# **BANAGHER COLLEGE**



Banagher College Coláiste na Sionna Banagher, Co. Offaly.



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@BanagherCollege

Prospectus

2026 - 2027

COLÁISTE NA SIONNA

### INTRODUCTION

In September 2010 we moved into our new, purpose built, Public Private Partnership, state of the art school. It is a designated Community College.

Incorporating the long traditions of St. Rynagh's Community College and La Sainte Union Secondary School, it is in the Trusteeship of Laois and Offaly ETB. The dedicated staff team is led by Ms. Lily Kinahan (Principal) and Mr. Damian Shanahan (Deputy Principal).

Since then there have been countless exceptional and commendable achievements, excellent examination results, school drama productions, speech and drama awards, public speaking, sporting victories, winning enterprise and art projects, music students' fundraisers, graduation ceremonies, guest speakers, open day visits and much more. These activities coupled with the highest academic and teaching standards in class provide a recipe for success.

The vast range of subjects and the facilities now available to students is second to none. Every student who attends Banagher College Coláiste na Sionna will be assured of being offered all the necessary ingredients to happily develop every step of the way towards achieving his/her full potential, blossoming into a fully functional, Christian, mature member of society.

We all look forward with great optimism to your time in Banagher College Colaiste na Sionna, and will be delighted to welcome you as a new First Year to share in this exciting and fulfilling time of educational studies in Banagher College.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Banagher College Coláiste na Sionna is a multi-denominational school which aims to provide an education which is truly Christian.

#### We aspire to

- Provide a just and caring environment where each student is impressed with awareness of human dignity and to develop a sense of responsibility in each individual.
- Develop the talents of each individual and instil the desire to achieve one's full potential through a spirit of intellectual enquiry and academic endeavour.
- Foster in a caring community the desire for participation and challenge; to build individual and compassionate men/women of character.
- Our holistic educational aspirations encompass the intellectual, moral, religious, personal, physical and social dimensions of our being. Mutual respect for one another is encouraged and the joy of learning becomes a reciprocal experience.



Mr. Damian Shanahan Deputy Principal

## Banagher College Coláiste na Sionna Message from the School Principal

Dear 6th class Students and Parents/Guardians

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to our 6th class students and parents/guardians. As you embark on a new chapter in your education I want to highlight our commitment to our core ethos values that guide our school: *Excellence in education, Care, Equality, Community, and Respect*. As your school principal, I am excited to embark on this educational journey with you, and I believe that together, we can achieve remarkable success.

**Excellence in Education:** Our primary goal is to provide you with an outstanding education that will equip you with the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to thrive in today's ever-evolving world. We are dedicated to fostering a learning environment that challenges you to reach your full potential and encourages you to explore, innovate, and grow.



Ms. Lily Kinahan Principal

**Care:** Your well-being is of paramount importance to us. We are committed to creating a nurturing and supportive environment where you can flourish not only academically but also emotionally and socially. Our teachers and staff are here to listen, guide, and support you on your educational journey.

**Equality:** At our school, we believe that every student deserves equal opportunities and respect, regardless of their background, abilities, or differences. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone has a voice.

**Community:** Our school is not just a building; it is a thriving community of learners, educators, and families. We understand the importance of working together to achieve common goals. We encourage active involvement from parents and community members because we believe that a strong community strengthens our school.

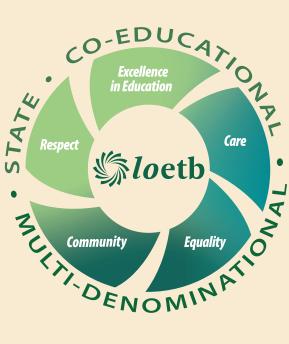
**Respect:** Respect is at the core of our interactions and relationships within our school. We expect all members of our school community to treat one another with kindness, empathy, and respect. Through respect, we build a positive and supportive learning environment.

**To our new students,** we are excited to have you join our school, and we believe that you bring unique talents and perspectives that will enrich our school community. I look forward to getting to know each of you and witnessing your growth and achievements during your time here.

