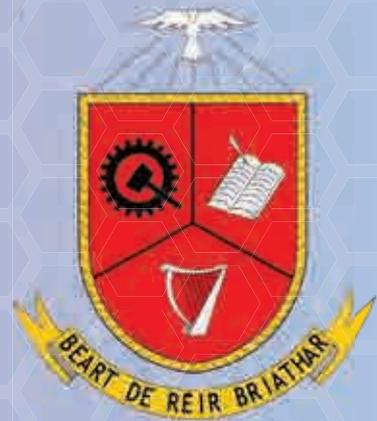




 **lwetb**
 Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
 an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí
 Longford and Westmeath
 Education and Training Board



ARDSCOIL PHÁDRAIG

Bríomhar | Ilchineálach | Nuálach
 Dynamic | Diverse | Innovative



Welcome

We are delighted to present our school Prospectus which we hope will provide you with an overview of life in Ardscoil Phádraig. We are proud to lead such a progressive school where students, parents and staff work together to ensure that opportunities are provided which enable each student to reach their full potential in all aspects of school life. In Ardscoil Phádraig, we aim to provide a high-quality, inclusive learning environment which allows each individual student to flourish. A balance of striving for academic excellence while also providing students with an enjoyable overall educational experience ensures the holistic development of all students throughout their time in the school.

Excellence in teaching and learning is at the heart of our school community. Our students are supported by a dedicated and committed staff, who adopt various teaching methodologies in delivering a diverse curriculum which both stimulates and challenges students. We also encourage each of our students to become involved in the vast array of cocurricular and extra-curricular activities which take place in our school eg Sport, Green Schools, Music Clubs, Pantomime, Pupil Voice etc.

Although school numbers continue to grow, we pride ourselves in looking after the individual needs of each student. Increased numbers have allowed us to enhance our facilities in recent years including the addition of state of the art Science Laboratories, a DCG suite and our modern ASD class facilities, as well as new general classrooms. The school was sanctioned for a nine-classroom extension in February 2021 which is currently at design phase. Two new prefabs were added in June 2022.

However, the heart of our school is the student and we will continue to work together to maintain the inclusive atmosphere and relationships built on mutual respect that are so important in Ardscoil Phádraig.

Choosing a secondary school is an important decision for you and your son/daughter. We hope that reading this prospectus will help you with your decision making and we look forward to meeting you in the school on Open Night.

If you require any further information, please contact me at the school.

Principal



Deputy Principal





Why choose Ardscoil Phádraig?

A progressive and dynamic school with a focus on excellence in teaching and learning.

A proud tradition of high achievement across both academic & extra-curricular areas.

A highly qualified, dedicated and enthusiastic teaching staff who go the extra mile to support all students in their quest to reach their potential.

An open-door policy where parents are facilitated with meetings and times that suit.

A welcoming and warm environment for students with the benefit of small class sizes.

An extensive range of extra-curricular activities

A culture of high expectations for all students in everything they do both academically and in extra-curricular activities.

Excellent pastoral care structures and highly developed support systems.

A shared zero tolerance approach to bullying from both staff and students.

A strong sense of community throughout a school where everyone knows your name.

An inclusive learning environment where students of all abilities are equally comfortable working with their peers or independently.

Modern facilities which offer flexible learning environments and integrated and contemporary information and digital technology resources

What our First Years Say...

Aidan Kiernan | St. Fintan's, Lismacaffery

Moving to Ardscoil was a big move for me. I knew the school better than many of the other students because my brother came here before me so I wasn't too worried. I love all the new subjects that we get to do and I like moving classrooms so we're not in the same room the whole day. I think I have settled in very well.



Aimee Connaughton | St. Mary's N.S Edgeworthstown

I like Ardscoil Phádraig as the teachers are very helpful and there's a variety of different sports to play. I like moving around to different subjects. My favourite subjects are English, Art and Woodwork. Ardscoil Phádraig makes me feel safe and welcome. All the students are very helpful and I think I have settled in really well.



Kayleigh Brady | Bunlahy N.S

I am really glad I chose this school because I like all the subjects that you can choose from. The staff are all very friendly and very approachable whenever you need them. I love all the sports and activities that you can take part in too. I have an older sister in this school who is in Fifth Year. I am looking forward to the coming years in Ardscoil Phádraig.



Jamie Spollen | St. Mels N.S Ardagh

I am settling in well in Ardscoil Phádraig because of how nice and welcoming the teachers are. I like the choice of subjects, my favourite being Woodwork. I have made lots of new friends. I chose this school because my brother went here.



Amy Reynolds | Scoil Samhthann Ballinalee

Settling into this school was quite easy as the staff are very welcoming and are always looking out for us. I have made incredible friends. My favourite subjects so far are Art and English. I am so glad that I chose this school. I will definitely be recommending this school to my younger sisters and cousins.



Cait Browne | Finea N.S

Coming to Ardscoil Phádraig I was very nervous since I came from a small school but all of the staff members have made it so easy for me to come in everyday and have no worries. The school has great subjects and activities. So far, I have joined the football and basketball teams. There are also loads of subjects to choose from, I have chosen Art, Business and Woodwork. I'm so glad that I came to Ardscoil Phádraig and I definitely don't regret picking this school.



Chloe Brennan | Mullahoran N.S.

When I first chose Ardscoil Phádraig I was so nervous about moving schools but as soon as I walked through the door, I felt the very friendly atmosphere. I am so happy that I joined this school because the teachers are very friendly and kind.



Mia Lynn | St. Mary's N.S. Edgeworthstown

I like Ardscoil Phádraig because you make loads of new friends. The subjects I like are Woodwork and Art. The teachers are very welcoming and easy to approach. There's also a good variety of sport such as Gaelic, Basketball and Rugby.



Kyrylo Malikov | Ukraine

I am Kyrylo, I am from Ukraine. I study at Ardscoil Phádraig. The school has many different subjects that are not in Ukrainian schools. My favourite subjects are PE, Maths and English. These subjects are very interesting and informative. I really like spending time in these lessons. This school is very cool and interesting, I hope to stay here longer.



Serena Smith | St. Patrick's N.S Bruskey

I've really enjoyed Ardscoil Phádraig so far. Everyone is very friendly and approachable. I am the only person who came from my primary school and I've made so many new friends. All of the teachers are very nice and helpful. I am happy I came to Ardscoil Phádraig.



Shauna-Rose Mc Givney | St. Columba's N.S Mullinalaghta

I was excited to be starting in Ardscoil Phádraig as my National School is small. I found it very easy to make lots of new friends. I am enjoying Irish and Maths classes, but my favourite subject is Graphics. I am learning lots of new drawing techniques using set squares etc and I really like drawing logos. I have signed up for First Year Football and Basketball teams and am going to Basketball training every Wednesday.



Jubilee Dennis | St. Mary's N.S Rathowen

I am really glad I came to Ardscoil Phádraig as most of my friends from primary school came here. I have made loads of new friends and the teachers and staff are so nice. I like all the subjects but my favourites are Science and Digital Media.



Zach Columb | Scoil Mhuire, Aughnagarron

I was a little nervous before I started Ardscoil Phádraig. Joining the Soccer and Gaelic teams in the school helped me to make friends very quickly. I asked if we could set up a Chess club in the school and was delighted that new Chess sets were ordered and we now have a busy Chess club who meet before school to play Chess games. Hopefully, we will have a chess tournament before Christmas.



Daire Spollen | Scoil Samhthann Ballinalee

Hi, my name is Daire Spollen. I settled in very well in Ardscoil Phádraig. The subjects that I like most are English and Maths. All the teachers I have explain everything clearly and are very helpful. We have lots of sports to choose from and everyone feels included here.



Tiernan McGivney | St.Patrick's NS Killeen

I was nervous before I came to the school as there were only two students in my sixth class in National School. However, I made lots of friends in my first week in Ardscoil Phádraig. I was worried about all the new subjects before I started but the teachers explain everything very clearly. I have joined the First Year football team and we had a blitz recently with schools from all over Longford and we won five out of six of our games. We train every Friday after school.



Paul O Reilly | Mullahoran N.S

I looked forward to joining Ardscoil Phádraig as many of my friends from National School were already there. I am really enjoying all the new subjects and my favourite is Woodwork. I have already made a phone stand and now I am making a puzzle. I have joined the school Gaelic team and I play in goals as I play in goals for my club team, Mullahoran. I am really happy that I chose Ardscoil Phádraig as my secondary school.



What Sixth Years Say



Michael Masterson

When I first started in Ardscoil Phádraig, I was quite scared as it can be a big leap from primary school to secondary school. That feeling didn't last long as I was greeted with supportive teachers and friendly classmates. There are plenty of activities such as school football, basketball, Junk Kouture and music sessions. Attending the school has allowed me to make new friends and has prepared me well for my future career which makes me glad that I chose Ardscoil Phádraig for my secondary school education.

Luke Sheridan

Hello, my name is Luke Sheridan. Ardscoil has so many different opportunities that are offered to each student. In Sixth Year we are provided with a mentor, who is a teacher that meets us regularly and helps us to set targets in each of our subjects. They also provide us with any additional support that we need throughout the year.



Aoife Reilly

My name is Aoife and I am in Sixth Year in Ardscoil Phádraig. When I was in First Year, I was incredibly shy and quite apprehensive about starting. However, once I realised how friendly and close-knit the school was, I felt like I fitted right in straight away. I learned to become more outspoken by participating in the school panto each year, being a part of the basketball team and especially from doing Transition Year where I gained lots of new skills. I have grown in confidence and made lifelong friends. I plan to study Psychology in University next year and I am being hugely supported in school in my efforts to achieve the points required for this.

