

### Ardcoil Phádraig

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# ARDSCOIL PHÁDRAIG

Bríomhar | Ilchineálach | Nuálach  
Dynamic | Diverse | Innovative

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# 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. Heads of Year, Guidance Counsellors and the Home School Liaison Teacher work to support all students, particularly in their transition from primary to secondary 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 co-curricular and extra-curricular activities which take place in our school e.g. Sport, Green Schools, Music Clubs, 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. We are currently in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills in relation to plans to further expand and upgrade our facilities.

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 when it is safe to do so.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

*Rosary Schultz*  
**Principal**

*Brid Nevin*  
**Deputy Principal**



# Why choose Ardscoil Phádraig?

1. A progressive and dynamic school with a focus on excellence in teaching and learning.
2. A proud tradition of high achievement across both academic & extra-curricular areas.
3. A highly qualified, dedicated and enthusiastic teaching staff who go the extra mile to support all students in their quest to reach their potential.
4. An open-door policy where parents are facilitated with meetings and times convenient to them.
5. A welcoming and warm environment for students with the benefit of small class sizes.
6. An extensive range of extra-curricular activities
7. A culture of high expectations for all students in everything they do both academically and in extra-curricular activities.
8. Excellent pastoral care structures and highly developed support systems.
9. A shared zero tolerance approach to bullying from both staff and students.
10. A strong sense of community throughout a school where everyone knows your name.
11. An inclusive learning environment where students of all abilities are equally comfortable working with their peers or independently.
12. Modern facilities which offer flexible learning environments with advanced digital technology resources.



# What the First Years Say....

## Richard Pinto

Moving to Ardscoil Phádraig was a huge change in my life. I was really excited when I first walked through the door here. We were greeted in such a nice way and the first day was great. The staff here are awesome!



## Kyra Comiskey

I like Ardscoil Phádraig because I have made loads of new friends and the teachers are very kind. I love having so many different subjects each day.

## Heather Flynn

My favourite thing about Ardscoil Phádraig is how kind the teachers are, they will help you when you need it. I also like the wide variety of subjects. I love Music and Home Economics. I am a member of the Pupil Voice committee. Ardscoil Phádraig is a great school.



## Sarah-Jane Sheridan

I love Ardscoil Phádraig because the teachers are very approachable and it's also easy to make new friends. My favourite subject is Woodwork. Last term I made a photo frame.

## Jack Moran

I like Ardscoil Phádraig because I have new friends and I like all of my new subjects. Even though I am the only student from my primary school in First Year I feel settled and happy in the school.



## Harry Mulligan

I really like the school because you are not always in the same class group and you get to meet lots of new people. I like the practical subjects like Woodwork, Metalwork and TG.

## Jack Tighe

I really like Ardscoil Phádraig because it is a very friendly place and we get lovely hot lunches each day. Everyone is very kind and students and teachers make First Years feel very welcome here.



## Jack Carthy

I have settled in really well. All the teachers are very nice and I have made a lot of new friends. I am really glad I picked this school.



## Oisín Reynolds

I like the school because I really like my subjects. You get a really good choice of subjects here. I found it easy to settle in because my older brother came here too and he had told me lots of good things about the school.

## Ali Martin Burns

I have settled in well here because the staff and other students really look out for First Years and help us along. I like Science and I am really glad that I chose this school.



## Tadhg McCauley

I have settled in really well in Ardscoil Phádraig as everybody is really helpful and I feel safe here because things are very organised. I like all my new subjects and have made lots of new friends. I also won a prize in this year's pumpkin carving competition!

## Adam Larkin

The school here is really nice. Even though we have to work hard the teachers are really nice to students and I have met loads of new people. My favourite subject is Technical Graphics.



## Shannon McCaffrey

I like the way you can approach other students and the teachers as everyone is so friendly here. I won a prize in our Halloween Art Competition and I'm looking forward to joining the school football team this year.

## Korah D'Arcy

Life here in Ardscoil Phádraig is really enjoyable. I like all my classes and it is very easy to settle in because everybody here is so welcoming. My brother came here too and my sister is in Transition Year. They love the school too.



# 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. In Ardscoil Phádraig, we practice the use of active collaborative learning techniques, mixed ability teaching and a whole school practice of Assessment for Learning. 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.

