



**COLÁISTE CHEATHARLACH
NAOMH PÁDRAIG**

**CARLOW COLLEGE
ST. PATRICK'S**

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 – 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

President's Office

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Introduction

Carlow College, St. Patrick's (Carlow College) is a third level College directly funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The College is Ireland's second oldest third-level institution and has a rich tradition of education since its establishment in 1782. The College has a valued reputation for the quality of its education, based on small class sizes, an engaging and research active faculty, and strong academic supports for students. Currently the College offers degree programmes involving the disciplines and fields of English Literature, History, Philosophy, Theology, Psychology, Social Care and Social, Political and Community Studies. At postgraduate level, a professionalising Masters is offered in Leadership in Therapeutic Child and Social Care, an MA and Postgraduate Diploma in Irish Regional History, a Higher Diploma in Journalism and New Media Content, and a Higher Diploma in Politics and Society. Almost 70% of its Academic Faculty are qualified to doctoral level. Student enrolment is approximately 600 and the College is continuing to seek to increase student enrolment across all its programmes.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Carlow College, St Patrick's will educate, engage and inspire its students through the provision of transformational learning and teaching experiences; it will enable a diverse student and graduate population to achieve their academic and career potential and enable them to contribute to the ethical development of society at local, national and global levels.

Mission Statement

In the shared enterprise of education, through teaching, learning, practice placement and research activity, Carlow College, St. Patrick's prizes excellence in all it does and endeavours to respond creatively to the changing needs of its students, of potential employers and of society.

Core Values

The core values of Carlow College, St Patrick's are its guiding principles and are built on our rich heritage as a Catholic higher education institution. They inform our day-to-day pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. The integrated College learning experience includes formal classroom instruction, critical engagement with ideas, and exploration of links between theory, professional practice and lived experience. This develops the students' capacity for academic excellence, leadership, social justice, career development and scholarship.

The College's Core Values are:

- **Truth and Integrity**– We aim to create a research-led teaching and learning environment that is interdisciplinary in nature, that inspires openness to new ideas and critical thinking and that is ethical in practice.

- **Respect and Justice**– We recognise the diversity of our college community and seek to promote actively a spirit of inclusiveness, mutual respect and equality of opportunity and access.
- **Collaboration and Social Awareness** – By creating opportunities to work together, both internally and externally, we believe that collaboration and partnership can best contribute to the ethical development of local, national and global communities and society.
- **Friendliness and Service** – We are committed to maintaining a hospitable, student-centred environment that recognises each student’s individual learning journey, and that promotes, values and supports their personal, social and cultural development.
- **Creativity and co-operation** – We believe that learning is being open to new ideas and possibilities both in what we learn and in how we learn; through critical self-reflection, and dialogue with others we look towards continual quality improvement.

Organisational Developments

Equality Diversity & Inclusion

Carlow College is committed to promoting equality and opportunity and to maintaining an environment that values and celebrates the diversity of our staff and student body and seeks to actively promote a spirit of inclusiveness and mutual respect.

As part of its commitment to EDI, the College welcomed representatives from the HEA Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for the College's signing of the HEA Anti-Racism Principles for Irish Higher Education Institutions. By signing up to the six principles as outlined in the document, the College commits to race equality and to developing anti-racism actions and policies.

The College also continues to progress the aims set out in its Athena Swan Action Plan with a number of events taking place and coordinated by the College's EDI Team and Civic Engagement Hub, including:

- Lecture for staff and students on 'Men and Mental Health' to celebrate International Men's Day;
- International Women's Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. In celebration of this important event, Carlow College in collaboration with Delany Archive, hosted an exhibition entitled *Elizabeth Corbet Yeats and the Cuala Press* and also hosted two talks which reflected the content and themes of the exhibition:
 - The Cuala Press, W.B. Yeats, and the Irish Revival
 - St Brigit: from the medieval to the modern.
- One Million Stars Ireland International Day of Peace Exhibition in collaboration with Amber Women's Refuge

Civic Engagement Hub

The College has established a Civic Engagement Hub with the aim of fostering a sense of civic responsibility and to facilitate and support both staff and students in their contributions to the various different areas of community engagement.