Maria Farley

My name is Maria, I am a Sixth Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. Although I didn't join this school until after Christmas in First Year, students and staff were very welcoming and helped me settle in. I've been part of the Gaelic team since I joined the school and one of the highlights was last year when we were successful in reaching the Leinster final. The sports facilities in the school are excellent and we are fortunate to have a well-equipped gym. There is a wide range of Leaving Certificate options and I chose to study Agricultural Science, Art, Geography and Business. Last year the school introduced Academic Mentors who are there to help and support us as I prepare to move on to University next year. My mentor is very helpful and pushes me to work hard in order to reach my potential.



Enda Hartin

Hi my name is Enda Hartin, I am a Leaving Certificate student. My favourite subject is Construction as I have a great interest in creating wooden artefacts with my own ideas. There is a variety of activities to do in this school at lunchtimes with your friends such as football, soccer, reading and music. The school caters for a range of student's interests and it is a great place to help you develop socially and make loads of friends.

Elle Lynn

When I came to Ardscoil Phádraig six years ago I was a bit nervous of what was to come, but all of the teachers and students made me feel very welcome. The small class sizes are great because you can get more one to one time with the teacher which makes it much easier to speak out if you are finding a particular area difficult. The teachers encourage everyone to get involved in school activities such as Gaelic, basketball, soccer, pupil voice, music bands and much more. There are many educational trips to go on along with the more fun trips of course. I believe there is something here for everyone.



Ben Costello

My name is Ben Costello and I am a Sixth Year student. I came to Ardscoil Phádraig in 2018 with only one other person from my primary school. I was welcomed with open arms straight away and told that every teacher is here to help and support you, which they were. One thing I really enjoy about this school is how friendly everyone is. I have made so many friends since I came here and I think the school environment has allowed that to happen with its variety of extra-curricular activities and the culture of kindness that is present here.

Lauren Brady

Choosing to attend Ardscoil Phádraig was definitely one of the best decisions I have made. The school is a complete judgement free zone and all students feel safe and secure here due to the support system available from all staff. I personally always look forward to meeting everyone in the hallway and I am met with a positive atmosphere from every angle of the school. I truly enjoy school life in Ardscoil Phádraig and a healthy atmosphere certainly makes the academic side of secondary school easier.



Past Pupil | **Evan Tully**

My name is Evan Tully and I attended Scoil Samhthann, Ballinalee before completing my Leaving Certificate in Ardscoil Phádraig in 2018. I furthered my education by studying a 'Bachelor of Science in Education (Design Graphics & Construction)' in GMIT Letterfrack and recently qualified as a Construction Studies and DCG teacher, currently employed here in the school in which I developed a love for these subjects – Ardscoil Phádraig. As a student in the school, my favourite subjects at both Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate level were Woodwork (Construction Studies) and Graphics (Design & Communication Graphics). I really enjoyed being creative during the making of physical projects while also developing the cognitive and practical manipulative skills associated with graphicacy. I also really enjoyed helping classmates when they were working on their projects. It then dawned on me, with the careful guidance of my teachers, that I could really



enjoy teaching these subjects. With this in mind, I worked hard in school and got the points required to do my chosen course in Letterfrack. My passion for these subjects was evident in the high grades I achieved in my Leaving Certificate.

Having completed college and returning now as a teacher, I have seen both aspects of school life in Ardscoil Phádraig. The unseen hard work that goes on behind the scenes by all staff members, unknown to me as a student, is now clear to see as a teacher. From planning classes to meet the individual students' learning needs and interests, to taking extracurricular activities, there is a massive emphasis on the students' learning experience both from an educational and holistic point of view. As a past pupil, I can truly say that while unseen it most certainly wasn't unnoticed. Taking myself as an example; without the guidance of my teachers throughout my time in Ardscoil Phádraig, I most certainly wouldn't be where I am today.



Katelyn Farrell | 6th Year

My name is Katelyn Farrell and I am a Sixth Year student here in Ardscoil Phádraig. I have always loved learning languages and towards the end of my Second Year in the school I was selected to participate in a six-week French exchange with Jeanne LeBouhart and her family in Brittany. In early August, Jeanne came back and stayed with myself and my family for three months. During the summer of 2021 I again returned to Jeanne and her family for another month to further enhance my French language skills and learn more about the French culture in preparation for my studies in Senior Cycle French. Going on my three month exchange provided me with many opportunities beyond developing my abilities in the French language. The exchange allowed me to meet new people, travel independently and grown in confidence. As a result of this exchange, I was offered the opportunity to work as a Language Assistant in the Euro Languages Colleges during the summer months. I completed this role for six weeks in both Clongowes Wood College in Kildare and Villiers School, Limerick. As part of my role I helped to coordinate activities and games, all through the French language, to help Irish students like myself develop further proficiency and interest in the language. This experience has been of huge benefit to me as I returned to the classroom this year as a Sixth Year student and I feel very confident in the language as I enter the final stages of the Leaving Certificate course. It has also inspired me to consider continuing my study of French and languages as I progress on to University next year and I am currently being supported by the school Guidance Counsellor to find the course option best suited to my interests.



Kaitlin Higgins | 5th Year

Hi, my name is Kaitlin Higgins and I am a Fifth-year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. The school has a really nice atmosphere and I am currently studying English, Irish, Maths, Home Economics, Biology, Business, French and LCVP. I am so far enjoying all of my subjects and think that all the teachers have been very helpful in preparing us for our Leaving Cert exams. Sport is a huge part of life in school and we are encouraged to take part in all the sports the school has to offer. I am part of the basketball and football teams in school and was a member of the football team that reached the Leinster final last year. I found Ardscoil Phádraig a very welcoming school when I first came here and had no problems settling in and making new friends.

ART



Art, Craft and Design is at the core of our school curriculum and is provided as a subject from First Year to Honours Leaving Cert level. It is a process through which students research, create and respond. Studying Art enables students to develop many skills that are conceptual and practical. It promotes creative and critical thinking, supports the development of problem-solving skills and strengthens the learners' ability to communicate ideas.

In First Year students are exposed to a variety of different art media and skills development. Classroom based assessments take place in Second and Third Year with a focus on the end of year Visual Art project. For students in our Discovery Building, Art is central to their learning.

Art at Senior level is a more in-depth study of visual art and its creative possibilities for further exploration. It is learner driven where students are active participants in their own learning and engage purposefully in a wide variety of experiences and opportunities. This includes visits to exhibitions, galleries and museums and connecting with local artists and the contemporary world. Art history and appreciation forms 30% of the course.

The career possibilities are many and varied and include Animation, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, Product Design, Ceramics, Make-Up Artistry, Photography, Film, TV and all the Multi Media platforms.

Art Outside the Classroom

Our school has been involved in a number of external art projects over the years and have been very successful with The Re-Love Fashion Competition, Junk Kouture and the annual Credit Union Competition. We have strong connections with our local community and have participated in projects with Lus na Greine and Longford Co. Council. Currently we are participating in The Creative Schools Initiative. This is a student-centred project, funded by The Arts Council to promote the Visual Arts in our school. For this initiative we are exploring the possibility of an outdoor social and recreational area designed by the students for the students. We are looking forward to the finished work!





Ardcoil Phádraig Set Dancers

Classmates and friends with a passion for set dancing led to four of our First year students joining together to establish our schools very first Set Dancing group. Cadhlagh Browne, Saidbh Flynn, Cathal O' Reilly and JJ Reilly had their first practice in their classroom after school in September 2021. Over the coming months, they met and rehearsed before school and during lunchtimes. Their dedication and determination paid off as this quartet went on to win the Longford Fleadh County Final U18 mixed half-set, the Leinster Fleadh Final U18 mixed half-set and they danced their hearts out to win third place in the All Ireland Fleadh U18 mixed half-set final in Mullingar. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing them dance here in the school many times over the coming year.



Aoibhinn Lynch – 5th Year

My name is Aoibhinn Lynch and I am a Fifth Year student. As I grew up surrounded by music I was very excited to begin studying it as one of my subject options when I came to Ardcoil Phádraig as a First Year. I play the accordion and banjo and I have been a member of the school Trad band throughout my time here. Like other extra-curricular activities, I found that joining the Trad group was a great way to meet new friends. Each week I take part in a practice or session with the Trad group and we perform at various school events and activities every year. Many of our schools Trad group were involved in this years Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann during the summer months and I really enjoyed performing on the gig rig with my sister Dearbháil and my friends Catriona and Nadine who are also students here in the school. As a Transition Year student last year, I had more free time to concentrate on my music throughout the year and my hard work was rewarded when I won the U18 Accordion All-Ireland title at this years Fleadh. Without the usual workload which comes with Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate exams, I was also able to participate in more music festivals and gigs throughout TY, both in school groups and in my own time. Earlier this year myself and a group of the other musicians in our school had the opportunity to participate in a programme on RTE2 alongside Sharon Shannon and Nathan Carter. I have received fantastic opportunities through my involvement in music, especially throughout the last year. Ardcoil Phádraig has always encouraged and supported me in every way to allow me to develop my skills further and I look forward to continuing to study Music as one of my Leaving Certificate subject options throughout Senior Cycle.

