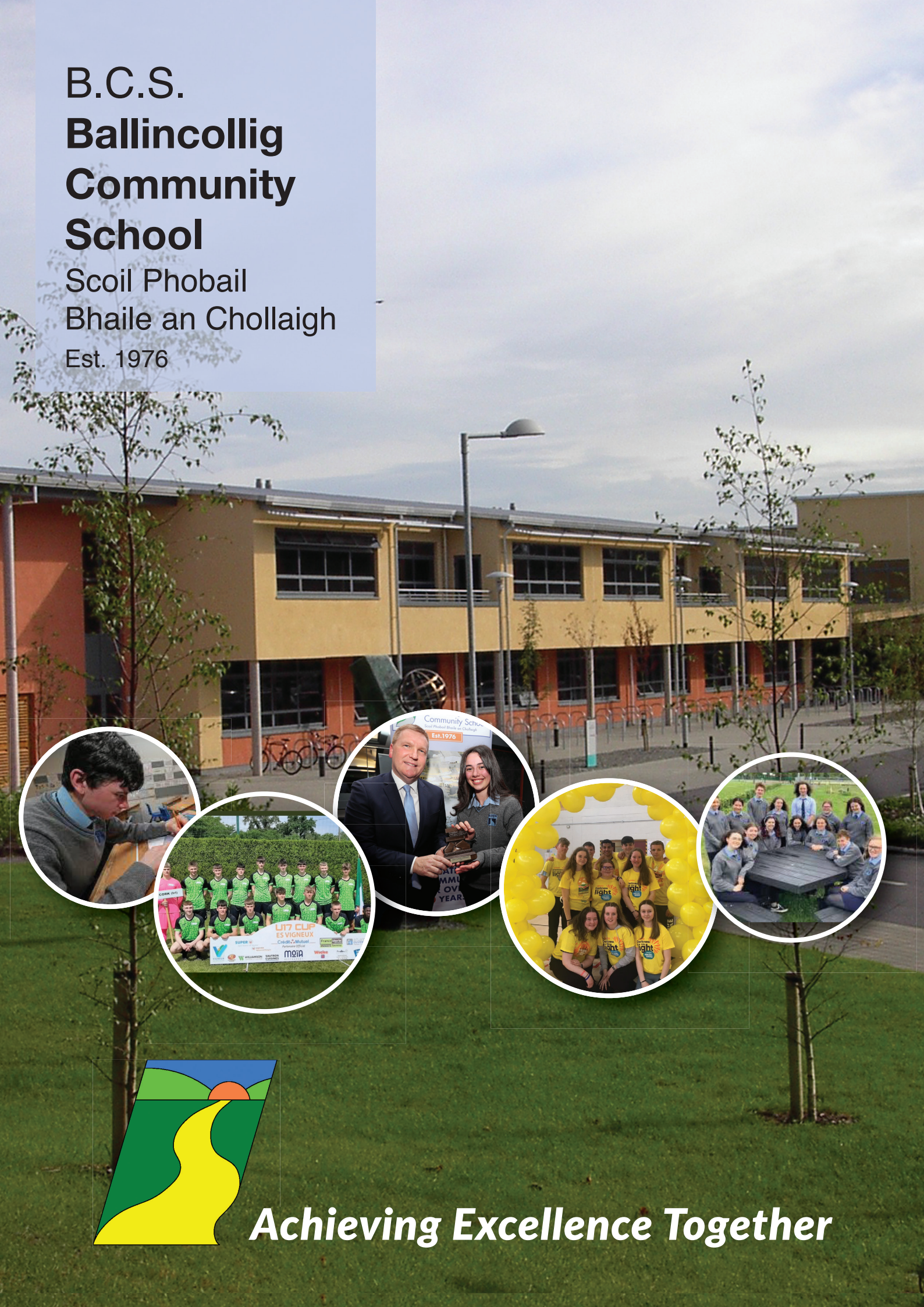


# B.C.S. Ballincollig Community School

Scoil Phobail  
Bhaile an Chollaigh  
Est. 1976



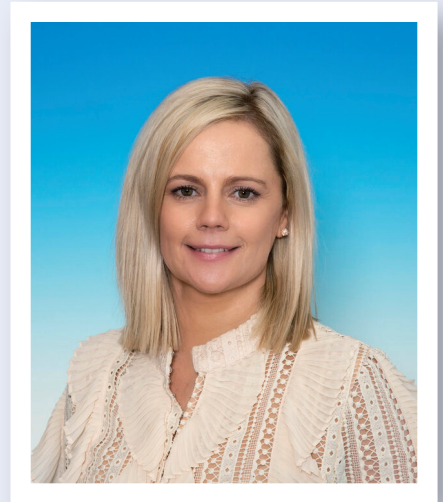
***Achieving Excellence Together***



# Welcome from our Principal

As Principal of Ballincollig Community School, I would like to welcome you to our school. BCS is an integral part of the community. Our school motto is 'Achieving Excellence Together'. We strive to ensure that BCS provides an ambitious, holistic, accessible, and inclusive education to our students in a safe and caring environment. Our broad curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities mean that we can play to our students' strengths and give them every opportunity to excel. We are proud of what we do here at BCS. For over 40 years we have provided the highest standards of teaching and learning and exceptional learning experiences for our students. The school has a long tradition of excellent academic results in the State Examinations, and we celebrate academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular achievement. We want every student to reach their own unique potential. As a school we recognise the importance and value of partnership: of working with students, parents and the community as a whole. We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

*Karen Forde*



## Our Mission;

At Ballincollig Community School we aim:

- To enable students to develop their full potential intellectually, spiritually, artistically and socially
- To foster in pupils a sense of respect for themselves and others, and a sense of civic pride.
- To provide the educational base from which students can progress and achieve their potential
- To enhance self-esteem and the development of academic, personal and emotional skills, leading to greater personal autonomy for all our students



## Our Staff

The teachers in BCS are highly dedicated, hard working and experienced. We have a proven track record of going above and beyond to help our students succeed academically.

Our teachers are trained in the Instructional Leadership Programme which involves using strategies to enhance the student experience in the classroom and deliver effective learning outcomes.

Our teachers facilitate the learner voice in their classroom which ensures that each student's progress is monitored and supported.

Many of our teachers are state examiners for the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle exams. This commitment leads to our students regularly achieving exceptional results.

Many of our students go on to pursue careers in Medicine, Engineering and the Social Sciences



## We Care

At Ballincollig Community School we have a reputation for taking a personal interest in the students in our care. We are well aware of the fact that if the students are happy and feel supported they have a better chance of achieving. **The school has a number of supports in place for students:**

