

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcain, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Colaiste Lorcain, Castledermot

**Board of Management Annual Report to Staff, Parents / Guardians, Students and
Wider Community**

2017 - 2018



Colaiste Lorcain, Castledermot

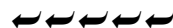
Board of Management Annual Report

Autumn 2018

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018



Looking Back & Looking Ahead



Introduction: Our Sense of Mission *Page 2 - 5*
Our School History
Our School Mission Statement

Section 1: *Factors Influencing our Development* *Page 5 - 7*
The Context of the School's Development

Section 2: *Looking Back - to Celebrate & Learn* *Page 7 - 24*
The Board of Management / Child Safeguarding In School Management /
Staffing Matters / Student Enrolment / Teaching and Learning & Curricular
Issues / Student Attainment in State Examinations
Additional Educational Needs
Student Attendance / Student Leadership / Student Disciplinary Matters
Irish Language Promotion / Irish Language Exemptions
Co-curricular Activities / Student Awards 2017 – 2018
School Facilities
School Plan / Policy Development / Faith Development Activities
Parent Teacher Meetings / Parent Information Evenings / Open Night
The Parents' Council
School Website

Section 3: *Looking Ahead* *Page 24-25*

Introduction

Our Sense of Mission

Section 20 of the Education Act, 1998 requires that

A board shall establish procedures for informing the parents of students in the school of matters relating to the operation and performance of the school and such procedures may include the publication and circulation to parents, teachers and other staff (and a student council where one has been established) of a report on the operation and performance of the school in any school year, with particular reference to the achievements of objectives as set out in the school plan provided for under section 21.

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

The purpose of this document is to report, to the school community, on the operation and performance of Colaiste Lorcaín, Castledermot over the last year and to specify developmental work to be undertaken next year.

Section 2 of this report sets out the developments that have taken place in the school over the last year.

Section 3 of the report lists the development priorities for the next 12 months and sets out a number of objectives in respect of these. It suggests a time frame for the completion of these priorities.

Our School History

Colaiste Lorcaín, Castledermot (1984 -)

Colaiste Lorcaín Community College is a Designated Community College, teaching both male and female students. In its present form, Colaiste Lorcaín Community College has successfully served the community of Castledermot since the amalgamation of the two schools – St. Mary’s Secondary School and Vocational School, Castledermot - in the town in 1984.

In 1983, it was suggested that a formal amalgamation of the two second level schools in Castledermot would have many positive elements for the students in the area, and in 1984 both schools agreed to fully cooperate and share their individual facilities among the students of both schools. This led to the formal amalgamation of both schools to form a new Community College operating under the aegis of Kildare V.E.C. and to be known as Coláiste Lorcaín (Lorcaín being attributed to St. Laurence O’Toole, the patron saint of the Arch Diocese of Dublin, who was born in the parish of Castledermot, around the year 1123).

Mission Statement

“Coláiste Lorcaín is committed to building on its own proud tradition of encouraging each individual to achieve his/her potential. As a school community of teachers, students and parents, we strive for excellence in everything we do.”

With a teaching staff of over 30, the school educates between around 400 students annually – both boys and girls. In the last three years, enrolment has risen by over 20% to 428 students.

The school is lead and guided by a Principal and Deputy Principal, appointed by the Trustees – the Poor Servants of the Mother of God and Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (K.W.E.T.B.).

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Principal	Deputy Principal
Eric Gaughran (2015 – Current Date)	Anna Wafer (February 2017 – Current Date)
Ciaran Keegan (2012 – 2015)	Nessa Doyle (2012 – September 2016)
Michael Russell (2002 – 2012)	Ciaran Keegan (2009 – 2012)
Majella O’Shea (1999 – 2002)	Sr. Catherine (1984 – 2009)
Nicholas Walsh (1976 – 1999)	Sr. Rosarii

School Trustees

POOR SERVANTS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

The Congregation of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God (S.M.G.) was founded in London on September 24th, 1869 by Frances Margaret (later Mother Magdalen) Taylor, (1832-1900), the youngest child of Henry Taylor, an Anglican clergyman, and his wife, Louisa.

What characterises the S.M.G. approach to education is a profound respect for the dignity of the individual and a strong work ethic. Students feel themselves accepted and encouraged and so grow in confidence and maturity. They are encouraged to use their gifts and talents to help those at home and abroad who do not share their material and educational advantages. The Congregation’s Founding Day – September 24th – is celebrated annually with a Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year.

In Ireland, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God have been involved in primary education and in second level education in both the voluntary secondary school and community college sectors.

Role and Function of K.W.E.T.B.

On 1st July 2013, the 33 Vocational Education Committees (VECs) were dissolved and replaced by 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs). The ETBs are established under and governed according to the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. Each ETB is a statutory body with its own corporate status.

K.W.E.T.B. has established and supports the Colaiste Lorcaín Community College Board of Management and it oversees and directs, as appropriate, the day to day management of the school, which, in the first instance, is delegated to the Principal, Mr. E. Gaughran.

Mission Statement & Ethos: The work of the school, the ethos of the school, all school practice and school policies are informed and inspired by its Mission Statement.

