



*Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré is
committed to providing a
holistic education in a caring
environment to all our students*

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré

Roscrea Community College



The College of Choice



Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré is a college committed to delivering a high quality education to all students enrolled. Our location places us in the position of enrolling students from three counties – Tipperary, Laois and Offaly. We have an experienced, committed staff that have an excellent record of meeting the needs of all students. Our philosophy is to encourage all students to strive to reach their full potential.

As a larger college we have the resources to offer an extensive range of subjects to our pupils. First year students engage in a Subject Taster System, where they sample various subjects before deciding which to study for their Junior Certificate. In Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré we take pride in the pastoral care we offer our students. Each pupil is treated as an individual and educated in a caring environment. We offer an extensive range of extra curricular activities.

After Junior Cycle our students can avail of our highly regarded Transition Year Programme, which is reviewed and enhanced on an annual basis. The success of the Transition Year Programme results in an over demand for the places available. In Senior Cycle, students have the choice of taking any one of the Leaving Certificate Programmes ie Traditional Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. Students have the opportunity to continue their education in our Post-Leaving Certificate Programme.

Your choice of school for your son/daughter is a big decision. Should you choose Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré, we are confident that your child will prosper and develop in a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment. He/She will receive excellent guidance and encouragement and will be provided with all the opportunities to personally develop and reach their true potential.

Please take the time to come along to our Open Evening on Wednesday, October 26th, 2016 from 6-9pm. I will make a presentation to parents and students at 8pm. Afterwards I invite you to take one of our guided tours around the school. Here you will have the opportunity to view our first class facilities, student exhibitions, subject departments and extra-curricular activities. But most importantly you will meet students and staff who are the heart of our school community.

If you wish to discuss any issues concerning the school or the needs of your child, please do not hesitate to contact me 0505 23939.

Michael O'Connor
Principal

Throughout our brochure you will see information boxes like this one. These show some of the positive comments made by the department inspectorate in our most recent whole school evaluation.

School Services

Supervised Study

The college offers supervised evening study facilities for pupils. This allows students a quiet, undisturbed two hour period each evening when they can fulfil revision/study without the distractions that can be there in home environments in the early evening. Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré now also offers Saturday study.



Library Facility

As part of our Literacy Initiative, Coláiste Phobal has developed new library facilities for our pupils. This provides a comfortable space supervised by a librarian where students can come and read or research books and also use PC's which are also available. The library is also used as a lunchtime club where students can play chess and other board games.



Book Rental Scheme

Coláiste Phobal operates a book rental scheme for all first and fifth year pupils. All students make a contribution of €70 towards the scheme. This amount allows first years five books and fifth years four books.

Guidance and Counselling

Our aim is to provide education as part of a total life plan and to enable our students to become well balanced and a caring member of their community. Guidance and Counselling is provided by two fully qualified Guidance Counsellors who operate from a guidance suite, which provides the most modern facilities including Internet Access for the students.

Canteen Facilities

The school has an excellent canteen facility where students can avail of hot food for breakfast and lunch. This is a huge benefit to junior students who are not permitted down town at lunch time.

Meal Vouchers

The school operates a scheme where qualifying pupils are provided with breakfast and lunch every day.

'We strive to provide an enjoyable and personal experience with a rich range of opportunities'

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

The availability of ICT resources to support teaching and learning in subjects is very good. School management has a positive vision for the future development and integration of ICT.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré offers extensive IT facilities to its students. Our IT infrastructure offers staff the most up to date teaching aids and also provides a means of communicating more efficiently, both within the school and externally to parents and the community. The school has Wi-Fi throughout with 100mb broadband which facilitates efficient use of iPads and wireless devices. This facilitates access to internet and cloud applications which enhances the learning experience for pupils. The school has five fully equipped computer suites which incorporates a modern language lab and DCG Lab.

VS Ware

The school utilises this software to do roll checks and track pupils throughout the day. This is a web based system which allows parents better access to information on students' progress and attendance. The system can automatically send a text message to parents re absenteeism which helps to monitor and control attendance.



Computer classes



Roscrea Community College receives Microsoft Office Centre of Excellence Award

School / Home Link

Parents are the primary educators of their children and while the school plays an important role in the preparation of students for life, it cannot achieve any significant progress without the complete and whole hearted support of parents. We see parents as vital co-partners in the educational process.

