2015 we also present have an award at our Awards Night from our school Trustees CEIST. The CEIST award goes to a 5<sup>th</sup> year student who reflects the spirit and values of CEIST. This student is good at creating community; she shows respect for everyone, takes responsibility and strives for justice in all that she does.

The school was represented at the CEIST Student Leadership Conference, 2019.

### **Links with CEIST & Sisters of Mercy**

CEIST kept in regular contact with the school through;

- Regular correspondence with Mr Gerry Watchhorn
- Forwarding the minutes of BOM meetings to CEIST
- Emails from CEIST Office
- Both the Principal and Deputy Principal attended Regional Network Meetings



The Sisters of Mercy keep in regular contact through;

- Sister Elizabeth Breen facilitates the First Year Retreat
- Visits by individual Sisters to the school
- Correspondence & invitations from the congregation
- Attendance by members of the congregation at school liturgical events

## Quality in Teaching & Learning

### School Self Evaluation

At the beginning of the school year in 2018/19 our new SSE team was formed, comprising of the Deputy Principal, SSE coordinator and a group of committed teachers. The group met regularly throughout the year to oversee the development and implementation of the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

The focus was on developing teachers' collective practice by continuing to embed a culture of collaboration, in particular the following aspects:

- Collaboration within subject departments for planning, in particular Junior Cycle planning, to embed the key skills and for sharing of resources and methodologies.
- Formation of a Digital Leaders Team to provide training in Office 365 tools; Teams, OneNote and One Drive to facilitate digital collaboration.
- Promotion of peer observation to share teaching methodologies



Staff engaged in a number of CPD events including JCT whole staff days & individual subject cluster meetings.

SSE targets and the sharing of Teaching & Learning methodologies were discussed at all staff and subject department meetings.

Peer observation was promoted through “Open Door” learning opportunities.

In addition, Teaching staff were provided with CPD in collaborative planning; each subject department was provided with a Junior Cycle Planning Day; this followed on with a Junior Cycle Plan Review Day at the end of the school year in June 2019.

We will continue to promote a culture of collaboration as part of our SIP for 2019/20 in addition to the introduction of our new SSE target – to develop the use of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. Our School Improvement Plan is available to view on our website.



## Digital Learning Plan

The 2018/19 school year saw the development of our school's digital learning vision, in which all students and teachers become capable and confident in the use of digital technologies to support teaching and learning. Our staff were very positive and open to the idea of developing the use of digital technologies for teaching and learning. A number of our staff members, who are qualified and highly competent in the area of digital technologies, were also willing to mentor other teachers through modelling and sharing of their expertise. The School Digital Learning Plan was devised to transform that vision into action and focused on the following targets for improvement:

To Increase whole school engagement with Digital Technology in order to enhance teaching and learning, create methodologies and to plan collaboratively.

We engaged in a number of actions to meet these targets:

- A Digital Leaders Team was formed to provide training in Office 365 tools - Teams, OneNote and One Drive to our teaching staff. The team also modelled best practice in using Office 365 through the use of Surface Pros.
- Staff were provided with opportunities to engage in both in-house training / CPD to enhance their IT skills and/or teaching practices.
- All subject departments were encouraged to use Office 365 to collaboratively plan and to share resources and methodologies
- Students had the opportunity to actively engage with digital technologies to enhance their learning experiences.

ICT integration and lesson enhancement have been a key focus point of our Digital Strategy throughout 2018/19 and we will continue to strive towards the classroom of the future ensuring that we remain aligned with advances in educational technology. Our Digital Learning Plan is available to view on our website.





## Digital Leaders

To deliver on the targets of our School Improvement Plan and Digital Learning Plan a number of teachers, our Digital Leaders, received specific training in the Office 365 tools Teams and OneNote. Each of the ten Digital Leaders was provided with a Surface Pro device facilitate training of their colleagues and to champion the use of Office 365 tools. Throughout the year Digital Leaders provided training to staff on Office 365.

