

CLONASLEE COLLEGE

Prospectus 2025–2026



Clonaslee,
Co. Laois
R32 R972



(057) 864 8044



info@clonasleecollege.ie



www.clonasleecollege.ie

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS



It is with great pride and anticipation that I welcome prospective students and their families to Clonaslee College. Our school is a modern, progressive and supportive environment where every student is encouraged to thrive.

Our motto 'Scientia Potentia est', knowledge is power, underpins everything we do. We are dedicated to fostering excellence in learning while also nurturing the personal, social and emotional development of each student. Supported by a highly skilled and committed staff, students are challenged to reach their full potential, to explore their talents and to grow in confidence.

At Clonaslee College, we work closely with parents and the wider community to ensure students feel valued, respected and prepared for the future. We are proud of our strong academic record, our inclusive supports and the wide range of extracurricular opportunities that enrich school life.

Choosing a secondary school is an important decision. I can assure you that every student who joins Clonaslee College will be welcomed into a caring community, given every opportunity to succeed and supported to achieve their very best.

I look forward to meeting you

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Lee'.

John Lee

Acting Principal



"The commitment of teachers to students' welfare is excellent"

Department of Education
Inspection Report

"The work of the school community in promoting a culture and creating an environment that supported students' wellbeing was of a very good standard."

Department of Education
Inspection Report



WHY CHOOSE CLONASLEE COLLEGE?



A reputation for outstanding success in both Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate. Pictured here is Clodiagh Kennedy from the Leaving Certificate Class of 2025 who received an exceptional 625 points. Clodiagh has since progressed to study her first choice of Mathematics in Trinity College, Dublin.

High expectations of students in all they do, be it sporting, academic or cultural. Students are challenged and encouraged to have the opportunity not just to discern their talents but also to use those talents and develop them to their optimum



An enthusiastic and dedicated teaching staff who are committed to students fulfilling their potential.

A welcoming environment for students and a strong sense of community within the school.



An inclusive learning environment where students partake in active learning, collaborate with their peers and also work independently.

A supportive AEN team who work closely with parents and staff to provide tailored supports.



Small class sizes ensure individual attention and support.

JUNIOR CYCLE

Students coming into First Year complete core subjects. Our taster programme enables students to discover special aptitudes they may have been unaware of before coming to us and assists them in choosing their four optional subjects.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Religion
- History
- Science
- CSPE
- SPHE
- Physical Education
- Wellbeing



OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- Home Economics
- French
- Art, Craft & Design
- Engineering
- Materials Technology (Woodwork)
- Technical Graphics
- Geography
- Business Studies

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year is a one-year optional programme designed to bridge the gap between Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate. Free from the pressure of state exams, students can sample a wide range of subjects, explore new interests, and gain valuable work experience to help guide future career choices.

The programme focuses on four key areas: Personal Growth, Being a Learner, Civic & Community Engagement, and Career Exploration. Students also develop key skills such as organisation, teamwork, and time management through work placements, volunteering, educational outings, competitions, and assignments.

Core subjects include English, Irish, Maths, PE, Modern European Studies, IT, Home Economics, Career Guidance, SPHE, Film Making, Financial Maths, E-Portfolio, Road Safety, Science, Business, Community Engagement.

Students also have the opportunity to sample a range of Leaving Certificate subjects to aid them in choosing subjects for examination. These include Construction, Engineering, Geography and History.

Activities throughout the year include Bay Sports, World Skills, Self Defense, Yoga, Line Dancing, Art Program, Ice Skating, Christmas Dinner, Guest Speakers, Birr Outdoor Activity Centre, Bord Gais and Lilyputt.

The highlight of the Transition Year programme is undoubtedly the foreign trip. Our current TYs are already looking forward to their trip to Barcelona!



SENIOR CYCLE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

In the traditional Leaving Certificate, students take the core subjects of English, Irish, and Mathematics. They also engage in non-examination subjects such as Career Guidance, RSE, Religion, and PE. In addition, students choose four optional subjects each year, which are subject to availability and demand.

- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Construction Studies
- DCG
- Engineering
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Leaving Certificate PE



LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

The Leaving Certificate Applied programme was recently introduced in our school. It offers a hands-on approach to learning and prepares students for working life. Every Thursday is dedicated to work experience, encouraging students to explore professions that suit their interests.

