



# St. Columba's College **FOUNDATION**

Enriching the present, enhancing the future.



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For over 170 years on its present site, St. Columba's College has developed and become the thriving educational establishment it is today. Most notably, over the last 30 years there have been many wonderful developments in the fabric of the College.

Now, as we move forward with the launch of our new Foundation, it seems right to make our focus not just new College facilities but the sustainability of the College itself as we face the challenges of the future. We also want to widen access to the broad and life-changing education that we provide by means of bursaries and endowments.

As we head towards our bicentenary, we feel that our future development must be intentional and focused. To this end, the St. Columba's College Foundation has been established. Its purpose is to develop and nurture donor engagement and fundraising activities to inspire the entire Columban community to fully embrace a culture of philanthropy.

To attract and encourage this philanthropy, four areas of future action have been identified, designed to appeal to the widest possible Columban audience and to develop an environment of physical and academic excellence into the future:

Sustainability

Bursaries

Facilities

Campus

*We look forward to working with you.*

## *Dear Parents, Old Columbans and Friends of the College,*

Every school needs to keep developing its facilities in the short term, while also having the vision to look to the future and to schemes that will enhance the school community for generations to come.

As we have been mulling over the future direction of the College, we are all in agreement that what is most important is the current and future sustainability of the College and the fact that we need to make decisions now that will affect the College for years to come. I know very well how strongly the pupils in the College feel about this issue, so we have decided that the focus on sustainability should be paramount in our planning and that development of new teaching facilities will spring from the changes that will be made as we go along that path.

At the same time, we feel the need to ensure that the College is accessible to a wider range of families, by providing transformative bursaries, enabling far more young people to attend the College whose parents may not be in a financial position to afford our fees.

All our aims are interlinked and they have been distilled into four pillars:

- **Sustainability:** *the desire to transform our energy usage and make the College far more environmentally focused.*
- **Bursaries:** *these will broaden access to the College for families who cannot currently afford to send their children here.*
- **Classrooms:** *there is a need for some new classroom development and this will be able to take place as a direct result of our mission to become more sustainable and the subsequent reattribution of space in the middle of the College.*
- **Campus enhancement:** *we need to enhance the entrance and the approach to the College, as well as upgrade certain areas within the campus.*

Within this literature there are details of multiple ways for you to get involved and support the College. Whether it is to support our Sustainability projects or Bursaries, I trust that the next generation of Columbans and their parents will be able to look back at the decisions that we are making now and will be grateful that, in this generation, we had the vision to look ahead and to put the College onto a much more sustainable footing.

*Kind regards*



Mark Boobyer  
Warden of St. Columba's College



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# A SUSTAINABLE COLLEGE

## *Net-Zero Emissions*

*With wildfires sweeping across western Europe in the summer of 2023, global warming can no longer be ignored. We do know two things for certain: climate change is being caused by humans, but we can do something about it.*

St. Columba's College recognises its privileged position in a developed country, and that's why we are on a mission to eliminate fossil fuel use by 2030.

On our journey to having a more sustainable campus the work being undertaken under the Foundation's Sustainability Pillar, which was launched in September 2022, has already completed its first major project. This initial project was the installation of Solar PV panels on the Sports Hall roof.

The system size is 280,000 KW Peak using 680 panels. It will generate circa 200,000 units (KWH's) of electricity per annum with an estimated payback of 4 years. It is estimated that by covering the full roof, we will supply 35 to 40% of our 'annual' daily usage with excess electricity sold back to our provider at market rates.

### **Energy Service Contract (ESC).**

The College has been awarded funding by the SEAI, under the Energy Contracting Grant Scheme, to assist with the costs of external consultancy and materials with the aim of getting three Energy Service Companies to compete for the contract to Design, Build, Operate and Maintain a heating and hot water system with turnkey responsibility for multiple measures to decarbonise the campus and deliver year on year energy savings.

The likely measures may include a new **Distributed Heat System**, a **Woodchip Biomass Boiler** and building an **Energy Management System (EMS)**.

The first stage is a preliminary technical analysis involving the installation of thermal submetering to ascertain better energy usage around the campus. The next step is the invitation to Participate in Competitive Dialogue with the Energy Service Companies.

The College outlines its requirements and the ESCO's consider the proposal and are likely to carry out their own energy audit of the campus. After this process the companies will be invited to Submit Final Tender and after preparing the final procurement, technical and contract documents the Energy Service Company is appointed.