# Career Guidance & Counselling

Our Career Guidance Counsellors Ms.O'Reilly and Mr. O'Brien lead the school guidance programme and liaise 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 Counsellors 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 Career 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  
Career Guidance  
Counsellor



Mr. Cóilín O'Brien  
Career Guidance  
Counsellor

# PAST PUPIL Edel Gettings

I thoroughly enjoyed my six years at Ardscoil Phádraig. The close-knit and welcoming community that greeted me on my first day was there to support me to my last. The teaching staff in Ardscoil Phádraig are like no other. Each and every teacher went above and beyond the call of duty. Between extra morning and evening classes, additional notes, oral work and help with projects, the additional resources and support we were provided with was endless.

Aside from academic resources, we were given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports and clubs. During my time there, I was part of the girls' football team and Pupil Voice, amongst other things. All these clubs would not have been possible if it weren't for the countless hours of hard work and dedication that each teacher put in.

There are many memories that I cherish fondly from my time at Ardscoil Phádraig including our trips to Achill and Barcelona as well as our many day trips that found us all over the country. However, some of my favourite times were spent in the classroom, engaging in a lively debate or participating in group activities. Transition year gave us lots of opportunities to meet new people, experience the working world, bond as a year group and take part in countless activities each week. Thanks to all the support and guidance I received throughout my time in Ardscoil Phádraig, I am currently studying in NUI Galway. I am completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, English and Philosophy and I was recently awarded an Academic Excellence Scholarship from the University based on my Leaving Certificate results. Alongside this I am also completing a Level 5 course to become a Healthcare Support Assistant. None of this would be possible if it wasn't for the work ethic and skills I learned during my time in Ardscoil Phádraig.



# Tiernan Flood – 1st Year

My name is Tiernan Flood and I started in Ardscoil Phádraig in August 2020 which was a very different experience for this year's First Year group. So far, I am really enjoying adapting to secondary school life. I felt a bit nervous on my first day but the teachers in our school are helpful and welcoming and I have found it very easy to settle in here. The other students in my class and year group are very nice and I have gotten to know them all really well. There is always support available to us and I know I can talk to my Year Head, Guidance Counsellor or any teacher in the school if I am having difficulties with anything in the future. I have made loads of new friends from lots of different primary schools over the last couple of months. I am also really enjoying trying out all of the different subjects here. My favourite subjects are Maths, Woodwork, Technical Graphics and Metalwork. I am glad I have chosen Ardscoil Phádraig to be my secondary school and I look forward to spending the next five years here.



# What our Students Say...

# Finlay Clarke – 2nd Year

Hello, my name is Finlay Clarke. When I started in Ardscoil Phádraig as a First Year student last year, I found the change from primary school to secondary school huge. I came from a small primary school in St. Columba's Mullinalaghta and I was worried that I would never be able to find my classroom or keep up with all the work. However, I found that everyone in the school helped me to settle in quickly and that there was always help at hand if I ever had any issues. In Ardscoil Phádraig, teachers push you to do your best in every class and in every piece of work you do. They are approachable and students always feel comfortable asking for help when they need it. Some of my favourite subjects are History, Woodwork and Music and I am happy to admit that there is not one subject that I don't enjoy. I have really enjoyed trying out the new subjects and opportunities which secondary school provides. Outside of the classroom, I have been a member of the First and Second Year Football and Basketball teams and I have found that taking part in extra-curricular activity really helped me to meet new people and make new friends. Overall, although there is lots of work to do, I love coming to school in Ardscoil Phádraig each day.



# Wellbeing in Ardscoil Phádraig

Ardscoil Phádraig is committed to providing a healthy learning environment. Through the Wellbeing Programme in Ardscoil Phádraig, students will gain knowledge, develop attitudes and acquire 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 we aim to support students personal development 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 etc. are also 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 the expression of their views.



## 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. Our students have excelled in State Exams at both Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle level, 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. Our students innovation and creativity was also rewarded with a national award for our recent 'Gaeilfheáin na Bliana' video production. 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.