Students engage with modules such as Social Education, Agriculture and Horticulture, and Hotel, Catering and Tourism. They are assessed through key assignments, interviews, practical exams and written exams. Results from the Classes of 2024 and 2025 have been very impressive

EXTRA CURRICULARS

At Clonaslee College, we are proud to promote both extra-curricular and co-curricular activities as a vital part of school life. These opportunities help students develop skills, make friends, and try new things.

Some of our extracurricular activities include:

- Hurling
- Camogie
- Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Athletics
- Girls' Basketball
- Golf

Despite being a small school, we have enjoyed great sporting success. We are the very proud holders of seven All-Ireland Basketball titles! We are always working to expand the range of options available for our students.

Getting involved in a smaller school means you are more likely to represent the school and play an active role on a team or in a group.

Teachers “demonstrated strong commitment to students through the high levels of volunteerism that facilitates a wide range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities supporting the holistic development of the student.”

Department of Education
Inspection Report



Some of our co-curricular activities include:

- Agri Aware
- Amber Flag Committee
- Book Club
- Cards Club
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Friends Against Bullying
- GAA Future Leaders
- Gaisce
- Hooves 4 Hospice
- Irish Angus Beef Competition
- LIFT Leadership
- LEGO League
- LOETB All Stars
- Maths Competitions
- Minecraft
- Podcasting
- Public Speaking
- SciFest
- Trad Group
- VEX Robotics
- Young Saint Vincent de Paul



DEDICATED YEAR HEADS



Each year group in Clonaslee College is supported by a dedicated Year Head. Mr John Lee acts as our Senior Year Head. Our Junior Year Head, Ms Deirdre Caplice, begins with students in First Year and continues with them through to Third Year.



This continuity fosters strong relationships and enables the Year Head to support both the welfare and academic progress of every student. Approachable and supportive, the Year Head also acts as a key link between home and school, ensuring clear communication with parents and guardians when needed.



Students also attend college open days and national events such as Higher Options, WorldSkills, and local PLC open days, ensuring they are well informed about the opportunities available to them. Study skills seminars are also provided for both Junior and Senior students, helping them to develop effective learning strategies and prepare with confidence for their exams.

STUDENT SUPPORTS



GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR



Our students benefit from the guidance of our specialist Career Guidance Counsellor, Mr. Sean Cotter.

He advises students on subject choices and supports them in making informed decisions about their future study and career options. Guest speakers from third-level institutions, PLC colleges, training providers, and a variety of workplaces visit the school throughout the year, giving students first-hand insights into different pathways.



LEARNING SUPPORT

Clonaslee College is an inclusive school community committed to supporting every student. Our Additional Educational Needs (AEN) team works closely with subject teachers to provide support through supplementary teaching, co-teaching, team teaching, and the use of specialist resources where required. We also offer ongoing assistance to students with English as an Additional Language (EAL), ensuring they can fully engage with school life. Reasonable accommodations are provided during State Examinations where appropriate, helping all students to demonstrate their learning fairly and to reach their potential.

In addition, Clonaslee College provides tailored educational experiences through our Special Class and Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LP), supported by state-of-the-art facilities. These smaller, focused learning environments are designed for students with additional learning needs, ensuring they receive the individualised support necessary to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Students are included in mainstream activities wherever possible, with personalised plans in place to foster progress, independence, and integration.



CAIRDE

We know the move from primary to post-primary can be both exciting and challenging. Our Cairde Mentoring Programme supports First Years by pairing them with Transition Year mentors who work with the Junior Year Head to help new students settle in.

Our Cairde mentors provide guidance, a friendly point of contact, and organise activities that build teamwork, and friendship. They work hard to ensure every student feels included and supported.



LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

We encourage students to join our lunchtime clubs and activities. From chess to pool or ping pong, these are a great way to try something new, make friends, and have fun during the school day.



FIRST YEAR SUPPORTS



SUBJECT TASTERS

Our Subject Taster Programme allows students to try new areas such as French, Woodwork, Engineering, Art, and Home Economics. Many are surprised by what they enjoy most, sometimes finding a passion in a subject they had never tried before. This experience helps students explore their talents and make informed choices as they progress through the Junior Cycle.