In order to strengthen the home / school relationship, parents are kept fully informed of their children's progress by:

- **Monitoring the Journal:** A complete day-to-day account of a student's conduct and achievement is recorded in the Journal. Regular monitoring of the Journal provides an instant progress report for parents and avoids waiting on end of term reports.
- **Contact with Year Head:** Each year group has a Year Head who monitors the progress of students. Appointments with Year Heads can be arranged by contacting the school. Parents are always welcome in our school and they can be assured that we are always delighted to see them.
- **Parent / Teacher Meetings:** Regular Parent / Teacher Meetings are held and every effort is made through parent programmes and lectures to help parents take an active interest in their children's education.
- **On-Line Monitoring:** Through our new VS Ware parents will be able to view progress of pupils with exam reports and class by class attendance. This facility has been rolled out this year and has become more effective with better Wifi coverage throughout the school.

Discipline

Discipline and care go together and are sometimes considered to be two sides of the same coin. Our policy is to approach discipline as positively as possible. There is a code of conduct combining firmness with fairness and relying increasingly on self-discipline and responsibility as students move up through the school. A copy of the Rules is contained in the Journal and must be signed by students and parents at the start of the school year.

Learning Support

All students are assessed on entering the school. When students are found to have learning difficulties they are catered for by our comprehensive learning support programme administered by our team of trained learning support teachers. Our programmes are designed to improve the student's confidence and self image and have proved to be most successful. This is underpinned by our comprehensive Learning Support Policy for review on our website.



The school promotes the involvement of Parents through the Parents Association, the school newsletter and the school website. The quality of the home-school relationship is a strength of the school.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)

There are appropriate supports in place for all students with additional educational needs. The good practice of team teaching is highly commended.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)

Religious Education

Religious Education is recognised as having a central role to play in the formation of the minds and characters of our students. In co-operation with the Diocesan Authorities of all denominations, a comprehensive, planned programme of religious instruction is implemented. Our students are encouraged to study and live their faith and to this end, school retreats, discussion groups and liturgical services help to complement the formal class work.

Invited guest speakers help to broaden the students' awareness, and the Pastoral Care programme is specifically aimed at giving each student as much individual attention as possible. Since its inception in 1999, Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré has been actively developing new facilities for students and teachers, one of which has been the Oratory. This is set in a quiet area of the school and every day, it is used for prayer services, class liturgies, meditation and personal prayer. For students and staff, it is a warm and welcoming place where they can spend some time in stillness and peace.

A Word From Our Chaplain

I consider chaplaincy to be an extremely privileged position. Young people need someone to believe in them, encourage them, give them time, hope and care. For me, the role is rooted in Gospel values, but above all, in love. Chaplaincy without love is a still boat on a dry day. I am passionately committed to my role, to the young people I work with, to my peers and to this community. Ultimately, I try to live by the adage: 'Words whisper, life shouts'.
Fr. Lorcan Kenny

Cairde

In Coláiste Phobal every effort is made to ensure that 1st Years settle in and are not at risk of being bullied. CAIRDE is a group of 6th Year students who volunteer to look out for 1st Years and to ensure that they settle in. Each year the response from the 6th Year students to join CAIRDE increases. Apart from making friends and keeping an eye on their designated class groups, the CAIRDE arrange special events to help the 1st Years integrate – e.g. Céilí, soccer leagues and CAIRDE afternoons. Surveys are also compiled to identify anybody who is feeling lost or lonely and to monitor how they are coping.



There is a well-established induction programme for incoming first years. A strong sense of pastoral care for students and staff was evident among the school community during the evaluation.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)



'Respect is the principle at the heart of our school'

The Cairde Group at the Halloween Céilí for First Years

Extra Curricular Activities

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré provides an extensive range of Extra-Curricular Activities. These activities play a central role in the social and personal development of the students.

The Coláiste provides the following activities:

Hurling, Golf, Football, Rugby, Drama & Quiz, Athletics, Gymnastics, Soccer, Ladies Football, Basketball, Equestrian, Music, Chess and Badminton.



School Tour Paris 2016

Tours

School tours and outings are an important feature of the broader curriculum in Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré. The school has a positive approach to tours. Through tours students get the opportunity to spread their wings, with tours to various destinations in mainland Europe. In the past, students have visited Manchester, Paris, Cologne, Rome and Sorrento. Such tours are an opportunity to widen the cultural and social horizons of students, giving them a chance to experience, along with their classmates, a new country, a new culture and even a new language. For many students, it is a wonderful opportunity to find out more about the country whose language they are studying.

Other classes have the opportunity to travel within Ireland. We have a number of tours to support the study of subjects/programmes in the school. Transition Year students spend time in an adventure centre, enjoying such pursuits as canoeing, abseiling and orienteering. The LCA classes also spend three days in Ballybunion in Kerry. First Years too have an annual outing - the location varies from year to year.

