



BACK TO SCHOOL

Coláiste Loreáin

September 2026

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Principal's Address

Welcome back to a new school year!

Every new school year brings with it the promise of exciting experiences, new opportunities and, perhaps, a few unexpected challenges along the way. As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, there is a real sense of hope and anticipation for what lies ahead. We look forward to supporting our students, sharing in their experiences and celebrating their achievements throughout the months ahead. Since the end of May, when we celebrated our TY and 6th Year Graduations, our 6th Year students have completed their State Examinations. We are incredibly proud to report that our Leaving Certificate students once again achieved superb results. They have now begun the next chapter of their lives, with some travelling, taking up apprenticeships, entering the world of work, or progressing to further and third-level education. We wish each and every one of them every success and happiness as they embark on these exciting new paths.

Our new 1st Year students have made a very positive start to life in our school and appear to have settled in extremely well. We are delighted to see them becoming familiar with their new surroundings, meeting new friends and embracing the opportunities that secondary school brings.

Our Transition Year students are also beginning a new programme and adventure, with a year ahead filled with opportunities to learn, explore, develop new skills and discover more about themselves and the world around them.

We look forward to a successful and rewarding year for all of our students and to working in partnership with our parents/guardians and wider school community throughout 2026–2027.



Click on the icon to follow us on
Instagram for weekly/daily updates



First years had a chance to mingle and get to know each other when they played bingo last week. This was one of our initiatives, organised by Ms. Spruhan, to make our newest members of the school community feel included and to encourage positive relationships between each other. It was lovely to hear all the positive feedback about the fun they had.



Click here or scan the
QR code to access our
website

A copy of the school's **Admissions Policy** and the **Application Form for Admission** for the 2027 – 2028 School Year is available as follows:

To download at www.colaistelorcairn.com

On request: By emailing info@colaistelorcairn.com or writing to Colaiste Lorcain, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.

Admissions to the 2027 – 2028 School Year

Application and Decision Dates for Admission to 2027 – 2028

The following are the dates applicable for admission to First Year

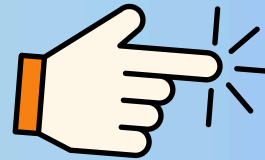
The school will commence accepting applications for admission on	1 st October 2026
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on	22 nd October 2026
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is	9 th November 2026
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	8 th December 2026

Note: the school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's admission policy.

As a school community, we are hoping to place an even greater focus on sustainable living this year, moving from awareness to meaningful action and doing what we can to care for, and protect, our planet. Our work will align with the Government's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to 2030 Strategy, with student voice playing an active role in shaping our initiatives. If any parents would like to be involved in this initiative please contact the school.



Click on, or scan, the QR code to take a virtual tour of our school



**SAVE
—THE—
DATE**

Coláiste Lorcáin Open Night



Our New 1st Years

**Wednesday, September 30th
5pm – 7pm**

Our Mission Statement:

"Coláiste Lorcáin is committed to building on its own proud tradition of encouraging each individual to achieve their potential. As a school community of teachers, students and parents, we strive for excellence in everything we do."

We look forward to welcoming you!

SPORT IN OUR SCHOOL



Huge congratulations to two of our 5th year students, Grace Byrne and Lily Anne Keatley, who were part of the Kildare u16 County team, who won the All Ireland A championship this year!!

Well done girls!!



Huge congrats to Cian Keogh in 6th year who played county minor GAA this season with the Lilywhites and Leinster Rugby with the U18. Well done Cian, huge achievements.



Girls GAA is up and running...

 Every Monday  4:00–5:00pm  School Grounds
A great opportunity to get to know other students from different year groups, develop GAA skills, be part of a team sport and have fun!

It was a busy day of basketball last week for Coláiste Lorcáin, with both our teams putting in strong efforts on the court.

Our Junior team battled hard against St Conleths in a competitive game. Despite the result not going our way, the players showed great teamwork, determination and commitment throughout, competing right until the final whistle.

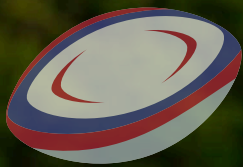
Our Senior team also faced a tough challenge and came away with a defeat. There were plenty of positives to take from the performance, with the players showing good effort and resilience throughout the game.

A big well done to both teams for representing the school and giving their all. 🙌🏀

The focus now turns to our upcoming games.