Our School Mission Statement

Mission Statement

“Coláiste Lorcaín is committed to building on its own proud tradition of encouraging each individual to achieve his / her potential. As a school community of teachers, students and parents, we strive for excellence in everything we do.”.

Ethos: In line with our Mission Statement we endeavour to create an ethos, which will enable the boys and girls entrusted to our care to develop in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. We encourage our students to become involved in the life of the school and their local community. We strive to be constantly aware of the dignity of each person. We try to show gentleness, courtesy and consideration for each other at all times. We acknowledge the individuality of each person and we try to show tolerance and compassion in our dealings with each other. We recognise the need to grow ourselves in order that we can help our pupils to grow in their personal development. We recognise that the curriculum of the school must be sufficiently wide and flexible to give all pupils (including those who are disadvantaged), clear educational goals and opportunities to achieve success – each to the level of their own ability.

Section 1: Factors Influencing our Development

The Context of School Development - Internal & External Factors

This annual report on Colaiste Lorcaín is a statement of the school’s current practices, procedures, achievements and areas for reflection and growth.

In recent years, a significant amount of school time has been spent reflecting on and improving school practice and achievement and developing school policy.

Internal developments, which have impacted on the school’s development over the last year:

Changes / Developments / Improvements:

A number of changes of Principal and Deputy Principal in recent years;

28-Hour Weekly Curriculum for Students;

Broader Curriculum;

Subject Choices for 1st Year and 5th Year made by Students. There is a free and open choice, with no option bands pre-determined;

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Since 2015, there have been 12 optional classes for 1st Years and 16 optional classes for 5th Years;

All subject options are timetabled – there is no minimum number of students required;

The Continued Growth and success of Transition Year;

Increased Student Pride in ***“Our School”***;

Whole School Analysis of Results in State Examinations;

Subject Department Analysis of Results in State Examinations;

In 2018-2019, subject departments will be required to set targets and agree measures to reach these targets;

Greater numbers of our graduates progressing to 3rd Level education;

Parents’ / Guardians’ Evenings’ for New 1st Years; 3rd Years; Transition Years and 6th Years;

Well-organised supervision and substitution rotas and procedures;

Attendance Figures properly maintained and recorded;

Less Student Absenteeism;

School efforts to formally promote, encourage and reward positive behaviour by students;

Suspensions legally administered;

School Buildings and Rooms painted, refurbished and improved;

Ipads given to all teachers;

Professional Development of official school prospectus;

Professional Development of official school folder;

Agendas and Minutes for Staff Meetings;

Development of School Website – Much more Informative and more traffic on it;

Greater and more frequent communication with parents / guardians by school management;

Regular Newsletters to Parents / Guardians, emailed to staff, and placed on the school website;

Increases in staffing levels;

Changes in the profile of teaching staff – greater gender balance (i.e. the appointment of more males to the teaching staff of the school) and the appointment of newer and younger teachers, as some of our more experienced teaching colleagues have retired;

Significant changes in post holders’ duties;

Establishment of In School Management Team and regular Meetings of Same, with notes posted on Staffroom Noticeboard within an hour of the meetings;

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

The formal establishment of subject departments and subject planning - the appointment of agreed department coordinators, common schemes of work and common testing / assessments;

The school's commitment to and financial outlay on more varied pedagogical methods – whiteboards, overhead projectors, computers, I.T. facilities, interactive whiteboards, laptops, data projectors, Ipads, etc.;

School Plan – updated and significantly improved.

School Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plans created.

Section 2: Looking Back - to Celebrate & Learn Over the Last Year

The Board of Management:

For the 2017 – 2018 school year, the Board of Management was in the third year of its term of office. The Chairperson of the Board was Mr. Moling Ryan.

The full membership of the current Board is:

Poor Servants of the Mother of God Nominee

Mr. Moling Ryan (Chairperson)

Mr. Donal O'Mhurchu

Mrs. Maura Keatley

Kildare Wicklow E.T.B. Nominees

Cllr. Mark Wall

Cllr. Aoife Breslin

Cllr. Ivan Keatley

Teachers' Nominees

Ms. Joanne Khare Daly

Mr. Shane Hutton

Parents' Nominees

Mrs. Anne Cope

Mr. Michael Kelly

Secretary, Board of Management

Mr. E. Gaughran (Principal).

The school's Deputy Principal (Ms. Anna Wafer) is invited to attend Board meetings as an observer and as the recording secretary.

After each meeting, the Secretary prepares an Agreed Report for communication to staff and the Parents' Council and Parent Body. This report is posted on the school website.

The Board met on September 13th 2017; November 29th 2017; February 7th 2018 and May 16th 2018.

Child Safeguarding:

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

The Board has nominated the Principal as the Designated Liaison Person and the Deputy Principal as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person in relation to Child Safeguarding. The Board receives a report from the Principal at each meeting on Child Safeguarding / Child Protection matters.