This year the College's Civic Engagement Festival took place from 8 – 19 April and comprised a series of public lectures, pop-up talks, workshops, conferences and taster days, all to promote the community engagement contributions of students and staff, including:

- A special screening of *406 Days: The Debenhams Picket Line* hosted by producer and Carlow local, Fergus Dowd.
- Several pop-up talks were presented by staff and students across a range of topics.
- Annual staff versus student Chess Challenge saw some robust competitions.

- Visiting lecturer in Theology, Dr Frank Bosman from Tilburg University presented a public lecture titled *Disobedience as a Virtue: Fictional Robots and AIs as Anthropological Mirrors*.
- Exclusive tour of VISUAL's latest exhibition *In The Roundness of Being* for staff and students with Irish artist, Eilis O'Connell.
- Carlow Poetry Writing Day was facilitated by Dr Derek Coyle, Dr Crista de Brún and Dr Helena Walsh, and included workshops and readings from guest poets, Stephen Sexton and Padraig Regan.
- Theology conference, *Theology, Technology and Human Flourishing*, welcomed speakers Dr Scott Midson from University of Manchester, Dr Cathriona Russell from Trinity College Dublin and Dr Frank Bosman from Tilburg University. Attendees included scholars and research students representing every university theology department in Ireland.
- Gardening and Wellness Workshop
- College Taster Days for undergraduate courses
- Civic Engagement Coffee Morning
- A highlight of the week was the *Live on the Lawn* outdoor concert by Portlaoise band, *Transmitter*, whose lead singer is a stage 3 student on the College's Arts and Humanities programme.

Academic Developments

Programme Review and Revalidation

Carlow College successfully achieved Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) revalidation of its awards in June 2024. Revalidation is required for any validated programme that has had to adapt or evolve in a significant way, for example in response to wider industry demands or recent technological advances.

The College was advised in June 2024 that the QQI Programme and Awards Executive Committee formally approved all programmes submitted for a further five years.

Programme Provision and Development

Carlow College introduced a new 3-year BA (Hons) in Psychology Programme in the 2022-2023 academic year and submitted its application for course accreditation to the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI).

On 25 March 2024, the College was advised that PSI accreditation was granted for the standard period of five years. This is a major achievement and excellent news for all Psychology students.

MA in Irish Regional History

Carlow College had the graduation of the first cohort from its MA in Irish Regional History programme. This programme is accredited by South East Technological University (SETU) and graduates received their awards at SETU's conferring ceremony on 11 January 2024.

Student Scholarships

Carlow College awarded 21 scholarships this year in recognition of the academic achievements of its first year students and continuing students. Students receiving scholarships were from Carlow, Kilkenny, Laois, Wexford, Kildare, Waterford, Cork and Donegal.

Scholarships are awarded for the first year student who achieves the highest CAO points for each undergraduate course, or in the case of mature students, the student who achieves the highest semester one results in their first year. In addition, progression scholarships are awarded for the highest achieving students for each programme progressing to the next year. Awardees received a certificate and a cash scholarship worth €500.

Conferring

Carlow College's annual Conferring took place in Carlow Cathedral on 24 November 2023. This annual event is a celebration of the achievements of all College graduates. This year the College President welcomed two alumni, Aisling Burke and Donnchadh O'Mahony, to speak at this year's ceremony.

In addition to conferring of the awards, a number of prizes and awards were presented to students who excelled in their chosen disciplines.

Learner Developments

Student Supports

Carlow College supports learners' academic success by providing a variety of resources, professional services and supports, which enhance the learner experience and assist learners in meeting the demands of their academic goals, professional aspirations and personal commitments. Learner resources and supports play a vital role in fostering a positive, warm and nurturing learning environment that supports the well-being and integration of diverse learner groups into our College community.

An integrated range of supports exist within the College which are freely available to learners namely, the Academic Resource Office (Disability, Learning Supports and Writing Development services); Careers Service; Chaplaincy Service; Counselling Service, Health Service, Library services and the Learner Information and Retention Officer.