## Junior Cycle

The 2018/19 school year saw further implementation of the new Junior Cycle and the introduction of new specifications in History, Geography, Maths, Home Economics and Music. During the school year Coláiste Bríde closed to facilitate two Junior Cycle training days for teachers, a whole staff workshop on Wellbeing and a further round of subject cluster days. As part of our School Improvement Plan more specific training was provided to subject departments in collaborative planning which has facilitated departments to update all Junior Cycle subject plans to incorporate the new statements of learning and learning outcomes. An information evening was organised to keep parents informed about the changes in the new Junior Cycle. Two of our teachers worked as Junior Cycle associates during the school year and have been using their insight to support their colleagues.

## Lesson Study

Our Maths Department took part in the national PDST Lesson-Study programme in the 2018/2019 school year. Lesson Study is a form of professional development based around teachers collaborating to design a research lesson. Through Lesson Study our teachers adopt a structured problem-solving approach in their teaching of mathematics. Teaching through structured problem solving is widely acknowledged to develop students' ability to think mathematically and to solve problems. The collaborative approach to designing a unit of learning in Maths supports the teachers' collaborative practice focus of our School Improvement Plan. Two of our Maths teachers presented their Lesson Study project at the Maths Counts conference in April. One of our Maths teachers is working as a PDST associate.



## **Droichead**

Droichead, (the Irish word for bridge), is the National Induction Programme for newly qualified teachers (NQTs). The programme includes both school-based and additional professional learning activities to address the needs of NQTs as they begin their careers in teaching.

During the 2018/2019 a fourth staff member completed four days of NIPT training. The Droichead team members mentor newly qualified teachers and support them in the important early stages of their teaching careers. The team facilitated two NQTs to complete the Droichead induction programme during the school year.

## **Timetable/Programmes/Curriculum**

In September 2018 to facilitate the need to allocate 300 hours of Wellbeing in 2018 and 400 hours of Wellbeing in 2020 we changed from a 42-class week to a 43-class week. This also involved reducing the length of each class period to 40 minutes. This major change to the school's timetable was initiated following a comprehensive consultation with students, parents and teachers.

At Senior Cycle the extra class has been allocated to English in Fifth Year and to Irish in Sixth Year.

At Junior Cycle we introduced a Wellbeing/Tutor class for all years. Each Junior Cycle class was assigned a Class Tutor who has a supportive pastoral care responsibility for that class. Within that class period students take Wellbeing modules that support them through the Junior Cycle.

We were selected as one of the pilot schools that introduced Leaving Cert PE in September 2018. In the first cohort twenty-eight students opted to take the subject and a further twenty-three students have selected to study this subject for Fifth Year 2019.

In 2018/2019 following a consultation with students, parents and teachers we removed a foreign language as compulsory subject for Leaving Cert. This has been of enormous benefit



for students who find languages difficult and for some students with English as a second language.

### **Centre for School Leadership**

Coláiste Bríde are working on the Centre for School Leadership *Excellence through Collaborative Leadership and Management* project with local primary schools Rathnure National School, Killealy National School, Davidstown National School, and Good Counsel College secondary school.

This project takes a collaborative approach to facilitating 6<sup>th</sup> class and 1<sup>st</sup> year students during the transitional phase from primary to post primary school. All schools involved in this project took part in quantitative and qualitative research on the topic. This research involved surveying parents, teachers and students regarding their concerns, worries and hopes for the student during the transitional phase in school life.

As a result of the feedback from this research we have decided to introduce a second day of induction for all First Years in August 2019.

### **Study Skills: Learning to Learn**

Over the last number of years, our SSE research has highlighted the need to enable students to learn how to learn. One area identified for improvement was the students' revision skills and helping students to achieve the balance between homework and revision. To tackle this area Second Year, Third Year, Fifth Year and Sixth Year students had Study Skills workshops with the Super Generation team.