- Every student has a Year Head who will remain with them from year to year
- The school has Guidance Counsellors, a Chaplain and a Special Educational Needs Department (SEN)
- Senior students are trained as Peer mentors, Meitheal Team members and Young Social Innovators
- There are annual Award Ceremonies to acknowledge the work and achievements of students
- Each year students elect a Student Council from their peers
- Child Protection is the key responsibility of the Board of Management and all staff
- Our Principal & 3 Deputy Principals are always available to students
- Each student will be provided with their own individual locker
- The school cafeteria is open each day to provide hot and cold food to our students





# Curriculum

## JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

We are in the unique position that our students have the opportunity to try all subjects as recommended by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. Junior Cycle: The Junior cycle places the student at the centre of the learning process, allowing for new ways of learning and a broader range of skills to be assessed.

- Irish
- French
- English
- German
- Mathematics
- CSPE
- History
- SPHE
- Geography
- Religion
- Science
- Physical Education
- Wellbeing
- Business Studies
- Engineering
- Home Economics
- Wood Technology
- Music
- Graphics
- Visual Art



## LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS

At senior cycle our students complete Transition Year & the traditional Leaving Certificate Programme or the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme.

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- French
- German
- Religion
- Physical Education
- Guidance
- Art & History of Art
- Engineering
- Construction Studies
- Design Communication Graphics (DCG)
- Business Studies
- Accounting
- Home Economics
- Music
- Applied Maths
- Agricultural Science.



## Facilities

At Ballincollig Community School we can offer students a wide range of facilities including;

- ▶ 6 Science Laboratories
- ▶ 4 Computer Rooms
- ▶ 2 Metalwork Rooms
- ▶ 2 Woodwork Rooms
- ▶ 2 Art Rooms
- ▶ Drawing Room
- ▶ Demonstration/ Lecture Room
- ▶ Basketball and Tennis Court
- ▶ Performing Arts Area
- ▶ Full Size Sand Based Playing Field
- ▶ 2 Home Economics Rooms
- ▶ Full Size Sports Hall
- ▶ General Classrooms
- ▶ Large Circulation Areas
- ▶ Guidance Suite
- ▶ Meditation Room
- ▶ Fitness Suite
- ▶ All Weather Pitch
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Music Room





# Extra Curricular Activities

In BCS we are extremely privileged to be in a position to offer a wide range of sporting activities. We place equal value in extra-curricular activities which take place outside of the sporting arenas. Examples of Extra-curricular Activities on offer in BCS include;



