

2010

Coláiste Abbáin



[SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT]

This document contains Coláiste Abbáin's Mission Statement.

School Mission Statement

Coláiste Abbáin endeavours to provide quality education for all students in a caring, disciplined and respectful environment. We aim to prepare students for life and responsible citizenship and motivate them towards the achievement of their full potential.

COLAISTE ABBAIN

80 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Coláiste Abbáin, Adamstown is situated in central Wexford and has made a huge contribution to the educational, social, sporting, economic and spiritual wellbeing of its students since it first opened its doors in 1938. The school has been called Adamstown Technical School, Adamstown Vocational College and now Coláiste Abbáin. The school has gone from strength to strength over the years despite its small catchment area with only ten national schools.

Adamstown Technical School was built by Thomas Boldger, Blackwater and the plans used were identical to those used for the building of Kilmuckridge Technical School two years earlier. A suitable site at the village crossroads was purchased from local publican, Mr. Michael Fortune in 1935. This followed a decision by Co. Wexford V.E.C. and C.E.O. Mr. Sean Wilmot to build a technical school after a local delegation had lobbied for such a school. Mrs. Murphy of Knockreigh House was the most instrumental in persuading the C.E.O. about the benefits of such a school. Thomas Boldger was employed along with three local workers and the school was officially opened in 1938.

The first teacher in charge was Mr. Sean Little, of Berkley, New Ross and he had unenviable task of recruiting his pupils from surrounding primary schools. The idea of fourteen year old rural children still going to school, even in the 1930s was ridiculous in the extreme as far as most parents were concerned. For many years the school roll boaster of thirty pupils but in reality, particularly during the sowing and harvesting seasons, numbers often dwindled to three or four.

However night classes were a different proposition and classes such as Woodwork, Gaelic League, Drama, Needlework and Cookery were a regular feature during the dark dreary nights of winter. Many of these classes had been the brain child of second teacher-in-charge, Mr. McInerney who, incidentally, died tragically in a turbine accident near Scark, New Ross. He was replaced by Mr. Frank Barry who was subsequently transferred to Enniscorthy.

The next teacher in charge was the school's Irish Teacher, Mr. Tommy Carey. These were days of want during the Emergency, 1939-1945 when war ravaged the world, particularly Europe. Though Ireland was neutral during the Emergency essential goods including foods were in short supply. Supplies were guaranteed by the rationing system but very often the ingenuity of Tommy Carey was equally important in keeping the doors of the Technical School open. At one point when closure seemed imminent Mr. Carey was able to supply students with bicycle tyres which enabled the students to continue their education thus ensuring the school in Adamstown continuing. The advent of Free Education and Transport in the mid 60s revolutionised Irish education, in particular the Vocational Schools as they had come to be known. Mr. Carey was replaced as the school's first Principal in 1973 by Mr. Vincent O'Dwyer and he remained in charge until his untimely death in the summer of 1984. In 1975 the school's first Vice-Principal, Mr. Terry Nagel was appointed. They both spearheaded a massive up-grading of the school as far as buildings, student facilities and curriculum development was concerned. The first Leaving Certificate class sat their exams in 1979. For the record the students were (all girls) Margaret Heffernan, Brigid Sane, Macy Murphy, Ann Dillon, Kathleen Delaney, Elizabeth Bradley, Elizabeth Kehoe, Ann Lawlor and Helen Kehoe. Enrolments continued to increase, staff numbers likewise. Mr. O'Dwyer launched the school to new heights and his untimely passing was widely regretted among staff, pupils and parents alike. His work was continued and enhanced by his successor as Principal Mr. Nicholas Sweetman who took charge in December 1984. Everything wasn't just possible, everything was probable. The school growth was apparent in many different areas.

Progression to third level colleges was a priority and there is hardly a third level institution in the country that does not have a past pupil of Adamstown. Adamstown Vocational College became Colaiste Abbain in 1989.

Mr. Sweetman took over as Principal of Gorey Community in September 1993 and was replaced by Mr. Ken Quinlivan who took over the helm at Colaiste Abbain having been Principal of Enniscorthy Vocational College for many years. He continued the pioneering journey of his predecessors. During this time the school became well known throughout the County as a Centre of Excellence and the PLC section in particular blossomed. Courses such as Accounting Technician, Childcare, Culture & Heritage, Art/Craft/Design and Legal Studies were very popular.

Mr. Joe OqBrien became Deputy Principal in February 2004 while Mr. Senan Lillis became Principal in August 2004. Mr. OqBrien had been a teacher of Woodwork and Technical Drawing in the school since 1969 while Mr. Lillis had been History & Geography teacher in the school since 1984. Irish & Geography teacher, Mrs. Brigid Cadogan, replaced Mr. OqBrien as Deputy Principal in September 2008. The school is at present going through a transition period and awaits a building of its new 350 pupil extension. Many new initiatives have been introduced thus ensuring that the students of Coláiste Abbáin get the best possible Vocational Education.

COLAISTE ABBAIN
SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010
TEACHING STAFF

Principal	Mr. Senan Lillis
Deputy Principal	Ms. Brigid Cadogan
Teachers	Ms. Annette Byrne Mr. Peter Caulfield Mr. Martin Conneely Mr. Edmund Crean Mr. Paul Glynn Mr. Noel Haddigan Mr. Brian Harding Ms. Mary Hughes Ms. Barbara Kehoe Mr. Paud Moriarty Ms. Nessa Murphy Mr. John OqConnell Ms. Anne Sutton Ms. Carmel Tuohy Ms. Annette Wall Ms. Patricia OqConnor Ms. June Walsh Mr. Darren OqCeallaigh
SNA	Ms. Mairead Colfer Ms. Fiona Sinnott
Secretary	Ms. Eileen OqConnor
Caretaker	Mr. Tommy Buckley
Part-time Cleaners	Ms. Helen Furlong Ms. Liz Furlong

CO. WEXFORD VEC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL	TELEPHONE	BREAKS
BRIDGETOWN	MS. FIONNUALA GREEN	053-9135257	11.00/13.20
BUNCLODY	MR. WILLIAN CORCORAN	053-9377590	11.00/12.45
COLAISTE ABBAIN	MR. SENAN LILLIS	053-9240564	11.00/12.35
COLAISTE AN ATHA	MR. SEAMUS REDMOND	053-9130169	11.05/13.10
ENNISCORTHY	MR. SEAMUS MURPHY	053-9234185	10.35/12.50
NEW ROSS	MS. SUE BARRETT	051-421278	10.53/13.03
WEXFORD	MS. EMER RYAN	053-9122753	11.15/12.50

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

LEGISLATION

Education Act Section 8(4) 1998

%~~6~~ in the case of a school established or maintained by a Vocational Education Committee that Committee shall be the patron of the school for the purposes of this Act+.

Education Act Section 14(1)

%~~6~~ shall be the duty of a patron, for the purposes of ensuring that a recognised school is managed in a spirit of partnership, to appoint where practicable a Board of Management, the composition of which is agreed between patrons of schools, national associations of parents, recognised school management organisations, recognised trade unions and staff associations representing teachers and the Minister+.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2009-2010

Cllr. Denis Kennedy (chair), VEC Rep.

Cllr. Peter Byrne, VEC Rep.

Mr. Paul Glynn, VEC Rep.

Mr. John O'Connell, Staff Rep.

Ms. Annette Wall, Staff Rep.

Ms. Kathy Delaney, Parents Rep.

Ms. Cait Bradley, Parents Rep.

Mr. Senan Lillis (Secretary).