This sustained commitment to work together as an integrated team, supports the development and maintenance of a hospitable, learner-centred environment that recognises each learner's personal learning journey with an emphasis on inclusiveness, mutual respect and equality of opportunity and access. To support this, the College provides ongoing staff training in areas such as Neurodiversity Awareness, Universal Design for Learning, additional Digital Learning as well as teaching and learning resources for ADHD and autism. This year the College also developed additional initiatives to broaden the base of supports e.g. Eco-therapy 'Cultivating Wellness' initiative; Peer Body Project, ESL classes and drop in clinics and Peer Body Project initiatives.

Beyond the Blue Door

This year saw the introduction of a podcast series titled *Beyond the Blue Door* to give prospective students, parents and guidance counsellors a flavour of what is available at Carlow College. Interviewees speak about their personal journey to third level, the courses they study, student supports, future careers and life as a student in Carlow College.

Positive Mental Health

The College's PAWS (Pet Away your Worries and Stress) Project continues to be a huge success with both staff and students. The College's PAWS Officer Alfie is a registered Irish Therapy Dog who is busy welcoming students and staff to the building and getting the day off to a good start. He visits the Student Resource Building twice a week and is on always on hand during exam times to help ease the stress and worries of students.

The College offers a Student Counselling Service for learners. This is a free, professional and confidential service which is available to all registered undergraduate and postgraduate students. It adheres to a strict code of ethics and ethical practice as outlined by Psychological Counselling in Higher Education Ireland (PCHEI) and the Irish Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP).

The 'Text CCSP to 50808' partnership continues with the HSE for the provision of out-of-hours crisis text support service for students. External links have also been strengthened with external agencies and increased staff training provided in the area of mental health and SafeTALK suicide prevention.

Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)

The College continues to be part of the participating HEI national network, availing of training for class representatives and Student Union Officers and participating in student engagement and student partnership initiatives.

Alumni

On 25 August 2023, the College welcomed more than 100 graduates and guests from all over Ireland, UK and USA for the Alumni Gathering event, bringing together a diverse array of graduates from across 22 class years to reconnect and engage.

Attendees took part in a programme of events including a welcome reception, a College strategic update and an entertaining keynote address from Lecturer in English & Creative Writing, Dr Derek Coyle who regaled attendees of stories from Carlow College over the years.

Research Developments

The College is committed to supporting research in alignment with local, regional and EU research interests, priorities and context and launched its Research Hub in November 2018.

The Research Hub promotes all staff research, publications and events. The College's annual Research Week took place from 26 – 29 February 2024 and featured a variety of events in the areas of: Creative Psychotherapy, Psychology, English Literature, History, Health, Politics, Social Care and Understanding AI.

Carlow College staff also made numerous appearances in the media, gave public lectures in their fields of expertise and contributed to many conferences throughout the year.

Conferences

History of Science, Technology and Medicine Network Ireland's Annual Conference

Carlow College hosted the [History of Science, Technology and Medicine Network Ireland's](#) annual conference on 26 and 27 April. The conference was organised and chaired by Dr Ida Milne, Carlow College History Lecturer and welcomed forty delegates from the Sorbonne, Marseilles, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, Maynooth University, SETU, National College of Art and Design, University of Ulster, University of Galway and Queens University Belfast.

One of the key aims of the conference was to bring high quality history of science, technology and medicine into the public domain and to make Irish people aware of Ireland's rich heritage in this field. The conference included several different panels, public talks and Q & A sessions over this two-day event.

Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals

Carlow College, in conjunction with Francis Marion University (Florence, South Carolina) hosted a one-day symposium on 31 May 2024 titled 'Global Partnerships for the SDGs'. This interdisciplinary symposium explored the relationships between humanities and social science disciplines and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and

investigated the potential value that the SDG framework and humanities and social science disciplines may offer one another. There were a number of representatives across various disciplines in the Humanities in both institutions, including Carlow College's Dr John McHugh, Dr Sarah Otten, and Dr Simon Workman.