Best of luck to both teams for the season ahead! 🍀🏀

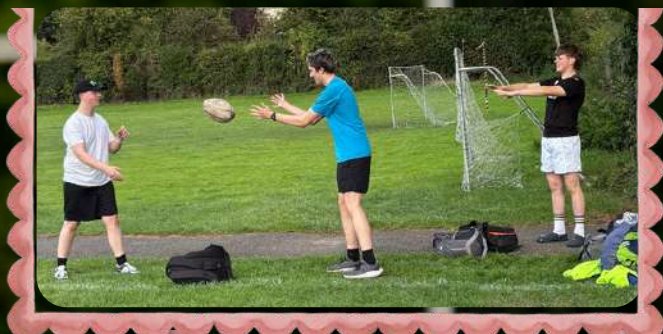




Rugby training is up and running for 1st–6th Year students — boys and girls.

 **July 17** Every Thursday  4:00–5:00pm 
School Grounds

A great opportunity to get active, develop rugby skills, build confidence and enjoy playing as part of a team. New players are always welcome — come along and give it a go!



Upcoming Events from the School Calendar

Monday Sept. 28th - No school

Wednesday Sept. 30th - Open Evening for Prospective 1st Years

Monday Oct. 19th - Friday Oct. 23rd - 3rd and 6th Year Assessments

Friday Oct. 23rd - Clans Day - Celebrating inclusion, variability, diversity

Monday Oct. 26th - Friday Oct. 30th - Mid Term Break

Monday Nov. 9th - 6th Year Information evening re Leaving Cert. 2027 and (career) Guidance Presentation 19:00 - 20:30

Tuesday Nov. 10th - 6th Year PTM 16:15 - 18:45

Monday Nov. 16th - Thursday Nov. 19th - Winter Assessments 1st and 5th Years

Wednesday Nov. 25th - 3rd Year PTM 16:15 - 18:45

Thursday Nov. 26th - School Closed - Staff Oide Training Day

Monday Nov. 30th - No School

Thursday Dec. 10th - 1st Year PTM 16:15 - 18:45

Tuesday Dec. 22nd - Christmas Holidays



Policies being Reviewed this Academic Year

The following policies will be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management before the end of this calendar year. Students, parents, staff and the Board will all have an opportunity to contribute to these policies.

1. Whole School Guidance Policy
2. Pastoral Care Policy
3. Mobile Phones (Device) Policy





These current 2nd year students had their excellent attendance for the last academic year recognised this week. Well done to you all on this great achievement.



Soccer News

Eight of our students will be heading off with Castle Villa Soccer Cub to take part in the U16 Barcelona Cup 2026 from October 15th - 19th. They are one of only three Irish teams who will be taking part. Among their opponents will be other teams from Ireland, Spain and Sweden.

The girls taking part in this event are:

Grace Murphy
Katie Mooney
Amelia Murphy Cosgrave
Sofia Frusci
Sarah Logan
Grainne Horan
Lauren O' Sullivan
Kyia Bird



Our new Bí Cinéalta/Wellbeing Room is a quiet room open every day from 1.20 pm to 1.50 pm in Room 15. This is a calm and quiet space where students can sit, relax, and take a break from the busy school day.

Please note:

No eating or drinking is permitted in the room. As the name suggests, it is a quiet room, so there should be no talking.

Benefits of the Quiet Room

- Provides a peaceful environment away from the noise and bustle of school.
- Helps students relax and recharge during lunchtime.
- Offers a space to reduce stress and anxiety.
- Supports concentration and mindfulness.
- Gives students time for quiet reflection, reading, or simply enjoying some calm.
- Creates a welcoming space for anyone who prefers a quieter environment during break times.

We encourage students who would benefit from a calm and relaxing space to make use of the Quiet Room. Everyone is welcome, provided the room is quiet and a respectful atmosphere is maintained. 😊

Thanks to Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Kenny for all their work with this initiative and to the students who helped with the artwork and decor.



Transition Year

Transition Year – A Year In, Not A Year Out!

Our Transition Year students now understand the importance of not seeing TY as a year “out” before their programme choice for senior cycle but as a year ‘in’ – into an important part of the Senior Cycle journey, providing them with time and space to develop the knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that will support them throughout the remainder of Senior Cycle and beyond. The new TY Programme Statement places the development of the Senior Cycle Key Competencies at its heart – thinking and solving problems, being creative, communicating, working with others, participating in society, cultivating wellbeing and managing learning and self.

