



CLONGOWES

FOUNDATION

TWO DECADES OF IMPACT: THE CLONGOWES FOUNDATION STORY

Introduction

Like all great institutions, Clongowes has evolved with time, shaped by changing circumstances and opportunities. While the external environment has transformed significantly since its foundation by Fr Peter Kenney in 1814, the core mission of the College remains constant: to help students grow into their full potential, guided by the values of the Gospel, so they can lead meaningful lives and make a real difference in the world. The purpose of the Clongowes Wood College Foundation (the 'Foundation') is to work with and support the College in this mission and to secure philanthropic funding for its future development. Over the past 20 years, the College has delivered a significant strategic enhancement of the School's infrastructure and has established the Alberto Hurtado Bursary Programme (AHP). This would not have been possible without the support of the Foundation and over eight hundred donors raising more than €37 million in real terms to support this broad development of the College.

Founding Story

The Clongowes Foundation was legally established in 2004, and operates as an independent charity under a trust deed, with its own Trustees appointed by the Jesuit Provincial. It is registered with the Charities Regulator, holds charitable status, is independently audited and adheres to best practice governance.

Following extensive strategic planning throughout the 1990s, the Board of Management of the College with Fr Leonard Moloney SJ as Headmaster, recognised the need for a series of developments to ensure the College would maintain its position as one of the country's leading schools. While much of the development was targeted for completion in time for the College's bicentenary in 2014, further initiatives beyond that date were also envisioned.

Early Days and the CT200 Campaign

At the outset, the Clongowes Towards 200 Campaign (CT200) was launched, a very ambitious fundraising drive for a second-level school. With support from the Province and the Clongowes resident Jesuit Community, alumni, parents, grandparents and friends of the College, the campaign supported a decade of capital and educational projects and established the AHP.

Key Capital Achievements 2004–2014

Vincent Murray Pitch – All-weather sports facility.

James Joyce Library – 700m² library with study, research, and tutoring spaces.

Science, Art & Technology Building – Advanced labs and classrooms.

Sports Hall – Full-scale indoor facility with PE and multipurpose amenities.

College Chapel Upgrades – Modern lighting, sound, and seating.

The AHP 2004–2014 - Access and Inclusion

The Alberto Hurtado Bursary Programme (AHP), launched in 2007, reflected Clongowes' commitment to social justice, access, and inclusion which was a key component in the establishment of the Foundation in 2004. The AHP was designed to promote diversity within the student body - removing barriers to the unique educational experience that a seven-day boarding school can provide, offering opportunity to boys who might otherwise not fulfil their potential because of socio-economic disadvantage. The programme continues in its aims to provide bursary places each academic year, with students selected on the basis of eligibility, suitability, family ambition and their potential to thrive in a boarding school environment.

Impact

By 2014, the College, working in tandem with the Foundation, had successfully enhanced the school's facilities, and broadened bursary access,



Fr Leonard Moloney SJ (far left) and Mr Martin Wallace (far right) with some graduates of the AHP at the launch of the Alberto Hurtado Endowment Fund.



Foundation Team (L-R) Ms Emma Robinson, Mr Joe Rooney, Ms Antoinette Kelly.

reflecting Clongowes' Jesuit mission and setting a benchmark in Irish secondary education. The AHP programme had reached its goal of bursary recipients making up 10% of the student population and 43 pupils were enrolled in the programme at that time.

Following the celebration of Clongowes' Bicentenary in 2014, further developments were planned. Over the past 10 years, capital development initiatives have continued, and the AHP has gone from strength-to-strength with the launch of the Alberto Hurtado Endowment Fund on January 28th, 2020.

The Endowment Fund

A key objective of the Clongowes Foundation has been the establishment of an Endowment Fund to secure the future of the Alberto Hurtado Bursary programme. That vision came to fruition with the launch of the Fund in January 2020, guided by Joe Rooney (OC79) Chair of Fundraising with the Foundation at that time. This Fund is actively managed by an Investment Committee, subject to the oversight of the Foundation's Trustees. To achieve its long-term objective of fully funding the AHP, it will need assets of roughly €20m. The Fund was launched with assets of €4m thanks to the generosity of one key Old Clongownian donor and a number of other contributions from alumni, and matched by a pledge of €2m from the Jesuit Province on the night of its launch. Over the subsequent five years, further contributions, capital appreciation, dividends, and interest have seen

the fund grow to €9.3 million in September 2025. In total, parents and seventeen OCs have made contributions of just over €4m, demonstrating their commitment and belief in Clongowes and the principles of access and opportunity that underpin the AHP. Of these donations, two came through legacies. The Clongowes Foundation is aware of further legacies that, in the fullness of time, should help the fund grow. Great satisfaction can be taken at how far the Fund has come in a relatively short period of time, but much work lies ahead for the Fund to achieve its aim of fully funding the AHP into the future.