It is a well-known saying that travel broadens the mind. Coláiste Phobal students have their minds exercised, not only in the classroom but out in the cultural diversity of the wider world.

Sports and Extra-Curricular provision is a major strength in the school's provision and is supported by a large group of staff that willingly gives of its time and energy.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)

Sport

Sport plays an important role in the lives of Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré students. Every effort is made to introduce students to as many sport and leisure activities as possible. As students progress through the school, they gain an appreciation of sport and the many benefits it brings to their lives. While the emphasis is on participation, there is also a competitive side to sport, which brings its own highs and lows. Over the years, our students, boys and girls, have achieved great sporting successes, with All-Ireland wins in hurling, camogie and badminton, as well as individual successes in the world of Athletics. Win or lose, we aim to be the best that we can be. With three Physical Education teachers and extensive new facilities, we now have the resources to continue this great tradition. The full sized gymnasium is equipped to the most modern standards and facilitates an advanced Physical Education programme. It also provides a much needed recreational facility for the town of Roscrea. The ball wall is in constant use and helps our students refine their skills.



All Ireland Badminton Champions 2016









Sports Facilities

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré is fortunate to have an impressive range of sports facilities which is utilised and managed by our three PE teachers. We also have access to Roscrea Leisure Centre which is located right on our doorstep.

Hurling Wall



Sports Hall



*Junior Camogie Munster
Final winners of the
Sr. Patricia Cup 2016*



U17 Hurling Team who won the O'Leary Cup 2016



ROSCREA LEISURE CENTRE

The new, state of the art, centre is located adjacent to the school. This is a wonderful new facility which has enhanced our P.E. programme in the College.



Student Council

Comhairle Mac Léinn Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré.

The aim of the Student Council is to create in co-operation with The Board of Management, Principal, Staff, Parents Council and Students, a better school life for the whole school community.

All members of the student council are elected by the students and staff. Election is by secret vote. The Student Council elects its own committee i.e. Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and P.R.O. The Student Council acts as a medium whereby concerns, interests and suggestions from the student body can be passed on to the Principal, Board of Management, Staff and Parents.

School Prefects

The role of the Prefect is:

- The Prefects stand as a role model for students as he / she represents all that's best in our school.
- Prefects assist at Parent / Teacher Meetings and other school related activities
- Prefects assist / organise lunchtime activities for students e.g. soccer, basketball leagues etc.
- Prefects take responsibility if they observe damage to equipment / facilities in the school
- Corridor duty at breaktime and lunchtime
- Upkeep of the Senior Common Room
- Liaise with the Year Heads
- Inform school authorities of any bullying incidents observed
- Encourage a good work ethic in the school – be seen as a role model

Green School

In recent years Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré has embraced the Green School initiative. A number of staff and pupils have formed an active committee which has worked hard at ways of improving our school environment. Planting of trees and landscaping has commenced as has the construction of a new water management depot. In the coming year conservation measures and cleanups will be high on the agenda as we seek full green school flag status.

Music

There is a thriving Music Department in the school. The school choir, made up of students from throughout the school, is an integral part of all major school functions. Transition Year Students organise and star in an annual musical. There is also a very strong 'grupa cheoil', composed of the many talented traditional musicians, singers and dancers in the school.

Members of group Cróga who were highly recommended in Waltons Music for Schools Competition 2016

Students who are studying Music as an examination subject, are brought to see performances of set works from the Junior and Leaving Certificate course, to help reinforce theory and practice.

Instruments such as guitars and flutes can be rented from the school. Guitar, piano, flute and bodhran classes are available after school hours.

Green Schools Members planting trees with members of Roscrea Tidy Towns Committee at Roscrea Library Proclamation Garden May 2016



School Council 2016/2017



School Prefects 2016/2017



3rd Green Flag Presentation 2016



Awards

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré organises its own annual Awards Day. It is a very special day in the life of the school. It is our chance to recognise publicly the talents and commitment of our students. Academic and sporting success are not the only criteria in choosing the recipients of awards - honest endeavour plays a major part, as well as contributions to the overall life of the school community. Many local enterprises have sponsored these awards. The Roscrea Musical Society sponsors an award for Music students.

Roscrea Credit Union, always a good friend to the school, sponsors an award for the student who contributes most to the community spirit of the school. The Board of Management and the Parents' Council also are delighted to recognise the special and varied talents and achievements of our students, and sponsor their own awards. Awards Day is a wonderful chance to say 'well-done' to our students, who are very inspiring role-models for the whole school community.