### **Academic Attainment – Analysis of Trends**

As part of our subject department planning and School Self Evaluation the Senior Management team, teachers and subject departments, analysed LC & JC results for all subjects in 2018. Results in 2018 were excellent for both Junior and Leaving Cert students. Details regarding attainment levels in specific subjects are used as part of the school's SSE process



## Broad Dimension of Education

As is usual in Coláiste Bríde, a wide range of activities was offered outside the classroom in to promote the holistic development of the students. The breadth of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities was reported to the BOM in each Principal's Report.



In summary, activities included;

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ➤ I am Worth it Mental Health Week       | ➤ Hurling                        |
| ➤ Healthy Active Week                    | ➤ Soccer                         |
| ➤ Intercultural Day                      | ➤ Hockey                         |
| ➤ Italy Trip                             | ➤ Equestrian                     |
| ➤ German Exchange                        | ➤ Rugby                          |
| ➤ Irish Language Trip                    | ➤ Gaisce                         |
| ➤ Table Quizzes in Irish, Maths & German | ➤ Watersport, Hiking & Adventure |
| ➤ Athletics                              | ➤ Debating                       |
| ➤ Basketball                             | ➤ WellRead                       |
| ➤ Camogie                                | ➤ Tours                          |
| ➤ Football                               | ➤ Excursions & Field Trips       |
|  | ➤ Subject Related Activities     |



- Enterprise Activities
- Educational Clubs including  
Science, Maths & Book Clubs
- Voluntary Work & Fundraising for  
Charities
- Choir
- Music
- Artwork & Creativity
- Mental Health Education
- Online Safety Workshops
- Junk Kouture
- History, Geography, Religion, Art,  
LCVP, Business trips
- Maths Weeks
- Science Week
- Careers Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge

## German Exchange

In September 2018 we welcomed student and teachers from Gymnasium Bruckmühl, near Munich in southern Bavaria, Germany to our school. This latest leg of the German Exchange also saw the visit of the German Ambassador to Ireland, her Excellency Frau Deike Potzel. The Ambassador's visit was part of the ten-year anniversary celebration of this language and cultural exchange with Gymnasium Bruckmühl. At a presentation with students and teachers of both schools the Ambassador graciously honoured the importance of both our schools in forging tight links over the last decade, and she highlighted the invaluable long-term benefits of such extra-curricular cultural enrichment programmes. The Ambassador also acknowledged the immense effort and consistent hard work put in by the Exchange leaders in both schools, Maria Whitty-Sexton in Ireland and Christian Buxot in Germany, to build and maintain links between the students and staff in both schools over the past ten years.

## Sport

As Coláiste Bríde is committed to the holistic development of each student we positively support and actively encourage the provision of sporting activities outside the classroom. Sporting extracurricular activities provide fun, enjoyment and fulfilment for those who take part in them. They offer an outlet for energies and talents not always recognised in the classroom. In particular students develop teamwork, leadership and social skills. We believe

that sport is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of rounded individuals.

Coláiste Bríde has a long-established tradition for providing an incredible variety of sporting activities. In the 2018/2019 students represented the school in athletics, basketball, camogie, dry rowing, equestrian, football, hockey, soccer, swimming and rugby.

## **WellRead**

As part of our promotion of literacy, Coláiste Bríde took part in the WellRead initiative. As a WellRead school we encourage reading for enjoyment throughout the school community. There have been many events that have taken place in which both students and teachers have got involved including Reading Challenges, teachers sharing their favourite books, our Junior Book Club and visits by authors.



As part of this on-going reading initiative all students are encouraged to have a book in their bag at all times. In Coláiste Bríde we believe that developing a habit of reading is beneficial in so many ways to all of our students. As an acknowledgement of this the school received the WellRead National Award in May 2019.

## **“I am Worth it” Week & Healthy Active Week**

Although well-being is at the core of all that we do in Coláiste Bríde, each year we have two distinct weeks that are dedicated to promoting students’ well-being. In November 2018 we held our annual “I am Worth it” positive mental health week. The week is a promotion of mental well-being and a celebration of the “I am Worth it” booklet and website which our



Student Council developed in 2016. During the week a range of activities and events took place including talks, workshops and lunchtime activities.