SMILE WEEK



SCIENCE WEEK



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Clonaslee College, we love a reason to celebrate! Each year we enjoy a variety of themed weeks, including Science Week, Maths Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge and SMILE Week. Our Halloween dress-up day is always a creative and funny occasion, while our annual Sports Day is a highlight of the year. From silent discos to viral water bucket challenges, we've done it all! Teachers put in phenomenal effort to ensure students enjoy a wide range of activities throughout the year.

"Themed weeks took place on an annual basis that promoted inclusion and positive relationships"

Department of Education
Inspection Report

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE



SPORTS DAY





SCHOOL TRIPS

At Clonaslee College, our school tours create lasting memories and unforgettable experiences for students. In recent years, Irish adventures have taken us to Delphi, Ballyhass Adventure Centre, Castlecomer Discovery Park, Emerald Park, the Burren and the Aillwee Caves.

Students have also enjoyed exciting foreign trips to Rome and Sorrento, Munich, Lake Garda, Madrid and Paris. These journeys are a highlight of school life, they are full of moments that will have students laughing long after the buses arrive home!

OUR FRENCH EXCHANGE

In October 2024, our first group of students travelled to Vichy, France as part of our new French Exchange Programme. The exchange was only made possible through DES/PPLI funding and we were one of only fifteen schools in the country to be lucky enough to receive it. This programme allowed our students to immerse themselves in French culture, language, and family life. In May 2025, we were delighted to welcome our partner school, Collège Jules Ferry, to Clonastee, completing a very successful two-way exchange.

The exchange was a wonderful opportunity for students to build friendships and experience the language in a real-world setting. We are very grateful to Mr Dooley and Ms McMahon for their commitment in securing funding and organising this project. We look forward to continuing the exchange in future years, as it offers our French students a unique chance to broaden their horizons, strengthen their language skills, and gain memories that will last a lifetime.



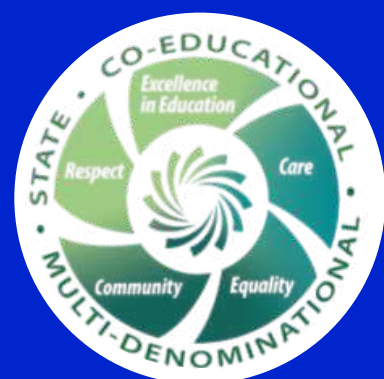
OUR SCHOOL ETHOS

Just as people have values, so do schools. At Clonaslee College, our ethos is underpinned by the ETB core values of

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect

These values shape our ethos and the learning environment we create. We are committed to supporting every student to reach their potential, develop their talents, feel confident in their abilities, and enjoy their successes. Students are encouraged to feel a strong sense of belonging, to be treated fairly, to be cared for and respected, and to recognise the immense potential they hold.

Each year, we celebrate these values by presenting Ethos Awards to students who embody them at different stages of their journey through secondary school. The qualities these awards highlight will remain with our students long after they leave Clonaslee College, supporting them in every area of life.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

BOYS

- Black jumper with school crest
- Light blue shirt
- Dark grey trousers
- Black, green and yellow striped tie
- Black school jacket with school crest
- Black socks
- All black shoes



PE KIT

- Black tracksuit bottoms with school crest
- Blue and black crew neck or half zip jumper with school crest
- Blue and black t-shirt with school crest
- Optional sports jacket with school crest.

Students are permitted to wear the PE kit on days they are scheduled for PE and when attending games representing the school.



GIRLS

- Black jumper with school crest
- Light blue shirt
- Black, green and blue skirt with knee length socks/ tights.
- Black, green and yellow striped tie
- Black school jacket with school crest
- All black shoes

Option: Dark Grey Trousers



Our PE kit was introduced in 2022 with input from a student design committee. It is both practical and distinctive, proudly reflecting our school colours. The kit is available for purchase from Nelligan Sports via a link on our school website.

FIRST YEAR TESTIMONIALS

Discover what our First Year students have to say about their time at Clonaslee College to date.



Hi, my name is Ava and I attended Scoil Bhríde in Clonaslee before starting secondary school. So far, I like all the new subjects because we hadn't tried a lot of them before. I was surprised by how much I like Engineering. I also didn't do French in primary school, but now I find it fun and useful.