JC Business studies students who achieved A in their exams at a presentation given by Kemmy Business School in UL with their teachers Mr Newman and Ms. Rice



Tipperary Enterprise Awards

Gaeilge and Gaeltacht Scholarships

Our language is a very important part of our culture. We wish to encourage and develop in our students a knowledge and love of the Irish Language and Culture. To assist students in

their endeavours we award eight Gaeltacht Scholarships to students in our school annually. Accommodation costs of two thirds are paid for each student for three weeks each summer.

Euro Languages Scholarship

To promote the development of German and French in the scheme Tipperary ETB award students with a Euro-Languages Scholarship

annually valued at €650. Last year two Senior and two Junior students won Euro-Language Scholarships from this school.



Coláiste Phobal ETB Award Winners 2016

Tipperary ETB organises an annual Award Scheme. This is a whole county award scheme which honours students who have excelled in four categories.

Photo l-r: Fionuala McGeever CE Tipp ETB, Claire Loughnane, Áine Corbett, Stephen Cullen, Olivia Murphy, Michael O'Connor, Principal, John Hogan, Michael Power, Board of Management.



School Programmes

Junior Cycle

As a larger school Coláiste Phobal can offer a wide ranging curriculum for our students. This gives our students a broader range to choose from and in turn gives them more options when it comes to senior cycle.

JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS:

Gaeilge	English	Maths
History	Geography	Science
Business Studies	French	German
Computers	Art	P.E.
Metalwork	Religious Education	Music
Home Economics	Woodwork	Career Guidance
S.P.H.E.	Technical Graphics	C.S.P.E.

Students and their parents are provided with good support and guidelines when choosing the programme option for senior cycle.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)

Core Subjects

Students study Gaeilge, History, Geography, English, Maths, Science, CSPE as core subjects for Junior Cycle. They also have PE, SPHE and Religious classes.



2nd Year Geog Glendalough Trip



(Young Scientist)

A taster programme is currently in operation for all first years. There is a student-centred approach taken to subject option choice which is to be commended.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)

Unique Taster System

When students start in 1st Year they follow a taster system for approximately nine weeks. It is only after experiencing all the option subjects that they make a choice on what subjects to take through to Junior Certificate.

Transition Year

The world today is in a constant state of change. The pace of that change has increased dramatically over the past ten years. Factors which are influencing change, are – Urbanisation, New Technology, Mass Media, Global Economy, Social Problems and Value Systems re Authority, Culture and Materialism. The Transition Year allows us to adapt and change the curriculum to suit the students' needs. It provides students with time out to explore and study their changing environment and thus create mature students with a broader perspective on life. We in Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré believe that we have developed a Transition Year Programme to meet the needs and talents of our students.

Aims of the Course

- Personal Development – the development of self-esteem and self-confidence through achievement of academic and technical skills
- Further Development of academic and technical skills
- Preparation of students for adult life of work and leisure through education in and out of school settings
- Further Certification – to enable students to be better prepared for the Leaving Certificate and for the world of work by successfully completing a number of specialised modules

Course Content

The course is comprehensive, varied and under constant review to meet with changing needs. Students complete a wide range of subjects on a modular basis. Subjects taken will have a Leaving Certificate content as well as a high

emphasis on practical application. The range and content of subjects will allow students make an informed choice when deciding Leaving Certificate subjects. Students will receive school-based certification.

Subjects include:

Irish	English	Maths	Home Economics
French	German	Geography	Chinese
History	Physics	Biology	Chemistry
Art	Computers	Business Studies	Engineering
Enterprise	Religion	Technical Graphics	Woodwork
Drama / Music	Ag Science	PE	Tourism
Green Schools			

External Certification

MS Office Specialist - As part of the programme students complete the Microsoft Office Specialist Course,

which gives them a firm base in Information Technology skills, essential in the modern world.

First Aid

A course to prepare students to cope with Health and Safety in the workplace and injuries sustained through leisure activities etc.

Student involvement in extra curricular musical activities also impacts greatly on their musical development. The wide ranging activities available to the students enrich and compliment the curricular music in the school.

(Department of Education Inspection Report)

TY's doing Martial Arts with their Chinese Tutor



An Gaisce

Presidential Award

Our Transition Year pupils are entered for the Bronze Medal in this Award Scheme. The Presidents Award is the nations highest award to young people between the ages of 15 and 25 for personal excellence, achievement and voluntary service. The award programme essentially is about agreeing a challenge that participants will endeavor to reach within an agreed time scale.