Through project work, collaborative learning, work/community experiences, reflection and a broad range of opportunities, students will develop these transferable skills for a rapidly changing world – becoming more adaptable, independent, resilient and confident in responding to uncertainty and new challenges. The TY experience also provides an important foundation for the changing Senior Cycle, where students will increasingly demonstrate their learning and competencies through a broader range of projects, assessment and learning experiences.

Our TY programme focuses on preparing our young people not simply for examinations ahead, but also for the world beyond school.

Clans' Day

Our first whole school ‘Clans’ Day’ will take place on Friday October 23rd. This will be led by our student leaders in Transition Year. There will be multiple events for students to participate in with 4 teams of mixed year groups battling it out. This will give the students opportunities to build relationships between the different year groups across the school and enjoy a day of fun, sport, music, togetherness and wellbeing. The teams will be:

Green Grizzlies

Yellow Yaks

Red Rhinos

Blue Bulldogs



Scan the QR code or click on the document to know more about the new TY Programme Statement



Higher Options and World Skills Day



Our TYs had a great day out at the ploughing championships - from meeting furry friends to putting their faces on potatoes, buying cow girl hats and meeting furry friends! A great day was had by all and relationships built for the action packed year that lies ahead. The previous week our TYs developed their surfing skills and worked on a STEM project through the lens of an engineer!



Winning Tower



Leadership

Appreciation Strategy Humility
Commitment Responsibility Listening
Integrity Honest Communication
Values Purpose Determination
Passion Principles



Kemi Simpson
(Head Girl)



Tara Keatley
(Deputy Head Girl)



Darragh Lazenby
(Head Boy)



Ryan Farrelly
(Deputy Head Boy)



Roxanne Robinson
(Student Voice Chair)



Katie Tease
(Student Council Chair)



Kayleigh Griffin
(Student Council Chair)

The influence of our Student Voice team will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our new first-year students! (Student Voice Chair Ben Murphy Kirwan not pictured)

Student Leaders

After a careful selection process, we are excited to announce the following leadership roles in 6th year. Huge congrats to these student leaders who displayed excellent communication skills and leadership qualities during the interview process. Well done and we wish them all a successful year ahead.

Head Boy: Darragh Lazenby

Deputy Head Boy: Ryan Farrelly

Head Girl: Kemi Simpson

Deputy Head Girl: Tara Keatley

Chairpersons of Student Council: Katie Tease and Kayleigh Griffin

Chairpersons of Student Voice: Roxanne Robinson and Ben Murphy Kirwan



Student Voice in Coláiste Lorcáin

Pictured are some of our Student Voice Leaders and Mentors. Each week, our 6th years will meet with their assigned group of 1st years and check in with them with regards to school, study and their wellbeing. Our sixth-year leaders are eager to take on mentoring roles, and we wish them the best of luck as they embark on this journey. The influence of our Student Voice team will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our new first-year students! Ms. Sinnott Doyle is overseeing this exciting new initiative.



6th Years enjoyed their day at the Higher Options and World Skills Event in the RDS. Lots of information on future pathways and career opportunities was explored.

Inclusion in Coláiste Lorcáin

Coláiste Lorcáin is a very inclusive school. We have welcomed, and continue to welcome, students from across the world into our school community. We offer the Level 2 Learning Programme, Leaving Cert Applied Programme, 3 x ASD classes and the traditional Leaving Cert. Established, so we cater for all learners. Our pedagogies and teaching methodologies also align to diverse ways of learning so all students can reach their full potential. We celebrate variability and diversity and the different cultures in our school community on a daily basis. We currently have students from 26 different countries attending our school.



Preparing Your Child for School – Working Together for a Positive Year

We want every student to have the best possible experience at school, and we know that strong partnerships between home and school is an important part of this. There are a few simple things that parents and guardians can do to help their child develop good routines, arrive ready to learn and make the most of school each day.

A Quick Checklist for Parents and Guardians

Full school uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct full school uniform each day. On all days, other than their designated PE day, students must wear the school-crested jumper, white shirt and grey trousers/skirt. T-shirts in place of the white shirt and leggings are not permitted. Students are expected to follow the school's uniform rules and sanctions will apply where these are not followed.

We understand that some students may have genuine difficulties with particular fabrics or materials. If your child experiences discomfort with a specific item, please contact the school and let us know which material is causing the difficulty. We can work with our uniform supplier to source a suitable alternative where possible. The expectation, however, is that all students wear the correct school uniform.

