



# PROSPECTUS



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Coláiste Iascaigh, Easkey, Co. Sligo F26EC56





Thomas Coggins  
Principal



Maeve McDermott  
Deputy Principal

## Welcome

On behalf of the school community we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child as you embark on their journey through second level education. Coláiste Iascaigh is a co-educational, multi-denominational school under the patronage of Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB. Since its establishment in 1948 the school has provided a wide range of educational opportunities in the local community. We strive to create a school ethos that is caring and nurturing, placing the student at the centre of teaching and learning at all times. Our low pupil – teacher ratio ensures students get personalised attention in small classes allowing them to prosper as learners.

The school is modern and equipped to a very high standard. In 2020 a new school extension was added to cater for increased enrolment, comprising of a new Science Laboratory and additional classrooms. We offer an extensive curriculum at Junior and Senior cycle, with subjects such as Engineering offered exclusively at our school.

Students and staff have embraced Information, Communication Technology (ICT) in every subject. We acknowledge the importance of “anytime, anywhere” learning and the opportunities for self-directed and more personalised learning. Our students have access to two ICT rooms and additional laptop trollies supporting the use of ICT in classes.

We pride ourselves in providing a curriculum which includes a wide range of learning opportunities for our students, developing their talents both academically and in the extra-curricular fields.

There is a strong and supportive Pastoral Care team in the school to support your child throughout their time here in Coláiste Iascaigh. A comprehensive induction programme to ease and support the transition from Primary to Post Primary.

We present this prospectus with a sense of pride in the values we represent, and confidence in the service that we provide. We hope that it will help you in the important decision that you and your child have to make.

You are very welcome to contact the school if you wish to discuss anything further.

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## Our Mission Statement

Coláiste Iascaigh is committed to providing an environment where each student is cherished equally and is nurtured to a personal, intellectual and moral maturity.

## Our School's Ethos is underpinned by the core values of

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



## Coláiste Iascaigh A pillar of school excellence



90%+ of students progress to further education



83% of Leaving Certificate Results are in Higher Level subjects



Characteristic spirit of respect and inclusiveness

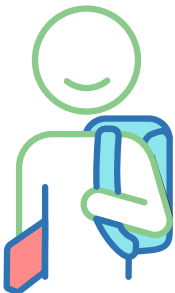


Smaller class sizes, individualised and supportive learning



Strong emphasis on student wellbeing

# 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE



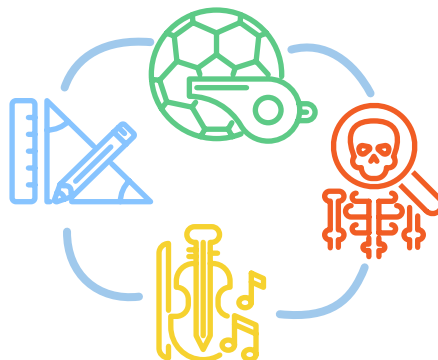
Safe, friendly and happy learning environment



Strong emphasis on extra-curricular activities



Personal development Initiatives and Opportunities including fully subsidised travel opportunities as an Erasmus+ accredited school, student mentoring, green schools, student council



Wide variety of subjects offered (incl. Engineering)



Strong student supports (School Meals, Book rental, Supervised evening study, school app)





## Curriculum

Coláiste Iascaigh offers five programmes: Junior Cycle, Transition Year, Established Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied.

### Junior Cycle

English	Wood Technology	Science	Digital Medial Literacy
Irish	Graphics	French	Religious Education
Maths	Visual Art	Business Studies	Wellbeing / Careers
History	Engineering	C.S.P.E.	S.P.H.E.
Geography	Home Economics	Physical Education	Music*

### Leaving Certificate

English	Business	Engineering
Irish	Geography	Design and Communication Graphics
Maths	Art	R.S.E.
French	Home Economics	Career Guidance
Biology	Construction Studies	Computer Studies
Music*	Agricultural Science*	

\*studied externally

### Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The LCVP Programme is designed to provide a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate. Students who chose this option study an additional subject called Link Modules. Students complete a detailed portfolio of work and work experience module also. Points are awarded for this subject and can be used to calculate CAO points for admission to third level courses.



### Leaving Certificate Applied

LCA is a two year programme available to students who wish to follow a more practical or vocational oriented programme. This programme recognises the talents of students and provides them with the opportunity to develop personal responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. Students spend one day each week on work experience and must complete a minimum of four different work placements over the two years. This supports students career decision making process. Students must maintain 90% attendance during the two years.