Publications

Books and edited journals

- Callinan, Elaine and Mel Farrell, *Vying for Victory: The 1923 General Election in the Irish Free State* (Dublin: UCD Press, 2023)
- Dawson, Elizabeth, *Lives and Afterlives: The Hiberno-Latin Patrician Tradition, 650-1100* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2024)
- Áine de Róiste, John McHugh, Aoife Prendergast, *Social Care Practice Placement: an Essential Guide* (Birdhill: Boru Press, 2024)
- Smith, Eoghan and Simon Workman, 'The rise of the phoenix: restoration and renaissance in contemporary Irish writing', *Irish Studies Review* special edition, 31.2 (Autumn 2023)

Chapters, Articles, Essays

- Coyle, Derek, 'The Object Poem: Embodied Emotion and Idea in Eamon Grennan's 'Dublin-Poughkeepsie: Bread Knife in Exile' and James Schuyler's "To Frank O'Hara"', in *The High Window* (February, 2024).
- Coyle, Derek, 'The Power of Metaphor: Les Murray's "Dog Fox Field" and John Montague's "Between"', in *The High Window* (November, 2023).
- Galloway, James and Margaret Murphy, 'Food security and insecurity in medieval Irish towns', in *Journal of Medieval History*, 49.5 (August 2023) 607–630.
- King, Clare, 'Why do Vloggers Vlog? Vlogging about Living with a Mental Health Difficulty', *British Psychological Society Cyber Psychology Bulletin* (March 2024).
- McCarthy, Michael, 'Leaving care and aftercare', *An Introduction to Social Care*, ed. by Kevin Lalor, Perry Share, and Teresa Brown (Dublin: Institute of Public Administration, 2023)
- Murphy, Margaret (with Jim Galloway and Michael Potterton), 'Town and country in Ireland in the later Middle Ages, c.1170-c.1600' in *Town and Country: Perspectives from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, ed. by Sarah Gearty and Michael Potterton (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2023), 136-176.
- Murphy, Margaret and Jim Galloway, 'The early and late medieval historical context' in *Places for the Living. Places for the Dead: Archaeological discoveries on the N25 New Ross Bypass*, ed. by James Eogan and James Hession (Wordwell Press, 2024), pp. 91-108.
- Milne, Ida, 'Oral Histories of the Newspaper Industry' in *Visions of Labour and Class in Ireland and Europe*, ed. by Jack McGinley and Noel Ward (Dublin: Irish Labour History Society, 2023).
- Milne, Ida, 'West Cork History: "Difficult Things Happen in the Heat of War"', *The Southern Star* (August 2024).
- Smith, Eoghan and Simon Workman, 'Irish fiction 2008-2023: flourishing scene emerges from period of upheaval', *The Irish Times* (December 2023).

- Stricker, Charles, Jin Mao, Sarah Cassidy, Dylan Colbert and Bryan Roche, 'A Relational Frame Theory: Based on Interventions for Improving Reading and Mathematical Competencies Among School Children', in *Journal of Behavioral Education* (August 2024).
- Workman, Simon, 'To Ireland in the end times: figuring the future in contemporary Irish fiction', in *Irish Studies Review*, 31.3 (Autumn 2023).

Reviews

- Smith, Eoghan, 'Luke Russell, Evil: A Very Short Introduction', *Society*, 60 (December 2023), 1067–1070.

Staff Blogs / Podcasts / Radio or Television Shows

- Michael Sherman, 'Can't Make It All Alone... Love and Hope in the Pogues (Dec 2023)
- Ida Milne, 'Why are we now seeing an 'alarming rise' in measles cases?', RTE Brainstorm (Feb 9, 2024) <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2024/0207/1430916-measles-outbreak-ireland-europe-vaccination-antibiotics/>
- Noel Kavanagh, 'The Philosophy of Friendship', Would I Be Right in Saying That? Podcast (February 2024)
- Sarah Otten, 'Celebrating Sisterhood', Would I Be Right in Saying That? Podcast (March 2024)
- Elizabeth Dawson, 'St Brigit and the Beginnings of Irish History', Panel Discussion (March 2024)
- Noel Kavanagh, 'Don't Sweat the Small Stuff', Would I Be Right in Saying That? Podcast (April 2024).
- Miriam King, 'Shining a Light on Dark Personalities | Part One: Spotting the Sadist' (May 2024)
- Miriam King, 'Shining a Light on Dark Personalities | Part Two: Noticing the Narcissist' (May 2024)
- Miriam King, 'Shining a Light on Dark Personalities | Part Three: Meeting the Machiavellian' (June 2024)
- Miriam King, 'Shining a Light on Dark Personalities | Part Four: Pinpointing the Psychopath' (June 2024)
- Noel Kavanagh, 'Instructions on Not Giving Up', Would I Be Right in Saying That? Podcast (July 2024)
- Elaine Callinan, 'Talking History', Newstalk Radio (25 August 2024)