Good habits around punctuality

Please support your child in developing the habit of being on time for school each day. Arriving punctually helps students to start the day calmly, positively and ready to learn, while also showing respect for the learning of others.

Keep your contact details up to date

If your phone number, email address or other contact details have changed, please let the school office know as soon as possible. It is important that we can contact parents/guardians promptly in the event of an emergency or when communication about your child is required.

Use Way2Pay

Please ensure that you are set up on Way2Pay, which allows parents/guardians to make payments for school trips, voluntary contributions and other school-related activities easily and securely.

Travel safely to and from school

For the safety of everyone in our school community, *e-scooters are not permitted on the school grounds*. We also ask parents/guardians not to drive into the school grounds at the beginning or end of the school day. Keeping vehicles outside the school grounds helps us to reduce congestion and, most importantly, ensures the safety of students, families and staff.

Thank you for your support. These may seem like small things, but together they help create the routines, expectations and positive environment that allow our students to learn, grow and enjoy their time at school. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year

Important Dates for Students



2nd Year CBA Calendar 2026–2027

Subject	Date Range
English CBA 1	Monday, September 28, 2026 to Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Science CBA 1	Monday, November 9, 2026 to Friday, December 4, 2026
Business CBA 1	Monday, November 9, 2026 to Friday, December 4, 2026
Maths CBA 1	Monday, January 11, 2027 to Friday, January 29, 2027
History CBA 1	Monday, January 11, 2027 to Friday, January 29, 2027
Religion CBA 1	Monday, February 22, 2027 to Friday, March 12, 2027
Applied Technology CBA 1	Monday, February 22, 2027 to Friday, March 12, 2027
Geography CBA 1	Monday, February 22, 2027 to Friday, March 12, 2027
Modern Foreign Languages CBA 1	Monday, February 22, 2027 to Friday, March 12, 2027
Irish CBA 1	Monday, March 1, 2027 to Friday, March 19, 2027
Graphics CBA 1	Monday, March 1, 2027 to Friday, March 19, 2027
Wood Technology CBA 1	Monday, March 1, 2027 to Friday, March 19, 2027
Music CBA 1	Monday, March 1, 2027 to Friday, March 19, 2027
Visual Art CBA 1	Monday, April 12, 2027 to Friday, April 30, 2027
Home Economics CBA 1	Monday, April 12, 2027 to Friday, April 30, 2027

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”



3rd Year CBA Calendar 2026–2027

Subject	Start Date	End Date
Applied Technology CBA 2	Monday, September 7, 2026	Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Wood Technology CBA 2	Monday, September 7, 2026	Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Graphics CBA 2	Monday, September 7, 2026	Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Gaeilge CBA 2 – Communicative Task	Monday, November 9, 2026	Friday, November 27, 2026
Visual Art CBA 2	—	Friday, November 27, 2026
Home Economics CBA 2	—	Friday, March 12, 2027
Music CBA 2	—	Friday, March 12, 2027

“Believe you can, and you’re halfway there.”



3rd Year October Examinations

October 2026

Date	Time	Subject
Monday 13 October	9.45 – 10.25	Maths
Monday 13 October	10.25 – 11.05	Business / Music
Monday 13 October	11.20 – 12.00	French / Geography / Wood
Monday 13 October	12.40 – 1.20	Science
Tuesday 14 October	9.05 – 9.45	Irish
Tuesday 14 October	9.45 – 10.25	Graphics / Home Economics
Tuesday 14 October	11.20 – 12.00	Art / Home Economics / Wood
Wednesday 15 October	9.45 – 10.25	English
Wednesday 15 October	10.25 – 11.05	History



6th Year October Examinations

October 2026

Date	Time	Subject
Friday 16 October	9.05 – 11.05	Art / Geography / Home Economics / Music
Friday 16 October	11.20 – 13.20	Biology / Engineering / French / German
Monday 19 October	9.05 – 11.05	Agricultural Science / Chemistry / History
Monday 19 October	13.55 – 15.55	Maths
Tuesday 20 October	9.05 – 11.05	Irish
Tuesday 20 October	11.20 – 13.20	English
Tuesday 20 October	13.55 – 15.55	Biology / Business / Construction Studies



For parents/guardians of students who may be over the age of 18, please scan the qr code to see important information around GDPR and informing you of your child's results/progress. Further information is available on the school website.

Sixth Year Debs Photos