## Gaelbharratach

Ardscoil Phádraig is one of approximately 70 schools nationwide to have been awarded a Gaelbharratach in recognition of our promotion of the Irish language throughout our school and local community. The primary aim of our participation in the scheme is to create and encourage a culture of speaking Irish informally within our school community and beyond. Our Coiste Gaelbharratach, consisting of student representatives from each year group in the school, work throughout the year to organise activities and events trí mheán na Gaeilge in areas including music, art and sport. Currently in our fourth year of being a Gaelbharratach school, fantastic progress has been made in encouraging our students to promote Irish language and culture in both our school and local community. Táimid ag tnúth go mór le híomhá dhearfach na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn sa scoil agus i measc an phobail lasmuigh di arís le linn na bliana seo.



## Kayanna Greene – 5th Year

Hi, my name is Kayanna Greene and I am a Fifth Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. This school is unique, in that I can work hard academically while also being encouraged to continue doing all of the other activities that I love and enjoy. The school promotes the importance of looking after your physical and emotional health amongst all students. There is a varied choice of sports to choose from and the areas of Music and Performing Arts are also very popular here. Music is my favourite subject as I have been singing and playing music since I was a child. I am a member of our school choir and Trad band, which performs regularly throughout the year.



Ardscoil Phádraig is also really committed to promoting the Irish language. Last year, I was lucky enough to be one of just thirty students in Ireland to be awarded an Island Scholarship which allowed me to spend Transition Year as a student of Coláiste Naomh Éinne on Inis Mór. I had a truly amazing experience there, I made friends for life and I have Ardscoil Phádraig to thank for that golden opportunity. I have returned to complete my Leaving Certificate here in Ardscoil Phádraig and I am privileged to be in a school with inspirational teachers and a lovely atmosphere where all students are pushed to reach their potential in all areas of school life.

## Erin-Louise Flynn – 2nd Year

Hi, my name is Erin-Louise Flynn and I am a Second Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. When I started in First Year I was determined to join as many clubs and sports teams as I could so I could make new friends and learn new skills. One of the activities which I really enjoyed was being a member of the Pupil Voice committee. Our Pupil Voice committee ensures that students views and opinions are always considered when planning events and developments in the school. I loved being on Pupil Voice as I got the opportunity to represent my year group and I could share everyone's great ideas with the rest of the committee.

Last year, I also had the opportunity to take part in the Longford Junior Enterprise Programme where we were delighted to be awarded the runner-up prize for our 'Plushie Cushies' business idea. I also represented our school in the Regional Finals of the Credit Union Schools Quiz last year.

There are so many opportunities to join a range of activities in Ardscoil Phádraig and I definitely recommend that First Year students join as many clubs as you can as it is so much fun to meet new people, represent your year and enter competitions – and maybe even win an award or two!



## Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice is an initiative that has become an integral part of our school community over the last few years and one which promotes student input in the ongoing development of various aspects of school life. As a student council, two representatives from each year group are elected to the committee each year.

What we do?

- **Help improve school experience**
- **Communicate with your year group**
- **Discussion meetings**
- **Coordinate Awareness Campaigns**
- **Key role in school events**
- **Primary School Liaison**
- **Develop your communication & leadership skills**



## Gaisce

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 is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people aged 15-25 to dream big and realise their potential. Our Transition Year group are looking forward to working towards their Gaisce Award throughout the coming year.

## 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 and Travel. We are currently working towards achieving our Biodiversity flag in 2021. Now more than ever, it is vital for every student to be aware of their role as a global citizen and to encourage sustainability within both our school and local community.



# Primary School Representatives



**St.Patrick's National School, Killeen**  
Rian Browne



**Mullahoran Central National School**  
Emily O'Reilly



**St.Colmcille's NS, Aughnacliffe**  
Hannah Gunshinan



**St.Patrick's NS, Bruskey**  
Jack Sheridan



**St. Columba's NS, Mullinalaghta**  
Ciara Walker



**St.Guasacht's NS, Bunlahy**  
Heather Flynn



**Ballynarry National School**  
Aoife McSherry



**Sacred Heart Primary School, Granard**  
Daniela Bauere



**Scoil Samhthann, Ballinalee**  
Chloe Spollen



**Scoil Bhríde, Glen**  
Haidee Temple



**St.Teresa's NS, Killoe**  
Maeve Harkin



**St.Bernard's NS, Abbeylara**  
Ciara Kelly



**St.Mel's NS, Ardagh**  
Ryan Spollen



**St.Mary's NS, Edgeworthstown**  
Colin Murphy



**St.John's NS, Edgeworthstown**  
Sarah Ronan



**St. Fintan's NS, Lismacaffrey**  
Jack Fagan



**St.Thomas NS, Rathowen**  
Sean Murray



**Rathowen National School**  
Rebecca Reilly



**Scoil Bhríde, Kilonna**  
Ryan Farrell





## Music & Performing Arts Department

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

At Ardscoil Phádraig, you can join a variety of clubs such as: School Choir, Irish Traditional Band & Ukulele Ensemble.