The project will require significant capital outlay and the more capital that we can raise the better chance the College has of attracting more interest from potential ESC's.



*Impassioned pupils have been writing letters to the Warden requesting increased action on sustainability. We have listened and we are taking action.*

The Fellows, management and pupils are all very engaged in the vision and it is vital that we represent their needs and the needs of our planet. With regards to cost-savings, energy inflation means it is imperative that we seek out renewable technologies that will keep our operating costs stable. Last year our energy-related costs were €294,000 inc. VAT. This year, we will avail of Government grants where we can, but anticipate that the above projects may involve an investment of up to €2,000,000. The benefits and the business case for moving in this direction stack up: lasting energy cost savings, security of supply against rising energy costs and decarbonisation of our energy needs.

*We firmly believe that Columbans in 10 years' time will look back and know that the College was on the right side of history.*



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# LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

## *Transformational Bursaries*

“Many families make substantial sacrifices to send their children to St. Columba’s College and, in return we are committed to supporting these families in times of need. Ongoing fundraising for bursaries is at the heart of our mission.

In my time as Warden of the College, there have been a small handful of pupils who have received very substantial bursaries to enable them to attend our prestigious school. In those cases, I know that the experience of attending St. Columba’s was a transformative one. One very recent leaver, who received a full bursary, is now about to begin reading Medicine at Trinity. It is essential that we help more young people like him and open up a world of opportunity to these wonderful children who would not otherwise be able to succeed.”

Mark Boobyer, Warden

*“Three years ago, my future was up in the air and a dream of becoming a dentist or a doctor seemed like a fantasy. I have been given access to the best and most enthusiastic teachers that the world has to offer. Without your financial backing I know that I wouldn’t achieve this hopeful reality of a bright future. I cannot put into words how eternally grateful I am for this opportunity you have given me. In the future, I hope to show the same generosity and kindness to someone less fortunate.”*

Quote from a 6th Form Leaver - June 2022.



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## *Our essential bursary funds offer world-class access:*

### **The Endowment Fund:**

In order to sustain our long-term commitment to providing bursaries and other financial support to current and prospective pupils with the aim of widening access to a St. Columba's College education the College is launching an Endowment Fund with a planned launch date of Summer 2023.

To fulfil its objective the Fund will require donations, legacies and other contributions. The Fund launch is an ambitious project that will involve a multi-year build up phase in order to deliver the vision of providing transformational education for many pupils in the future. By giving to the Endowment Fund, donors will be helping to build a resource that will be maintained over the long term in order to ensure that the benefits of their gifts are enjoyed by many future generations of pupils.

### **The Old Columban Society Bursary Fund:**

This fund was established in 2011 to support children and grandchildren of Old Columbans. For various reasons, some Old Columban families have been unable to meet the full cost of the College fees.

The purpose of the fund is to offer financial assistance to these individuals. Monies donated to this fund go directly to support OC families in paying their fees.

*“Times can be difficult for parents for many reasons, often unexpected. In these unforeseen circumstances, even the prospect of moving your son or daughter to another school can be traumatising. A bursary can be a lifeline in these circumstances.”*

Quote from a current Bursary Fund Donor.



*Our bursary schemes are vital. We hope that the Columban community will help to support our vision.*

*Thank you.*

# ENRICHING THE PRESENT, ENHANCING THE FUTURE

## *Facilities*

We are fortunate to have enviable facilities at the College, but it is necessary to continue to invest in our core business, which is teaching and learning.

As we look to put the College onto a more sustainable footing for the future, we will be able to free up an ideal space in the middle of the College for an exciting new classroom development which will have a focus on sustainable entrepreneurship and business.

Having transformed the centre of the College with the wonderful creation of Whispering House in the Warden's Garden, it is time to turn our attention to transforming the lower yard.

I believe that it is possible to create an iconic space down there, where the boiler house currently is and where the old pottery shed sits which will enhance the teaching and learning experience of all Columban pupils, while maintaining the core vision of making the College more sustainable.

We do not yet have plans for that development, as it will grow organically from the space created by the building of the Energy Centre elsewhere in the College and once the boiler house has been repurposed.