**To Parents/Guardians:** Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your son/daughter. Together, we will make this educational journey one filled with exciting discoveries, meaningful connections, and educational excellence.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an foilseachán seo. Le gach dea ghuí

L. Kinahan Principal



## THE SCHOOL DAY

#### Classes are 58 minutes long

8:47	1st Bell
8:52	Roll Call
9:00	Class 1
9:58	Class 2
10:56	Morning Break
11:10	Class 3
12:08	Class 4
13:06 – 13:40	Lunch Time
13:45	Class 5
14:43	Class 6
15:41	End of School Mon-Thurs
14:30	End of School on Friday
16:00 – 18:00	Supervised Study

#### **SCHOOL BOOKS**

Junior Cycle books, ebooks and core classroom resources are covered by the new Government Junior Cycle Schoolbooks Scheme. At Banagher College we operate a book rental scheme for Senior Cycle. The scheme aims to lessen the financial burden on Parents/ Guardians. Parents are asked to pay an annual fee for the loan of these books. Book stocks are regularly updated to ensure that students have access to recently published books.

#### SCHOOL LOCKERS

All students are provided with lockers to allow them to store their books and equipment. Students have access to lockers before class begins in the morning, at break and lunch times. This reduces the weight of heavy school bags for students.

#### **ICT**

All students will have their own digital device to assist their learning and development in the school. Each student is issued with a unique school email address and access to secure cloud storage for school and project work.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

#### **GIRLS' UNIFORM**

- Specified blue round neck jumper with grey stripe in the collar and school crest.
- Royal blue/navy/grey pleated skirt (Style no. 14774) or a tailored navy trousers (leggings not allowed).
- White shirt or polo shirt with school crest.
- Navy knee length socks or navy tights.

#### **BOYS' UNIFORM**

- Specified blue round neck jumper with grey stripe in the collar and school crest.
- Slate grey trousers. (Denim, Cord or Casual trousers are not allowed)
- White shirt or polo shirt with school crest.

#### **FOOTWEAR**

- Sensible black, navy or brown shoes allowed.
- Deck Shoes allowed (white soles permitted on Deck Shoes).
- Runners style shoes MUST BE ALL BLACK NO COLOURED SOLES, MARKINGS, STRIPES OR LOGOS ALLOWED.
- Black or white laces only.
- · Canvas shoes not allowed.

#### **PE UNIFORM**

- Plain black or navy joggers No leggings allowed.
- · School polo shirt.
- · Plain black runners.

#### **CANTEEN FACILITIES**

Banagher College Canteen facilities are available on-site. Students can avail of a wide variety of hot and cold lunches, provided at a reasonable cost by Get Fresh Catering.



All payments to the school can be made online through the Way2Pay platform. When a payment is due a text message will be sent to the parent/guardian's phone requesting payment.

#### **BULLYING/CYBER BULLYING**

Banagher College Coláiste na Sionna does not tolerate bullying. The role of the school is to provide the highest possible standard of education for all its pupils. A stable secure learning environment is an essential requirement to achieve this goal. Bullying behaviour, by its very nature, undermines and dilutes the quality of education, and imposes psychological damage.

As such, it is an issue, which is positively and firmly addressed through arange of school based measures and strategies by which all members of the school community are enabled to act effectively in dealing with this behaviour.

### **JUNIOR CYCLE**

There are three options available to students

Regular Junior Cycle	Junior Certificate Schools Programme	MGLD Unit
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#### **EXAMINATION SUBJECTS**

Irish	Geography	Business Studies	Visual Art
English	Science	Home Economics	Engineering
Maths	French	Wood Technology	Music
History	German	Graphics	

#### NON EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

CSPE (Civic, Social & Political Education)	SPHE (Social, Personal, and Health Education	Wellbeing/Careers
Physical Education	Religious Education	Digital Literacy

## **SENIOR CYCLE**

Senior Cycle students have four options available

#### **EXAMINATION SUBJECTS**

Irish	German	Agricultural Science	Construction Studies
English	Biology	Home Economics	Engineering
Maths	Physics	Art	Design & Communication Graphics
French	Chemistry	Music	Business
Accounting	Physical Education	History	Geography
LCVP			

#### NON EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

Career Guidance	Digital Literacy	Physical Education	Religious Education

## Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate, available to students who wish to follow a practical or vocationally orientated programme. The Leaving Certificate Applied is made up of a range of courses that are structured round three elements: Vocational Preparation, Vocational Education and General Education.

The programme sets out to recognise the talents of all students and to provide opportunities for developing personal

responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge, and helps students apply what they learn to the real world. Students spend one day each week on work experience. Students must maintain 90% attendance during the two years.

Students who successfully complete the programme are awarded a Leaving Certificate from the Department of Education and Science. The certificate is awarded at three levels: Pass; Merit; and Distinction.