In Transition Year, students explore the world of Performing Arts, while engaging in music, drama, and dance and coordinating and starring in the annual school show.



### Maria Ledwith – Transition Year

Hi, my name is Maria Ledwith and I am a Transition Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. In my four years here in Ardscoil Phádraig I have had so many amazing opportunities – I have represented my year group on the Gaelbhratach and Pupil Voice committees and I have also played football and basketball throughout my time in the school. I have a huge love for music and drama and becoming a member of our school Trad band and panto cast has given me an opportunity to develop these interests further. I played the role of Dorothy in the 'Wizard of Oz' and Billy in this year's production of 'Beauty and the Beast' and I really feel that becoming a member of the school Panto cast is a fantastic way of helping students to gain great confidence. Ardscoil Phádraig has a very warm, friendly atmosphere and the teachers are very supportive and push you to do your best always. Academically the teachers strive for excellence and if you work hard enough you will achieve what you deserve.



## Past Pupil Lochlainn Massey



I remember back in September 2012 as I began my first day in Ardscoil Phádraig, I was a shy boy and I found the thought of moving from the environment of primary school to that of secondary school quite daunting. I will always remember how pleasant the staff and other students were and how they immediately put us all at ease on our first day. Right from the start the school prepared us well for exams and never hesitated to give us extra help to ensure we reached our full potential, including teachers volunteering to stay back after school to prepare us for exams or providing study skills workshops to assist us with techniques for effective study. However, the staff at Ardscoil Phádraig have also helped us in ways which go beyond exams, often discreetly providing additional support to students to assist them with any issues they may have been experiencing.

From an early age, I always had a love of planes and I excelled in Engineering during my time in the school. I decided to pursue a career in aircraft maintenance and after spending my 5th Year work experience with Dublin Aerospace, I was sure that this career was the right one for me. What I really loved is that when I told my teachers about what I wanted to do not one of them questioned my decision, they just helped me in any way they could. I could have chosen to become an astronaut and they would have gotten me a direct line to NASA! After completing my Leaving Certificate exams, I received CAO offers for two degree courses in the aircraft maintenance industry. In the meantime, I had also been attending interviews for aircraft maintenance apprenticeships with companies like Aer Lingus and Ryanair. Just as I was preparing to begin my degree course in the University of Limerick, I was offered a very prestigious apprenticeship opportunity with Ryanair. I have spent the last three years working in Stansted, Dublin and Shannon as well as attending DIT at various intervals, alternating between theory and working on live aircrafts. I will be continuing to work with Ryanair throughout the coming year and am due to graduate as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer in September 2021. My time as a student in Ardscoil Phádraig has helped me to get exactly what I wanted out of life and I can safely say that I have developed and grown as a person as a result of attending the school. I love every day of my job and I look forward to seeing where the future takes me.

## Metalwork and Engineering

Ardscoil Phádraig is one of only a small number of schools in the local area which offers Engineering as a subject option to Leaving Certificate Higher Level. Metalwork and Engineering offer students the opportunity to learn how to read and follow a technical drawing, how to shape cut and join a wide variety of materials, to use different tools and machines correctly and safely, how to write basic programmes to move mechanisms, along with developing knowledge of materials and process. Students will also have the opportunity to design and manufacture a wide range of projects, from key tags, to bouncing jitterbugs to models of racing cars or tractors and many others in between. With an ever increasing array of employment opportunities in the Engineering sector, our excellent facilities in Ardscoil Phádraig allow students to develop the skills required to progress further in this area and to excel in the many career fields linked to engineering.