In-School Management:

As of June 2018, the school has a Principal, a Deputy Principal, three (3) Assistant Principal 1 positions and eight (8) Assistant Principal 11 positions. Currently, the Schedule of Posts of Responsibility (now called Roles and Responsibilities of the Senior Leadership Team) is as follows:

In School Management Team

Posts: Assistant Principal 1

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Year Head (2 nd Year), | <i>N. O'Halloran</i> |
| 2. Year Head (3 rd Year) | <i>E. Wall</i> |
| 3. Year Head (5 th Year) | <i>M. Spruhan</i> |

*There will be an additional Assistant Principal 1 position filled in 2018-2019.

Posts: Assistant Principal 11

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Year Head (6 th Year) | <i>D. Lyons</i> |
| 2. Transition Year Coordinator | <i>S. Gavigan</i> |
| 3. Special Educational Needs Coordinator | <i>C. Griffith</i> |
| 4. Open Night and Awards / Graduations | <i>D. Nally</i> |
| 5. Supervised Study Coordinator | <i>M. Treacy</i> |
| 6. Promotion of Music Events & Fundraising | <i>R. Dempsey</i> |
| 7. Ember, Student Council & Pastoral Care Coordinator | <i>S. Dolan</i> |
| 8. Induction, Mentoring and Droichead | <i>J. Daly</i> |

Voluntary Year Heads: 4th Year – Mr. S. Hutton and Ms. O. Mc Farland) and 2nd Year – Mr. C. Byrnes.

*There will be an additional Programme Coordinator position (Assistant Principal 11) filled in 2018-2019.

There will be significant changes to the above roles, effective from the start of the 2018 – 2019 school year, so that the school Leadership Team can focus more meaningfully on leading teaching and learning. The new assigned roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Positions: Assistant Principal 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Year Head (1 st Year) | <i>E. Wall</i> |
| Year Head (3 rd Year), | <i>N. O'Halloran</i> |
| Year Head (6 th Year) | <i>M. Spruhan</i> |

*There will be an additional Assistant Principal 1 position filled in 2018-2019.

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcain, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Positions: Assistant Principal 11

ICT Coordinator	<i>D. Lyons</i>
Junior Cycle Implementation & Support	<i>S. Gavigan</i>
Special Educational Needs & RACE Coordinator	<i>C. Griffith</i>
Open Night and Awards / Graduations	<i>R. Dempsey</i>
Sports & 1 st Aid Coordinator / Detention Supervisor	<i>M. Treacy</i>
Student Voice Coordinator / Student Leadership	<i>D. Nally</i>
Induction, Mentoring and Droichead	<i>J. Daly</i>

Regular meetings of the school's In School Management Team takes place at which school practice is discussed and reviewed and advice / support is provided to all involved. Notes are taken at these meetings and a copy of the notes is available to all members of the teaching staff within a day of these meetings.

Staff Meetings / Staff Development Meetings / Subject Department Meetings were held on the following dates: 2017– August 24th; September 7th; December 7th and December 22nd; 2018 –January 10th; March 20th and May 10th.

A special full day Junior Cycle Staff Day was held on Tuesday, September 26th.

Staffing Matters:

The school's teachers are funded by K.W.E.T.B. and the D.E.S. In addition, there is one full time school secretary, two full time caretakers and two part time cleaners employed in the school. The full staff list is as follows:

Teaching Staff	Main Subjects Taught	Post of Responsibility
Mr. E. Gaughran		Principal
Ms. A. Wafer	English & German	Deputy Principal
Mr. C. Byrnes	English & Geography	
Ms. C. Crowley	German & Irish	
Ms. L. Dalton	French & Irish	
Ms. J. Khare Daly	Business & Accounting	Assistant Principal 11
Ms. R. Dempsey	Music & Religion	Assistant Principal 11
Mr. S. Dolan	Religion	Chaplain Assistant Principal 11
Ms. B. Gahan	Maths & Geography	
Ms. S. Gavigan	Ag. Science / Biology Science	Assistant Principal 11
Ms. C. Griffith	Business / Maths / Resource	Assistant Principal 11
Mr. S. Hutton	Geography & Careers	Guidance Counsellor

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Ms. R. Keegan	P.E. & Science	
Mr. S. Kenny	Construction Studies / Design and Communications Graphics	
Mr. D. Lyons	Construction Studies / Design and Communications Graphics	Assistant Principal 11
Ms. O. Mc Farland	P.E.& Maths	
Ms. A. Murphy	Biology & Science	
Mr. G. Murray	English, Religion & Resource	
Ms. D. Nally	Art	Assistant Principal 11
Ms. N. O'Halloran	P.E. & English	Assistant Principal 1
Ms. A. O'Rourke	Geography & History	
Mr. E. Ruth	Irish & History	
Ms. C. Scully	History / Irish / Resource	
Ms. N. Sinnott Doyle	English & Religion	
Ms. M. Spruhan	Home Economics	Assistant Principal 1
Ms. A. Sullivan	Chemistry / Physics / Science	
Ms. L. Townsend	History & Geography	
Ms. M. Treacy	French & Irish	Assistant Principal 11
Mr. E. Wall	Construction Studies / Design and Communications Graphics / Maths	Assistant Principal 1

Support Staff	Responsibilities	Support Staff	Responsibilities
Ms. J. Ward	Secretary	Ms. K. Healy	Cleaning Staff
Mr. J. Doyle	Caretaker	Ms. S. Ormsby	Cleaning Staff
Mr. M. Lawlor	Caretaker		

The above list does not include staff members employed as short term substitutes for staff who are out on sick leave / maternity leave, etc.