English & Communication	French	Vocational Preparation & Guidance	Leisure & Recreation
Maths Applications	Craft & Design	Graphics & Construction Studies	Social Education
Irish	Hotel Catering & Tourism	Office Administration & Customer Care	Engineering
Agriculture/Horticulture	Hair & Beauty		

## Transition Year (TY)

Transition Year is a stand alone year between 3rd Year and 5th Year, where students undertake a wide selection of subjects in a modular format. This helps students choose the correct set of subjects for their Leaving Certificate. Added to this academic exposure is the opportunity to build their interpersonal skills, social awareness skills and personal confidence. Students also undertake work experience which prepares them for the world of work. In addition to the traditional subjects TY students participate in a wide range of interesting module including

- Microsoft Office Specialist
- Disability Sports Inclusion Programme
- President's Gaisce Awards
- Self-Defence
- Enterprise Education/Mini Company
- GAA Future Leaders
- Mental Health Awareness
- First Aid/CPR
- Road Safety
- Music, Dance & Drama (School Musical)
- Cultural School Tour (Italy)

#### **DISCIPLINE**

Our Code of Conduct is drawn up with a view to ensuring good order and good discipline which in turn facilitate effective teaching and learning. Our system is based on Christian values. The emphasis is on the development of self discipline and respect for others.

#### CAREER GUIDANCE/COUNSELLING

The school has a Guidance Counsellor who together with other staff members provide comprehensive career guidance and education support programmes to students.

#### LEARNING SUPPORT

The school has fully qualified Special Education and LearningSupport teachers who have a very effective Educational Support Programme in operation. Specialist intervention can prove very valuable for students who have lost out or have fallen behind in a particular subject.

#### **CHAPLAIN**

The school has a fully qualified Chaplain who works in conjunction with the Guidance Counsellor and Student Support Team and is always available to liaise with students, parents/guardians.

#### **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral Care is the responsibility of all teachers particularly the Year Heads who co-ordinate the work of the Class Tutor. Each class has it's own Class Tutor who takes a special interest in the general wellbeing and academic progress of each student in his/her class.



**Special Needs Assistants:** Maura Feehan, Robert Donoghue, Morvenna Bennett, Siobhan Claffey



**Student Support Team:** Front Row: Mr. D. Shanahan, Ms. D. Gleeson, Mr. P. Bennett, Back Row: Ms. L. Kinahan, Ms. C. Murray, Ms. M. Morkan, Ms. S. Gleeson, Ms. P. Keegan missing from photo: Ms. C. Kenny and Ms. G. Flynn

## CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

The purpose of schooling should be to teach young people to teach themselves – how to live, how to work, how to direct their lives, how to shoulder responsibility. School Rules and Regulations must have this as their objective. Unless we discipline ourselves we cannot achieve our goals; young people must learn the value of discipline if they are to succeed. Students are expected to show respect for themselves and for all other members of the school community. Our Code of Behaviour is one that is based on the recognition of the student as an individual and yet creates an environment in which the welfare of all is protected.

#### **CÁIRDE**

The Cáirde group consists of Transition Years who are willing to act as mentors to help incoming First Years integrate into their new school. As well as meeting in small groups, the Transition Years involved organise social events throughout the year.

#### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

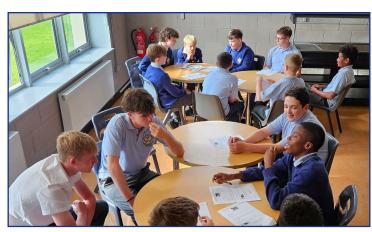
Parents are elected from each district. The main aim of the Association is to promote the education and general welfare of the students of the school and to encourage parental involvement in the education of their children

#### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The Board of Management is appointed by LOETB to manage the school on behalf of LOETB, in accordance with legislation from the Department of Education regarding the operation of the school. The board members are Lily Kinahan, Damian Shanahan, Sean Duggan, Paddy Scales, Sr. Goretti, Breed Hassett, Jim Windsor McGlynn, Aoife Masterson, Hughie Egan, Tina Clarke and Paudie Mulhare



Head Girls and Boys: Darragh Staunton, Cameron O'Sullivan, Niamh Sheehy & Ruth Kilkenny



Cairde's chatting with 1st Year students



# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Air Hockey An Chumann Gaelach