*“Our main aim is to help other pupils to have the opportunities our children had at St. Columba's. It is also to help to make the school an even better place to develop the pupils' potential by updating both the fabric of the College and the environment in which they learn. A 21st century school needs to keep up in a constantly changing world.”*

Donor and Former Parent who had 4 children attend SCC.



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# LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLEGE'S CAMPUS

## Campus Enhancements

At St. Columba's College, our 18th Century house and our 19th Century chapel, quad and cloisters are spectacular. The original entrance to the College gave a wonderful first impression of these buildings but the current entrance leads to the rear of many of the new developments, which is not quite as impressive.

As the buildings, pitches, topography and grounds are wonderful, it would only take imaginative landscaping to create a more attractive impression of the College.

*“The perfection of landscape gardening consists in the fullest attention to the principles of Utility, Proportion and Unity or harmony of parts to the whole”*

Humphrey Repton 18th Century Garden Designer.



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# OUR PLANS:

## *Defining the Gateway*

Refreshed entrance and signage along the drive to incorporate a pair of pillars to create a superior first impression of the College. To include structural planting and hedges and splashes of colour.



## *The Steward's House Garden (previously Pullmans' House)*

Pillars and beech arch to match the traditions of the College and to give access and a focal point to a memorial garden area. Theatre lawn/outdoor performance space for plays, films, shows or outdoor classes connected with a biodiversity area. This would be developed with a backdrop and wings created by yew and hornbeam hedging.



## *Welcome/Meeting Area*

We would like to create a welcome area at the place where parents drop off and collect their children at the Sports Hall roundabout. We propose creating a seating area with matching planting and beds to frame the gym.

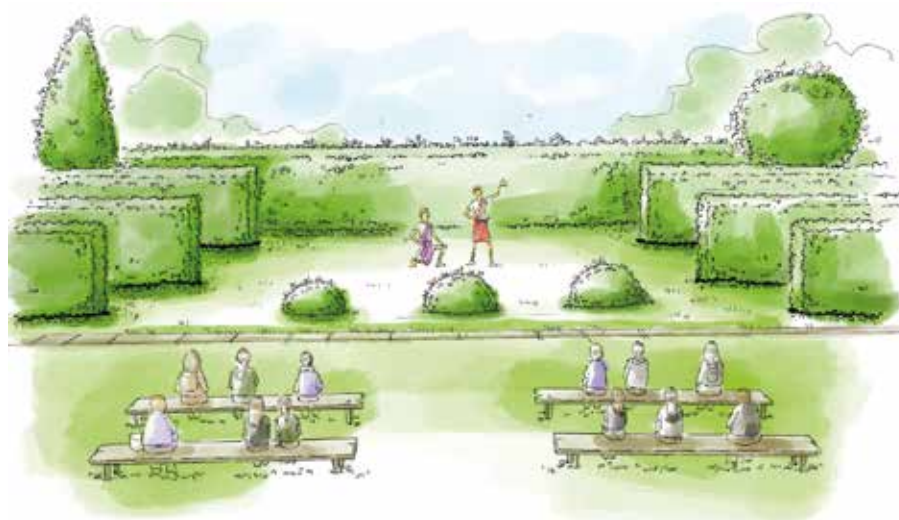


## *Planting Scheme*

We plan to unify the College's campus with an updated planting scheme with better structural form, hedging and colourful shrubs, especially outside Kennedy building. All of these will mirror the planting of the Steward's Garden, welcome area and entrance. At some later time, the rose garden between the Beech arch and the Doll's House could be planted with a similar planting scheme.

## *Biodiversity*

Most importantly, we want to use our beautiful campus as a way to deliver our commitment to sustainability and biodiversity. Let's educate our pupils through practical activities - tree planting, composting, recycling - to be accompanied by explanatory signage explaining why we have a problem and what we hope to do about it.



Biodiversity areas could be between the Theatre Lawn, poly tunnel and the Deer Park. The 6th Form could plant a few trees / whips (2ft tall young tree) before they leave as a lasting legacy of their time at the College and also to improve the environment for future generations.