*Mr. J. Doyle is retiring at the end of this school year. John has given great and loyal service to the school.

Student Enrolment:

Student numbers over the last seven years are as set out below:

	Total Number
2017 - 2018	428
2016 - 2017	395
2015 - 2016	380

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcain, Annual Report 2017 -2018

2014 - 2015	356
2013 - 2014	320
2012 - 2013	335
2011 – 2012	326

The growth in enrolment figures reflects the confidence of the local community in the work of the school and the management in place. Almost every 6th class student in our local feeder national schools is enrolled in Colaiste Lorcain. The seven local feeder national schools are Scoil Diarmada, Castledermot; Kilkea N.S.; St. Laurence’s N.S., Crookstown; St. Colmcille’s N.S., Moone; Scoil Naomh Lorcain, Levitstown; Bigstone N.S. and Grange N.S.

Increasingly, students from other national schools in the area seek to enrol in our school. Again, this is a reflection of the school’s esteem and a testament to the work of all school staff in making this a safe, challenging and fulfilling place to work, learn and grow.

We expect to have more than 410 students enrolled in the school for 2018 – 2019.

Teaching and Learning and Curricular Issues:

The core function of our school is Teaching and Learning. We support teacher professional collaboration and development. We are involved in the national Droichead Programme, which supports and mentors new and newly qualified teachers. We have engaged in the national Instructional Leadership Programme, under Prof. Barrie Bennett. We welcome DES Inspectors to our school and classrooms and use their feedback and advice to enrich the learner experience in this school. Copies of all Inspection Reports are published on the school website.

Each student receives 28 hours tuition weekly.

The school offers sixteen (16) subjects that are examined in the Junior Certificate and nineteen (19) subjects for examination at Leaving Certificate level.

Since September 2016, each lesson / class period lasts 40 minutes.

The Junior Certificate Curriculum is set out as follows:

Subject

For Examination

Irish

English

Maths

History

Science

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

C.S.P.E.

Religious Education

French or German

At Junior Cycle, there are three options bands made out from the choices / preferences of students. Each student studies three of the following subjects: Art, Craft and Design; Business; Geography; Home Economics; Music; Materials Technology Wood; Technology and Technical Graphics for four (4) periods weekly.

Non-Examination Subjects

S.P.H.E. and Physical Education.

The Leaving Certificate Curriculum is set out as follows:

Subject

For Examination

Irish PLUS 4 Options

English

Maths

At Senior Cycle, there are four options bands made out from the choices / preferences of students. Each student studies four of the following subjects: Accounting; Agricultural Science; Art; Biology; Business; Chemistry; Construction Studies; Design and Communications Graphics; Engineering; French; Geography; German; History; Home Economics (Social and Scientific); Music; Physics.

Non Examination Subjects

Religious Education

Physical Education

Student Attainment in State Examinations:

An important feature of second level education is the preparation of students for two state examinations – the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate, in June each year. Each August / September, the school's teaching staff review and analyse student performance in both examinations, with a view to celebrate student success and to raising standards in the school.

One of the first critical areas to constantly address is the number of students who take Higher level papers. We should always try to maximise the number of students sitting Higher level papers. We, also, need to look at ways to improve the results on all papers, especially to increase the number of H1 and H2 grades.

% of Higher Level Papers sat

2018 - 67%

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

2017 – 60.8%

2016 – 57%

2015 – 55%

The following chart makes interesting reading, when looking at results, in the form of “Points”, achieved by our students against the national figures:

	600+	500 - 599	400 - 499	300 - 399	200 - 299	100 - 199	<100
2018 National	1.3%	11.9%	24%	24.9%	19.5%	12%	6.5%
2018 C.L.	1.5%	4.5%	19.4%	43.8%	19.4%	10.5%	1.5%
2017 National	1.2%	11%	24%	25.5%	19.7%	11.9%	6.7%
2017 C.L.	0%	7.7%	23%	28.9%	21.1%	13.5%	5.8
2016 National	0.3%	9.6%	25.5%	26.1%	17.9%	12.1%	8.5%
2016 C.L.	0%	3.2%	28.5%	22.2%	27%	16%	3.2%
2015 National	0.4%	9.9%	25.6%	26.3%	17.7%	12.1%	8.2%
2015 C.L.	0%	4.1%	22.4%	22.4%	26.5%	12.2%	12.2%

2018 Points Average: 340

2017 Points Average: 314. The Leaving Cert. Average Points score in 2016 was 312, while in 2015 it was 291 (All points scores worked out under new 2017 system).