Music & Performing Arts Department

Music is available as a subject at Junior & Senior Cycle at Ardcoil Phádraig. Students explore and investigate their own musical identity, develop key skills and foster creativity and artistic awareness.

Students can join and experience, a variety of clubs such as: Irish Traditional Band, Choir and Ukulele Ensemble.

In Transition Year, students explore the world of Performing Arts, while engaging in music, drama and dance. Students can also audition and perform in our annual School Pantomime, which always proves to be enjoyable and memorable experience.



**St. Mary's N.S
Edgeworthstown**
Catriona Ryan



St. Thomas N.S Rathowen
Seán Murray



**St. Mary's N.S
Rathowen**
Jubilee Dennis



**St. Columba's N.S
Mullinalaghta**
Maria McHale



St. Teresa's N.S Killoe
Maeve Harkin



**Scoil Samhthann
Ballinalee**
Darragh O'Reilly



**St. Patrick's National
School Killeen**
Sarah Jane Sheridan



Mullahoran National School
Amy McCaffrey



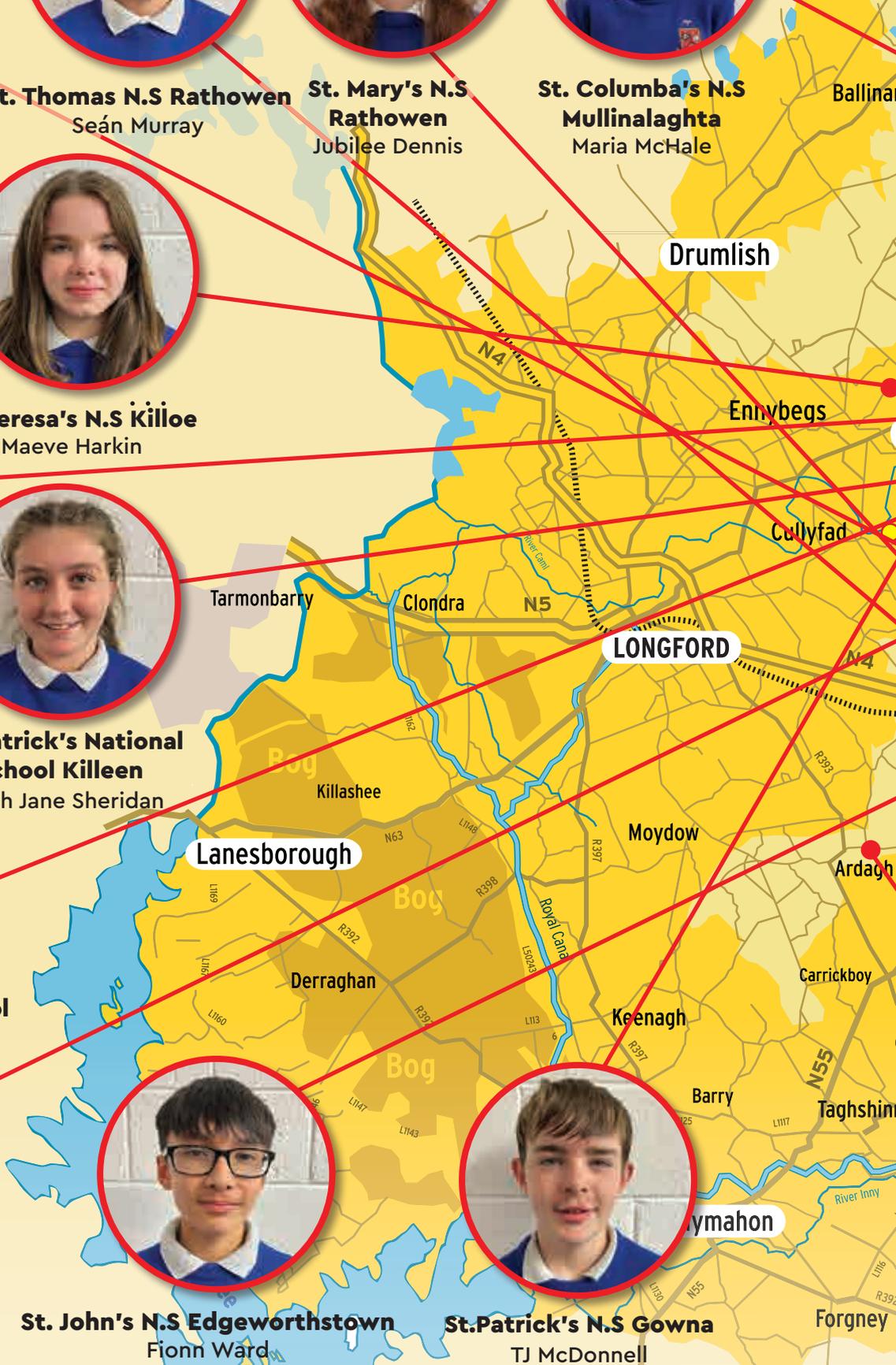
Sacred Heart Granard
Martyna Bernarz



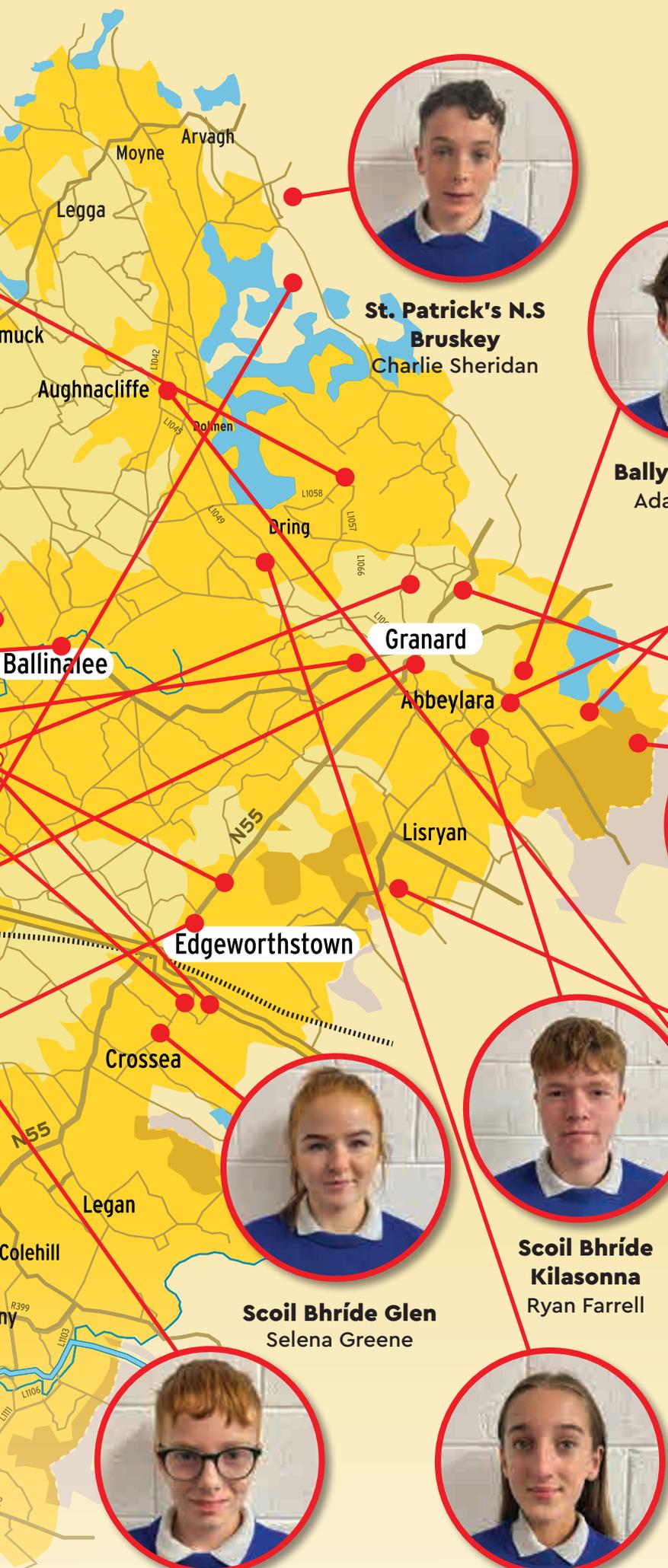
St. John's N.S Edgeworthstown
Fionn Ward



St. Patrick's N.S Gowra
TJ McDonnell



Primary School Representatives



**St. Patrick's N.S
Bruskey**
Charlie Sheridan



Finea N.S
Cáit Browne



Ballynarry N.S
Adam Larkin



St. Bernard's N.S Abbeylara
Shane Hannify



**St. Michael's N.S
Castletown Finea**
Katie Hannify



Aughnagarron N.S
Patrick Lynch



**Scoil Bhríde
Kilasonna**
Ryan Farrell



**St. Fintan's N.S
Lismacaffrey**
Aidan Kiernan



Scoil Bhríde Glen
Selena Greene



St. Mel's N.S Ardagh
Jamie Spollen



St. Guasacht's N.S Bunlahy
Saidbh Flynn



St. Colmcille's N.S Aghnaclyffe
Hannah Gunshinan

Certified Irish Angus Competition

Ardscoil Phádraig strives to include extracurricular activities in all our students' lives and one such example is the Certified Irish Angus Competition which we are currently competing in. The students involved in the national finals are Ryan Reilly, Tara Spollen and Katelyn Farrell. The students won five Aberdeen Angus calves which they have to bring through until slaughter this November. Students received media training, a foreign trip to Belgium and several trips throughout the competition with the final taking place in the new year in Croke Park.