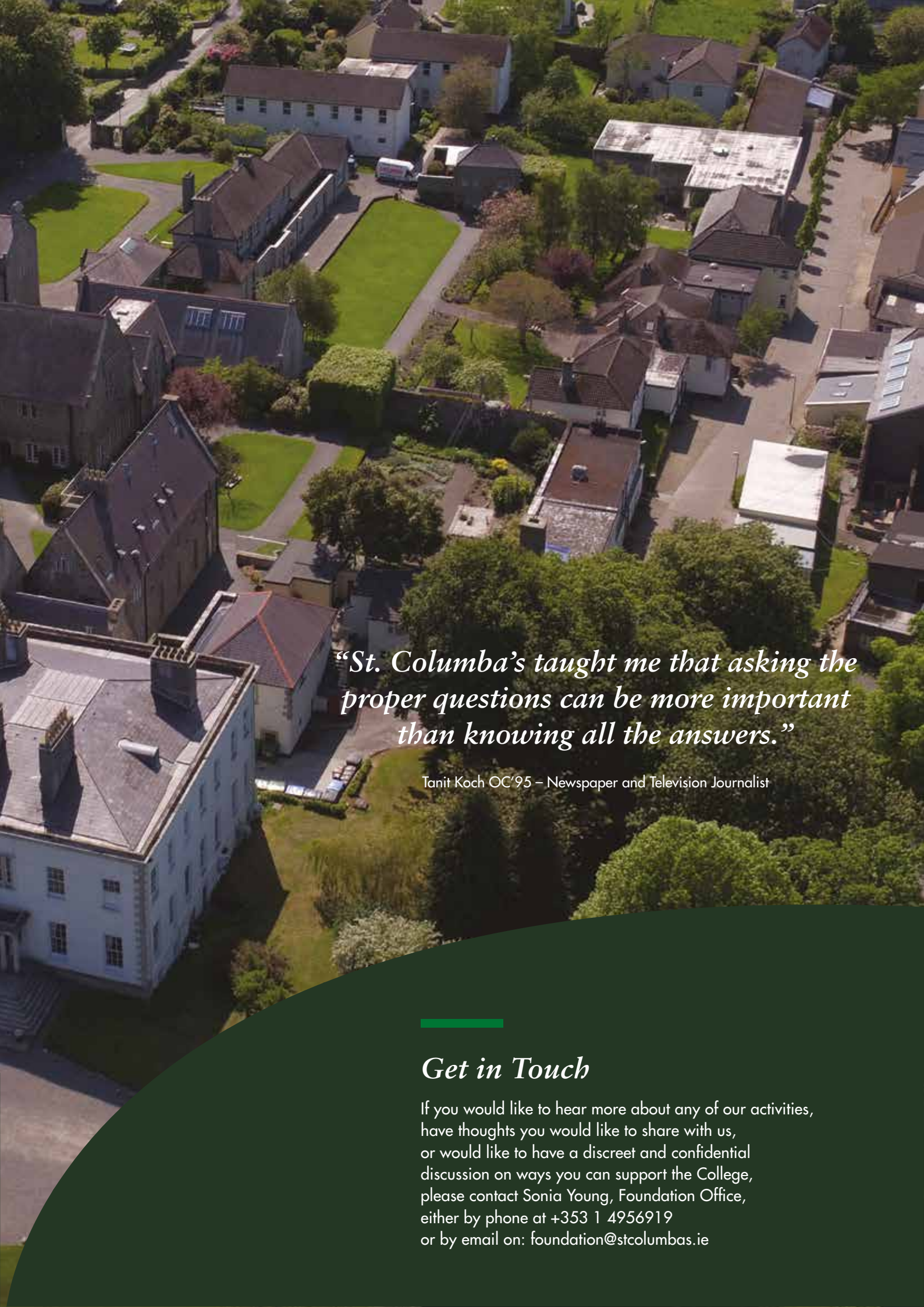
## *Proposed Horticultural Development of College, Campus and Demense*



*With a small amount of effort we can link the old and the new by improving the first impression of the College while at the same time educating about biodiversity.*

**Mark McKeever**  
Old Columban  
Garden Designer,  
Hardymount, Tullow,  
Co Carlow





*“St. Columba’s taught me that asking the proper questions can be more important than knowing all the answers.”*

Tanit Koch OC’95 – Newspaper and Television Journalist

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## *Get in Touch*

If you would like to hear more about any of our activities, have thoughts you would like to share with us, or would like to have a discreet and confidential discussion on ways you can support the College, please contact Sonia Young, Foundation Office, either by phone at +353 1 4956919 or by email on: [foundation@stcolumbas.ie](mailto:foundation@stcolumbas.ie)

*The College thanks you for your interest and support.*



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