Key Capital Achievements 2015–2025

- Indoor Swimming Pool (2017) – 25m, five-lane facility.
- The Bellarmine Centre (2019) – Learning Centre for Third Line.
- Infirmary Refurbishment (2022) with lift installation.
- Sports: Golf Simulator. Gym upgrade with capacity increased from 25 to 45 students. Tennis Courts - 8 courts resurfaced and floodlighting (2024 - 25)
- Solar Farm (2024) Ground mounted solar farm on circa one acre supplying a significant portion of the school's electricity.
- Residential Accommodation (2025) – five staff residences for Prefects
- Arts Building (2025, Phase 1) – classrooms, rehearsal spaces, audio-visual studio.



Swimming Pool.



Bellarmine Learning Centre.

AHP 2015-2025 - Evolution

The period from 2015 to 2025 has witnessed the continued evolution and growing impact of the AHP. Bursary students have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their classmates, fully participating—and often excelling—in the breadth of academic, co-curricular, and sporting life of the College.

Measuring the long-term impact of a Clongowes education is subjective, and often only truly visible in the fullness of time. However, there are already strong indicators of the AHP's success. Of the 78 AHP graduates since the first in 2013, over 95% have progressed to third-level education - significantly above the 67% national progression rate for DEIS-designated primary schools, where AHP students typically began their education. Recent graduates are pursuing degrees across the sciences and engineering, the arts, law, economics, and business.

Participation in co-curricular activities underscores the holistic education AHP students receive. Their involvement in music has been particularly notable in the College Orchestra and Ensembles, and in competitive sports representing the School, including Provincial rugby and Ireland U20s. One of the students has joined the Jesuit Novitiate and continues to support the AHP through engagement with the Clongowes Foundation. Involvement in leadership roles further highlights the programme's success, with AHP students serving as a school Vice-Captain or House Leader. The AHP continues to transform lives and fulfil the founding vision. It is a testament to the power of opportunity, support, and the enduring value of a Clongowes education.



James Joyce Library.

OC Bursary Funding Initiative

In 2024, a new funding initiative for the AHP was established. This initiative, pioneered by the OC85 Year Group, allows for the members of a given OC Year to come together and fund a bursary student through his six years in Clongowes in a flexible, anonymous, and transparent way. By contributing €20k per annum for 6 years, the Year group can support a student through his time at Clongowes. The Clongowes Foundation acts as a facilitator to the Year setting up an online iDonate fundraising page and applying for the tax refund. Three year groups have already joined this initiative, which the Foundation hopes will expand as OCs see how they can give back and support future students.

The Role of Giving

The role of giving has always been of immense importance in the story of Clongowes. Personal connections to the College and belief in its mission



Unveiling of Richard Robinson Legacy Plaque (L-R) Fr. Rector Michael Sheil SJ OC'56, Headmaster Chris Lumb, Margaret Horne (2nd cousin of Richard Robinson) & Joe Rooney OC'79 (Chair of Fundraising).

has meant over eight hundred donors have contributed to the Clongowes Foundation since 2004. A key part of the Foundation's work is to bring the story of Clongowes to past pupils, parents and grandparents, and friends of the College in Ireland and overseas. The Foundation has undertaken numerous engagement initiatives to this end.

Launched in 2006, Fr Rector Michael Sheil SJ welcomes OCs who have left more than 40 years to celebrate the foundation of the College on the 'Fr Peter Kenney Day' held each year in June. Now approaching its 20th year, this event sees some 100 OCs visit to reconnect in familiar surroundings.

The Fr Kenney Legacy Society was also established in 2006 and signifies the importance of legacy-giving in the history of Clongowes. The first recorded legacy gift to Clongowes was by Mrs Olivia Taaffe in 1919 and recent legacy giving has provided significant funding to support capital projects, the bursary programme, and Endowment Fund. Members of the Fr Kenney Legacy Society honour the memory of the College's founding father through their legacy pledge and are remembered in a dedicated plaque in the Boy's Chapel.

The connection between OCs and the shared Clongowes experience is central in the school's ethos of lifelong learning. In the past 20 years, the Foundation has strengthened this bond through events such as the Leadership Series, webinars,



Swimming Pool Opening 2018.

and the recent Entrepreneurship Event, showcasing the value of intergenerational dialogue and the mutual benefits of OCs exchanging knowledge and experience.

The annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Donors and Benefactors now held each December, brings supporters of Clongowes together to recognise the importance of giving in the story of Clongowes and celebrates what collective action can truly achieve. Challenges, Resilience and Values

The Foundation has weathered challenges from the 2008 financial crisis to Covid-19. Professionalism, resilience, and shared values have underpinned its success. The Foundation would like to offer its gratitude to all those who have played their part in the success of the Clongowes Foundation. Their legacy lives on in the Clongowes campus that exists today.

The Next Chapter

Exciting times lie ahead with work on the new Arts Building underway. Phase One, which commenced in the summer, will provide rehearsal space, AV studio, classrooms, and practice rooms—expanding opportunities in music, drama, debating, and public speaking at the college. A later second phase will add a 200-seat theatre with full backstage facilities, further enhancing creative life at Clongowes.