## Active Schools Flag

Ardscoil Phádraig was the first secondary school in County Longford to be awarded an Active Schools Flag based on the provision of sport and physical activity in the school. We are currently in the process of applying for our second Active School Flag. We aim to promote an involvement in sport and physical activity through extra-curricular activities, a broad and balanced PE programme, JCPE short course, Active School Week, lunchtime leagues and a range of other activities. Our Active Schools Committee is comprised of both students and staff who work together in the promotion of physical activity throughout our school community.



## Sport

Sport is an integral part of student life in Ardscoil Phádraig with students currently partaking in GAA, soccer, basketball, athletics and pitch and putt as part of our extensive extra-curricular sports programme. Students have enjoyed a range of successes in both individual and team events at provincial and national level in recent years. Our GAA, soccer and basketball teams have consistently competed in regional finals over the last number of years while we have enjoyed national success in Athletics, Futsal and Pitch and Putt. We encourage all students to become involved in the many sporting activities which take place in the school and we look forward to building on our recent success over the coming months and years.

## National Success for Funmi Talabi!

Funmi Talabi has enjoyed huge success on the track in recent years and has remained undefeated at both Connacht and National level in Schools Athletics over the last two years. Funmi's unbelievable list of accolades includes Connacht Indoor Sprint Championship records at U13, U14 and U15 level as well as a clean sweep of Connacht and National 100m sprint titles in the 2019 Schools Athletics season, recording a personal best of 12.35seconds in last years All-Ireland Schools Track and Field Championships.

## Physical Education

Physical Education at 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 which is now assessed and certified. 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. The Senior Cycle PE programme aims to further develop students' confidence, competence and creativity in a range of physical activities and promotes the participation in physical activity both inside and beyond the school environment.

### Dara Hartin – 5th Year



Hi, my name is Dara Hartin and I am a 5th Year student in Ardscoil Phádraig. I am currently studying English, Irish, Maths, Construction Studies, Engineering, Geography, French and LCVP and am so far enjoying the varied subject options at Senior Cycle. The teachers here are brilliant and are always at hand to help us in any way they can, which I know will really help us all as we prepare for Leaving Certificate exams. I have always loved GAA and I have been playing with school teams since I started here as a First Year. What I also love about sport in the school is that we are encouraged to try out new sports which we may not have been involved in before. Ardscoil Phádraig has introduced me to Athletics and I have been competing in the 100m sprint and relay events in regional competitions for the last three years. I have also been a member of the soccer and basketball teams each year.

My younger brother Enda also represents the school in GAA and basketball. Ardscoil Phádraig is a great school and we are both very happy here. We have made great friends in the school, found it very easy to settle in when we first came here and have always felt supported by our teachers, who push us to work hard in everything we do.

## What our Students Say...

### Nadine Smith – 3rd Year



When I first came to Ardscoil Phádraig, I found that there was a very welcoming atmosphere in the school, I could see students were happy here walking around smiling and laughing with their friends. This is when I knew it was the right school for me. Coming from a big primary school with over 400 students I was used to only really knowing the people in my own class but here in Ardscoil Phádraig I have made loads of friends from different year groups throughout the school.

Sport plays a big role in the life of our school. I love staying fit and doing as many sports as I can. I was a member of the school football and basketball teams which reached Midlands finals last year and outside of school I am captain of the Longford Ladies U14 Football team.

The teachers here in Ardscoil Phádraig really want the best for us academically. They assist and encourage us to become the best we can be. I am proud to say I go to Ardscoil Phádraig and hopefully you will be too.



## Past Pupil *Tommie Cunningham*

Hi, my name is Tommie Cunningham and I have just finished my Leaving Certificate in Ardscoil Phádraig. Throughout my last five years in the school, I have been given incredible support from all of the staff in all that I have done. They have played a huge role in ensuring that I have finished my time in the school equipped with all the skills which I will need to succeed in my future endeavours. The atmosphere in this school is unlike any other and it allows teachers and students to interact and learn with ease, this is evident from the bonds which are formed and the daily conversations heard within the walls of each classroom. Thanks to the encouragement and guidance I received in Ardscoil Phádraig, I am delighted to have secured my first choice CAO preference and I have recently commenced a Bachelor of Technology (Education) in Materials and Architectural Technology in the University of Limerick. My interest in this area blossomed from my love of DCG and Art throughout Leaving Certificate which allowed me to further develop my interest in creative design. I also intend to continue to explore my interest in Music and will continue to use all that I have learned from my many school experiences in the area of performing arts. Ardscoil Phádraig has created a foundation for me to move forward with confidence and I will continue to represent the school with pride in all that I do in the future.