% of students achieving above 500 points

2018 - 6%

2017 – 7.7%

2016 – 3.2%

2015 – 4.1%

% of students achieving above 300 points

2018 – 68.6%

2017 – 59.6%

2016 – 53.9%

2015 – 48.9%

The Principal conducts annual reviews and reports on our Leaving Certificate Results and a formal report is submitted to the C.E., Kildare Wicklow E.T.B. A similar type report is completed in relation to the Junior Certificate results issued in September. The Principal submits both reports to the Board of Management.

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcain, Annual Report 2017 -2018

One of our great successes as a school is our excellent Transition Year Programme. Over 85% of our 3rd Years choose to join the T.Y. Programme annually. In 2017 – 2018, 42% of the class achieved a Pass Award; 27% a Merit Award and 31% achieved a Distinction.

School Examinations / Assessments:

School Examinations were held as follows:

2017 - December 1st, 2nd and 5th Years;

Mock Examinations

2018 - January 30th – February 9th 3rd and 6th Years.

Summer Examinations

2018 - May / June 1st Years; 2nd Years and 5th Years.

In addition, 3rd Years and 6th Years sat post Halloween assessments in November 2017.

Additional Educational Needs:

Over a number years, the school has developed a strong reputation for welcoming students with additional educational needs and for its ability to respond appropriately to the demands and needs of these students. In the 2017 – 2018 school year, 78 students received individual or small group tuition weekly.

Student Attendance (N.E.W.B. / TUSLA):

Each year, the school makes reports on student absenteeism to the National Education Welfare Board (N.E.W.B.) / TUSLA – the Child and Family Agency. The information below in relation to student absenteeism is the official information provided by the school to TUSLA in June 2018.

	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016 /2017	2017 /2018
Total enrolment as at 30/09	354	326	335	320	356	380	395	428
No. of students absent 20 days or more	53	50	36	20	41	18	22	25
No. of students expelled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of students suspended	32	24	21	15	21	7	5	3

Fourteen (14) students had full attendance.

Also, in 2017 – 2018, the school gave N.E.W.B. / TUSLA sponsored certificates to students who had 95% attendance or more in the academic year.

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Student Leadership:

Promoting, identifying and developing leadership awareness and skills among students individually and collectively are an important part of our responsibility as teachers and educators. Two very visible leadership activities within the student school community are the Students' Council and the Ember Programme. There are opportunities to further develop student leadership, which should be prioritised in 2018 – 2019.

Head Girls 2018 - 2019

- 6th Year Head Girl – Ciara Corrigan and Deputy Head Girl – Emma Gately

In 2018 – 2019, the school will appoint a Head Boy, a Deputy Head Boy, a Head Girl and a Deputy Head Girl.

Student Council

Among other items, the 1998 Education Act stated that Boards of Management should encourage and help students to set up a “Student Council” and assist the Student Council when it is established. Student Councils assist students to become involved in school matters by encouraging students to become involved appropriately in part of the organisation of school life; by developing leadership skills and attributes in its members and by deepening the relationships between students, staff, Parents' Councils and the school's Board of Management.

The general objectives of our “Student Council” include:

- Enhancing communication between students, management, staff and parents / guardians;
- Promoting friendship and respect among students;
- Supporting the management and staff in the development of the school and
- Representing the views of students in matters of general concern to them.

A member of the school's management team normally assists the Student Council. In 2017 – 2018, Ms. Sullivan supported and advised the Student Council.

Activities organized by the group, include:

- Student survey on concerns and issues;
- Involvement in the draft Student Anti-Bullying Policy and
- Organising an Annual Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week.

Other Leadership and Pastoral Care Activities in the school include:

- A Health & Safety week;
- Mindfulness Workshops for students from 2nd – 6th Year;
- Presentations on mental health for 3rd, 5th and 6th Year students;
- Presentations, for all year groups, on a range of topics, such as bullying, alcohol and drug abuse, internet / online safety and

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

- Stress Management Seminars for exam year students.

Student Disciplinary Matters;

The school has an elaborate and well thought out Student Code of Behaviour.

An important part of the school's Code of Behaviour is the effort made to acknowledge the good behaviour and commitment to their studies of the vast majority of our students. Teachers are encouraged to communicate orally and / or in writing with parents / guardians to inform them of the positive contribution to their own learning that students make either within the classroom or in the wider school community.

Among the other methods for rewarding good behaviour are:

- Year Heads and class teachers are encouraged to record positive behaviour in the student's journal.
- Students receive awards each year for consistently positive behaviour and academic achievement.

Unfortunately, there are a small number of students who fail to live up to the expected standards of behaviour and respect. These students are dealt with in accordance with the Code of Behaviour and, occasionally, their misbehaviour is considered by the Principal to merit suspension. All suspensions are reported to the Board of Management at its meetings throughout the year. The recent reduction in student suspensions is a testimony to excellent student behaviour and appropriate early interventions by Year Heads, in particular.

Language Promotion:

Over a long number of years, the V.E.C. / E.T.B. has given financial support to the school to promote the Irish language.

Apart from the study of English, the school offers three languages – Irish, French and German.

