



Coláiste Chraobh Abhann

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Creowen,
Kilcoole,
Co. Wicklow.



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin
Kildare and Wicklow
Education and Training Board

Dear Parents

We write to you in the hope that you may consider providing your child with an opportunity to improve their fluency in Irish by attending the Gaeltacht next summer. **If attending the Gaeltacht is not an option for your child, perhaps you could consider one of the alternatives outlined later in the letter.**

The Irish language is of unique importance to the people of Ireland and to Irish society and culture. The Gaeltacht is also of unique importance as it is in the Gaeltacht that Irish still survives as a household and community language. By attending the Gaeltacht, students become immersed in the spoken language and their fluency and confidence in speaking 'as Gaeilge' improves dramatically.

Coláiste Chraobh Abhann offers full scholarships each year to three students from the school courtesy of generous sponsorship by Kildare and Wicklow ETB. Each of these scholarships is valued at approximately €850 and facilitates attendance of students at a Gaeltacht Coláiste Samhraidh. Scholarships are awarded to the students on merit after adjudication by members of the Irish Department of an internal competition held among students attending Irish classes.

The school also invites various speakers from a number of Gaeltachts, to the school annually to talk to students about their Gaeltacht courses all over the country. Your child will receive brochures about these courses in the near future.

For those students who are not fortunate to win a scholarship, we are conscious that attending the Gaeltacht may not be an option as the course is quite expensive, costing at least €600 for a two week visit. **In this regard, we ask you to consider a number of sample alternatives outlined below that may equally support your child in improving their Irish oral skills:**

1. Coláiste Chamuis, Indreabhán, Co. Galway: This is a popular college amongst students at Coláiste Chraobh Abhann. Coláiste Chamuis organises summer courses in Camus, Tullach and Ros a'Mhil. www.colaistechamuis.ie
2. Spleodar: Connamara, Co. na Gaillimhe - www.spleodar.com – A discount is available from this College. Please ask your child to contact Ms Doran regarding the discount.
3. Coláiste na bhFiann, Droim Rí, Co. na Mí – www.colaistenabhfiann.ie
4. Moontour, Dún Laoghaire – The Dublin Gaeltacht Experience – www.moontour.ie
5. Coláiste Uí Chadhain, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe - www.colaisteuichadhain.ie
6. Local Irish courses such as those at Coláiste Naomh Eoin (Bray) held at Easter, summer (2 week course) and Halloween - www.colaistenaomheoin.com
7. Gael-Linn is based on Dame Street in Dublin. It hosts a 2 week course in Dublin every summer from 9.30am to 12.45pm, Monday to Friday. The cost of the course should be under €300. Places per course are limited to 20 students so early booking advisable – www.gael-linn.ie
8. <http://www.ranganna.com> offers a range of Irish language courses online including preparation for the Leaving Certificate exams.
9. www.concos.ie offers a broad directory of all Gaeltacht course right across the country.

You should note that Coláiste Chraobh Abhann has no vested interest in any of these courses and strongly recommends that parents fully investigate the course provider before making any decision. In this regard you may find discussion boards on the web useful to check out reviews of the various colleges (check out <http://www.boards.ie> and enter a search for the college you wish to research) or talk to family and friends who have experienced the college of your choice.

If you have any queries in relation to the above information or would like advice or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Irish teacher who will be delighted to speak with you.

Yours sincerely
Shane Eivers
Principal

Carol Buckley
Deputy Principal

Caitríona Ní Dhoráin
Irish Department Co-ordinator



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A Thuismitheoirí Uaisle

Táimid ag scríobh chugaibh ag súil le go ndéanfaidh sibh machnamh ar an deis líofacht bhur bpaistí sa Ghaeilge a fheabhsú tríd iad a chur go dtí an Ghaeltacht an Samhradh seo chugainn. Muna bhfuil an Ghaeltacht mar rogha do do pháiste, b'fhéidir go ndéanfaí machnamh ar cheann de na roghanna eile atá luaite níos déanaí sa litir.