## Graphics / Design and Communication Graphics

Graphics is recognised as the underpinning language of the technology disciplines and is 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. Students 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. Students will continually review and reflect on their working drawings developing strategies for improvement as they progress through both Junior Cycle Graphics and Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Graphics.



## ESB Networks Partnership

For the past number of years, Ardscoil Phádraig has benefited immensely from a partnership with ESB Networks Longford. Through the Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) initiative employees from ESB Networks have provided our Senior Cycle students with invaluable skills through C.V preparation workshops, mock interviews, and work experience opportunities. Students have also had the opportunity to visit various sites where ESB networks were working to give them an insight into the work of an electrical technician. This year for the very first time ESB is partnering up with our 2nd Year students. We are excited to see how this partnership continues to develop and grow over the coming year.



## LCVP

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is also offered in the school. Leaving Certificate students taking a certain combination of subjects qualify for LCVP. The programme gives 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.





Junk Couture

## Shane Gettings Represents Ireland at the 2020 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge



As part of our Transition Year Enterprise module, Shane Gettings' business 'Gettin Eggs' was selected to represent Ardscoil Phádraig in the Regional Final of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) competition. Shane's success story began from there. He was successful in the Regional Final and made it through the semi-final stages to reach the NFTE National Final. Judges from all over Ireland were so impressed by Shane's entrepreneurial skills and his enthusiasm that Shane was selected from over 4,000 young people as Ireland's first ever representative at the 2020 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in New York. This event took place virtually over a three-day period at the end of October and saw Shane represent his school, local community and Ireland with distinction throughout. Shane received professional coaching and advice in preparation for his presentation on the international stage and this whole experience will no doubt be of immense benefit to him in all of his future entrepreneurial endeavours.

### 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 and business will always be useful for everyone in managing their personal budgets etc. At Junior Cycle, students will focus on the areas of personal finance, enterprise and our economy. They will develop their understanding of being a consumer, banking, household budgeting and the world of business. Business at Senior Cycle will focus to a greater extent on business structures, legislation and management. Transition Year students also study an enterprise module.

Business students have received training from the local bank on running a successful school bank. First Years continue to be very entrepreneurial and have reached the National Finals of the Student Enterprise Programme. One of our students has also represented Ireland at the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship Ireland (NFTE) 2020 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.

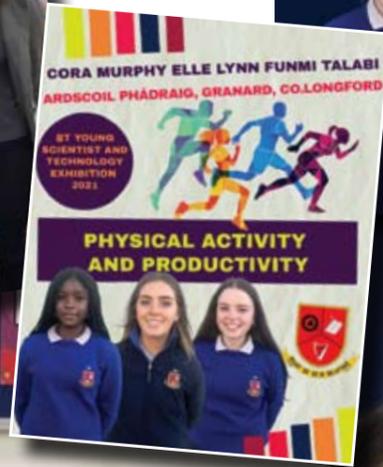


Art



# BT Young Scientist and SciFest

Ardscoil 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 two groups of students qualifying for the National Final of this years BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Both groups will represent Ardscoil Phádraig in the Social and Behavioural Sciences category with Aoife Reilly and Katelyn Farrell investigating 'The Effect of Technology on Social Interactions' and Cora Murphy, Elle Lynn and Funmi Talabi examining the links between 'Physical Activity and Productivity'.



# Past Pupil *Aideen Kiernan*



My name is Aideen Kiernan and I graduated from Ardscoil Phádraig in 2018. Throughout my five years in Ardscoil Phádraig I was given the opportunity to grow on a personal level and to apply myself to develop academically, especially throughout Senior Cycle. I received fantastic encouragement and support from school staff who frequently provided extra classes to students in the build up to exams. After exploring all my options, I decided to progress onto Third Level education and I am currently studying Agricultural Science in University College Dublin. Last year, I choose to specialise in Food, Agriculture and Business Management. So far, I am really enjoying all of my course modules as they are both varied and challenging. This course is so diverse and as a result there are multiple career opportunities available to me. The areas that I could progress to work in after I graduate are Food Processing, Distribution and Marketing, Financial Services, Consultancy Services, Agri-food Media, Farm Management and education. I am really grateful to everyone in Ardscoil Phádraig for the brilliant foundations it has given me which have allowed me to progress to UCD and to pursue a career in an area I am really passionate about.