The competition has been very beneficial for all students involved.

It has allowed them to grow in confidence as they developed their presentation and public speaking skills while the process also provided them with a fascinating insight into Irish industry and agriculture. We wish the team luck in the finals.



Tara Spollen | 6th Year



My name is Tara Spollen and I am a Sixth Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. I am lucky to be a member of the APG Certified Irish Angus Group. Following on from our initial video entry in the competition and a series of interviews, our group which consists of Katelyn Farrell, Ryan Reilly and I, were thrilled to receive confirmation that we had been selected as one of just six National Finalists in this year's competition. As finalists, we received five Angus calves which we are currently rearing on Ryan's farm in County Cavan. Alongside rearing the calves, we are also completing a project based on 'Adapting Technologies to Breeding' which forms an important part of the final stage of the competition. To raise awareness of the competition in our school and local area we organised a 'Name the Calves' competition which resulted in the calves being named Breffni, Milo, Buddy, Nero and Sooty. One of the highlights of the whole process for me was our trip to Brussels with all of the other National Finalist groups. We visited the European Parliament, met MEPs, completed presentations based on our own experiences and visited the Ter Groene Poorte Butchery School which provided us with an invaluable insight into the meat production process. As part of this trip we also visited Lismullen Cookery School here in Ireland, received media training from professionals in the industry and met with representatives from Bord Bia and Tesco. The competition will continue throughout the coming year as we continue to document our progress and complete our research based on technologies in breeding.

Overall, this has been an amazing opportunity for Katelyn, Ryan and I. I have learned a huge amount about the agricultural industry, have met new friends, developed new skills and most importantly created memories which will last a lifetime.



achill

Each year a large group of students and teachers enjoy a three day trip to Achill Outdoor Adventure Centre. Students participate in activities such as canoeing, surfing, coasteering, mountain climbing, hill-walking and team activities while also enhancing their social, teamwork, problem solving and fine motor skills through the variety of activities in which they engage. Participation in this annual trip provides life-long memories for students and is always one of the highlights of each school year in Ardscoil Phádraig.



Kyra Comaskey | 3rd Year

My name is Kyra Comaskey and I am a Third Year student here in Ardscoil Phádraig. I really like the school as I have made loads of new friends since starting here. As a First Year student I really enjoyed learning about the various subject options available and I currently study Home Economics, Business and Geography as well as the compulsory Junior Cycle subjects. I love being a member of the football and basketball teams in the school but the highlight of my time here so far was definitely our school trip to Achill last year. Each year the school organises a three day trip to Achill Outdoor Adventure Centre and last year over seventy students and teachers travelled. While there we took part in lots of fun activities such as surfing, kayaking and mountain-climbing. We also took part in team-building activities and challenges which allowed us to work together and learn new skills. While I am looking forward to what the next few years have in store, I have no doubt that the trip to Achill will continue to stand out as one of my favourite memories from my time here in Ardscoil Phádraig.

The Mathemagicians Club

The Mathemagicians Club has been set up by the Maths Department to give students the opportunity to meet and further enhance their mathematical skills through games. Students can participate in Sudoku, Darts, Rings and Jenga along with traditional board games such as Monopoly, Snakes & Ladders, Uno etc. All of these games are played with a Maths Twist! The Club runs every Thursday at 1.20pm for Junior Students and is facilitated by our Transition Year Students.

Physical Education

Physical Education at Ardscoil Phádraig gives students the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of ways outside of the classroom, to explore their talents and to enhance their skills through a wide range of activities. PE in Ardscoil Phádraig allows students to explore a wide variety of strands including games, dance, gymnastics, athletics, and outdoor and adventure activities. Junior Cycle students are currently studying the PE short course, with all year groups receiving a double PE class. The PE short course focuses on student wellbeing and exploring a wide variety of activities that promotes the physical, social, emotional and mental development of students. Students undertake a CBA in Second and Third Year which will be displayed on their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. Senior Cycle students in Ardscoil Phádraig are engaging in the new Senior Cycle PE programme, with all students receiving a double PE class. SCPE aims to develop confidence, competence and creativity in a range of physical activities and promotes participation in physical activity both inside and beyond the school environment.



Funmi Talabi | Leinster Final Player of the Match



Leinster Final Player of the Match Funmi Talabi is no stranger to competing in big sporting occasions and she has excelled in many codes during her time in the school. Funmi has represented Ardscoil Phádraig in Athletics, Basketball and GAA throughout the last five years and has effectively balanced her studies with her sporting endeavours to ensure that she has also continued to represent Mostrim Ladies GAA, Longford Ladies GAA and Longford Athletics Club during this time. Funmi has captured multiple Connacht Athletics titles as well as the 100m All-Ireland title at the Schools Track and Field Championships in recent years while both Funmi and her Mostrim club-mate Elle Lynn also proved to be leading lights as the Longford Ladies Minor football team progressed to the All-Ireland Final last year.

SPORT



Sport in Ardscoil Phádraig is a very important aspect of school life. Students are offered GAA, basketball, athletics, rugby and pitch and putt as part of the extra-curricular sports program. Students at Ardscoil Phádraig have enjoyed a wide range of successes in each of these activities both individually and teams based on a provincial and national level over the past number of years. We have had successes in Athletics, Futsal and Pitch and Putt. Last year saw the Senior Ladies GAA team reach their first ever Leinster final in what was a thrilling campaign. The U14 boys team also reached the North Leinster Final while our Second Year boys basketball team were crowned Midlands Shield champions. This shows the talent we have here in Ardscoil Phádraig. We look forward to increasing participation levels in these sports and activities over the coming months and years. We would encourage as many students as possible to get involved in sport in Ardscoil Phádraig as it enhances social, emotional, physical and mental wellbeing, develops an array of skills such as team work, communication, problem-solving and an improved work ethic. We also have a number of students in the school who are key members of clubs and county teams that have had great successes in recent times. We look forward to another exciting year of sport here at Ardscoil Phádraig.



Transition Year

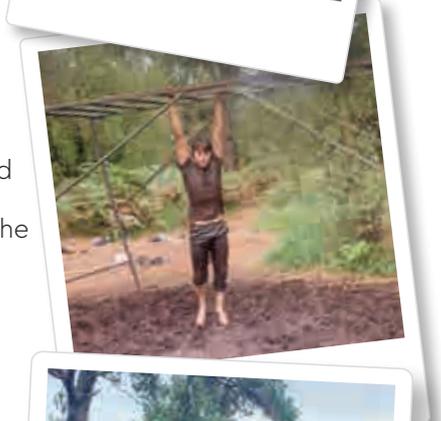
Transition Year in Ardscoil Phádraig is unique to our students and their interests, with our modules constantly evolving to reflect the different cohort of students who opt into the programme each year.

Transition Year provides students with a broad learning experience through a combination of core subjects and participation in a variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Over the last couple of years, our students have developed their skills in areas such as photography, First Aid, sign language, modern dance and driving, while also participating in Young Entrepreneurs' Competitions and representing our school at the National Finals of the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and Junk Kouture. TY students are frequently cast in lead roles in our annual school Pantomime as they develop their acting and musical skills throughout the year while our Architecture modules have produced a number of budding Dermot Bannon's as students develop their flair for innovative building design and creative interior concepts. Our annual Adventure Journey camping trip which students partake in as part of their engagement in the Gáisce Programme also proves to be a highlight of the year for many.

Work Experience forms an integral part of Transition Year in our school and we are always grateful to the local employers who offer our students the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into their various areas of work. In recent years a number of our students have also taken part in The Bar of Ireland's "Look into Law" Transition Year Programme. This experience offered students the opportunity to shadow a barrister for a week while visiting King's Inns, The Four Courts and The Criminal Court of Justice, as well as participating in an interactive Mock Trial. Many of our TY students have also participated in The RCSI Transition Year Mini Med Programme which takes place in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin and provides participants with the opportunity to experience what it is like to study medicine and work as a doctor.

As well as their involvement in community initiatives such as Tidy Towns and Christmas Fairs, frequent trips are also organised to both local and national events which have provided our students with the opportunity to witness the natural beauty of the Marble Arch Caves, to experience a show in the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre and to challenge themselves at Boda Borg, as well as physical activities such as swimming, water sports, bubble soccer and bog hopping in Causey Farm!

Active participation in the Transition Year Programme in Ardscoil Phádraig enhances the personal, social and academic development of our students. Students grow in confidence, make informed Leaving Certificate subject choices, develop skills to aid them into the future and create life-long memories during this action-packed year of unforgettable experiences.



Discovery Building

Ardcoil Phádraig currently has three Autism Specific classes - Cluain Eala, Tír na nÓg and Clann Lir in our state of the art building called The Discovery Building which is equipped with a sensory room, sensory garden and communal area and kitchen. The Discovery Building is limited to a maximum of eighteen students. Incoming students with a diagnosis of Autism and who have a recommendation for a special class setting in their psychological report can make an application for a place in one of these classes. The school is very proud of the way our students from The Discovery Building integrate at different levels in the mainstream and whole school environment. We are fortunate to have an excellent highly qualified team of teachers and SNA's to cater for the varied needs of these students.