Appointments

- Dr Eoghan Smith was appointed editor of Irish Literature section of the *Literary Encyclopaedia* (June 2024)

Public Lecture Series

Carlow College's Public Lecture Series continued during this academic year and with lectures delivered under the following themes:

- 13 November, book launch: *Vying for Victory: The 1923 General Election in the Irish Free State* co-edited by Dr Elaine Callinan, Dr Mel Farrell and Dr Thomas Tormey (UCD Press, 2023)
- 22 November, Clare King, Lecturer in Psychology: 'Men and Mental Health'
- 22 January, Dr Eoghan Smith, Lecturer in English: 'How to write a novel'
- 12 February, Dr Elizabeth Dawson, Lecturer in History: 'Lives and Afterlives: Reimagining St Patrick in Medieval Ireland'
- 15 April, Visiting US Professor Valerie-Kern Lyons: 'Normalising Mental Health: Trends and Treatments in Higher Education – the US example'
- 22 April, Professor Jude Lal Fernando, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin and Carlow College Lecturer: 'Resistance to Zionism and Freedom of Palestinians: Recovery of the Prophetic Tradition'

Collaborations and Events

Carlow College and Carlow Local Enterprise Office

The College was pleased to host 2023 County Carlow Business Day events on 20 October 2023. The day was organised by Carlow Local Enterprise Office and comprised two events:

- A Breakfast Seminar which included an address on *Inspiring Peak Performance* delivered by Padraic Moyles, a world renowned expert on building team and individual peak performance;
- A business Start-Up Showcase which featured a range of panel speakers and a keynote address from Pearce Flannery, the founder of the acclaimed Pragmatica organisation, a cutting edge business consultancy renowned for their high impact training programmes.

Carlow College and Carlow County Council

Entente Florale

Carlow College joined with Carlow County Council and many other stakeholders in Carlow's application for the *Entente Florale Award*. The College President and Larry O'Toole, College Gardener, met with the judges on the day and gave them a tour of the College campus.

Carlow won the overall Gold Award, the President's Prize for the town's rain garden development and a Special Characteristic Prize for the Delta Sensory Gardens in Carlow which is a wonderful achievement for the town and everyone involved in making it happen.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

On 2 October 2023 the College welcomed Malcolm Noonan T.D., Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform, for the launch of the County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy and the new Edible Pollinator Garden located on the College campus.

Carlow College and Carlow Arts Festival

The College was delighted to host the headquarters of the 45th Carlow Arts Festival. This annual event is a multi-disciplinary arts festival and this year presented work from a wide array of art forms including dance, literature, circus, spectacle, music, theatre, cinema and visual arts.

Carlow College and the Carlow Art Collection

Carlow College has a long established collaborative relationship with the Carlow Art Collection. This year the College, in collaboration with the Carlow Art Collection, hosted a number two events to celebrate Culture Night. These included the installation titled 'Birding The Future' - this work is part of the 'Barrow Valley Series' and its focus is the 'home birds' from around the River Barrow. The second collection was the 'Sculpture Night Exhibition' on the front lawns of the College where a selection of sculptures from the collection were exhibited.

Carlow College and the Carlow Traveller Forum

Students on Carlow College's Social Political and Community Studies Programme joined with Carlow Traveller Forum to celebrate Traveller Ethnicity Day on 1 March 2024. This collaboration with St Catherine's Community Service Centre, served as a platform for fostering understanding and celebrating the unique heritage of the Traveller community. Under the guidance of Clifton Redmond, *Take A Part Carlow* Community Writer in Residence, and in collaboration with members of the *Carlow Traveller Forum* who are actively involved in the Crush On & Start Singing art project funded by Creative Ireland, the students embarked on a journey exploring themes of citizenship, place, and belonging. This collaborative initiative not only showcased the richness of Traveller culture but also underscored the importance of inclusivity and cultural appreciation within the community.