Cairde really helped us settle in and find our way around and Ms. Caplice, our Year Head, is helpful and kind. There are lots of lunch time clubs and sports to get involved in. My advice to incoming First Years is to not worry about getting lost or forgetting things, the teachers understand you're in First Year and getting used to everything new!

Hi, I'm Luke and I went to primary school in Derrylamogue. The biggest change from primary school is moving to different classes, but I like changing classes and having lots of different teachers. The teachers and the SNAs are all nice to us. My favourite subjects so far are Engineering and English. I really like the teachers in both subjects and with Engineering I'm trying something new.

I like being in a smaller class because you get to know the people in your class better. I would tell sixth class students to not be worried about things there are loads of teachers to help you and small classes means you get to know everyone straight away.



Hi, my name is DJ and I came from Rosenallis National School. I think what makes secondary school more exciting is the different subjects and new teachers every hour. My favourite subject in secondary so far is French because it's a new language. I also like Maths now because the teacher is very good.

There are lots of activities to try like hurling, football and soccer. I've joined the football team, and I've already got to play in a football blitz. I would tell new students to try make friends with everyone because everyone is new and it's easier to make friends than you think. Also, if you just check what subjects you have every day, you will know what you need for classes.

FIRST YEAR TESTIMONIALS



Hi, I'm Michael John and I came from Castlecuffe National School. My favourite subjects so far are PE and English. I also like Science because we are doing experiments so its really fun. I like that our breaks are longer and there's lots to do, I normally play soccer outside. Our Year Head Ms. Caplice has been really welcoming. You can go to her if you need to, she's always checking in on us.

Having smaller classes is good because you get more time to speak in class. My advice for new students would be that its way easier to make friends than you think. After only three days, I knew everyone in my class. I also thought the subjects would be a lot harder, but the teachers make it easy to understand.

Hi, I'm Ella and I went to primary school in The Rock National School. My favourite subject so far is Business because it's interesting, and I never did it in before in primary school. I also like Home Economics and Geography. The biggest change from primary school is the extra hour and more teachers but now I'm used to it.

Something that helped me settle in was making new friends quickly. I didn't know many people in the school before coming here at all. I like being in a small school because its quieter and people get along better. My advice for incoming first years is that making friends is the easiest part, you'll find someone who is just like you!



Hi, my name is Jack and I went to Killeigh National School. I like secondary school because of the longer break times and getting to move between classes. I liked getting to try out new subjects in the taster programme. I think I will pick Woodwork, Engineering, Technical Graphics and Geography to continue on with. My favourite subject is Woodwork, then probably Engineering.

I think it's nice being in a small school because it's easier to find the classrooms and know where you are going. I think you get to know people from other primary schools really quickly. I was the only student who came from my old school and now I feel like I know nearly everyone!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: THE CLASS OF 2025



Name: Clodiagh Kennedy

Advice for new students: Stay on top of work but also leave time to enjoy yourself and find new hobbies and interests.

Best trip / school activity: Trip to Barcelona in TY.

Describe your time in Clonaslee College: It felt like it went on forever but then flew by at the very end. I made lots of great friends here and all the teachers are very helpful and caring.

Highlight of the school year: Sports Day.

Name: Gary Fitzpatrick

Advice for new students: Enjoy school because it really does fly by.

Best trip / school activity: Definitely Spain in TY. It was savage going with the whole year and that made you enjoy it that bit more.

Something you'll learn in your time in Clonaslee College is: What you put in you'll get it back, ten times better.

Describe your time in Clonaslee College: It was great, I made great friends, learned a lot from all the different subjects I got to do. I made a lot of memories on trips, playing school sports and so much more.



Name: Lucy Conroy

Favourite memories: Getting into basketball finals and getting to spend everyday with my friends.

Advice for new students: Talk to new people that have come from different primary schools. Get involved in extra-curricular activities and take part in everything you can.

Something you'll learn during your time in Clonaslee College is: To always push yourself and don't stay in your comfort zone.





We look forward to welcoming
you all to our

OPEN NIGHT

on

Thursday, October 2nd, 2025
7:00–9:00