GAISCE

Your Way: Your Award

The President's Award is a self-development programme that encourages you to find your passion, get active and make a difference in your community.

There are four main components:

- Community Involvement
- Physical Recreation
- Personal Skill
- Adventure Journey



GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD

Gaisce is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people aged 15–25 to dream big and realise their potential. The Transition Year group have already started working towards this year's Gaisce Award with a 18km walk to Derrycassin Woods. This is in preparation for the two day camping trip to the River Shannon Adventure Centre in May.

BT Young Scientist and SciFest

Ardascoil Phádraig offers students many opportunities to explore their inquisitive and creative nature through competitions such as the BT Young Scientist and SciFest. In recent years, the school has been very successful in winning awards at both the BT Young Scientist and SciFest events with three groups of students qualifying for the National Final in last year's BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. The groups represented Ardscoil Phádraig in the Social and Behavioural Sciences category with Aoibhinn Lynch and Clodagh Deneher investigating 'Sleep to Music, does music affect sleep patterns?' and Kaitlin Higgins, Nadine Smith and Grace McEvoy examining Coffee Pods with "We recycle we don't just throw it away". The third group in the Chemical, Physical and Mathematical category investigated "Reusable batteries compared to single use batteries". This team was comprised of Ciara McCormack and Charlotte McDonagh.



Guidance and Counselling

Our Guidance Counsellor Ms O'Reilly leads the school Guidance programme and liaises with all staff to ensure students receive all necessary support throughout their time in Ardscoil Phádraig.

At the end of each academic year students will have experienced;

- Group/Class guidance in personal and social development
- Guidance in educational and personal learning, study and exam techniques
- Career/Vocational exploration and information

Individual/Group counselling is available for all students on request and/or referral, allowing them to explore their personal thoughts, feelings and choices. A caring environment is created for all students and support is provided so that students can learn to cope with the many aspects of teenage life. Parents/Guardians are provided with opportunities to meet with our Guidance Counsellor at Parent-Teacher meetings, Guidance presentations or upon request.

Career Guidance and advice regarding subject options is available to students in all year groups while students in Transition Year and Senior Cycle have dedicated Guidance class periods each week. Students are supported throughout the CAO application process and in their exploration of all avenues available to them as they progress to Third Level education, specialised training or the world of work.



Ms. Claire O'Reilly
Guidance Counsellor

Academic Excellence

Promoting excellence in teaching and learning is at the heart of everything we do in Ardscoil Phádraig. We are very proud of our inclusive learning environment where every student is encouraged to reach their own individual potential. Our dedicated staff, equipped with the latest technological equipment, adopt a variety of teaching methodologies to meet the personal and career development needs of every student. Ardscoil Phádraig provides a holistic educational experience, equipping our students with knowledge and skills which are reflective of modern day needs and an ever-changing society.

Green Schools



At Ardscoil Phádraig we have a very active Green Schools committee. To date we have achieved flags for the following themes: Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Travel and most recently we achieved our Flag for Biodiversity in 2022. We are currently working towards achieving our Global Citizenship Litter and Waste flag in 2024.

We have many links with the local community, Granard Tidy Towns, Longford County Council, SEAI and World Wise Global Schools.

Now more than ever, it is vital for every student to be aware of their role as a global citizen and encourage sustainability within our school community.



Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice is a student initiative which is an integral part of our school community and one which promotes student input in the ongoing development of various aspects of school life. Pupil Voice enables the development of a student voice in the school and provides leadership opportunities for all students.

In September, following information workshops during Wellbeing classes, all students are invited to engage in the application and interview process. Following this, a committee is formed, which consists of representatives from each year group in the school as well as the selection of school prefects and two head students.

The Pupil Voice committee is then sub-divided into four Special Duty Officer roles. These include 'Equality,' 'Wellbeing,' 'Anti-bullying,' and 'Community.' Each group coordinates awareness events related to their specific group throughout the school year.

Our junior and senior prefects act as mentors and work exclusively with our First Year students to ensure that their transition into secondary school is an enjoyable experience.

Our Head Students are chosen from Sixth Year and they act as an important communication link between our Pupil Voice committee, school management and the 6th Year group.

What does Pupil Voice do?

- Helps to improve our students overall school experience
- Representatives communicate and liaise with other students in the school
- Committee members attend a meeting with the group every two weeks
- Coordinate awareness campaigns throughout the school year
- Play a key role in liaising with our local Primary Schools as well as helping to facilitate our annual open night and other school events
- Offers students an opportunity to grow in confidence and to develop communication and leadership skills



Past Pupil | **Seán Farrell**

As a student in Ardscoil Phádraig I was always motivated by the teaching staff to set high standards and have high expectations for myself in both my academic efforts and in any extra-curricular activities I took part in. All members of staff supported me in achieving my full academic potential and encouraged me to participate in activities such as the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, Transition Year or to attend Gaeltacht courses which I may not have done otherwise. I have fantastic memories of my time in the school and I would recommend Ardscoil Phádraig to any student or parent due to the positive social and learning environment which is a central part of the school community. I grew up on a local dairy farm and always had a keen interest in both agriculture and in the business element of operating a farm. I was supported in this regard while in school and with the support of the school Guidance team, I researched the many career opportunities and course options available in third level which would allow me to progress further in this



area. My experience as a student in Ardscoil Phádraig gave me the confidence and motivation to follow my passion and I am currently a Third Year Dairy Business student in UCD. As part of the course, I have availed of the international study opportunities available and I am currently completing Professional Work Experience in Canterbury, New Zealand. I will spend six months here, working on a farm with eight hundred cows during one of their busiest times of the year. This has given me an insight into the operation of a large dairy farming business and the experience will undoubtedly impact on my future farming practices. Upon my return to Ireland at the end of the year, I will be studying at Teagasc Moorepark focusing on areas such as dairy systems, herd health and grassland management. I have very happy memories of my time in Ardscoil Phádraig and am very grateful for both the opportunities that the school gave to me during my time there and for the way in which it encouraged me to work hard to reach my full potential. This has ensured that I secured my place on my chosen University course and has therefore shaped the many career opportunities which will come my way after I graduate.

Enda Harkin | 5th Year



My name is Enda Harkin and I am a Fifth Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. I am currently studying English, Irish, Maths, Engineering, Geography, Construction and DCG for my Leaving Certificate. Although only two students joined Ardscoil Phádraig from St Teresas NS, Killoe, it did not take long for me to settle in and make lots of new friends. Sport plays a big part in our school and teachers encourage us to try new sports. Although football is my passion, I started playing basketball in First Year and have participated in many competitions. I completed Transition year last Year and I would highly recommend it. We learned lots of new skills including horse-riding, Photography and First Aid. During the year we had lots of days out including trips to Dublin Zoo, Causey Farm and Bay Sports. As part of our Gaisce Bronze Award we walked 25km, kayaked to Rabbit Island on the River Shannon and set up camp for the night. It was a great learning experience and we had lots of fun during those two days. Doing Transition Year really helped me to mature as a student and I can already see the benefits from that in Fifth Year.

Past Pupil | **Rebecca McLoughlin**

My name is Rebecca McLoughlin and I attended St.Mary's Primary School Edgeworthstown before progressing to First Year in Ardscoil Phádraig. When I first joined the school, I was worried about transitioning from a huge primary school to a smaller secondary school but the teachers made that easy for me. I loved the smaller class sizes as it allowed us to form relationships with our teachers and get 1-1 attention during lessons. This was especially beneficial during my Senior Cycle.

The teachers really did go above and beyond for us, often arranging after school classes, additional lunchtime project work or even coming in during midterm breaks to get us prepared for upcoming exams. There was always an open-door policy with our Principal, Deputy Principal and teachers whereby if we had a question or an issue, we were always welcome to their classrooms or offices to have a chat.



The friendships I made during my time in Ardscoil Phádraig will last me a lifetime. My favourite memories are definitely the school trips to Achill Island and Barcelona, Music classes with Mr.Byrne and of course enjoying the sunshine at the side of the gym during lunchtime with my best friends!

In a First Year Guidance class with Ms.Sheridan, I remember her telling me "you would be a great Lawyer!" – I guess she was right as I have just graduated from Griffith College Dublin with a Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree. Last year I spent time investigating wrongful convictions as a case worker for the Irish Innocence Project. Today I am working as a Legal Assistant for Nera Capital, while also studying for my FE-1 exams to secure myself a place in the Law Society of Ireland. My dream is to become a practicing Solicitor specialising in Family Law and Criminal Law and Ardscoil Phádraig has undoubtedly been a huge help in making that dream a reality.

Fundraising Each year students and staff facilitate various fundraising initiatives to raise funds for organisations such as the Irish Cancer Society, Temple Street Children's Hospital, St Vincent de Paul and Pieta House.

Local Enterprise Office - First Years and TY students have participated in the Student Enterprise Program every year and have been successful in winning awards at county level and also qualifying for the National Finals.

Tidy Towns Committee - TY's participate in an annual Litter Clean Up in Granard and surrounding areas with Tidy Towns. We also worked with the Granard Tidy Towns to design, build and maintain a Bug Hotel.

Green Schools - TY's are actively working towards achieving Global Citizenship flag for Litter and Waste and have just achieved our Biodiversity Flag 2022. We work with Gary Brady from the Longford County Council.

Recycling - We have just received a new bench from Longford County Council made from recycled plastic bottles we collected last year.

