



Welcome to St. Columba's College

St. Columba's College is a Voluntary Secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools Trust). The Trustees determine the ethos of the school. St. Columba's seeks to form a community of students, teachers, assistants, parents, management and ancillary staff. Founded in 1968, the community tries to live by Gospel values that recognise the dignity of each individual.



'Pursuit of Excellence in a Caring Environment'

School Courses

The school programme is divided into two cycles:

- **Junior Cycle: 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year.**
- **Senior Cycle: 5th year and 6th year.**

After they have taken their Junior Certificate examination and in between Junior and Senior Cycle, students may take *Transition Year*. In Junior Cycle students are given a broad education and sit the new Junior Cycle after three years. Some students may follow the *Level 2 Learning Programme*. This is the new Junior Cycle programme with added supports.

For Senior Cycle, students can take either (1) The Leaving Certificate Examination Course, (2) The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. (This is the Leaving Certificate Course with additional modules) or (3) The Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. (This is an alternative practical Leaving Certificate).

The First Year Curriculum

The following subjects are currently on offer to first year students

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| 1. Irish | 12. Physical Education |
| 2. English | 13. Social, Personal and Health Education |
| 3. Maths | 14. Civic, Social and Political Education |
| 4. History | 15. Visual Art |
| 5. Geography | 16. Music |
| 6. Science | 17. Graphics |
| 7. French | 18. Wood Technology |
| 8. German | 19. Engineering |
| 9. Spanish | 20. Home Economics |
| 10. Business Studies | 21. ICT |
| 11. Religious Education | 22. Life Skills |

Senior Cycle Subjects

The subjects currently on offer at senior cycle are:

Core Subjects: English, Irish and Maths

Choice Subjects: Geography, History, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Business, Economics, Accounting, Home Economics, Construction, Engineering, Design & Communication Graphics, Art, Music, French, German, Spanish, Applied Maths, Computer Science and Physical Education.

The Daily Schedule

Students who arrive at the school can get a light breakfast and study in the warm and comfortable school canteen which opens at 8.00am each morning.

8.55 First bell - students should collect books from their lockers

9.00 School starts with Class Tutor time or Assembly

9.05 Class begins (Fifteen-minute break at 11.05)

1.20 Lunch – students may eat their packed lunch in the canteen, where hot lunches, soup, sandwiches and drinks are also served. The school has a healthy eating policy

1.55 Bell rings – students collect books from their locker

2.05 Afternoon classes until 4.05pm

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team comprises the Principal, the two Deputy Principals, Year Heads, Guidance Counsellors, Learning Support Teachers and Class Tutors. There is a Student Support Team for each year group who meet on a regular basis to assist and support students who are having difficulties.

The School Completion Programme for the area covers nine primary schools and three post-primary schools, of which St. Columba's is one.

Each class has an assigned Guidance Counsellor, who meets with them and assists them with settling in. Students can arrange to meet with their Guidance Counsellor at any stage throughout their time in St. Columba's, should they have any difficulties.

Additional Needs

Children who have additional/behavioural needs receive additional support from the Learning Support Teachers in small groups or on a one to one basis. Assistants also provide additional support for students. Parents who wish to discuss issues around additional needs should contact the Principal.

Transfer Programme

The college invites the 'new' first years to take part in the induction programme at the end of August before the term begins. Students have the opportunity to meet some of the staff and senior students and get to know the school during these three days. This assists in a smooth and successful transition.