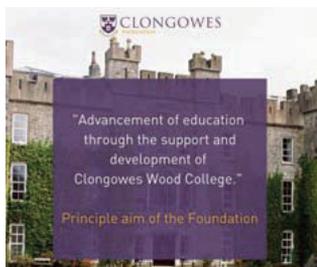
Focus also remains on the Endowment fund which is key to the long-term vision of the AHP. Further donations and legacies will be required to ensure that the target of €20m is reached to secure funding for the AHP into perpetuity.

With Gratitude

As the Clongowes Foundation moves into its third decade, thanks must be given to those who have led the way to create the success that has been achieved: the Headmasters of the College through the period of its planning and operation, Fr Bruce Bradley SJ, Fr Leonard Moloney SJ and Mr Chris Lumb; the Chairs of the Board of Trustees, Pierce Casey (OC73), Michael Ryan (OC76) and Patrick Halpenny (OC77) along with the representatives of the Jesuit Province, OCs and the parents and staff who have served on the Board; former Deputy Headmaster Martin Nugent and Joe Rooney (OC79) who have both led the Foundation and remain members of the Board of Trustees; and most especially, Fr Rector Michael Sheil SJ whose tireless energy gives so much inspiration.

All who have worked directly within the Foundation have contributed meaningfully, along with the wider Clongowes community whose support has been invaluable. However, the greatest debt of gratitude lies with those who understand the mission of the Foundation and have supported its work – whether through monetary gifts, time, or advocacy. The Community of Giving is strong at Clongowes - a testament to enduring generosity and shared purpose.

◆ MS ANTOINETTE KELLY
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



If you would like any information about Clongowes Foundation and how you can support, please contact the Foundation office on 045 902334 / antoinettekelly@clongowes.net

Clongowes Foundation team:
Antoinette Kelly (Director of Development)
Emma Robinson (Development Officer)
Joe Rooney (Advisor to Clongowes Foundation)



SUPPORT THE ALBERTO HURTADO PROGRAMME

Several individuals; Old Clongownians; Parents of Alumni; Current Parents; the Jesuit Community and Friends of the College are now coming together to contribute to the Programme.

If you have any queries relating to the AHP, or wish to nominate a child for consideration for bursary support under the programme, please write in strictest confidence to:

Liz Griffin
Programme Co-ordinator
Alberto Hurtado Programme
Clongowes Wood College
Clane
Co. Kildare
lgriffin@clongowes.net





WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE A LEGACY TO CLONGOWES IN YOUR WILL?

On Holy Thursday 5th April 1814, Father Peter Kenney S.J. blessed and dedicated a new college for young men at Clongowes Wood. Today, more than 200 years later boys continue to be educated in the Jesuit tradition and spirit at Clongowes.

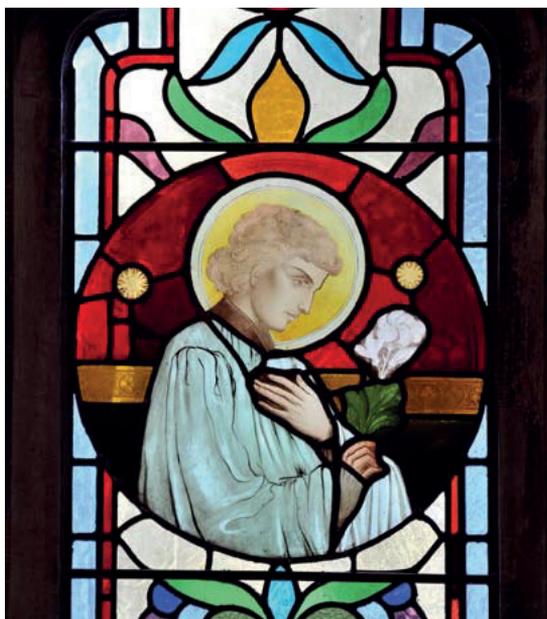
Remembering Clongowes in your will is a way to leave a lasting legacy for those yet to follow in your footsteps. Past pupils, Parents and friends of Clongowes can support the future of the college by including Clongowes Wood College as a beneficiary in their estate. By informing the College/Foundation of your intentions you become a member of the Father Peter Kenney Legacy Society. A special plaque in the Boys Chapel honours members of the Society for their benevolence in leaving a bequest to Clongowes.

Bequests can be made to support the College Development or specifically for the Alberto Hurtado Programme or the Alberto Hurtado Endowment fund.

To find out more about the Fr Kenney Legacy Society and supporting the development of Clongowes by way of a bequest or legacy please contact:
Clongowes Wood College Foundation
Tel: +353 (0) 45 902 334
Email: erobinson@clongowes.net

“...Little did I know at the time of the enormous impact that my days at Clongowes would have on the rest of my life. Though times were harder then, the enduring lessons learnt from the Jesuit fathers and the deep bonds of friendship formed with my fellow schoolmates have had a tremendously positive influence on my own, and on my family’s lives. This was Clongowes’ gift to me and it is why I have chosen to remember the college in my estate. In this way I can create my own legacy by helping future generations of Clongownians to be educated and guided in the Jesuit tradition for many years after I am gone.”

– Words of an Old Clongownian



St Aloysius stained glass window, James Joyce Library, Clongowes