Promoting Sustainability - Tara Kiernan owner of Food Scape Design Company and runner up in Super Gardens competition on RTE2 did a workshop with TY students on how to grow their own vegetables and be sustainable.

Credit Union - The Granard Credit Union held a workshop with our TY students and worked closely with them in areas of budgeting, saving and loans. Art

students in the school have been very successful in the Credit Union's annual Art Competition.

Granard Library - All First Years regularly visit the library. We also receive donations of seeds for our Green Schools Garden from them

SEAI - Community Scheme - We are working with Co. Longford Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) mentor in the Granard Area to promote sustainability.

Gaisce Awards - Forty three Transition Year students have achieved their Bronze Gaisce Presidents award 2022.

Kiernan Milling - Fifth and Sixth Years have visited the factory and been given very informative and interesting presentations by the staff there.

Dragons Den - Successful local businessperson and Cavan entrepreneur Bernie Kiernan worked with TY students to judge a Dragon's Den style competition.

Lus Na Greine - Some of our TY students help on a voluntary basis, gardening and painting to improve the family play areas there. The Art Department has forged strong links with Lus na Greine working to complete an annual community art project with them.

World Wise Global Schools - We were awarded our new flag/passport 2021 and received grant funding for future projects.

Knights and Conquest Centre - As part of our History classes, we have attended tours there telling the story of the Norman invasion of Ireland.



Maria Ledwith 6th Year

My name is Maria Ledwith and I am a Sixth Year student here in Ardscoil Phádraig. As well as working hard in the classroom I have always tried to involve myself in the wide range of extra-curricular activities available to students here in the school. I have been a member of sports teams and served as a committee member on both the Pupil Voice and Gaelbhreach committees at various stages over the last few years. I have a huge interest in the area of Creative Arts and have also thoroughly enjoyed the many opportunities which have arisen to get on stage including performing in two of our school Pantos - as Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz' and as Billy in our production of 'Beauty and the Beast'. It was however, as a Transition Year student that my interest in Business and Enterprise developed. Under the guidance of our teacher, our Mini-Company 'Mask Bagz' reached the national stages of the NFTE Enterprise competition and this success inspired me to embark on my own entrepreneurial journey. With the support of my family, I established my own business Elm Coffee in June 2020. With lots of hard work and using many of the skills which I learned as part of the NFTE programme, the popularity of my coffee trailer has continued to grow and we currently have five staff employed in the business. This ensures

that I can remain fully focused on my upcoming Leaving Certificate exams. Elm Coffee even featured on RTE News, as part of a segment detailing some of the ways in which teenagers around the country adapted to life in Ireland during the pandemic. Elm has allowed me to get to know people of all ages in the community and I hope to continue to expand the business as I progress through University over the next few years. The business also helped me to develop many skills which I have been able to apply to my studies, including time management which is vital throughout what is a very busy Leaving Certificate year. I believe having hobbies and interests outside of school is very important in managing exam stress and while my studies are my priority this year, Elm continues to provide a welcome outlet for me from time to time.

Wood Technology and Construction Studies

Junior Cycle **Wood Technology** is an activity based subject which allows the students an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of different materials and processes and their applications in society. The design and techniques section of this subject is taught in conjunction with the materials and technology section of the course. This programme provides a foundation for further study at Senior Cycle in Construction Studies. A good understanding of this subject will contribute to the overall personal development of the student, their preparation for further education and for various aspects relating to adult and working life.



BUSINESS

There are endless reasons why students will benefit from studying Business at school. Even for those who do not wish to work in Business or retail, the study of basic bookkeeping, banking, insurance, and business will always be useful in managing their personal budgets etc. Junior Cycle students will focus on the areas of Personal Finance, Enterprise and Our Economy. Business at Senior Level will focus to a greater extent on business structures, legislation and management.

Business students in Ardscoil Phádraig have many opportunities both inside and out of the classroom. We have had great success in the Student Enterprise Programme, run by the Longford Local Enterprise Office, winning most Innovative project in 2022. One of our students has represented Ireland at the Network for Teaching

Entrepreneurship Ireland (NFTE) 2020 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.

Transition Years also study an Enterprise module, and participate in many enterprise competitions. They are given the opportunity to set up and run their own business, they host an annual Christmas Market, participate in 'The Dragons Den' and Eoin Mc Gee's 'How to be good with Money'. We have strong local links and work closely with the Granard Credit Union as well as visiting local businesses such as Kiernan Milling.

Graphics & Design & Communication Graphics

Junior Cycle Graphics & Leaving Certificate **Design & Communication Graphics** are recognised as the underpinning language of the technology disciplines and are transferable across a wide range of subjects such as Mathematics, Science and Art. Students will use a variety of media to communicate their ideas and designs through this unique language. Throughout the course, students will explore the geometric world to gain an appreciation of the importance of graphics in the world around them. They will develop cognitive and practical

skills such as graphical communication, spatial visualisation, creative problem-solving, design capabilities and modelling, both physically and through the use of Computer-Aided Design. This subject provides multiple and varied opportunities for students to develop these high level cognitive and creative skills in engaging contexts. Accurate technical drawings are essential in the design and manufacture of components and artefacts. Producing accurate drawings requires significant attention to detail and a patient and resilient mind-set. Students will continually review and reflect on their working drawings developing strategies for improvement as they progress.



English

Within the English department we encourage student centred learning. We strive to develop a pleasure in reading and a motivation to self-read, through facilitating trips to our local library, which encompasses the value of the Drop Everything And Read initiative. The library also offers workshops that we avail of frequently which are often facilitated by local poets and writers. This broadens students' knowledge of local writers and inspires them to become more creative. We are also fortunate to have a comfortable and cosy reading room on the school campus.



In another successful initiative, our students take part in a pen pal programme with another school. This helps students build and develop their letter writing skills throughout the school year and culminates in an end of year "meet up" activity between the two schools. Our broad syllabus covers a wide variety of material including: drama, poetry, novels, media and film studies, which we proactively encourage all students to immerse themselves in. In both Junior and Senior Cycle English students learn about a Shakespearean play and following their study of it they go to watch a live performance of it in a theatre such as Mill Theatre in Dundrum. Giving students the opportunity to go and watch the play live really brings the text to life for them and enhances their understanding.



World Book Day is something we celebrate each year with both staff and students dressing as their favourite literary character. Finally, we also facilitate a First Year online quiz which focuses on elements of the English curriculum studied in class. This proves hugely popular among our students.



French

The French department in Ardscoil Phádraig strives to promote the French language and culture both inside and outside the classroom. A wide variety of interactive learning techniques are used by the teachers to develop the student's oral, listening, reading and writing skills. Every year, students enjoy participating in European Day of Languages which aims to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone. Our Transition year students have enjoyed planning and delivering a language lesson to our 1st year students. A fun and engaging experience for all! Students in Ardscoil Phádraig are also awarded scholarships to attend French language colleges during the summer months which is an enriching cultural and language experience and provides students with the unique opportunity to improve their spoken and written language skills while making new friends. We have also welcomed French students into our school community and some of our students have returned to France where they have stayed with host families and enjoyed language immersion abroad.

ENGINEERING

Ardscoil Phádraig is one of only a small number of schools in the local area which offers Engineering as a subject option at both Junior and Senior Cycle. Engineering offers students the opportunity to learn how to read and follow a technical drawing, how to shape cut and join a wide variety of materials and how to write basic programmes to move mechanisms. Each year students design and manufacture a wide range of projects including key-tags, bouncing jitterbugs, helicopters and racing cars. Not only does Engineering encourage a design mind-set but it also fosters the practical and machining skills to enable students to realise their own designs. With an ever increasing array of employment opportunities in the Engineering sector, our excellent facilities allow students to develop the skills required to progress further in this area and to excel in the many career fields linked to Engineering.



Past Pupil | Patrick Reilly

My name is Patrick Reilly and I attended Aughnagarron National School before beginning in Ardscoil Phádraig which I attended from 2014–2020. I have very fond memories of my time in the school. I always felt a great sense of belonging while I was there. I made great friends and created some fantastic memories, particularly during our trips to Achill and Barcelona, as well as the many day trips I enjoyed as a student in the school. Some of my favourite times were also spent in the classroom, participating in group work and various projects. One of the activities outside of the classroom which I look back on fondly, was being a member of the Pupil Voice committee which ensured that students' views were always considered when planning events in the school.

The culture of the school was one of care where all students were valued equally. I found the teachers extremely approachable, they knew each one of us individually and they cared and nurtured our strengths and guided us constantly. Class sizes were also small in comparison to some other schools which I felt benefited us greatly as we got lots of individual attention. There was also a very good choice of subject options and I studied DCG, Biology, Engineering and Agricultural Science as well as the core subjects. Many teachers went out of their way to give us extra tuition in the morning and after school particularly during our Leaving Certificate year. The school also provided study skills workshops to assist us with techniques for effective study and provided additional support to any student experiencing any issues. I am extremely grateful now for this tremendous support.

I felt that Ardscoil Phádraig was a very progressive school as it had great connections with all the Third Level institutions and we were always encouraged and brought to Open Days in various Universities as well as attending the Higher Options event in the RDS Dublin. During Senior

Cycle we also had a dedicated Career Guidance class period each week which my class found extremely helpful during the CAO application process and we could talk to our Career Guidance teacher about future plans at any time.