The challenge is relative to one's ability. It sets out to develop the student as an individual and also to introduce the students to community involvement. To qualify for the award students must complete four sections:-

- Participate in a community involvement activity
- Gain a new personal skill or interest
- Improved performance in one physical recreation activity

- Complete a venture activity
- Having acquired an interest in the programme a number of participants have achieved silver medals and are currently endeavouring to achieve gold.
- Participate in a community involvement activity
- Gain a new personal skill or interest
- Improved performance in one physical recreation activity
- Complete a venture activity
- Having acquired an interest in the programme a number of participants have achieved silver medals and are currently endeavouring to achieve gold.



Students who took part in the Learn Storm Maths Challenge 2016



5th Yr History National Museum



Adam Dooley, Transition Year who won Gold in 100m and Silver in Long Jump in the East Munster Championships 2016

Sport

Every effort is made to introduce the students to as many sport and leisure activities as possible. This helps the students to appreciate the value of sport and recreation in relieving stress and the development of a healthy lifestyle. Our activities include: Hurling, Swimming, Gaelic Football, Volleyball, Soccer (indoor and outdoor), Canoeing, Rugby, Basketball, Equestrian, Rock Climbing and Abseiling, Golf and Sailing.

The Transition Year students are also involved in the following:

- A Drama Production
- School Musical
- Visitation Programme for the sick and elderly
- Work Experience Programme
- Enterprise Education – through involvement in the Young Entrepreneur Competition run by North Tipperary County Enterprise Board
- Educational Trips



'The development of the whole person is based on personal responsibility, inter-dependence and mutual respect'

Leaving Certificate Programmes

As a large school, Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré has the resources to offer all three Leaving Certificate Programmes. All three have their merit and the choice of programme depends on the aspirations of the students and the outcomes they wish to achieve.

The Traditional Leaving Certificate

Having completed the Junior or Transition Year Programmes students in Coláiste Phobal progress to the Leaving Certificate Programme. Coláiste Phobal provides students with a broad range of subjects. Our facilities and excellent well qualified experienced staff have produced outstanding results over the years.

Irish	English	Mathematics	Biology
French	German	History	Geography
Physics	Home Economics	Chemistry	Art
Religion	Physical Education	Music	Career Guidance
Accounting	D.C.G.	Agricultural Science	Engineering Business
Construction Studies			

All the above subjects are available at Higher Level. Pupils must take at least six subjects including Irish.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Those students who opt for the regular Leaving Certificate can further enhance the programme and increase their points tally by signing up to the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. The L.C.V.P. is an enhanced Leaving Certificate, which includes a full Leaving Certificate plus Enterprise Education, Preparation for Work and Work Experience.

It provides students with a comprehensive career guidance programme with the added bonus of receiving additional certification and third level points.

To qualify for this programme, students must take:

- Two Leaving Certificate subjects from one of a list of Vocational Subject Groupings
- Other Leaving Certificate subjects – must have Irish and Continental Language
- Three Link Modules
 - Enterprise Education – Preparation for Work – Work Experience

Link Modules are recognised by the Institutes of Technology and Universities for points purposes.

Pass 28 points

Merit 46 points

Distinction 66 points

Many Leaving Certificate students now use the additional points to enhance their college prospects.

'Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn'
Benjamin Franklin



5th Years on tour - paintballing



Leaving Certificate Applied

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

- The Leaving Certificate Applied is a programme based on continuous assessment rather than dependence on end of programme examinations. It allows students to remain focused by completion of short term tasks and assignments.
- It is a distinct, self-contained two year Leaving Certificate Programme aimed at preparing students for Adult and Working Life.
- It is to meet the needs of students who are not catered for by the two other Leaving Certificate Programmes
- It focuses on activity and skilled based learning and strong community links

Course Content

1. Vocational Preparation
2. Vocational Education
3. General Education

Vocational Preparation

Prepare students for the transition from school to adult working life. Modules in English and Communications as well as Enterprise and Community work.

Vocational Education

Students study a range of industries to prepare them for the world of work.

Aims of the Leaving Certificate Applied
Prepares students for Adult and Working Life



- Develops numeracy and literacy skills
- Promotes communication and decision making skills
- Develops self-esteem and self confidence
- Recognises the talents of all pupils

LCA Team Building
in Avoca

General Education

Involves Social Education, Arts, Modern Languages, Irish, Leisure and Recreation.

We provide the following Curriculum:

- Junior Certificate
- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- Leaving Certificate Applied
- Repeat Leaving Certificate
- Post Leaving Certificate QQI Programmes

'Education is not the filling of a pail, but lighting the fire'

William Butler Yeats



Junior & Senior Awards Ceremony 2016





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