**Aptitude Tests** 

**Art Competitions** 

**Athletics** 

**Assemblies** 

**Badminton** 

Basketball

Cáirde

Camogie

Career Talks

Carol Singing - School Choir

**Charity Events** 

**Computer Competitions** 

**Cross Country Running** 

Drama & School Show

**Educational Trips** 

**Enterprise Education** 

**Evening Study** 

"Excel" Awards

First Aid

Football

**Foreign Trips** 

German School Exchange

Golf

Graduation

Green Schools - Awarded Second

Green Flag, Theme: Energy

**Guest Speakers** 

Hurling

Internet Safety

(Programme/Talks)

JP2 Awards

Karate

Ladies Football

**Mock Interviews** 

Music Generation

**Personal Development Course** 

**Public Speaking** 

Quizzes

Retreats

**School Musical** 

Science Week

Soccer

Speech & Drama

**STEAM Room** 

**Student Council** 

**Study Skills Seminars** 

**Substance Abuse Seminars** 

**Table Tennis** 

**Talent Show** 

**Transition Year Activities** 

Tráth na gCeist

**University Open Days** 

Young Entrepreneurs

Well Being



Senior Rugby Panel



Students sttanding LOETB Maths Competition



Camogie Sevens Team



Darkness into Light



Junior Camogie



German exchange students visit Clonmacnoise



Senior Golfers take part in Leinster Competition



Headstrong Team 1

# S.S. E. @ BANAGHER COLLEGE



## (SCHOOL SELF **IMPROVEMENT)**

SSE is the process where Banagher College is constantly seeking to improve, through creating datadriven, actionable school improvement plans (SIPS)



# FINDING OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

We gather information (surveys, results, focus groups etc.) from students, parents and teachers.





## **CREATING THE PLAN**

The school's SSE Team use the information gathered to decide what areas we are going to focus on improving in Banagher College. This then becomes the most important part of the school S.I.P. (School Improvement Plan).



# PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION

The school then puts the ideas for improvements from the plan into action. This can mean new or better ideas for improving school life in general or to help with teaching and learning in the classroom.



## **MAKING SURE IT'S WORKING**

We check if the plan is working by gathering more information from students, teachers and parents. We can then then improve the plan based on the feedback and information we get.





## WHAT DOES THE PLAN FOCUS ON IN BANAGHER COLLEGE?

In Banagher College, the areas we've been working to improve further in the school year 23/24 were Digital Technology and Inclusion, while in the school year, 24/25, we are also going to be focused on our Wellbeing and our Ethos.



#### S.T.E.A.M. ROOM

The school has recently added a S.T.E.A.M. (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths) room to provide a hub for digital learning and creativity in the school. Among other things, the room is used for various coding workshops facilitated by the school's S.T.E.A.M. Team.

The room is equipped with state of the art digital equipment, including a full suite of Microbits and accessories, Vex Robotics kits, Sphero programmable robots, a 3D Printer and much more. The S.T.E.A.M. room also houses a video production studio, with green screen and 360 degree cameras, as well as Oculus Quest Virtual Reality.

The latest addition to the room is a fully equipped Podcast studio, called the 'Bog Pod Studio' where student teams use state-of-the-art equipment to record and share podcast content covering a range of subjects and themes. The studio has quickly become one of the most popular parts of the S.T.E.A.M. room.

The S.T.E.A.M. room is also used as a home for the School Digital Champion teams and School Robotics team, as well as being the base classroom for the TY Digital Technology curriculum. The purpose of the continuing development of the room is to provide further opportunities for students to develop a range of 21st Century digital skills. Recently the room has become home to the school's popular S.T.E.A.M. Club, where students can engage with various S.T.E.A.M. projects at lunch-time.



Members of the STEAM Club. Students are involved with robotics film-making coding and podcasting

Students in Banagher College also have the opportunity to participate in the LOETB S.T.E.A.M. Programme, where the school is provided with equipment and training across the four strands of the programme: Vex Robotics, First LEGO league robotics, Minecraft Education design and podcasting. Each strand also has its own competition, between all nine LOETB schools. In the most recent competition, Banagher College won the Vex robotics strand, claiming the top prize at this year's LOETB S.T.E.A.M. Programme showcase event, in the process taking away almost €2000 prizes for themselves and the school.

Banagher College was also one of only a small number of midland schools whose comprehensive proposal for Department of Education S.T.E.M. funding was successful, with the school receiving a €10,000 grant to further enhance digital learning and S.T.E.A.M. opportunities in the school.

# EUROPEAN DIGITAL SCHOOL AWARDS

In 2023, Banagher College achieved a European Digital Schools Award as recognition for its achievements in using digital technologies to enhance both teaching and learning, as well as the overall student experience in the school.