In April 2019 we held our annual Healthy Active week which was also an action-packed week of activities and events for students and teachers.

## Intercultural Day



In April 2019 the students and staff of Coláiste Bríde, celebrated our second annual Intercultural Day. Building on the success of the previous year the event was a resounding success with students from 29 different nationalities taking the opportunity to share the diversity of their different cultures. There were stalls to appeal to all the senses as students showcased beautiful displays of artefacts, personal belongings, posters and flags. Students and teachers alike took the opportunity to taste new foods and to learn from engaging with enthusiastic representatives from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.



## Student Council

Student Council elections take place at the end of each school year in preparation for the next academic term. A one-day training course took place in October facilitated by the Student Council Liaison Teachers Dara Kirwan and Elaine McGinnity. Meetings were held at least twice monthly. In Coláiste Bríde all members of the



school community are supported and encouraged to make meaningful contributions to decision-making. A key part of this is our Student Council which is a vital representative structure for students, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and the students. During 2018/2019 our Student Council were involved in school policy formulation such as the review of our Code of Behaviour and the review of our school uniform policy. The Council were also involved in many activities including presenting at a Board of Management meeting, representing the school at the Co. Wexford Comhairle na nOg, organising our “I am Worth it” Positive Mental Health Week, attending the CEIST Leadership Conference and representing the student body at funerals.

## Worldwide Global Schools Partnership

During the 2018/2019 school year Coláiste Bríde partnered with Worldwide Global Schools with the aim of integrating Global Citizenship Education into all aspects of teaching and learning. Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is a powerful vehicle through which we can better understand the world we live in and take action to change it as informed global citizens. At the end of the school year we were awarded a ‘Global Passport Award’ which is an EU recognised quality mark, which offers a framework to integrate GCE into teaching and learning. This award was given in recognition for the quality work we had undertaken within the school community in integrating CGE into our teaching and learning.



Within our school we took a cross curricular approach to GCE across five subject areas. Using UN Sustainable Development Goals our areas of focus were:

1. Diversity and Reducing Inequalities. Global Goal 3+10
2. Climate Change –Global Goal 13.

Our Climate Change Committee of 15 students was also established to ensure Climate Change is high on our school agenda. Inspired by the work of Greta Thunberg and their experience of Global Citizen Education within the school our students are themselves inspirational in their ideas and actions and firmly believe that only with action comes hope.

### **Global Schools Launch**

On Thursday the 10th of January Coláiste Bríde welcomed three very distinguished guests, the Irish Ambassador to Mexico, Barbara Jones, the Minister of State at the Department of Defence and local TD, Paul Kehoe, and a Captain of the Defence Forces, Steve Byrne. Barbara Jones is both a native of Enniscorthy and a past pupil of Coláiste Bríde and it was at her request that Coláiste Bríde had been selected to be amongst the first schools nationally to launch the Global Schools programme.

A central theme of the programme is Ireland's role in a changing world, and the importance of ensuring that Ireland continues to have a strong international presence across multilateral organisations. Ireland has been committed to multilateralism since the foundation of the State, and we have been active and committed members of both the UN and the EU since our admission to those bodies. The 'Global Schools' programme is conceived of as a means of engaging second-level students across the country in the core elements of Ireland's global presence.

At the whole school ceremony each of the guests were welcomed to the school by the principal, Kiera O'Sullivan, who spoke about how the Ambassador, as a past pupil, is an inspiration to our current pupils. It was also stated that the Ambassador, despite working all over the world, continues to keep in contact and is a great supporter of the school.

The Ambassador spoke to the students about her career as a diplomat representing Ireland abroad and her more recent postings as Ireland's Consul General in New York from 2014 to 2017 and her current role as the Irish Ambassador to Mexico. She spoke about how UN



membership is at the heart of Irish foreign policy and of Ireland's important contribution to keeping peace around the world. She also spoke fondly of her time as a student in the school and her continuing pride in the wonderful school it continues to be.

