**Coláiste Aoidh Mhic Bhricne**

**Teileann**

**Important information for students/parents**

We are happy to introduce you to Coláiste Aoidh Mhic Bhricne in Teileann

Teileann is situated in South-West Donegal in the heart of the Gaeltacht. It is approximately 30 miles from Donegal town.

**The following information is relevant to students hoping to attend Coláiste Aoidh Mhic Bhricne and should be noted by both parents and students.**

**Gaeilge**

Gaeilge must be the spoken language of each student during their stay in Coláiste Aoidh Mhic Bhricne. Students are asked to be vigilant regarding this rule, especially while walking to and from the guesthouse/college, on the beach and while participating in all activities. While we are aware that most students are limited in their knowledge of spoken Irish, we will expect a genuine effort from all students from the moment they arrive i.e. at least one word of Irish in each sentence. As the course progresses, a major improvement will be expected as proof of a genuine effort. If the Irish rule is broken by a student he/she will receive a warning and if this occurs repeatedly the student’s stay in the college will be terminated. In the event of this happening there will be no refund of fees.

**Behaviour /Discipline**

A high standard of behaviour and good manners is required at all times. Students must obey the direction of teachers, leaders, ‘Bean a Tí’ etc. Bullying, foul language, disrespect, persistent disobedience or unruly behaviour will not be tolerated and warrants expulsion.

As most students are very well behaved and are a credit to their parents and schools, seldom does the above apply. Students generally come in a positive mood, ready to enjoy their stay immersed in the Irish language, which is spoken on a daily basis in a natural environment, while making new lifelong friends and improving their command of the spoken language as a result.

**Doctor**

A doctor is available at all times. The cost of medical services is borne entirely by the student (students with medical cards, should have medical card with them on their visit to the doctor). Parents will be notified immediately if there is any anxiety regarding a child’s health, injury etc.

Time-table

09.30 – 12.30: Formal classes in all aspects of the spoken language.

3.00 – 5.30: Outdoor games, water sports, beach, swimming, competitions etc

8.00 - 10.00: Céilí, sing-songs, sketches, drama, talent and inter-house competitions etc.

**Activities**

All activities are supervised at all times by both teachers and cúntóirí. Students may not partake in any activities other than those organised and supervised by the College authorities.

**Guesthouses**

All guesthouses are approved by the Dept. of the Gaeltacht. The number of students approved for each house is determined by the size of the house. A suitable menu is provided and students’ special needs (vegetarian, etc.) can be catered for, if notified in advance.

Students have to be in the guesthouse by 10.30p.m, where they will be visited by a teacher who will speak to the students and the ‘Bean a Tí’.

**Teachers**

Experienced and highly qualified teachers are employed by Coláiste Aoidh Mhic Bhricne. The ratio of students to teachers in the college is 25:1 as required by the Dept. of Education and Skills. Teachers are assisted by ‘cúntóirí/ard-chinnirí’ who are engaged in organising games and other activities for the students.

**Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are allowed for contact between students and home only.

**Students**

Please bring with you: (a) towels, soap, shampoo etc (b) rainwear, swimwear, sportswear, runners etc. (c) musical instruments etc. (for talent competitions etc.)

**Contact with College**

The letter to students in advance of travel will have a special information part for parents, containing name of Group Principal Teacher, Mobile Tel. No. And contact times etc. Parents should hold on to this part of the letter for any contact with the College, while the student is in the Gaeltacht.

**Visits**

We invite parents and relatives to visit the Coláiste on Sundays: 11.30a.m. – 7.30p.m.

Parents can **collect students from the college, with permission from the Principal Teacher.**

**Taking out any other students:** You will need to have written permission from those student’s parents with you.

**Visits on any other day of the week:** only in exceptional circumstances as this interferes with organised activities.

**Pocket Money:** Students are expected

**Travel:** Travelling privately by car etc

1. Parents delivering students to the College are expected to arrive in Teileann between 5.30 – 8.30p.m.
2. On the morning of departure, parents are requested to have students collected from the guesthouse by 10.00a.m.
3. Buses leaving the College between 8.00 – 9.00a.m. on the last day for those concerned.
4. Bus from Newry to College: Students will be accompanied on the bus by a leader.

**Rules: Students are requested to pay attention to the rules in the college and in particular:**

* **Gaeilge:** Gaeilge to be spoken during your stay at Coláiste Aoidh Mhic Bhricne, in the guesthouse, at the beach, walking etc
* **Alcohol:** Students may not enter a public house, consume or be in possession of alcohol or any other drug.
* **Smoking:** Smoking is prohibited everywhere while in Teileann.
* **Bean a’ Tí:** It is very important to be cooperative with the Bean a’ Tí, the cúntóirí and the College staff.
* **Bullying:** Bullying between students will not be tolerated nor will foul language.
* **Hairstyle:** Change of hairstyle/colour or piercing is strictly forbidden during your stay at Coláiste Aoidh Mhic Bhricne.
* **Never allowed:** In the interest of health and safety, glue type substances, tippex, aerosols (including deodorants) are forbidden and will be confiscated. The same applies to knives, blades and other dangerous objects.
* **Theft and Vandalism:** Students will be charged for stealing or damage to others’ property, equipment or belongings. They will be expelled from the College immediately.

**Failure to comply with the above or the general rules in the College will warrant expulsion. No reimbursement of fees is permitted and no exceptions will be made.**

**Expulsion**

If a student’s breach of rules warrants expulsion, the Principal teacher will immediately contact the parents to inform them of the situation and to allow contact between parent and student to discuss the problem that has occurred. The parent will make the appropriate arrangements then for the student to return home.

**N.B. We would like to be positive and hope that the above situation would never occur, but when we have to act, we want to do so in a firm and fair manner, for the benefit of all those students who wish to have an enjoyable experience at the College.**

**Gaeilge: Má tá Gaeilge agat, ba bhreá linn dá mbeadh tú sásta í a labhairt linn.**