After a rigorous judgement process, Banagher College was awarded all six categories in the competition for the work that has taken place as part of the School's Digital Strategy. Not only did the school get awarded all categories, but the school – thanks to its dedicated Digital Learning Team – is now also recognised as a mentor school, offering site visits and supports to other schools seeking to replicate the success of Banagher College in the area of digital technology use.



Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Kinahan & students being presented with Digital School Award

## TECHNOLOGY AT BANAGHER COLLEGE

Technology is now at the centre of the learner experience at Banagher College. The school prides itself on its ability to use the growing array of educational tech tools available to enhance the quality of the learner experience. The Microsoft 365 suite of software, with Microsoft Teams and Onenote at its centre, has become a crucial tool to assist teaching and learning for students in the school.

This digital transition, where the power of technology is harnessed to make the student experience even more engaging and rewarding, has led to digital technology being embedded across all our subject departments.

As well as our new S.T.E.A.M. room, which functions as the centre of digital learning in the school, each classroom is also fitted with state-of-the-art wireless technology – allowing seamless technology-driven interaction between students and teachers. The school also houses three fully functioning computer labs and a DCG suite, which are complemented by class sets of laptops and ipads.

This year's First Year cohort are the fourth group to be part of the next stage in the digital development of Banagher College. They have begun their school journey with their own digital learning devices, which they use to assist their learning and development in the school. The many benefits of students having their own educational specific learning devices are clear: everything from the advantages of using e-books; to giving students more autonomy over their own learning; to building their digital skills to prepare them for the digital workplace and society of the future. This group joins our second years as they lead the way to Banagher College becoming a fully 1:1 school (one device per student) as part of the school's Digital Learning Strategy.

More information on this initiative is available on the school website (BCCNS.ie)





Vex Robotics Team



S.T.E.A.M Room



# FIRST YEARS ADVICE TO NEW STUDENTS



'Do not forget your books before class. Be on time. Be kind and respectful. Listen to the teacher. Stay away from drama, especially in group chats. If you are upset about something, tell someone. Don't pick classes because your friends are in them, pick the subjects you want to pick.'

Fiadh Clarke, Lumcloon N.S.



'Don't be nervous, there's nothing to be worked up about. Be friendly and talk to new people. Include everyone. Play sport or join a club.' **Brooklyn Fitzsimons,** 

Brooklyn Fitzsimons, St. Brendan's Primary School, Birr



'Always do what your teacher tells you. If you have a problem tell your parent or a teacher that you trust, they will help you with it.'

Jack Molloy Berry, St. Mary's N.S., Cloghan



'Get involved in sports, don't be scared or worried about how big the school is you will learn where everything is within a week. Try to make new friends. Have fun.'

Serafina Kelly, St. Cronan's N.S. Lusmagh



'Do your best. Pick the subjects you like. Keep your locker tidy. Do sports. Do your homework. Be respectful. Be yourself. Don't be nervous.'

Maisie Gohery, Clonfert N.S.



'Socialise and make friends with people from other schools. Participate in competitions, teams and get involved. Get your books early during breaktime for the next two classes.'

Daniel Treacy, St. Brendan's N.S., Eyrecourt



'Just be yourself. Always be organised.'

Emanuelle Souza,

St. Rynagh's N.S., Banagher



'Don't get worried if you get lost, just ask a teacher they won't bite you! Make as many friends as possible and if you are only boy from your school go around and talk to loads of people.'

Max Fitzgerald, Rathcabbin N.S.



'Make sure to be as friendly as possible to people from other primary schools. If they don't seem too friendly at first give them another chance, they will probably be sound.'

Christopher Glynn, Lawrencetown N.S.



'Be nice to others and they will be nice to.
Smile and enjoy yourself.'

Aimee Scully, Crinkle N.S., Birr



'It's not as scary as it looks. Try to get involved in loads of activities and don't pick classes just because your friends are picking them, pick the ones you enjoy.'

Annie Carroll, Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Eoin, Rath.

## WHAT YOUR NEW SCHOOL WILL OFFER

This school has been built to optimum size to benefit from the additional resources made available by the Department of Education and Skills.

The building includes state-of-the-art facilities and equipment such as 4 Science Laboratories, 2 Home Economics Rooms, 2 Art/Craft Rooms, P.E. Hall, Fitness Suite, etc. and will offer a top class atmosphere which will undoubtedly foster positive learning and development.