# Science

Ardscoil Phádraig boasts 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 the new Junior Cycle Science course which comprises of a mixture of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

The school has recently erected a Polytunnel which will become the cornerstone of the new Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science course which is being offered to students. The introduction of Leaving Certificate Chemistry to the Senior Cycle programme is a natural progression from Junior Cycle Science. Biology remains a popular subject in Leaving Certificate. 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.



## Past Pupils *Aine and Niamh Reilly*

We have never felt more comfortable and at home than we have throughout the last six years in Ardscoil Phádraig. The relationship between students and teachers is one you will find nowhere else and we have created memories over the last few years which we will treasure forever. Teachers in Ardscoil Phádraig are willing to help students in every possible way and thanks to their support and encouragement we have both succeeded in securing places on our dream Third Level courses. Thanks to Ardscoil Phádraig, we have just started our university journeys in General Nursing in UCD (Áine) and a degree in Nua-Ghaeilge and Geography in NUI Galway (Niamh). Throughout our time in the school we were guided and encouraged to consistently work to the best of our ability and we now realise that this support had a huge impact on our final results. Ardscoil Phádraig has also given us many opportunities outside of the classroom. We have played football at all levels, been members of the Pupil Voice and Gaelbhreach committees, received Gaeltacht scholarships and had many amazing experiences throughout Transition Year. Another highlight of our time in Ardscoil Phádraig was our school tour to Barcelona – five days we will never forget! As well as ensuring that we can both now pursue the careers we have dreamed of, our time in Ardscoil Phádraig has helped us to grow in confidence and ensure that we are ready to embrace university life. We are so grateful to everyone in Ardscoil Phádraig for making our secondary school experience so memorable.



## Geography

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 the most popular subject choice at Leaving Certificate level in Ardscoil Phádraig. Geography students in our school are encouraged to be active and inquisitive in their learning, with Geographical Investigations and fieldtrips 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 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.



## History

History in Ardscoil Phádraig focuses on the development of key historical skills such as source analysis, project work and analytical skills. Students who choose to do Transition Year also engage in a broad and developed history course. Some of the topics covered in Transition Year include; Local History, Genealogy, Civil Rights, the Irish Diaspora and the influence of history on Popular Culture.

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 where local historians have spoken to them. We also visit the local Motte regularly. Yearly trips to Cavan County Museum allows students an opportunity to walk trenches and study World War I memorabilia, so that they can gain an understanding of the topic in an 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.



## Wood Technology & Construction Studies

Junior Cycle Wood Technology is an activity based subject which offers students an opportunity to gain an understanding of different materials and processes and their applications in society. Through the challenges posed by the design-based philosophy of the subject, students will develop the relevant knowledge, skills and values to bring ideas from conception to reality in a way that will allow them to be expressive, creative and innovative. This programme provides a foundation for further study in Senior Cycle Construction Studies. A good understanding of these subject areas will contribute to the overall personal development of the student as well as aiding their preparation for further education and for various aspects of adult and working life.



**Design / Creativity**

**Coordination**

**Manufacture**

**Problem Solving**

**Visualisation**

**Critical Thinking**



## Past Pupil *Stephen Walsh*

My name is Stephen Walsh and I am a past pupil of Ardscoil Phádraig, completing my Leaving Certificate there in 2019. I really enjoyed my time in the school as it is such a tight-knit community where teachers and students work really well together to ensure that every student reaches their maximum potential. I loved the practical subjects and received awards for my Leaving Certificate Construction Studies and Agricultural Science projects.



After completing my Leaving Certificate, I progressed to study an honours degree in Manufacturing Engineering in GMIT which I am really enjoying. The course has allowed me to continue to develop the many skills which I learned in school even further. I am so glad that I chose to attend Ardscoil Phádraig as I thoroughly enjoyed my six years in the school and have made life-long friends there.