Ardscoil Phádraig has enjoyed fantastic success at the BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition in recent years and I was lucky to be involved in the BTYST event as a Transition Year student. Under the guidance of our teacher, myself and my classmate were selected to participate in the national finals of the exhibition with our project based on the effectiveness of bird boxes in rural environments. We enjoyed a fantastic week in the RDS and met Michael D. Higgins as well as many politicians and industry leaders. I found the whole experience truly brilliant and it is one which I will never forget.



During Transition Year and Fifth Year students were encouraged to research various future career paths and to gain experience in working environments across different sectors. Many successful companies and organisations, both locally and nationally, came to our school to speak to students about their area of work and following one of these workshops an opportunity arose for me to complete a two week work placement with ESB Networks which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also completed a two week placement in the RCSI Dublin which I loved and this experience proved to be one which would shape my entire future.

After completing my Leaving Certificate I applied through UCAS to study Diagnostic Radiography in Bangor University, Wales. I am currently in my second year of a three year full time degree and I will also complete a one year placement with the NHS in the UK when I have finished my studies here. I absolutely love my course and have no doubt that none of this would have been possible without all the support and encouragement which I received during my time in Ardscoil Phádraig.

History All First Year students study History at Junior Cycle level and so the History department in Ardscoil Phádraig focuses on the development of key historical skills such as source analysis, project work and analytical skills. Topics covered in Transition Year include Local History, Genealogy, Civil Rights, the Irish Diaspora and the influence of history on Popular Culture, along with commemorations. History is also offered at Leaving Certificate.

We are fortunate here in Ardscoil Phádraig to have a wealth of local history and resources on our doorstep. Students are regularly brought to Granard library for talks with local historians and the school visits the local Motte regularly. Most popular are our yearly trips to Cavan County Museum which allows students to walk trenches and study World War I memorabilia, so that they can gain an understanding of the topic in a more interactive way. Granard's Knights and Conquests is also visited, with the students delighting in discovering about Normans, Knights and archaeology. The exhibition on Michael Collins and Kitty Kiernan is always a particular student favourite. History in Ardscoil Phádraig allows our students to delve into the world of the past in an exciting, interactive and relatable way.



Home Economics

Home Economics has a direct relevance to the present and future life of every young person. It is a multi-faceted subject through which students learn how to take care of themselves, others, their home and their environment.

Home Economics encompasses aspects of Science, Nutrition, Consumer and Social Studies as well as practical Culinary and Textile Skills. Students learn about the links between diet, health, family, home and resource management.

Home Economics aims to empower students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work.

A range of learning opportunities are available in Ardscoil Phádraig for Home Economics students including Chef of the Term, various cookery competitions and cross curricular links with subject departments (growing of ingredients with Green School committee).



Maths

The Maths Department in Ardscoil Phádraig place a huge emphasis on making Maths interactive, relative and enjoyable for all students. Engagement in Maths is supported throughout the school by our Whole School Numeracy initiative which allows students to discover its relevance across all subject areas. Our Maths Week activities, which take place in October each year, are a highlight of our school year for many students with treasure hunts, games and quizzes offering students further opportunity to develop their problem solving and logical thinking skills. Our Transition Year Maths programme allows our students to be creative and explore Maths outside of the classroom environment with the development of students' creative thinking skills being a key element. While we have seen a huge increase in the number of students opting to sit Higher Level Maths at both Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle level in recent years, our differentiated approach to teaching and learning in Maths ensures that every student is supported to reach their full potential throughout their time in the school.

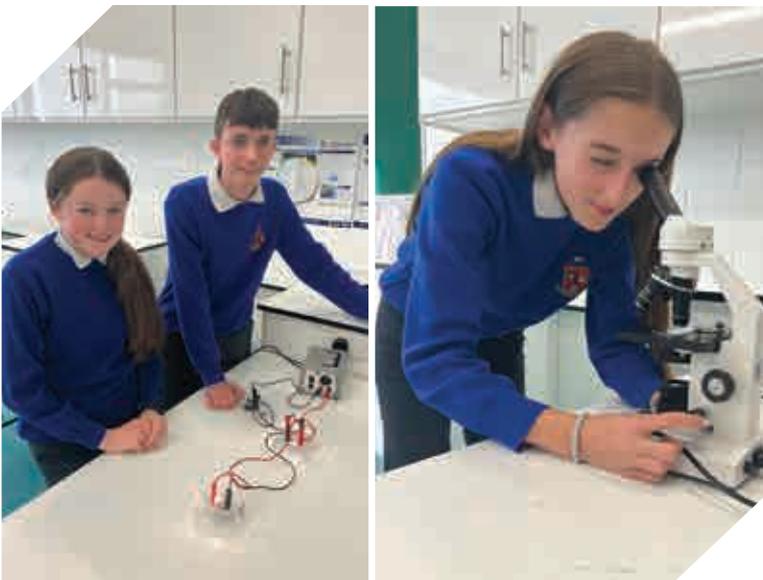
LCVP

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is also offered as a Leaving Certificate subject in the school. The programme offers students the opportunity to complete a portfolio of work on the World of Work and Enterprise which is worth 60% of their final grade. The remaining 40% is awarded for an exam which takes place in May before the main Leaving Certificate examinations begin. Nationally, over 80 percent of students use LCVP as one of their best six subjects while calculating Leaving Certificate points. This year, all LCVP students enjoyed a trip to local enterprise Kiernan Milling where the students were taken on a tour of the premises. This provided students with an amazing insight into the world of work and was an experience which will benefit all students as they progress in their future careers.



Gaeilge

Cuirtear béim ar leith ar fhorbairt na Gaeilge sna ranganna agus i dtimpeallacht na scoile anseo in Ardscoil Phádraig agus is iomaí ócáid agus gníomhaíochtaí a cheiliúrtar le linn na bliana chun daltaí a spreagadh. Active learning methodologies and the integration of ICT are integral elements of each lesson, giving students an opportunity to develop their written, aural and comprehension skills as well as developing their oral competencies through the daily use of Gaeilge as a living language throughout our school community. Our students have excelled in State Exams at both Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle, with students also progressing to continue their study of Gaeilge at NUI Galway, Maynooth University and University College Dublin in recent years. The awarding of our Gaeltacht Scholarships, Seachtain na Gaeilge, theatre trips, Gaeilge24 and our frequent seisiún ceoil all hold a pivotal place in our school calendar. Cross-curricular activities such as our Siansa Gael Linn competition entries also encourage the development of our students oral language skills outside of the classroom environment. Táimid fíor-bhródúil as dul chun cinn na Gaeilge sa scoil le blianta anuas agus táimid tiomanta do gach treoir agus cúnamh a thabhairt do scoláirí na scoile, chun a mbarrchumas a bhaint amach.



Science Ardscoil Phádraig is fortunate to have two state of the art labs, which provide students with excellent facilities to allow them to fully engage with the Science subjects being offered in the school. All students in Ardscoil Phádraig take Junior Cycle Science which comprises of a mixture of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The school also boasts a polytunnel which is a major benefit in providing a hands-on approach to Agricultural Science, for Green Schools activities and for student learning in the Discovery Building. Biology remains a popular subject in Leaving Certificate and Chemistry was also introduced a number of years ago. Students are encouraged to study at least one Science subject to Leaving Certificate due to the ever expanding choice and availability of employment in the areas of Science and Technology.



Wellbeing in Ardscoil Phádraig

Ardscoil Phádraig is committed to providing a healthy learning environment. Through the Wellbeing Programme in Ardscoil Phádraig, students will develop the skills to enable them to protect and promote their own wellbeing and that of others. We aim to incorporate the indicators of wellbeing: activity, responsibility, connectivity, resilience, respect and awareness into school life and to develop students based on these wellbeing pillars.

Wellbeing is promoted and enhanced in Ardscoil Phádraig through a variety of extra-curricular activities such as sport, music, drama, language classes, Pupil Voice etc. Workshops on positive mental health, study skills and others are provided for students. Theme-weeks are dedicated to developing positive relationships and wellbeing such as Active Schools Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. The Home-School Liaison Officer regularly meets with parents throughout the year. The Pupil Voice team which meets regularly reflects the voice and opinions of the student body and provides a forum for their expression.

Geography

In a rapidly evolving society, Geography in Ardscoil Phádraig allows students to develop an in-depth understanding of the close relationship between the physical, economic and social processes which shape the modern world in which we live. Our Geography Department's combined theoretical and skills-based approach to teaching and learning has allowed its popularity to grow amongst our student population and Geography is currently one of the most popular subject options for Leaving Certificate students in the school. Geography students are encouraged to be active and inquisitive in their learning, with Geographical Investigations and fieldtrips to coastal areas such as Howth, forming an integral element of student learning at both Junior and Senior Cycle. Our students have consistently achieved the highest grades in this area of state examinations in recent years and many have also progressed to continue their study of Geography in Third Level Universities in areas such as City Planning and Urban and Rural Development. Studying Geography in Ardscoil Phádraig not only provides students with an enjoyable learning experience but also ensures that they can progress to the next stage of their life equipped with an in-depth understanding of the forces which shape the complex world in which we live.