With the financial support of the Parents' Council and KWETB, the school awarded a total of fourteen (14) language scholarships in 2018 to students, ranging from €330 – €500 (See Student Achievements: Page 19).

Irish Language Exemptions:

A number of students are exempted from the study of Irish. The numbers exempted from studying Irish are as follows:

1st Year - 12; 2nd Year - 15; 3rd Year - 7; 4th Year – 6; 5th Year - 13; 6th Year – 7 (Total: 60).

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Co curricular Activities:

Colaiste Lorcaín provides a wide range of activities in addition to the academic curriculum followed in the classroom. Teachers are delighted to provide these activities and are happy with the enthusiastic response from the students. We feel it is important to the full development of students that they take part in both individual and group activities both inside and outside the classroom.

Among the activities we have offered in the past / may offer in the future are the following:

Adventure Sports	Amnesty
Athletics (Track & Field)	Art Exhibitions
An Gaisce (The President's Award)	Badminton (Boys & Girls)
Basketball (Boys & Girls)	Boys' Gaelic Football
Boys' Soccer	Camogie
Choirs	Class Trips (Day / Overnight / Weekly)
Cross Country Running	Debating
Drama	Girls' Gaelic Football
Ember Group	Green School's Committee
Hurling	Leadership Skills / Training (6 th Years)
Mini-Companies	Musical Activities – Choir
Public Speaking	Rugby
School Exhibition	School Magazine
Slogadh Projects	Speech and Drama
Student Council	Swimming
Table Tennis	Volleyball
Tennis	Young Scientists' Exhibition

The above list is subject to minor adjustment from time to time.

Student Awards 2017 – 2018:

The school's annual Student Awards were presented in May 2018 – recognizing student talent, commitment, integrity, effort and achievement.

6th Years Spirit of the School Award

Jamie Carton and Eanna O'Neill

Student of the Year Award Winners

6th Year

Louise Dunne

Academic Award Winners

6th Year

Miranda Faul

Adanya Hott

Andrew Reid

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

5th Year

Jennifer Hickey

4th Year

Ronan Moore

3rd Year

Clive Dennis
Emma Farrell

2nd Year

Jim Corrigan

1st Year

Liam Yek

5th Year

Eva Kelly
Tiffany Kelly
Ruth Mc Kenna

4th Year

Conor Brennan
Finn Doyle
Oisín Hott
Mark Lambe

3rd Year

Abby Cleaver
Annie Howard
Rachel O’Leary

2nd Year

Amy Chatten
Siofra Horan
Cliona Rice

1st Year

Rebecca Hennessy
Keith Holligan
Hollie Phelan
Emily Sharma

Sports Personality Award Winners

6th Year

Chloe Brady
Neasa Dooley
Jack Flood
Joseph Keatley

5th Year

Isaac Akinsete
Emma Deering

4th Year

Ciara Downey
Aaron O’Neill

3rd Year

Abbeygail Byrne
Kevin Eustace

2nd Year

Matthew Farrell
Jessica Lawler

1st Year

Arabella Adekoya
Tadhg Phelan

Colaiste Lorcaín Student Achievements 2017 - 2018

- 6th Year Head Girl – Ciara Corrigan & Deputy Head Girl – Emma Gately.
- Senior Girls’ Basketball & Senior Boys’ Basketball & 1st Year Boys’ Basketball Teams who were all Midlands’ League Champions and All Ireland Quarter finalists.

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

- Ronan Moore (4th Year) Runner-Up in National Career Skills Competition.
- Swimming – Nikita Bondarevs (2nd Year), who won a number of medals at two International Swimming Events.
- Karate – Annelie Burke (3rd Year), Rachel Keogh (3rd Year), Katie Lawlor (1st Year) and Katelynn Mc Namara (3rd Year), who represented Ireland in the International Karate Union World Championships.
- Basketball – Abbeygail Byrne (3rd Year) and Conor Byrne (4th Year) - Members of Midlands League Representative teams.
- ReelLIFE Science National Video Award Third Place: Finn Doyle (4th Year) and Oisín Hott (4th Year).
- Emmanuel Concert, Helix Theatre Dublin –Individual Performers: Jordan O’Neill (5th Year); Orla James (4th Year) and Kayla Kissane (3rd Year).
- Irish Scholarships – 1st Year: Keith Holligan; 2nd Year: Joy Isa Daniel; Emma Dunne; Olivia Malone; Leah Moore and Aisling Proctor; 4th Year: Ciara Casey and Emma O’Reilly.
- French Scholarship – 5th Year: Eva Kelly.
- German Scholarships – 4th Year: Josh Cope and Oisín Hott; 5th Year: Isaac Akinsete; Alex Dillon and Pedro Lemos.
- Junior Public Speaking Competition – Contestants: Ayomide Bello; Amy Chatten; Max Doyle; Siofra Horan; Joy Isa Daniel; Olamide Iyande; Eoin Kenny; Abbie Mc Dermott; Tristan Mannion; Diaga Marini; Kieran Murray; Cliona Rice and Tolu Sadiq. 1st Place – Amy Chatten; 2nd Place – Olamide Iyande and Joint 3rd Place – Joy Isa Daniel and Abbie Mc Dermott .
- Senior Public Speaking Competition – Contestants: Isaac Akinsete; Tianna Bowens; Miranda Faul; Eoin Fitzgerald; Emma Gately; Eva Kelly and Cameron Moss. 1st Place – Eoin Fitzgerald; 2nd Place – Emma Gately and 3rd Place – Isaac Akinsete.
- Irish Maths Teachers’ Association (Kildare Branch) Quiz Finalists (all 3rd Years): Mary Akinsete; Erin Anthony; Abby Cleaver; Peig Corrigan; Annie Howard; Ciara Mc Guckian and Orla Reilly.
- Transition Year Chess Champion: Conor Brennan.