# Discovery Building

Ardsoil 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. Our state of the art facility is equipped with a sensory room, sensory garden, communal area and kitchen/lunch area. 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.



# 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 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 Ardsoil Phádraig.



## French

French is the world language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. Learning French opens up a whole new world of culture and civilization.

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 partial scholarships to attend French language colleges during the summer months while Katelyn Farrell also enjoyed a French exchange last year, spending six weeks living with a French family in Brittany, attending school and becoming immersed in French language and culture.



## 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 it's 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 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.



## 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. 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 penpal 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. We celebrate World Book Day each year with both staff and students dressing as their favourite literary character. 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.



## Home Economics

Home Economics at Junior Cycle focuses on the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for living as individuals and as members of a family. Students will engage in cookery, textiles and theory classes through the three year cycle. As part of textiles, students will complete a number of different textile projects including rug making and upcycling clothing. There are several cross curricular links in Home Economics in particular with Science and Business. In Ardscoil Phádraig, we encourage students to be creative by celebrating their various skills through competitions including entering baking competitions run by outside agencies such as Foróige and the Association of Home Economics Teachers and in-school competitions including our annual St. Patrick's Day baking competition. Leaving Certificate Home Economics endeavours to build on the knowledge learned during Junior Cycle Home Economics. Topics students study throughout the two year programme include nutrition, diet & health, resource management & consumer studies, social studies & home design & management.





# 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.

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.



## Lorraine Moore – Transition Year

I have always loved Art and selected it as one of my subject options for Junior Cycle when I first started in Ardscoil Phádraig. I particularly enjoyed creating 3D Models using clay and drawing portraits. When I was in First Year, I had the opportunity to take part in Junk Kouture, using twine, straws and other recycled materials to create our dress. We called our creation 'Lady in Blue' and the idea to base our design on a blue theme came from the Autism Awareness campaign which takes place in our school each year. We reached the Regional Finals of Junk Kouture and it was one of the most memorable experiences I have had in school so far. I am currently in Transition Year which I am really enjoying. As part of our Art module we are now in the process of creating this year's Junk Kouture entry as well as creating a new mural in one of the many outdoor student spaces in our school and I am looking forward to completing these projects during the coming months.





## Home School Community Liaison Coordinator



Ms. Carmel Shaughnessy  
HSCL

Our HSCL Coordinator is Ms. Carmel Shaughnessy. Carmel is the link between the school, the home and the community. She looks for ways to support parents and help them to remain involved in their child's school life. Carmel is also here to help in the transition from Primary to Secondary School and to explain or answer the questions that parents don't always feel they can ask. She is on hand to give parents advice where possible and to listen to parents when school related problems arise. Carmel is also a part of the Pastoral Care Team in the school, whose role is to support and promote the welfare and wellbeing of all students in the school.

In addition, HSCL organises classes for parents and encourages them to attend. Courses include Maths Classes for Parents and Christmas Flower Arranging. Such classes not only help parents develop new skills, but also recognise the importance of parents having time to themselves. It also gives them the opportunity to share in the life and work of the school alongside their children. Carmel believes that parents play a vital role in the on-going education of their children and she helps parents to develop their potential in this area. The scheme is not confined to within the school walls, the scheme coordinator makes as many home visits as possible throughout the year. In addition, the scheme builds bridges between the school and the many groups, organisations and agencies within the wider community. Such links include our Local Family Resource Centre, Local Adult Literacy Centre and many others.

Carmel can be contacted directly on 086 7953816.

## Community Engagement

Active engagement in initiatives in our local community is an integral part of life in Ardscoil Phádraig. Students are encouraged to become involved in and support various groups in their efforts to enhance the local area and raise funds for a variety of charitable organisations. Each year students and staff take part in our annual **Longford Parkrun event**, organise a **Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**, give of their time to create Christmas food hampers which are donated to our local **St Vincent de Paul** and actively assist our local **Tidy Towns** committee in their efforts to maintain our local environment. Students also organise a number of fundraising initiatives each year in support of charities such as the **Irish Cancer Society, Temple Street Children's Hospital, Pieta House and World Autism Awareness Day**. The promotion of community engagement in our school allows our students to enhance their awareness of various aspects of the society in which we live, allowing them to become active citizens in their local areas, both during their time in Ardscoil Phádraig and in their future lives.