### Subjects (Modules)

English and Communication	Maths Applications	Social Education	Graphics and Construction
Art Craft and Design	Introduction to ICT	Vocational Preparation and Guidance	Arts Education
French	Leisure and Recreation	Gaeilge	Horticulture

## Transition Year:

Students selecting to enrol in Transition Year embark on a one year educational programme immediately following their Junior Cycle. Transition Year offers students a unique opportunity to explore subject options prior to Senior Cycle and investigate career choices through work experience placement. In addition, throughout this year there will be an emphasis on personal development, social awareness and increased social competence. The programme includes the following subjects:

### Our Transition Year Curriculum

English	Science in Action	Enterprise	Wellbeing
Irish	Social Education	Physical Education	Career Guidance
Maths	Technology	Horticulture	Home Economics
French	Skills for Life	Work Experience	Art, Craft and Design

## School Facilities

- New school extension which includes: fully equipped science laboratory, preparation room, three additional modern classrooms and canteen area
- State of the Art practical classrooms which are superbly equipped
- Excellent ICT equipment and two computer rooms
- Career Guidance office
- Indoor PE Hall
- Outdoor classroom and Polytunnel
- Sensory student area
- Outdoor sports training grounds
- Supervised evening study
- Book Rental Scheme
- Projectors and integrated sound system in all classrooms







## General Information

### School Day

The School Day in Coláiste Iascaigh operates from 8.55am – 3.50pm Monday to Thursday and 8.55am – 1.20pm on a Friday. Students meet their tutor daily at 8.55am.

### School Uniform

All students in Coláiste Iascaigh must present in full school uniform daily.



School Uniform

#### Girls:

- navy jumper with school crest,
- white polo shirt,
- navy trousers or Coláiste Iascaigh school skirt,
- navy crested school jacket,
- black/navy leather shoes.
- PE uniform may be worn on the day students are timetabled for PE.

#### Boys:

- navy jumper with school crest,
- white polo shirt,
- grey trousers,
- navy crested school jacket,
- black leather shoes.
- PE uniform may be worn on the day students are timetabled for PE.



PE Uniform

### Enrolment Assessment

All students enrolled in First Year in Coláiste Iascaigh will complete assessment in school which will help identify student needs and support their learning.

### Homework

Homework is an essential component of the learning process. It is important that Parents/Guardians take an active part in the homework process. Students record homework in their journal during each class. The recording of homework assists student's organisation of their homework routine. Parents are asked to check the journal each evening and sign it weekly. Year Heads will also check student journals.

### Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour is regularly reviewed. This structured system promotes a safe, fair and firm learning environment which supports students in reaching their full potential. We emphasise mutual respect within the school community. Bullying is dealt with promptly in accordance with our Anti-Bullying Policy. All school policies are available to parents on request and also is accessible on our school website.





## Coláiste Iascaigh Creating a Caring Community

In Coláiste Iascaigh we place a strong emphasis on the health and wellbeing of our students supporting the belief that happy students learn better. Our school offers care and support to all students through the Pastoral Care Team. This team includes the Guidance Counsellor, Year Heads, Wellbeing Coordinator; School Completion Officer; Home Youth Liaison Officer; Home School Liaison Officer and Senior School Management.

Each morning students meet with their class tutor, this gives students the opportunity to talk with a teacher in a friendly and supportive environment. We also have a Junior and Senior Year Head who supports students in settling in and managing all areas of school life. The Year Head will monitor the pastoral and behavioural needs of the students.

Each first year is assigned a senior mentor who will help them settle into the school. Being assigned an older mentor helps students feel more comfortable and confident in the school. First Year students also receive an additional five minutes for break, giving them additional time to organise themselves.

All students completing the Junior Cycle are timetabled for 400 Wellbeing hours across the three years.

## Learning Support and Educational Needs

There is a well established Special Education Needs Department in Coláiste Iascaigh. The SEN Co-ordinator in collaboration with class teachers support students with special educational needs to reach their full potential. Students may receive individual, group or whole class support. Some students may qualify for the services of an SNA. The provision of the services of an SNA is at the discretion of the NCSE.

## Partnership with Parents

Recognising you the parents/guardians as primary educators, we value the importance of strong and supportive relationships between home and school. We are fortunate to have an active and enthusiastic Parents Association who engage with school management enhancing the educational provision for all children. The committee work tirelessly on behalf of the school.





## Educational Supports in Coláiste Iascaigh

### Book Rental

Available to all students. Students are given a full set of textbooks on loan. There is an annual fee which is subsidised by a Department of Education and Science Grant. Books are regularly updated ensuring student access to recently published books. Students are also provided with a school locker and padlock.