School Facilities:

Colaiste Lorcaín has excellent facilities for students and staff.

- 17 General Classrooms
- 2 Science Labs
- 3 Science Storage Rooms and 1 Chemical Store
- 1 Art Room
- 1 Computer Room
- Library
- 4 Resource Rooms

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

- 1 DCG Room with Computer Room
- 1 Woodwork Room
- 1 Technology / Engineering Room
- 1 Home Economics Kitchen
- 1 Music Room
- 1 Kitchen for Food Sales
- 1 Gym
- 2 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 2 Football Pitches
- Principal's Office
- Deputy Principal's Office
- Secretary's Office
- Guidance Counsellor's Office
- Chaplain's Office
- Board Room / Parents' / Visitors' Meeting Room
- 2 Teachers' Work Rooms
- Staff Room
- Separate junior and senior male toilets in Block 2
- Separate junior and senior female toilets in Block 2
- A Boys' Bathroom in Block 1 and a Girls' Bathroom in Block 1
- Wheelchair Accessible Toilet
- Staff Toilets
- All Teachers equipped with iPad and / or laptop
- Classrooms equipped with data projector, whiteboard, Overhead projector.

The work of the school's caretakers (Mr. John Doyle and Mr. Michael Lawlor) and cleaning staff (Ms. Kay Healy and Ms. Sandra Ormsby) is invaluable in maintaining these facilities to a very high standard.

The local G.A.A. and Soccer Clubs very generously permit the school to use their facilities, free of charge.

School Plan / Policy Development:

In recent years, school planning and policy development has been a key element of the school's work. Staff, students and parents / guardians have been consulted, as appropriate, in the development, review and amendment of formal school policies, which have, in turn, been considered by the Board for adoption and implementation. At the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, there are a number of policies in place, under three broad headings: ***Staff and Student Welfare; Management and Organisation and Teaching and Learning***. Five policies are reviewed annually – the Student Admissions Policy; the Student Code of Behaviour; the school's Health and Safety Statement; the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and the school's Posts of Responsibility. The

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

other policies are reviewed regularly and the Board is committed to reviewing any policy on request by staff, students, parents / guardians and / or the Parents' Council.

Please see ***School Plan*** for further and more detailed information on school policies.

Faith Development Activities:

Important elements of the school's commitment to the holistic development of students are the many and varied opportunities available to students to participate in / engage with faith development activities, such as the ones set out below:

Religious Education:

- Classes for each Year Group

Liturgies:

- School Mass for Opening of Academic Year
- Christmas Carol Service
- Ash Wednesday distribution of ashes by local clergy
- School service / funeral mass / service of light / mass for bereaved in November annually
- Graduation Mass / Service in May / June annually

Pastoral Care:

- Weekly meeting of Pastoral Care Group (Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellor, and Chaplain)
- Guidance Counsellor available to students
- Chaplain available to students
- Student support structures (including Year Head)
- Care of students with special educational needs /other needs, etc.

In-service:

- R.E. teachers attend in-service provided by Diocese and the D.E.S.

Curriculum:

- Teachers adapt curriculum to cater for needs of all students and aim to integrate all students – identify students for Learning Support and Resource

Home:

- Supportive work of Year Heads / Guidance Counsellor and Chaplain
- Links with home re: students with difficulties or not attending school
- Visits – at time of illness or bereavement.

Development Education:

- To create awareness of justice issues through themes and prayers (e.g. one world week)

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Counselling / Psychological Support:

- Ongoing from Guidance Counsellor and Chaplain
- Strong links with NEPS / the Health Service Executive & Child and Adult Mental Health Services

Chaplain:

- Support for staff and R.E. team
- Support for students and families especially at times of illness or bereavement
- Organise liturgies, etc.

Staff Support from Students:

- World Teachers Day
- Gifts / Cards to Teachers / Year Heads
- Support for teachers bereaved

Staff Affirmation:

- Staff encouraged to attend service
- B.O.M. acknowledges staff at every B.O.M. meeting
- B.O.M. budgets for “staff celebrations”
- Break time treats
- Lunch as appropriate in appreciation of dedicated staff
- Staff supported when ill, bereaved, new baby, weddings etc. (time off, cards, gifts, bouquets)

Care of Bereaved Students:

- Principal and Deputy Principal
- Teachers / Year Heads
- Guidance Counsellor
- Chaplain
- Critical Incident Team
- Health Service Executive Counsellors
- R.E. team

Student Leadership / Relationships:

- Skills fostered among students through the Ember Programme
- Student Council

Links with Parish Church:

- Students assist with liturgy, especially at Christmas and Easter time.