Carlow College and Rohingya Action Ireland

The College continues to host the annual Rohingya Remembrance Day in collaboration with Carlow County Development Partnership and hosts the Carlow Cricket Club which was re-established in 2011 by members of the Rohingya community.

Annual Literary Awards

Carlow College hosted its twelfth Annual Literary Awards and Creative Writing Showcase in VISUAL on 16 April 2024. Friends and family, staff, students and past graduates of Carlow College were in attendance for what was an engaging and entertaining evening to recognise and celebrate the creative writing talent of its students with awards presented for best in prose and poetry writing over the past year. This year's awards were presented by Donegal poet, Annemarie Ní Churreáin. The event is coordinated by Dr Derek Coyle, College Lecturer

in English Literature and Creative Writing and gives students experience of being involved in the literary scene.

The Tonight Show on Virgin Media

The College was delighted to host Virgin Media TV's current affairs show *The Tonight Show* on Monday, 22 January 2023. The show tackled the issue of immigration and protests around the country, and features an interview with Zahir Uddin, a member of the local Rohingya community, about the opportunities afforded to him and his family when they came to Carlow. Following this, a panel discussion was held in the College's P.J. Brophy Memorial Library with Carlow College graduate, Cllr. Adrienne Wallace (Solidarity People for Profit), Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue (Fine Gael) and Cllr. William Paton (Labour).

The broadcast concluded with an interview with College Vice President, Dr Eric Derr, who spoke about the need for respectful conversation and debate around the issue of immigration.

Foróige

In collaboration with Foróige, the College hosted over 50 transition year students to undertake the *Foróige Leadership for Life Programme*. This programme aims to empower young people to make a positive difference in their community through practical actions and projects. Students from St. Leo's College, Borris Vocational School, St Mary's Knockbeg College, Tyndall College, Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach, Coláiste Lorcáin and Portlaoise College spent five days on campus taking part in the programme that was delivered by students and staff of Carlow College.

Ask for Angela Campaign

Carlow College partnered with Carlow County Council, SETU, Gardaí and local Vintners for the launch of the 'Ask for Angela' campaign. The campaign, which was launched at SETU's campus in Carlow, has community-wide support. As a university town, Carlow College aims to work with local partners to create a place in which students feel safe to live, visit, learn, and socialise.

Carlow College and SETU

Since 2003, Carlow College and SETU have developed important collaborative relationships with other institutions of higher learning both in Ireland and in the United States.

Psychology Society of Ireland

Carlow College Lecturer in Psychology Dr Dylan Colbert, facilitated a workshop, titled 'Psychology's Horizons: Navigating the Expansive Field of Psychology', for the Psychology Society of Ireland's Early Graduate Conference at SETU, Carlow on 14 September.

Carlow Poetry Writing Day

In collaboration with SETU and part of the College's Civic Engagement Festival, the College hosted the Carlow Poetry Writing Day on 13 April 2024. A group of aspiring writers from all over the South East took part in a day of poetry workshops facilitated by Dr Derek Coyle (Carlow College) and Dr Crista de Brún and Dr Helena Walsh (SETU), as well as workshops and readings from guest poets, Stephen Sexton and Padraig Regan.

American Connections

During the year, Carlow College continued to develop its partnerships with institutions in the United States.

Autumn Term 2023: The College welcomed students from South Dakota State University, the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs and Francis Marion University in South Carolina part of the 2023 autumn semester study abroad programme.

Spring Term 2024: Students and a faculty members from various US partners for the Spring 2024 term, including South Dakota State University, Carlow University in Pittsburgh, Francis Marion University and the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs. They were joined by faculty members from South Dakota State University and Sauk Valley Community College for what was the largest study abroad cohort since the programme was established in 2003.

Carlow College also had a student studying abroad at Francis Marion University for the Spring 2024 Term and this student also received the College's *Bishop James Davis Travel Prize* award.

Jacks Start Abroad Program

In August 2024 the College welcomed its annual cohort of students from South Dakota State University (SDSU) for its Jack Start Abroad Programme at Carlow College. This SDSU programme gives first years an opportunity to prepare for college level work and begin a path toward academic excellence and intercultural competence. The programme is delivered in conjunction with SETU.