### Access Programme

Together with St. Angela's College, Sligo students attending Coláiste Iascaigh receive study skills sessions, college visits and revision courses.

### Education Monitoring

Cognitive Ability Testing is carried out yearly in conjunction with Reading Ability Tests. Students may receive additional learning support in order to maximise all potential.

### Student Awards and Scholarships

Examination results in Coláiste Iascaigh are consistently above average. This is attributed to the high quality of teaching and learning as well as a strong supportive relationship between home and school. Former students are currently studying a wide variety of degrees including Engineering, Physiotherapy, Accounting, Education, Music, Athletic Therapy and Science. Students have received scholarships both sporting and academic from UCD and NUIM. For the past four years the school has been awarded a scholarship from The Ireland Funds No Mind Left Behind Initiative.

### Gaeltacht Scholarships

Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB award annual scholarships to students in Coláiste Iascaigh.

### School Awards

Students receive awards for numerous reasons which normally occur at the end of each academic year.

### Supervised Study

Students may complete afterschool supervised study four evenings per week. This is at a reduced cost as it is subsidised by the school.

### Apprenticeships

Coláiste Iascaigh has forged strong links with companies offering apprenticeship opportunities to our students. Former students have secured apprenticeships with the ESB, electricians, plumbers and joiners.



## Wellbeing Supports in Coláiste Iascaigh

### Home School Community Liaison Officer

The HSCLO meets with parents of all first year students during term one. The HSCL encourages cooperation and collaboration between home, school and any relevant professional and community agencies. The HSCL also organises courses for parents to support their children's learning.

### School Completion

The School Completion Officer mentors students who are experiencing challenges in school while supporting the student in reaching their true academic potential. The school completion officer also completes an induction programme with the first year group supporting the transition from Primary to Post Primary.

### Guidance

The school has a guidance counsellor who teaches all year groups. There are four elements covered within the guidance program including personal, social, vocational and educational. This supports students' holistic development.

### Student Council

The student council is an integral part of Coláiste Iascaigh. The student council includes representatives from all year groups. The work collectively to fundraise, contribute to school policy, promote school improvement and represent the student voice. The student council also report to the Board of Management Annually.

### Mentoring

Trained Transition Year students are assigned as mentors to new incoming First Year students who act as a support to them in settling into Post Primary.

### School Meals

All students receive a Healthy snack at Break time and a choice 3 Dinner options (including a vegetarian/vegan option) with a drink at lunch-time

All free of charge

In total there is a choice of 35 meal options on a rotating menu.





## Technology in Education

Students and staff have embraced ICT in every subject. We acknowledge the importance of “anytime, anywhere” learning and the opportunities for self-directed and more personalised learning. Our Wi-Fi infrastructure has been extensively updated to allow instant access in all areas of the school. The classrooms in Coláiste Iascaigh have high quality wireless data projectors, visualisers and integrated sound systems to allow for seamless integration with our teacher’s devices during a lesson.

We have 2 dedicated computer suites and offer Digital Media Literacy as a Short Course at Junior Cycle; our students have ICT classes at Senior Cycle. Our teachers have access to 3 mobile laptop trolleys allowing any classroom to convert to a computer room when needed.

All students in Coláiste Iascaigh are provided with access to the full suite of Microsoft packages through Office 365. In 1st year they are issued with a unique email address which allows them to download the Microsoft suite of packages to five different personal devices. One of the main benefits of Office 365, is that it is a cloud-based package, thus allowing them to access their work on any device they login to.

## School App

We have our own personalised Coláiste Iascaigh App which can be accessed free of charge from the App Store or Google Play Store. This App is an invaluable method of instant communication keeping parents and students up to date with news, notices and reports on all our activities. It provides parents with a means to submit necessary notes to the school regarding absences, late arrivals, permission to leave early and return after absence forms which are then monitored by Year Heads. It also allows parents to digitally sign policies, submit medical and picture permission forms. A digital sign in/out tablet is located at reception to make the process work.





## Extra and Co-Curricular Activities

All students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. These activities help students develop positive relationships with their teachers and peers as well as make them feel a sense of belonging to the school community. The activities include both sport and community based projects. Participating in such activities help improve student confidence and positive self image. A range of activities are provided and offered both during and after school.