Catriona Ryan | Transition Year

My name is Catriona Ryan and I am a Transition Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. Throughout my time in the school I have enjoyed many different activities including sport and being a member of our school Trad group with whom I competed in Siansa Gael Linn last year. As a First Year student I also played the role of Cinderella in the school pantomime which helped me to get to know new people. Over the last year I have really enjoyed my role as a member of our Creative Schools committee. Ardscoil Phádraig is currently participating in the Creative Schools Programme and we have been working with our Creative Advisor throughout the last year. The whole school has been involved in workshops and brain-storming activities which allowed us to select a creative project which we will work on during the coming year. Following input from all students, our project is based on developing a new recreational area for students in the school. This will be a new space where students will be able to sit, chat and have lunch together during break-times. The committee will be working with designers, architects and construction workers this year who will help to make our ideas a reality. I am really looking forward to getting this process started and to seeing all students in the school enjoying the area when it is complete.



Past Pupil | Brad Flynn

My name is Brad Flynn and I was a student in Naomh Muire National School Finea before moving on to Ardscoil Phádraig. I thoroughly enjoyed my six years in the school for many reasons. I always enjoyed the variety of sports available to students in the school and I played soccer, Gaelic football, basketball and hurling throughout my time there. I also enjoyed the year I spent in Transition Year as it allowed me to learn new skills and to research different careers that I may be interested in pursuing once I finished school. When I finished up in Ardscoil Phádraig in 2020, my Leaving Certificate results opened up a world of University opportunities for me,



each of which I gave careful consideration to. I eventually decided that I first wanted to learn a trade and for the last 18 months I have been working as an Apprentice Plumber, which will soon see me progress to my first phase in college. Ardscoil Phádraig taught me to work hard and to pursue my passions. I would highly recommend the school to any prospective student and their parents, from the way teachers build great bonds with all the students to getting to meet new people, the learning experience in Ardscoil Phádraig will be an unforgettable one. All of the staff always want what is best for the students and the school always endeavours to assist and guide its students towards their future goals.

Past Pupil | Catherine Matthews

My name is Catherine Matthews and I was a pupil of St. Columba's National School Mullinalaghta before progressing to second level education in Ardscoil Phádraig. My time in Ardscoil Phádraig was one of the most enjoyable periods of my life so far. The staff make the school a warm and friendly place and I think that the learning environment and atmosphere that the school provides is unbeatable.

Whether you're interested in sports, music or languages there are extracurricular activities to cater for every student's interests. During my time in the school I was a part of Panto casts, sporting teams and musical clubs such as choir and ukulele club. These activities allowed me to grow in confidence, meet new people and develop my skills further.

As a student in Ardscoil Phádraig, Home Economics was my favourite subject and I attribute this to the passion displayed by my class teacher towards the teaching of the subject. Like all teachers I had in school, my Home

Economics teacher is very passionate about the subject she teaches and consistently expects her students to perform to the very best of their ability in every class.

All of the teachers in the school are invested in actually getting to know each individual student. A prime example of this is the fact that before coming to Ardscoil Phádraig, I didn't even know that I could sing! Then, in a First Year Music class, my teacher asked me to sing a solo at an upcoming school event. This was my first time to ever sing in front of anyone. Nowadays, I am a member of the Boydell Choir in Trinity College Dublin, where I am studying and singing remains as one of my main hobbies. I put all of that down to my Music teacher and the attention that you get in each of his classes, as is the case in every class in the school.

Since graduating from Ardscoil Phádraig, I have progressed to Trinity College Dublin where I am a First Year student of Business, Economics and Social Studies. I am loving it here so far and I could never thank Ardscoil Phádraig enough for the incredible foundation that the school has provided for me.



Sarah Ronan | 3rd Year

My name is Sarah Ronan and I am a Third Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. I started secondary school during the Covid-19 pandemic but my transition from primary school was made easier due to the community spirit present in the school. I settled into the school very quickly and last year I was selected as one of the Gaeltacht scholarship recipients in the school. I have participated in many activities over the last two years but I have enjoyed my time as a Pupil Voice committee member the most. Pupil Voice is the Ardscoil Phádraig Student Council and it creates a platform for the students to get their voices heard, which I really love. All students in the school can apply for a role on the committee and from these applications, representatives from all year groups in the school are selected. We meet regularly to discuss issues and ideas that students may have and representatives from the committee meet with our Deputy Principal to bring these ideas forward. We also organise various events and fundraising activities throughout the year. I enjoy all of the work which the committee does and I am also learning new skills along the way. I have grown in confidence and have learned how to organise events for students in the school. I have also met loads of new people through my involvement and gained many new friends as a result. I have really enjoyed my time in the school so far and I look forward to Transition Year next year and to continuing my education here in Ardscoil Phádraig.



Past Pupil | **Abagh Harten**

Hi, my name is Abagh Harten. I attended Mullahoran National School and I completed my Leaving Certificate in Ardscoil Phádraig in 2020. From my very first day in the school, I found that the atmosphere there was warm and welcoming. The teachers created a tight knit environment which helped students to flourish in all aspects of our education. Ardscoil Phádraig has a wide range of subjects to choose from at both Junior and Senior Cycle and I always found that even the most challenging subjects were made very interesting, as an interactive element was always incorporated into classes. This helped me gain a better understanding of the content within all subjects. I also found that there was an excellent support programme available to students who may be struggling in any way and that teachers always ensured that students got the help required when the need arose.

The student voice is a very important aspect of life in Ardscoil Phádraig and I acted as a class representative on the Pupil Voice committee during my time in the school. We organised numerous fundraising events which taught us the effect we could have on the world and organisations around us. This experience opened my eyes to the many possibilities which lie before us as young people and the skills I developed during this time have really helped me as I moved forward.



I have a huge interest in GAA and I really enjoyed my time as a member of the Ladies Football team in Ardscoil Phádraig. Joining the team in First Year helped me to settle into my new school environment as I got to know girls from different year groups in the school and quickly made many new friends. Participating in school equestrian competitions also allowed me to make new friends and ensured that a hobby which formed a huge part of my life outside school quickly became part of my school life too.

My favourite subject in school was Agricultural Science. I really enjoyed learning about different farming enterprises and how they operated. My class went on many agriculture related trips which allowed us to see first-hand how farming can create various career and business opportunities for individuals with an interest in agriculture. My interest in this area has progressed to Third Level where I am currently a Third Year student at Dundalk Institute of Technology, studying Sustainable Agriculture and Agri-Food production. The course is very interesting and highlights the new outlook on Sustainable Agriculture and how it can positively affect the environment. I wish to further develop my education and gain employment within this field upon completion of my four-year course. I am very grateful to Ardscoil Phádraig for providing me with such a solid foundation in my education and for always encouraging me to follow the passion I had to work in this area.

Past Pupil | **James Kiernan**

My name is James Kiernan and I attended Scoil Naomh Fiontan, Lismacaffrey before completing my Leaving Certificate in Ardscoil Phádraig in 2020. I am currently a Second Year Bachelor of Arts student in Maynooth University, studying Gaeilge, Geography and History. I had a huge interest in these subjects throughout my six years in Ardscoil Phádraig which made my decision to pursue them onto Third Level an easy one.

In my opinion, Ardscoil Phádraig is an excellent school which brings out the best in every student. All of the teachers in the school are very approachable and they are always happy to help students whenever they need it, no matter the circumstance. I think this makes the students feel more comfortable in a new environment, especially during the initial transition from Primary school. The school also offers a wide range of extracurricular activities which cater for the interests of all students. As a sports fanatic myself, the school offered a wide variety of sport such as Gaelic football,



soccer and basketball and it provided a fantastic platform for me to continue to progress in this area. I am a current member of the St. Mary's Granard Senior Football team and was also a member of the Longford U20 and Senior Football panels this year. During my first year in Maynooth, I joined the University GAA team and was a member of the Freshers team which won last year's Division One College Football title.

Ardscoil Phádraig also offers students the chance to be part of a number of committees and societies such as Green Schools, Gaelbhreach, Active Schools and Pupil Voice. As a member of these committees, students are provided with opportunities to develop skills which will greatly benefit them as they move to Third Level education and beyond. I am very grateful for the many opportunities provided to me as a student of Ardscoil Phádraig and I would have no hesitation in recommending the school to anyone because it is a friendly, positive environment which helps all students to get the best out of themselves.



Past Pupil | **Niall Moran**

My name is Niall Moran and I began my education in Scoil Naomh Fiontan, Lismacaffrey before spending five unforgettable years as a student in Ardscóil Phádraig, Granard. I am currently completing the final phase of an apprenticeship in Motor Mechanics for Volkswagen Ireland.

Ardscóil Phádraig offered me a wide range of subjects that allowed me to perform to the best of my academic abilities from 1st Year right up to Leaving Certificate. My favourite subjects at both Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate level were Engineering, Woodwork and Technical Graphics (Design and Communication Graphics). I really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of these subjects which gave me many options when choosing my future career path. My interest in and dedication towards these subjects was rewarded



with high grades in all three areas in my Leaving Certificate.

Upon completing my Leaving Certificate, I was honoured to be named as joint Student of the Year 2018. I was also awarded both the DCG and the Engineering Project of the Year awards, annual accolades which reward students work in many subject areas in the school.

The staff in Ardscóil Phádraig were hugely supportive and went above and beyond to ensure we met our full potential in all subjects across the curriculum, recognising every student's capabilities. I have many fond memories of my time in Ardscóil Phádraig and of the lifelong friendships that were created.

Some people say 'your school days are the best days of your life' – for me, my days as a student in Ardscóil Phádraig were the best days of my life and undoubtedly created a strong foundation for my future.





Ardcoil Phádraig

Granard, Co. Longford

 (043) 668 6209

 admin.apg@lwetb.ie

 <http://www.ardcoilphadraig.com>

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