Blouin Scholars Program

Students and faculty members of Ohio's Walsh University *Blouin Scholars Programme* were welcomed to Carlow College in June 2024. This programme provides students with a unique opportunity to become part of a community dedicated to address social justice within our local and global communities.

College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources: In May 2024, Carlow College welcomed students and faculty from the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources of the University of Missouri for its annual programme.

Francis Marion University, South Carolina

On 31 May, Carlow College and its US partners, Francis Marion University held a joint online symposium entitled 'Global Partnerships for the SDGs'. This interdisciplinary symposium was an opportunity to explore the relationships between Humanities and Social Science disciplines and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and investigate the potential value that the SDG framework and humanities and social science disciplines may offer one another. A number of representatives across various disciplines in the Humanities facilitated the event which was attended by over 40 staff from both institutions

The Memorandum of Understanding with Francis Marion University was also renewed in April 2024.

Governance

Governing Body Membership

Chairperson	Bishop Denis Nulty
Secretary	Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh, College President
Governors:	
Bishop Denis Nulty	Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Diocese (Chair)
Caitlín Mhic Cárthaigh	Former Príomh-oide, Gaelcholáiste, Ceatharlach (Vice Chair)
Msgr John Byrne PP	Portlaoise Parish, Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin
Mr Peter Carey	Former Chief Executive, Kildare County Council (Appointed 1 December 2023)
Mr Pat Deering	Former TD Carlow-Kilkenny Constituency
Ms Rachel Doyle	Founder and Managing Director, Arboretum Home and Garden Centres (Appointed 11 January 2024)
Mr Colin Duggan	General Manager, Woodford Dolmen Hotel (Appointed 1 December 2023)
Fr John Dunphy	Graigucullen / Killeshin Parish PP, Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin
Mr Michael Kelly	Former CEO, Carlow County Enterprise Board
Ms Helen Maher	VP for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, University of Galway
Dr Martin Mansergh	Former TD and Minister of State; Advisor to Taoisigh on N.Ireland (Term Expired 30 Nov 2023)
Mr Michael Moriarty	Former President, European Federation of Education Employers and former General Secretary, Education and Training Boards Ireland
Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD	TD Carlow-Kilkenny Constituency
Ms Bernie O'Brien	Former Director of Services, Carlow County Council
Ms Bernadette Ward	Former Human Resources Director, Procter & Gamble (Appointed 11 January 2024)

Right of Attendance

Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh	College President (<i>Ex Officio</i>) (Governing Body Secretary)
Msgr Fr John McEvoy	College Vice President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)

Dr Eric Derr	College Vice President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Thomas Mc Grath	Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Margaret Murphy	Assistant Registrar for Academic Affairs
Mx Craig McLoughlin Burke	Students' Union President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)

Elected Staff Representatives

Dr Derek Coyle	Academic Staff Representative (Term Expired 30 November 2023)
Mr Michael Sherman	Academic Staff Representative (Appointed 1 December 2023)
Ms Helen Whelan	Professional & Support Staff Representative (Term Expired 30 November 2023)
Ms Sabrina Hurley	Professional & Support Staff Representative (Appointed 1 December 2023)

Governing Body Sub Committees – Membership

Academic Committee

Dr Margaret Murphy, Chair
 Dr Thomas Mc Grath, Secretary
 Dr Derek Coyle (To 30 Nov 2023)
 Dr Helen Maher
 Dr Martin Mansergh (To 30 Nov 2023)
 Mx Craig McLoughlin Burke

Finance Committee

Fr John McEvoy, Chair
 Ms Bernie O'Brien, Secretary
 Msgr John Byrne
 Ms Rachel Doyle
 Mr Michael Moriarty
 Mr Brian Barry, Director of Operations

Ethos, Vision & Mission Committee

Dr Derek Coyle, Chair (To 30 Nov 2023)
 Mr Michael Sherman, Chair (From 1 Dec 2023)
 Ms Bernie O'Brien, Secretary
 Fr John Dunphy
 Dr Helen Maher
 Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD

Audit Committee

Mr Michael Kelly, Chair
 Ms Helen Whelan, Secretary (To 30 Nov 2023)
 Ms Sabrina Hurley, Secretary (From 1 Dec 2023)
 Caitlín Mhic Cárthaigh
 Mr Peter Carey
 Mr Pat Deering
 Mr Colin Duggan
 Dr Martin Mansergh (To 30 Nov 2023)

Governing Body Meetings

The Governing Body met four times in the 2023-2024 Academic Year –

28 September 2023 30 November 2023 22 February 2024 30 May 2024

Academic Council

The Academic Council is responsible for the governance and management of the academic affairs and is the primary decision-making body for all academic matters at Carlow College. It sets in place the academic governance framework and oversees the establishment, maintenance and development of quality assurance policies and procedures for all educational programmes within the College.