The management and staff of the school carry a wealth of experience and talent to the new school.

The level of pastoral care is excellent. Every student will be cared for in areas of both academic and personal development.

The subject choice and all individual areas of strength are catered for.

All aspects of extra curricular activities will be enhanced greatly including sports, public speaking and drama. Every individual or team-based activity will enjoy a wide ranging pool of talent and everyone will be encouraged to participate.

Supervised evening study is available for all students 4.00pm - 6.00pm Monday to Thursday.



Engineering Room at Banagher College



French Room at Banagher College



Art Room at Banagher College



Canteen at Banagher College

## SCHOOL LIBRARY

At Banagher College, we are very proud of our library, which is a central and integral part of our school life. Just this year, we received the coveted 'Wellread' award from the PDST, which recognises our school as a provider and enhancer of an embedded culture of reading. All our students, through their English teacher, are provided with the opportunity to visit our library regularly and are actively encouraged to choose books that develop their literacy, imagination and reading. We believe there is a book for every student and our library is continually updated with stock, which is both relevant and enticing to all our readers. Reading is a school-wide culture in Banagher College, where we encourage every student to create a habit of reading that has life-long benefits.







6th Year Students Sibéal, Darragh and Áine volunteering in Lourdes with the Oblate pilgrimage.

# LEAVING CERT CLASS OF 2025 COLLECTING THEIR RESULTS FROM MS. KINAHAN



Darragh Scully, Aoife Byrne & Ms. Kinahan



Rachel Cleary & Ms. Kinahan



Evan Mannion & Ms. Kinahan



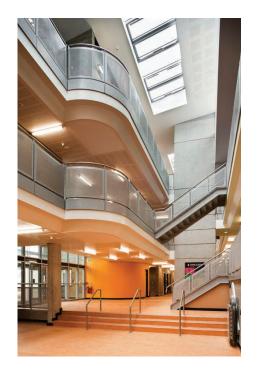
Ms. Kinahan & Jennifer Glynn



Ms. Kenny, Jennifer Glynn, Roisin Kenny & Ms. Kinahan



Kayla Mannion, Eva Mills & Ms. Kinahan



# PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF 6TH CLASS STUDENTS

"Our aim in education is to contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual. Our dedicated and enthusiastic staff strive to ensure that all students who attend Banagher College go on to fulfil their potential, developing into mature and responsible adults along the way."

Important information for Parents/Guardians and 6th Class Students can be found at www.bccns.ie

#### Important Links

Annual Admission Notice

Application Form of Admission

Admissions Policy

Subject Options

#### **BCCNS** Twitter

Promoting Positve Mental Health

Extra Curricular Activities

Gallery of Recent Events

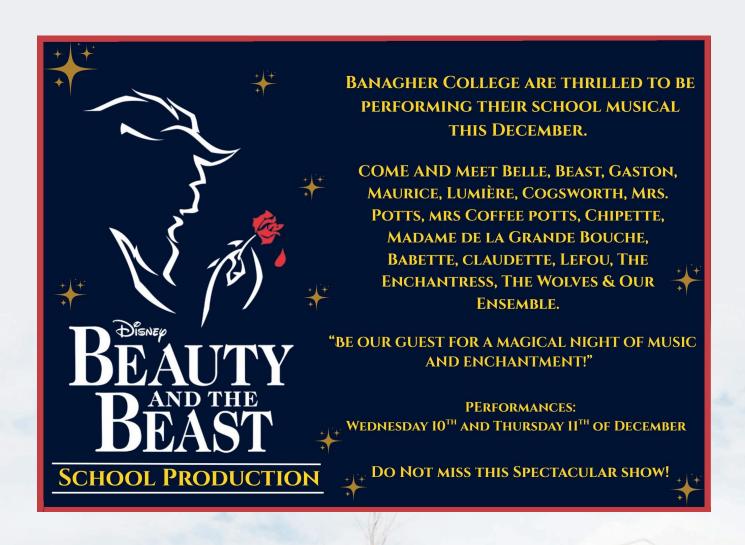
Department of Education Whole School Inspection Report

**BCCNS** College Awareness Week

For more information or if you wish to make an appointment to visit the school please contact us on

**Ph:** (057) 9151323

Email: admin@bccns.ie



## Dates for your Diary

**Applications open:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Applications close: Friday 7th November 2025

Notification from the School: by Friday 28th November 2025

Acceptance/Enrolment: Friday 12th December 2025



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