- Basketball
- Football, Hurling & Camogie
- Soccer – Our 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> years participate in an International Soccer Tournament in France annually.
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Hockey
- Athletics
- Table Tennis
- Rugby
- Public Speaking & Debating
- Chess
- BT Young Scientist Competition
- Psychslam, Applied Psychology Competition
- Cultural Trips to France and Italy
- Adventure Trips to Delphi Mountain Resort and Skiing in Austria
- Charity Fundraisers
- Our annual School Musical
- Young Social Innovators Programme





## Student Voice & Our Student Council

In BCS our student council plays an essential part of school life. Our student council is vibrant, visible and inclusive. Council members are elected by their classmates to represent them, who in turn voice their opinions to their teachers and school management and lead projects and initiative to fruition. This dialogue empowers our students,

allowing them to truly have a voice, informing the direction of the development on their educational environment. Student Council Members participate in the ISSU (Irish Second Level Students Union) conferences, City Hall public speaking competitions, fundraisers and policy development.



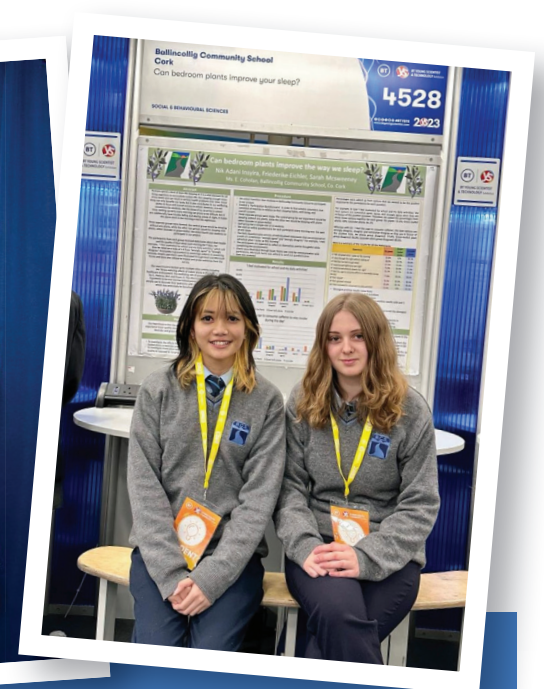
## Our connections to the community

Our students participate in various activities with local businesses, industry and charities.

Our students get involved with the Ballincollig Tidy Towns, the WestGate Foundation, the Credit Union, Eli Lily, the Hope Foundation and S.H.A.R.E.

In addition, VMWare, Cork unveiled a diversity and

inclusion initiative unique to BCS in 2019. A scholarship is awarded annually to two female students pursuing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) degree in University. A new mentorship programme is also available to female Leaving Certificate Students in our school intending to explore careers in the STEM area.





## What do our Students & Parents think?

BCS was the only school that my eldest daughter wanted to attend. The main reason was she loved the idea of sampling all subjects in 1st yr. This has worked out great for her in LC and her sister in JC as they both ended up doing subjects that they love and that they wouldn't have chosen otherwise. During stressful COVID-19 disruptions of the past BCS made sure students were able to access classes.

Angela Keohane, parent

The past five years in BCS have flown by but the friends, experiences and memories I have made here will stay with me forever. My journey through BCS has really help shape me into the person I am today. The hard work and dedication of staff has ensured that I will always cherish the time I have spent here.

Aoife Brett, 6th Year Student



## Pastoral System

The pastoral system at the school is geared towards respecting and building on the individual differences of every student. Each of the 6 year groups has a Year Head who, together with the class tutors, helps students integrate into the educational and social environment of the school. A Year Head is a staff member who coordinates a particular year cohort and a class tutor coordinates at class level. The Special Education Needs staff together with the school Chaplain and Guidance Counsellors, provide additional support.

## Wellbeing

Students will learn about the different aspects of wellbeing in the following subjects: PE, Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE); Civic, Social, Political and Education (CSPE). In addition, students will engage in one stand-alone class called 'Wellbeing class' per week, which offers students the opportunity to learn a variety of new topics and skills connected to current wellbeing themes. Examples include; digital awareness and internet safety; Microsoft office 365 training; nutritional studies; innovation education with the support of the Young Social Innovators Junior Programme and the Pieta House Resilience Programme.





# Open Evening

Ballincollig Community School  
Open Night 2023

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2023,  
beginning at 7.00 pm.**

A Virtual Tour is available to view on the school  
YouTube channel and website

*Further details will be available closer to the time*



## Choose BCS!



## Contacts

Principal, Karen Forde  
Deputy Principal, Gary O'Sullivan  
Deputy Principal, AnnMarie Whelan  
Deputy Principal, Cyril Desmond

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Get our Ballincollig Community School APP on Google Play or Apple app store