Tá an teanga Gaelach rí-thábhachtach do mhuintir na hÉireann chomh maith le sochaí agus cultúr na hÉireann. Tá tábhacht faoi leith bainteach leis an nGhaeltacht chomh maith mar is anseo a mhaireann an teanga mar theanga beo agus teanga an chomhluidair. Trí dul go dtí an Ghaeltacht bíonn na daltaí tumtha sa teanga labhartha agus sa tslí seo tagann feabhas ollmhór ar a gcuid líofachta agus muiníne sa Ghaeilge.

Gach bliain cuireann Coláiste Chraobh Abhann lán-scoláireachtaí ar fáil do thriúr daltaí ón scoil de bharr urraíocht fhlaithiúil Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin. Tá costas tuairim is €850 bainteach le gach scoláireacht agus tá siad i dtaobh freastal ar Choláiste Samhraidh. Bronntar na scoláireachtaí seo ar na daltaí de bhua tuillteanais tar éis moltóireachta, ag na baill de Roinn na Gaeilge, ar chomórtas inmheánach idir na daltaí sna ranganna Gaeilge ar fad.

Do na daltaí nach bhfuil an t-ádh leo scoláireacht a bhaint amach, tuigimid go bhfuil costas na Gaeltachta mar bhac ar chlainne freastal ann, le costas €600 an t-íosmhéad ar chúrsa coicíse. **Dá bhrí sin, molaimid daoibh machnamh a dhéanamh ar na roghanna eile atá luaite thíos. Bheadh siad chomh maith céanna ag cabhrú le líofachta labhartha do pháiste.**

1. Coláiste Chamuis, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe: Coláiste móréileamh é an coláiste seo i measc na ndaltaí sa scoil seo. Eagraíonn Coláiste Chamuis cúrsaí Samhraidh Gaeilge sa Tualach, i gCamus agus i Ros a Mhíl - www.colaistechamuis.ie
2. Spleodar: Connamara, Co. na Gaillimhe – www.spleodar.com - Tuilleadh eolais le fáil. Cuir ceist ar Ms Doran faoin lacáiste seo.
3. Coláiste na bhFiann, Droim Rí, Co. na Mí – www.colaistenabhfiann.ie
4. Moontour, Dún Laoghaire – The Dublin Gaeltacht Experience – www.moontour.ie
5. Coláiste Uí Chadhain, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe – www.colaisteuichadhain.ie
6. Cúrsaí Gaeilge áitiúla cosúil leo siúd ag Coláiste Naomh Eoin (Bré) i rith na Cásca, an tSamhraidh (cúrsa coicíse) agus saoire na Samhna. Suíomh idirlíne: <http://www.colaistenaomheoin.com>
7. Tá Gael-Linn, <http://www.gael-linn.ie>, suite ar Shráid an Dáma i mBaile Átha Cliath. Cuireann sé cúrsa coicíse ar siúl gach Samhradh, ó 9.30am go 12.45pm, Luan go hAoine. Ba cheart go mbeadh costas an chúrsa faoi €300. Tá srian ar 20 dalta an cúrsa; mar sin cuir d'áit in áirithe go luath. <http://www.ranganna.com>
8. <http://www.ranganna.com> Tá fáil ar réimse fairsing de chúrsaí Gaeilge ar an idirlíon, cúrsaí ullmhúcháin don Ardteist san áireamh.
9. www.concos.ie. Tá réimse fairsing dena chúrsaí Gaeltachta atá ar fáil ar fud na tire anseo.

Bí ar do chuid eolais nach bhfuil aon leas dílsithe ag Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in aon chúrsa thuasluaite agus mholfainn daoibh iniúchadh ceart a dhéanamh ar aon chúrsa roimh do chinneadh a dhéanamh. Ar an ábhar seo, b'fhéidir go bhfaighfeá gréasáin cainte ar an idirlíon úsáideach chun léirmheas a fháil ar na coláistí éagsúla (féach ar <http://www.boards.ie>) nó labhair le clann agus cairde atá i ndiaidh freastal ar do rogha choláiste.