Membership of Academic Council 2023-2024

Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh	College President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Msgr John McEvoy	College Vice President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Eric Derr	College Vice President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Thomas Mc Grath	Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Margaret Murphy	Assistant Registrar for Academic Affairs (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Penny Humby	Head of Academic Delivery and Programmes (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Sarah Otten	Programme Director, Arts and Humanities (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Simon Workman	Programme Director, English and History (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr John McHugh	Programme Director, Applied Social Studies (Professional Social Care) (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Ms Stephanie Hanlon	Programme Director, Social, Political & Community Studies (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Ms Candice Condon	Programme Director, Leadership in Therapeutic Child and Social Care (M.A.) (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Elaine Callinan	Programme Director, Masters in Irish Regional History (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Margaret Murphy	Chair of Learning, Teaching and Assessment Committee (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Eoghan Smith	Chair of Strategic Development Committee (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Lisa Fortune	Head of Student Services (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Eric Derr	Head of Quality Assurance (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Mr Keith Baxter	IT and Student Systems Manager (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Ms Dorothy Brennan	Library Representative (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Ida Milne	Elected Staff Representative (Academic)
Mr Michael Sherman	Elected Staff Representative (Academic)
Ms Michelle Daly	Elected Staff Representative (Professional / Support Staff)

Mx Craig McLoughlin Burke	Students Union President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Mr Peter Freeman	Students' Union Vice President for Education 7 Communications (<i>Ex Officio</i>)

Academic Council Meetings

The Academic Council had eleven meetings during the year on the following dates:

30 August 2023	4 October 2023	15 November 2023
13 December 2023	24 January 2024	7 February 2024
20 March 2024	17 April 2024	8 May 2024
22 May 2024	20 June 2024	

Management Board

The Management Board assists the President in overseeing the overall integration, coherent management and effective co-ordination and delivery of the programmes of the College. The Management Board supports the President in the development of the characteristic spirit of the College in accordance with its Catholic ethos and the fostering of scholarship and academic excellence, research and engagement with the educational sector. The Management Board, in the day-to-day management of the College, collectively makes decisions in accordance with relevant State legislation, and with policies and procedures as outlined by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and the Higher Education Authority (HEA). The President of the College, as Chairperson of the Board, bears responsibility for leading and coordinating the Management Board's work.

Membership of Management Board 2023 – 2024

Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh	College President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Mr Brian Barry	Director of Operations (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Mr Keith Baxter	Head of Technology (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Ms Jill Colston	Head of Human Resources and EDI (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Eric Derr	College Vice President/Head of Quality Assurance and International Programmes (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Ms Lisa Fortune	Director of Student Services (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Penny Humby	Head of Academic Delivery and Programmes (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Fr John McEvoy	College Vice President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Thomas Mc Grath	Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Mx Craig McLoughlin Burke	Students' Union President (<i>Ex Officio</i>), elected annually by the student body
Dr Margaret Murphy	Assistant Registrar for Academic Affairs (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
Dr Sarah Otten	Union Shop Steward, (<i>Ex Officio</i>) elected by the College Union

Management Board Meetings

The Management Board had fifteen meetings during the year on the following dates:

23 August 2023	13 September 2023	18 October 2023	23 October 2023
8 November 2023	29 November 2023	17 January 2024	7 February 2024
21 February 2024	13 March 2024	17 April 2024	8 May 2024
15 May 2024	5 June 2024	26 June 2024	

Official Languages Acts

Carlow College acknowledges its obligations under the Official Languages Acts. The College has undertaken a number of changes to meet these obligations, including the appointment of a senior manager to oversee the College’s performance and appropriate amendments to College stationery, forms, advertising and signage. The College will continue working to meet its responsibilities.