Minister Kehoe spoke about his recent trip to Mali and of the brilliant work and dedication of the Irish Defence Forces both at home and in their peacekeeping duties abroad.

Captain Byrne then spoke about Ireland's sixty unbroken years of peacekeeping duties with the United Nations in countries including the Congo, Chad, the Lebanon and Syria. He also spoke about his own peacekeeping tours in Syria and the Lebanon.

The ceremony concluded with Ambassador Jones presenting members of the school's Student Council with the United Nations flag and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

## **Student Supports**

### **Pastoral Care**

Coláiste Bríde is committed to the ongoing development of the Pastoral Care of all students in the school. Pastoral Care integrates the academic, social, personal and religious dimensions of the school's educational endeavours. Our Pastoral Care supports help to provide an orderly atmosphere and firm framework which will allow the students to get maximum benefit from their schooling and prepare them realistically for life as adults.

We plan for this caring approach by assigning to each junior class a Year Head, Assistant Year Head and Class Tutor.

The Year Heads provide the administrative support necessary to ensure that the pastoral care structure functions effectively. They co-ordinate the caring structure by meeting subject and class teachers regularly to discuss and evaluate students' development. They meet individual students and classes regularly and encourages a high standard of work and behaviour.

The Assistant Year Head supports students by tracking academic progress and monitoring attendance. This information is used to ensure that all students reach their academic potential.



The Class Tutor provides a supportive caring role to students. They support their students' wellbeing in weekly Pastoral Care classes. They monitor the educational progress of each student by checking their journals regularly. The Class Tutor motivates their class to achieve their highest possible standards

## **Special Educational Needs**

Our Special Educational Needs team oversees the provision of the best possible planning, care and resource provision for students with special needs.

The SEN team consists of

- Louise Murphy (SEN Coordinator)
- Niamh Duggan (Learning Support Coordinator)
- Specialist teachers with resource hours
- Special Needs Assistants
- Classroom teachers
- Guidance Counsellor
- Year Heads
- Senior School Management

## **Learning Support**

Key aspects of the provision of Learning Support are summarised below;

The Total Special Education Teaching Allocation for 2018/2019 was 131.63 hours.

The school was also allocated 3.5 SNAs for the school year 2018/2019.

Weekly meetings were established for the Core Team of Learning Support Teachers.

In the State Examinations, there were 9 Leaving Certificate students and 10 Junior Certificate students who completed their exams in Special Centres.



## **Guidance and Counselling**

The Guidance and Counselling service in the school is concerned with the personal and educational development of students. The service of our counsellor, Aisling McDonald, is available to assist students in making career choices and to provide individual counselling.

Pupils may go to the counsellor to request an appointment.

Management have continued to support the guidance provision in the school by the provision of a greater number of hours to guidance than allocated.

Under the guidance of Aisling McDonald the school is reviewing and updating our whole school guidance plan.

## **National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy**

In May 2019 we were invited to join the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NITRIS). This pilot programme will begin in September 2019 and aims to improve participation and educational outcomes for Travellers and Roma in four districts, one of which is Enniscorthy.

## **Friends Programme**

The Friends Programme helps students to develop resilience by teaching them effective strategies to cope with, problem solve and manage all kinds of emotional distress, including worry, stress, change and anxiety. Skills learned throughout the programme help students both now and in later life. In April three of our teachers received training in the Friends Programme which will be delivered through Junior Cycle Pastoral Care in 2019/2020.

## **Student Voice**

The Sixth Year Head Girls, the Student Council and the Meitheal team provided excellent support for students throughout the school year.

Both the Head Girls and the Student Council under the guidance of Dara Kirwan and Elaine McGinnity provide a link with school management as the voice of the general student body.



The Meitheal team, under the guidance of Marguerite Furlong, provide supports for First Years which helps with the transition of our new students to life in our school.