These include:

- ✓ Gaelic Football
- ✓ Hurling
- ✓ Soccer
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Hockey
- ✓ Athletics
- ✓ Girls Active
- ✓ School Tours and Trips (home and abroad)
- ✓ School Talent Shows
- ✓ Stand Up Paddle-boarding and Surfing
- ✓ Enterprise
- ✓ Gaisce
- ✓ Tidy Towns
- ✓ Local Markets
- ✓ Make a Book
- ✓ Essay Competitions
- ✓ Healthy Schools Project
- ✓ Art Competitions
- ✓ Green Schools
- ✓ Worldwide Global Schools

## Accredited Erasmus+ school

As an Erasmus accredited school our students have opportunities to travel outside of Ireland and twin with other schools. These trips are designed to be of maximum educational benefit to our students. Our school avails of EU grants designed to cover the costs of travel and subsistence for our students. Erasmus opens exciting possibilities for our students and broadens their minds.

## Personal Accident Insurance

As part of the administration costs each year the school organises personal accident cover for students.





# Parent Testimonials

*Our 1st visit to Coláiste Iascaigh made us feel like it was a right fit for our family. There is a unique character spirit in the school, which seems to equate to a safe, happy, friendly school environment. Coláiste Iascaigh has a wide variety of subject choices and offers excellent student supports. All of this with smaller class sizes are a huge bonus.*

*Coláiste Iascaigh offers a high level of care towards its students, and staff go above and beyond their call of duty to show this at school.*

*There are excellent SEN supports in school to meet the needs of students with special educational needs with extra support workers and student mentoring. Considerable attention has been given to providing support for pupils with learning difficulties.*

*Having 4 teenage boys attending Coláiste Iascaigh we can honestly say they all enjoy their days at school. The mutual respect between staff and students is evident when listening to the boys talk about their day at school, and their interactions with staff during lessons and extra curricular activities. With regular events in school to promote wellbeing and also mental health awareness talks.*

*Coláiste Iascaigh has several options after junior cycle-transition year, leaving cert, and leaving cert applied.*

*Leaving cert applied offers a different way of learning for those who may not fit the traditional leaving cert. Our son is in 2nd year of leaving cert applied and is doing so well. Continuous assessment throughout the 2 years is a huge bonus, with not having to worry about the final exams at the end of year. Work experience is built into the school week during LCA and gives students the opportunity to try out different workplaces they may be interested in working in the future.*

*We are extremely happy with our choice in Coláiste Iascaigh and the service they are providing in the education and wellbeing of our sons*

**Anna Marie Rogers**  
(Parent of 4 students in Colaiste Iascaigh)

*Initially we were drawn to the school because of the small class sizes and the interest and dedication of the teachers in the school. As a parent I have been welcomed into the school from the outset and feel comfortable to reach out to the Principal Mr Coggins and Deputy Principal Ms. Mc Dermott if the need arises.*

*Parental involvement is very much part of the school ethos and the students are the central focus. There is a great atmosphere in the school, teachers are genuinely interested in each and every student and build a rapport quickly with their students*

*The teachers know their abilities and challenges and work to meet those diverse needs driving and encouraging students to be the best they can be.*

*All of this is key to a quality learning environment.*

*Colaiste Iascaigh students continuously reach high academic standards and practical skills development.*

*Most importantly personal growth and development of students is central to teaching and learning.*

*Students will have opportunities to develop communication, interpersonal, team building and leadership skills to prepare them for the road ahead in life*

*As a parent I feel this is so important.*

*Going the extra mile to get the best out of students is what Colaiste Iascaigh excels in .....where every student is valued.*

**Claire McGuire** (Parent of past and present students)

*Having 3 other children who have gone through the secondary school system and on to college we knew we needed a change.*

*After the school open evening, seeing the facilities and meeting teachers, I loved the ethos the school had to offer and the positive attitude for the kids to strive and grow in the school was refreshing. There are strong student supports in the school. The school has eased transition in having TY students as mentors for the first years as well as having a class tutor whom they meet each morning before the start of class which gives them the opportunity to talk with a teacher in a friendly environment to help with any problems that should arise for them.*

*There is a school App for students & parents which is a great way to communicate between us the parents, students & the school. There is also book rental for students thus easing the financial cost on parents. Students also get to sample all subjects in the first 8 weeks before they commit.*

*The first-year bonding trip out away from the school was a great way to get first years to relax and get to know kids coming from other schools.*

*My Son loves the sampling of subjects, the free meals on offer at break time & lunch also the selection of sports & other extra-curricular activities the school has to offer.*

*He has settled in well and is very happy in Colaiste Iascaigh. The smaller school and class size has made a difference to him, and us as parents. Teachers in Colaiste Iascaigh give more time to the students and are more in tune with the kids and their needs.*

**Rohna Battle** (Parent of 1st year Student)



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