Má tá aon cheisteanna agaibh i dtaobh aon eolais anseo nó más maith libh aon chomhairle nó treoir, ná bíodh drogall oraibh dul i dteagmháil le múinteoir Gaeilge bhur bpáiste a bheadh lán-sásta labhairt libh.

Le gach dea-ghuí
Seán MacIomhair
Príomhoide

Carol Ní Bhuachalla
Leas-phríomhoide

Caitríona Ní Dhoráin
Ceann Roinn na Gaeilge



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Six good reasons to attend the Gaeltacht

1. **Improve your exam results:** By attending the Gaeltacht, you will greatly improve your ability and confidence in speaking Irish. This will be of huge benefit when taking the new Junior or Leaving Certificate Irish course in which oral Irish accounts for **40%** of the overall exam.
2. **Make new friends:** The Gaeltacht is a wonderful place to make new friends from all over the country. Some students are worried that they will not know anyone if they go by themselves. This is never the case as students will live and mix with other teenagers their own age with friendships being made and kept long after the return home.
3. **Great 'craic':** Ask anyone who has been to the Gaeltacht and they will tell you how much fun they had. The teachers and leaders are young and vibrant. The activities are great craic and everyone is always up for a laugh. Be it fun sports activities, fancy dress ceilís, discos or house competitions where you perform a comic drama sketch, the Gaeltacht is all about enjoying yourself in a safe and fun environment.
4. **See the countryside:** When you spend time in the Gaeltacht, you will experience a unique way of life, where people communicate and go about their daily business entirely in Irish. As most Gaeltachts are located on the Western and Northern coast, you will also be living in some of the most beautiful places Ireland has to offer, where unspoiled sandy beaches and wild Atlantic waves are on your door step.
5. **Learn to become Independent:** Visiting the Gaeltacht may be the first time you have been away from home. This might sound exciting, but also daunting. There is nothing to worry about. The 'Bean an Tí' prepares all your meals and does all the washing and most Gaeltachts allow you to live in the same house with a friend if you ask them. The Gaeltacht is a great opportunity to gain independence away from family and home.
6. **Try something new:** All Gaeltachts have activities such as football, handball, basketball, swimming, cycling, table quizzes, drama, concerts, abseiling, day trips, discos and, of course, ceilís. There will never be a time when you have nothing to do. Some Gaeltachts also provide specialised activities such as sailing, canoeing and snorkelling.

Sé chúis mhaith chun freastal ar an nGaeltacht

1. **Feabhas a chur ar do thorthaí scrúdaithe:** Tíocfaidh feabhas mór ar do chumas agus muinín i labhairt na teanga, agus cabhróidh sé seo libh sa Teastas Sóisearach agus san Ardeist, áit a bhfuil **40%** de na marcanna iomlán ag dul don scrúdú cainte.
2. **Déan cairde nua:** Is áit iontach í an Ghaeltacht chun cairde nua a dhéanamh.
3. **'Craic' iontach:** Bíonn spórt iontach ag baint leis na himeachtaí agus bíonn fonn grinn i gcónaí ar gach duine.
4. **Radharcanna tíre:** Beidh tú ag maireachtáil i roinnt de na haiteanna is áille atá ar fáil in Éirinn, áiteanna ina bhfuil tránna foirfe agus tonnta Atlantacha ar leic do dhoras.
5. **Neamhspleáchas a chothú:** Is deis iontach í an Ghaeltacht roinnt neamhspleáchais a fháil as baile agus ón gclann.
6. **Bain triail as rud éigin nua:** Mar shampla, peil, liathróid láimhe, cispheil, snámh, rothaíocht, tráth na gceist, drámaíocht, ceolchoirmeacha, dreapadóireacht, turas lae, dioscónna, agus, dar ndóigh, céilí.