Parents / Guardians:

- Parents / Guardians invited to Opening of the Academic Year Mass and the 6th Year Graduation Mass

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

- Parents / Guardians invited to meet teachers and Year Heads.

Board of Management:

- Supports all Faith Development Initiatives

While over 95% of students are Catholic, there are a number of students of other faiths and none. Their rights and the rights of their parents / guardians to participate / not participate are respected and accommodated by internal school management.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher Meetings were held on the following dates:

- 2017 - November 7th 6th Years;
- 2017 - November 15th 3rd Years;
- 2018 - January 10th 5th Years;
- 2018 - February 5th 1st Years;
- 2018 - March 5th 2nd Years and Transition Years.

The Transition Year meeting scheduled for February 28th was postponed due to the nationwide Red Alert Weather warning and it was re-scheduled for March 5th as above.

Parent Information Evenings:

Separate Parent Information Evenings were hosted by the Principal and Guidance Counsellor for Prospective 1st Years for 2017; 3rd Years going into Transition Year; 3rd and 4th Years going into 5th Year and for 6th Years.

Open Evening:

An “Open Evening” was held on Wednesday, October 4th 2017 for Prospective 1st Years for 2018. Over 280 people – children and adults, attended this event.

A special Induction / Orientation Day for Incoming 1st Years will be held by the Principal and Deputy Principal in August for our incoming 1st Years 2018.

The Parents’ Council 2017 - 2018:

The school has a progressive and committed Parents’ Council. Full membership of the Council is available to any parent / guardian who wishes to get involved and support the Parents’ Council in its work with and for the school.

The main officers were: Yvonne Horan (Chairperson); Mary O’Neill (Secretary) and Marcella Moore (Treasurer). Each Parents’ Council meeting follows a set agenda – Minutes; Matters Arising; Correspondence; Treasurer’s Report; Principal’s Report; Board of Management Report; A.O.B. and Date of Next Meeting.

The Parents’ Council met six times in 2017 – 2018 on the following dates: September 21st; October 12th; November 23rd; January 25th; March 22nd and May 10th.

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcain, Annual Report 2017 -2018

On November 10th 2017, the Parents’ Council hosted a very successful American Tea Party, with proceeds shared equally with the Parents’ Association, Scoil Diarmada.

The Council is encouraged to engage in, among other things, policy development and reviews of school events, practices and procedures.

The Parents’ Council supports and advises school management on a range of projects and policies and this support and advice is very much appreciated.

School Website:

An important feature of the 2017 – 2018 school year is the continuing use of the school website (www.colaistelorcain.com) for communication and information about the work, successes and policies of the school. Time and thought has been put into the website to ensure that it reflects our work and informs our local community, as well as members of the wider community. There is a very wide range of school documents – information leaflets / newsletters / policy documents / presentations, etc. – on the school website and there appears to have been a very significant increase in traffic on the website.

Section 3: Looking Ahead to the Next School Year

Summary of Developmental Work to be undertaken next year/ Objectives

School Development Planning – Areas for Review, Development and/or Evaluation					
School Policies, Practices and Programmes, in light of mission, under the following headings					
Staff & Student Welfare		Support for Teaching & Learning		Leadership & Organisation	
W1	Review Child Safeguarding Statement September 2018	TL 1	Implement Curriculum for New Junior Cycle	MO 1	Strengthen Leadership Team
W2	Review Critical Incident Policy – September 2018	TL 2	Develop Work of Subject Departments	MO 2	Develop School Admissions Policy 2019 – 2020 – Sept. / October 2018
W3	Review Student Code of Behaviour 2019 – 2020 – May 2019	TL 3	Establish and Support Teaching and Learning Committee	MO 3	Principal’s Annual Report to Board of Management – June 2019
<i>Over the period of this plan, we will continue to review and develop how we engage in the School Plan and our engagement with the D.E.S. School Self Evaluation Initiatives, as well as the new Junior Cycle.</i>					

Board of Management, Colaiste Lorcaín, Annual Report 2017 -2018

Contacting Colaiste Lorcaín

The school can be contacted as follows:

Postal Address: Colaiste Lorcaín, Castledermot, Co Kildare.

School Office – **Phone:** 05991 44167

School Office – **Fax:** 05991 44525

Email: info@colaistelorcaín.com

Website: www.colaistelorcaín.com

Conclusion

The Board of Management would like to acknowledge and thank all those involved in making Colaiste Lorcaín a welcoming, safe and successful school – students, parents / guardians, teaching and non teaching staff and the school leadership team.

Mr. E. Gaughran
Secretary
Board of Management

Mr. M. Ryan
Chairperson
Board of Management

Autumn 2018

** Additional information on School Performance can be found in the school's Self Evaluation Report and the School Plan, available on the school website and from the Principal on request.*