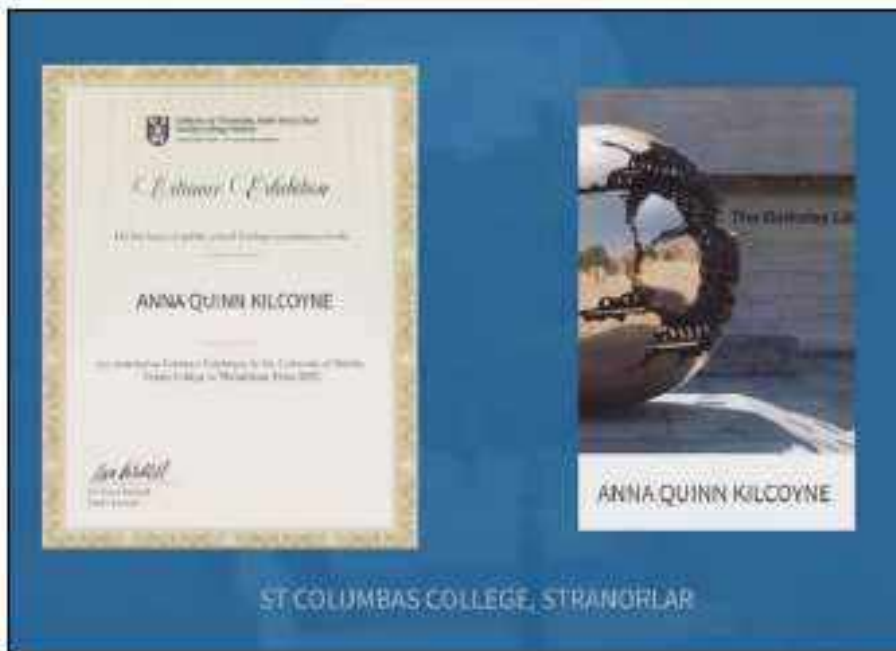
Scholarships



Caitlin Mc Gonagle, past pupil who was awarded an Academic Scholarship at Dublin City University. The scholarships are awarded to students who achieve 550 points or more in their leaving certificate. Caitlin is studying Global Business (Spain) in DCU.



Jennifer Byrne, past pupil, who received an academic scholarship from Maynooth University in 2020.



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Anna Kilcoyne was awarded a Trinity College, Dublin Entrance Exhibition Award as the incoming student with the highest points for their leaving certificate from St. Columba's College in 2020.



Siobhán Griffin who was awarded an excellence scholarship from NUIG for her leaving certificate results. Siobhán is now studying Genetics and Genomics at NUIG





Our Global Citizenship Committee has been awarded the WWGS Global Passport Award for all their work. They were finalists in the "Friends of the Earth" and "Young Environmentalists" competitions and have been involved in numerous projects.



Transition Year students Patrick Patton, Alissah Cullen and Sarah McMenamin under the guidance of Ms. Catherine Cooke, won the Jan Amos Comenius Prize in May 2020. The prize is awarded to only 22 schools across the European Union.

Student Wellbeing



Here in St. Columba's College we are very proud to be ambassadors of Pieta House. We have been awarded the amber flag by Pieta House for recognition of our positive approach to mental health.



We are delighted that the college recently received the Green Flag for the Biodiversity Theme. The Green Schools Committee have worked on this project over the past two years, planting a wild flower garden, planting over 50 trees, making bird boxes and bird feeders and installing bug hotels

Prize – Giving Awards 2021



Mark Sproule and Sarah Sweeney – Winners of 'Student of the Year 2021'.



Michael Harris and Oisin Marley, overall Sports Boys and Caoimhe Brennan, overall Sports Girl of the year for 2021.



Ciaran Alexander, winner of the Barry Mc Cool Award for Modern European Languages.



Olivia Reid, winner of "The Chic Logue Award" for Music.



Aaron Tourish, winner of the CEIST award.



Emily Duffy who won the Patrick Kavanagh award.



Cillian Mc Gill and Saoirse Gallagher, winners of the Art awards.



John Kelly, winner of the Charlie Mc Groarty award.

Extra –Curricular Activities

The college offers a range of sporting activities, which includes Soccer, Gaelic, Golf, Rugby, Basketball, Athletics, Camogie, Hurling, Futsal and 'Girls Active'. In addition to the variety of sports, there are various activities and competitions in many other interest areas such as Art, Music, Business and Enterprise, Coding, Debating, Leadership, Maths and Science competitions, Field Trips, Tours, Guest Speakers and Visits Out.



2nd year students who had their work displayed in the "Finn through the Lens" exhibition in Jackson's Hotel.



Students wearing colourful tops in support of "Stand Up" week.



Students attending the Chess Club.



Anya Mc Gettigan and Maoliosa Mc Cabe – Winners of the Transition Year Enterprise competition with their mini-company Soapure.



Sarah Mc Menamin and Aisling Cannon who were awarded 3rd place in the European Commission Model EU Council debating competition.



1st and 2nd year students enjoying activities during the Pentathlon which takes place each year.



1st years enjoying activities during the induction programme.



EUROPEAN CELEBRATION OF SPORT



Our European Junior Ambassadors organized many events through the year to raise awareness and knowledge about the EU. This was a European Sports Day through which students got to experience lots of sports from different countries throughout the EU.

Adrienne Gallen and Hannah Murray who were part of the Irish School's Team who competed in the SIAB Schools International in Derby. Adrienne won a silver medal in the hammer event and Hannah won a bronze medal in the relay team event.



Senior Prefects for the 2021-2022 school year.



A group of students at a team building day in Gartan.



Girls indoor football.



St. Columba's students competing in the Cross Country Athletics event at the Finn Valley Centre.



School Principal: Mr. T. Rowan

Deputy Principals: Mr. J. Sweeney
Ms. G. White

Telephone: (074) 9131246 **Facsimile:** (074) 9132528

Email: admin@stcolumbasstranorlar.ie

Website: www.stcolumbascollege.ie

Find us on Facebook and Twitter